

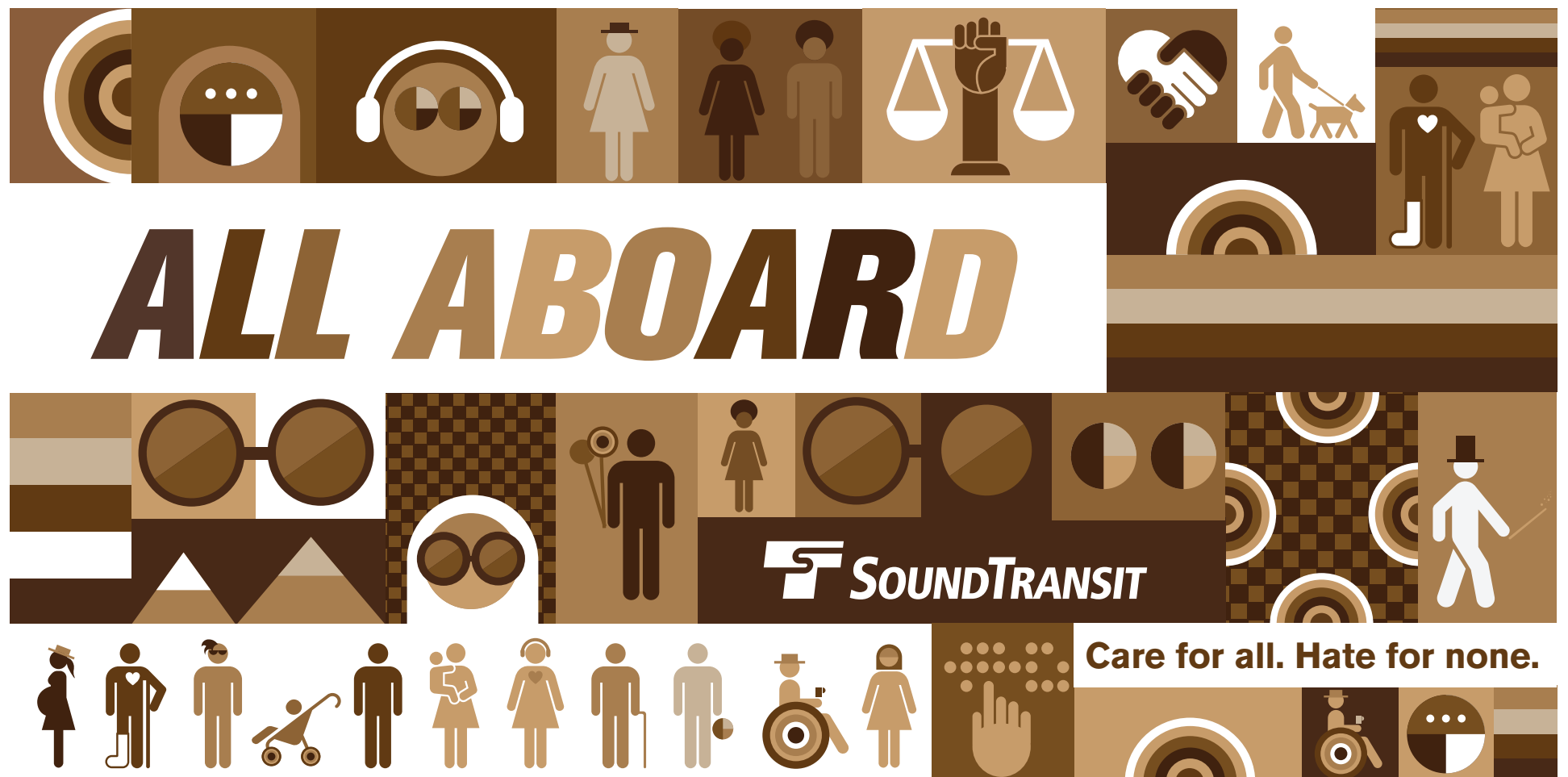
CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Special Commemorative Supplement To The Seattle Medium



JUNE
2022

JUNE 19, 1865





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On A Special Juneteenth, We Reflect And Look Forward Together



By Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell

This month, for the first time in Seattle's history, we will celebrate Juneteenth as a legal City of Seattle holiday. I was proud to sign the legislation making this observance official and recognizing the values we associate with this special day, and which we aim to make real here in the City of Seattle: opportunity, justice, and freedom.

Along with Indigenous Peoples' Day later this year, this will be the first time in nearly 40 years that we are celebrating a 'new' holiday at the City of Seattle. The last time Seattle codified a holiday the same way was Martin Luther King Jr. Day in

1985. Whether or not it was 'officially' recognized by the City, state, or federal government, we know Juneteenth is a day so many in the Black community and in South Seattle have always celebrated and recognized as a time for reflection and conversation, gathering and growth.

The oldest national celebration marking the end of slavery, Juneteenth is a reminder of the joy marked by the arrival of federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed – two and a half years after signing the Emancipation Proclamation. Moreso, it is a reminder that the struggle for freedom and equality didn't end that day – freedom was delayed and the fight for equality continued.

Today, we reflect on our country's complicated history – past and present. We embrace hard conversations just as we embrace one another. We identify the progress we've made and the progress we still need to make.

More than just a day off for municipal employees, Juneteenth is a commemoration of breaking down barriers and opening up

opportunity. More than a day of free parking, Juneteenth stands for our recognition of a commitment to a better future for every person.

Further, music is core to this holiday and to community – providing a creative lens to uplift and inspire the best versions of ourselves. In that spirit, as part of our *One Seattle* Mayor's Concert Series, **I am excited to invite and welcome the public to a free concert on Juneteenth at 6:00 PM at McCaw Hall.** In collaboration with community churches and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, this event will center Negro Spirituals and through the diverse musical traditions that have creatively evolved from them including gospel music, jazz, R&B, and hip hop. You can learn more and get your free ticket at one-seattle.ticketleap.com/juneteenth.

It is truly my honor to serve as Seattle's second Black mayor, first AAPI mayor, and first biracial mayor. Representation matters. But leadership requires more than representation. It goes beyond having a voice at the table – it means speaking up and making that voice heard.

We need Black voices in the room

more than ever. But what really counts is how we draw on our lived perspective to set priorities, drive change, and help others and the next generation. That's why I'm so proud to have built the most diverse administration in our City's history, led by three deputy mayors who are women of color.

As an administration, we've brought this perspective to set a clear mission of operationalizing equity: Expanding educational opportunity. Growing access to homeownership and taking gentrification head on. Making transit more accessible, reliable, and robust. Supporting Black-owned small businesses and giving the next generation of entrepreneurs the tools to succeed. These priorities support more than one community, they help our entire city thrive.

We can celebrate our diversity as we also seek elements of commonality. Both our differences and our shared values and experiences are worth raising and uniting around. That is how we align with one another and make progress. As we strive to create *One Seattle*, let's continue moving forward together.

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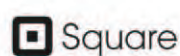
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Happy Juneteenth

From the staff and
management of
The Seattle Medium



Juneteenth: A National Holiday Is Progress But The Business Is Unfinished

By Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland
Washington's 10th Congressional District

Over the past 246 years, our nation has taken steps forward and backward in our journey to truly becoming a more perfect union. Our work is far from complete, which is why taking the oath of office in January 2021 to uphold our constitution was about serving my country, my nation, and my community. To me – and to millions of my fellow Americans – Juneteenth 2022 is a momentous step forward. To finally have federal recognition of one of the most important parts of American history – both painful and hopeful, is meaningful to African-Americans and our allies. But we must ask ourselves what it means to be emancipated from enslavement when disparities exist in housing, education, life expectancy, wealth, incarceration, employment and economic opportunity.

Making history as the first African American Member of Congress from the Pacific Northwest makes me acutely aware of the challenges the Black community continues to face. Much of my federal work, and the meaningful investments and legislation that I support, is rooted in the lived experiences of my family and how I see us building a nation that is more safe, more just, and more secure for all.

While large strides have been made since the first Juneteenth in 1865, we must and can do more. As a leader and public official, it is my priority to support the African American community with meaningful investments and policies that address disparities and improve our quality of life. From police reform, to gun safety laws, to investing in affordable housing, fighting for voting rights, being part of the



Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland

Black Maternal Health Care Caucus and the HBCU Caucus, I know that representation only matters if you are working for the communities you are part of. When we are investing trillion of dollars for clean water, internet access, roads/bridges, public transit and clean energy, I have a responsibility to

help ensure that the African-American community has access to those jobs and any contracting opportunities for black owned businesses.

Juneteenth is not only the end of slavery and the start to true independence, but also a celebration of Black resilience,

Black achievement, and progress. As an HBCU alumni, I know how meaningful it is that Vice President Kamala Harris is an HBCU graduate. I know what it means when I advocate for and secure funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are now enjoying record breaking enrollment. As the daughter of a Black Army veteran from the Deep South, I know firsthand how important it is to secure and expand voting rights and to support the Black men and women who serve in our military. Supporting and uplifting the African American community is critical to the success of our democracy and our nation. African Americans in Washington, and across the country deserve to have their history recognized and acknowledged. Our history and the disparities we face should have been seen, heard and addressed long before the public and horrific murder of George Floyd and many others.

We have come a long way. Juneteenth and our progress so far, give recognition to the hard truths behind American history and should not be hidden as though it is something to fear. This state and federal holiday represents a small piece of securing racial equity for Black Americans in every part of our nation. Elevating Juneteenth to a national holiday, and bringing visibility to a celebration has been meaningful to communities across the country shows us what is possible. Unfinished business remains to ensure that all people have equal protection under the law and hope for the future.

This Juneteenth, let us celebrate the progress we've made and fully acknowledge that our journey is far from over.

June 19
2022

Juneteenth
Celebration of freedom

Public Health - Seattle & King County

TO OUR BLACK COMMUNITY

The legacy of Juneteenth shows us all the power of Black people's perseverance, strength, resilience, and refusal to give up hope, even in uncertain times.

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Because of you, we are better. Because of you, we will beat COVID. Thank you for showing us how to be the change we need in our community.

None of us are free until we are all free. We will keep fighting with you, until freedom.

For more information, go to:
kingcounty.gov/COVID

Public Health
Seattle & King County



The Push To Make Juneteenth A Holiday In Washington State

By Aaron Allen
The Seattle Medium

Washington state is one of a handful of states that recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday. In 2021, the Washington State Legislature approved HB 1106 designating June 19th, or Juneteenth as it is affectionately referred to, as an official state holiday. The measure, signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee on May 13, 2021, will recognize Juneteenth as an official paid holiday for public employees for the first time this year (June 19, 2022).

Juneteenth is the remembrance of the last Black Americans who were emancipated on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas. It was on that day in 1865 that word of the Emancipation Proclamation which abolished chattel slavery in America had finally reached Texas, the farthest outposts of the Confederacy. Since then, generations of African Americans in Texas and beyond have celebrated Juneteenth — also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day — to pay homage to the day that enslaved people in Texas found out that they were free from slavery. For decades, many African American communities across the country have been trying to bring attention to the significance of this date to American history. Some with more success than others.

In June of 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law a bill that made Juneteenth an official national holiday. As such, federal employees will have the day off. However, just because it is a national holiday does not mean it is a state holiday for states which have not passed a similar law. While typically federal and state governments share holidays, that is not always the case.

Many observers admit that the passage of the legislation in Washington state, which was sponsored by State Rep. Melanie Morgan (D-Tacoma) with the support of Rep. John Lovick (D-Mill Creek), was a matter of having the right legislation at the right time and having the right people in place to push it through. The civil unrest and the COVID pandemic of 2020 began to expose the true nature of policy, policing and racism in America that ultimately led to a moment of racial reckoning and lend a sympathetic ear towards the plight of African Americans in



State Rep. Melanie Morgan was the prime sponsor of the bill that made Juneteenth a state holiday in Washington.

this country and created an opportunity for the passage of progressive legislation in Olympia.

While many people are celebrating the legislative victory in recognizing Juneteenth as a state holiday, the recognition, which was 14 years in the making, did not come without a fight. In 2007, Black lawmakers in Washington state began an aggressive push towards establishing a day of recognition on June 19th and the goal, at that time, was met with resistance.

“In 2007, we worked to make it a day of remembrance,” says Lovick. “Over the years others have fought for legislation to make it a state holiday and we could never get there.”

“In 2020, Representative Melanie Morgan took the bull by the horns and made it happen,” added Lovick. “It was just the year for it. You know a lot has happen in this country with George Floyd and this was the time for Juneteenth as a state holiday.”

According to supporters, the legislation is one that encourages Juneteenth to be a day of fellowship amongst all Washingtonians; it is a day to

revisit Black solidarity and commitment to anti-racism; a day to educate ourselves about our story; and continue having conversations that uplift every Washingtonian.

Morgan believes the legislation will help bring reconciliation as it relates to the trauma caused by chattel slavery and its history in America.

“My hope is that it brings reconciliation to the atrocities of chattel slavery,” says Morgan. “That it brings healing and that we acknowledge Black pain and Black trauma and that we celebrate this together in the state of Washington as we do July 4th. This is the Black African American Independence Day.”

What we were taught about our history was not only limited, but distorted as well, and the context was a small portion, a glimpse of time in and of the history of people of color, particular the enslaved Africans. Since slavery was enacted upon Africans and her diaspora, our narration has never been our own.

According to State Sen. T’wina Nobles, in this present day, Juneteenth provides an insightful, optimistic and

necessary footprint in both the healing for the descendants of the slave trade as well as the descendants of the slave traders by acknowledging and admitting the importance and the impact the history of slavery has had on this nation.

“Juneteenth is a day of true recognition and acknowledgement of the pain and trauma Black and African American communities have experienced,” says Nobles. “It is a step towards justice. By acknowledging this country’s history and the atrocity of enslavement that has caused generations of trauma, we have a place to start critical conversations on how we move forward.”

While the notion of slavery represents a dark time in American history, Lovick believes that the acknowledgement of Juneteenth as a state holiday will provide the descendants of American slaves and those who benefitted from their labor an annual opportunity to reflect on the true history of this country, to reconcile and to heal.

“This will be a wonderful time for us to come together,” says Lovick. “Bring the community together to learn the history of those who endured slavery, overcame slavery and really understand what it took and the sacrifices they made and really get and appreciate what our ancestors endured to make it possible for you and I to do what we do now.”

For Morgan, the passing of the Juneteenth Holiday Bill is something that she hopes will lead to bigger and better things for all people in the state.

“This bill is more than just about a holiday,” said Morgan. “Juneteenth is a recognition, a true acknowledgement, that chattel slavery happened in this country. This is how we begin to advocate for true racial equity and real inclusion.”

The Black Members Caucus of the Washington State Legislature during the 2021 legislative session and the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs were also instrumental in the passage of the Juneteenth Holiday legislation. The 2021 members of the Black Members Caucus are Rep. Jamila Taylor (Chair), Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley (Vice Chair), Rep. April Berg, Rep. Debra Entenman, Rep. David Hackney, Rep. Jesse Johnson, Rep. John Lovick, Rep. Melanie Morgan, and Sen. T’wina Nobles.

Manifesting The Legacy Of Our Liberation



By T'wina Nobles
CEO, Black Future Co-op Fund

Opal Lee is the grandmother of Juneteenth. For most of her life, she has advocated to make Juneteenth a national holiday. In 2016, she even walked from her home in Ft. Worth, Texas to Washington, D.C., traveling two and a half miles each day to symbolize the two and a half years Black Texans waited for emancipation.

At 94 years old today, Mother Lee is the epitome of the ancestor grandmothers

upon whose examples of tenacity, strength, and vision undergird the founding of the Black Future Co-op Fund. At the time the Black Future Co-op Fund was created in June 2020 was a moment when we found ourselves between immense grief following the murder of George Floyd and the prospect of Juneteenth becoming a national day of acceptance of the true narrative of American history.

Mother Lee is representative of the ancestry that lives in each of us, and her persistent appeals to Congress to make the abolition of slavery an opportunity for national unity has been rewarded with the commemoration of Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

As we look back on the 157 years since June 19, 1865, we also look forward to what a truly liberated future for Black communities in Washington state can become.

While the Emancipation Proclamation that promised freedom to our ancestors still eludes us as their descendants and relatives, what is also true is that against all odds

Black people have continued to find joy and hope amongst the despair. Our predecessors have turned June 19th from a day tied to brutal inhumanity to a day for celebration and unity.

The legacy of our liberation continues with Black Washingtonians. Recently, on June 5th, hundreds of Black Washingtonians joined together in person and virtually to share community-identified solutions for Black well-being in our state. Together, we began to formulate a vision for Black well-being through education, health, economic mobility, public safety and civic engagement.

At this Black-centered gathering, our emcee Resmaa Menakem said, “We are creating space to begin to metabolize what’s happened to us, so something new can emerge. We are building a future and resisting the ravages of white supremacy — not letting it take us under, but using it as a fuel for our freedom.”

We know Black Washingtonians in every corner of the state are forging our own solutions to the challenges in our

communities. The ability to define for ourselves, speak for ourselves, and create for ourselves a future of our own design is the legacy of Juneteenth.

It is a time to envision what is possible outside of systemic oppression. Because 157 years since the last enslaved people were emancipated, liberation looks like our ancestors’ wildest dreams and feels closer than ever.

As we celebrate Juneteenth, we celebrate Opal Lee and the grandmother ancestors who have shown us how to be tenacious, strong, visionary and persistent in our mission to define a new future for Black Washingtonians. Together, we must continue to deconstruct our current reality, and manifest what liberation means to Black Washingtonians today.

T'wina Nobles is the inaugural CEO of the Black Future Co-op Fund, Washington’s first cooperative philanthropy created by and for Black people to ignite Black generational wealth, health and well-being. She also serves as Washington state senator of the 28th legislative district.

Juneteenth

Celebrating Freedom

The Seattle Housing Authority recognizes the struggles of enslaved African Americans and those who fought to end enslavement. We celebrate their strength and resilience, acknowledging how far we have come and how far we have yet to go.

SHA is committed to working actively to advance race and social justice equity — for those we serve, our colleagues and the greater community.





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The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free;" and

WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the role played by the ancestors of Black Americans in this nation's continual quest for freedom for all of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth honors the contribution of Black Americans in the building of the nation; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity, which are at the core of the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, the Washington state legislature passed legislation in 2021 that makes Juneteenth a legal state holiday; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing June 19th as the 12th U.S. public legal holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 19, 2022, as

Juneteenth

in the state of Washington, and I urge all people in our state to become aware of the significance of this celebration in the heritage of our nation and state.

Signed this 1st day of June, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee



What Juneteenth Should Mean For All Of Us



By Carolyn Riley-Payne
President, Seattle King County NAACP

With the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act last year, the Juneteenth holiday has now been officially extended across the nation. Already accepted by most states, it has still not yet become part of the consciousness of many Americans. And that's a pity, as the honoring of Juneteenth at the national level provides a much-needed opportunity for everyone to reflect on our country's past, honestly examine the realities of our present and plan for a future that leaves behind the shackles of the past.

Originating as 'Jubilee Day'

shortly after word of the Emancipation Proclamation arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 (and over two years after the proclamation had been signed), the name of the holiday evolved to 'Juneteenth' gradually in the late nineteenth century and became commonly used in the early twentieth. Primarily celebrated by African Americans in Southern states, the holiday moved North and West with the Great Migration.

Though celebrations of Juneteenth have been observed continuously since 1867, its popularity ebbed and surged over the years, growing dimmer during Jim Crow and emerging strong again in the twenty-first century. As states continued to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday after 2000 momentum grew for national recognition, and the law making that so made its way quickly through both chambers and to the President's desk in June 2021. Now a national holiday, the existence of the law has strengthened the position of states

already honoring Juneteenth and challenged those who previously ignored it to come to a reckoning of the history they have previously ignored - and, hopefully, the work they have yet to accomplish.

The mood of most national holidays is festive, celebratory. Juneteenth has some of that tone as well, but it also requires elements of introspection that are not commonly part of the atmosphere surrounding our other holidays. More than a recognition of an event in history, Juneteenth asks us to consider the conditions leading to the need for emancipation in 1865, the progress (and failures) of efforts to make real the words of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment to the Constitution, and our need to continue the struggle for freedom into the future. More than other national holidays, Juneteenth is aspirational, unrealized - it acknowledges the past while recognizing that the work is far from complete. As historian Mitch Kachun said, Juneteenth is an event

"to celebrate, to educate, and to agitate."

Marking the day as a national holiday will help the majority of Americans to understand the real meaning of Juneteenth and ensure that it is embedded into the cultural understanding of all. Juneteenth needs to take its rightful place in our public conversation, in the telling of history and as a guidepost for future planning and action. It must be integrated into the fabric of all American culture - not just African American culture. It must be recognized both as a rejection of the moral stain of slavery and the need for continued work towards true freedom, now and in the future.

African Americans should continue to celebrate Juneteenth as they always have - as a gathering with food, friends and conversation. Juneteenth should be a time of reflection, outreach and service for everyone. Part of that reflection should be an examination of how our speech, our laws, our customs and our actions continue to

uphold oppressions from the past. We all have some role in perpetuating these iniquities. We should commit to a lifelong process of education and personal change to address them.

The African American community has seen these oppressions firsthand. Our community's lived experience should be accepted now; it was not accepted in the past. But beyond talk and celebration we must be bold in our approach to the solutions. As NAACP President Derrick Johnson has said, "...hope must be driven by outcome." Juneteenth should be more than just another event in the year - it must become a marker of our progress in achieving true freedom.

"Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are. It's a celebration of progress. It's an affirmation that despite the most painful parts of our history, change is possible—and there is still so much work to do." — Barack Obama

Join me in celebrating Juneteenth!

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for State Representative • 47 LD • D

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As your House Representative, I would be honored to earn your vote. Let's keep making history as we heal together. Happy Juneteenth.



Vote for Debra Entenman by August 2, 2022

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The Detail And Symbolism Of The Front Cover Artwork Of The Seattle Medium's 2022 Juneteenth Edition

By Aaron Allen
The Seattle Medium

If you have ever played Halo or Halo 2 or experienced The Wizard of the Coast's Dungeons and Dragons, you are experiencing the contributing conceptual artwork of one Eddie Smith.

Smith, an illustrator and concept designer, was chosen to design this year's cover page for the Seattle Medium Newspaper's Juneteenth Edition.

This year's Juneteenth celebration is historic as it has been officially declared a state holiday here in Washington state and several other states, as the Biden administration followed the lead of these courageous states and made Juneteenth a federal holiday.

With this historic moment in mind, the first time that Juneteenth will be an official paid holiday for state employees in Washington state, Chris B.

Bennett, Publisher/CEO of The Seattle Medium Newspaper, knew that the Seattle Medium's 2022 Juneteenth edition and its cover needed to meet the moment, and he sought out Smith to utilize his skillsets to do just that.

"Eddie is one of the best in the business," says Bennett. "He is very talented and can take a very vague concept and turn it into something very special, and that is what he did with this year's cover."

Smith's design for this year's celebration is layered with intricate detail, and shows off Smith's talent. From his photoshop layering to selection process, these are conceptual and program terms, it is clear that the time and effort Smith puts into his work is an indication of the commitment he has for his craft.

Looking at the art piece the detail in the lighting, the blending, the layering and the additives is amazing. With the image of the

official Juneteenth flag stretched across the evening sky above the state capital building as the backdrop, the piece is rich in substance and detail. The piece also shows three flag staffs in front of the state capital building with the national, state and Juneteenth flags waving atop of them, and the building is illuminated with Afrocentric lighting between its pillars.

His blending of Rep. Melanie Morgan, Gov. Jay Inslee and Rep. John Lovick, who were all instrumental in bringing this holiday into fruition, gives the piece an encompassing tribute to the efforts of those responsible for this designation.

"I am an illustrator, I am a concept designer, I can draw, paint," says Smith. "Everything you see on this piece I can draw and paint this by hand and to the layman one can be a graphic designer yet not be able to draw or paint, that is one of the

fundamental differences between the two. In this instance, I use photoshop and I used blending in my composite and then utilized my natural painting skills."

In collaboration with The Seattle Medium, Smith in a humbled statement deflects his creative mindset to working together as a team to come up with ideas.

"Honestly, I give a lot of credit to Chris, Publisher of the Seattle Medium, he had the idea," says Smith. "As a conceptual artist I helped him visualize it. He had ideas of what he wanted to include but wasn't sure how to compose it and what I did was use what I know how to do to help him do that."

As his work adorns the cover Smith reveals his motivations.

"I am here to provide production quality, mainstream level art to the Black community," says Smith. "A lot of people are not aware that there are Black

people like me that exist in the commercial art industry."

Smith's motivation for the project were also fueled by the significance of this holiday.

"The importance of Juneteenth, the opportunity to do this piece, not at the risk of being too simplistic, it represents simply the freedom of Black people from slavery, that is one of those types of significance that speaks for itself."

"As a Black man, I just like to be able to lend, or tie in mainstream commercial quality to Black media, something that would be on par with the likes of CNN or the Seattle Times or any other outlet would employ," concluded Smith.

Smith, who specializes in sci-fi fantasy art, will be hosting and showcasing his own art at this year's Sundiata Festival.



Count Basie Orchestra - Trianon Ballroom
Seattle, 1947



Intl. Sweethearts of Rhythm
Black and Tan Hall, Seattle, 1944



Photos courtesy of MOHAI

Lionel Hampton Civic Auditorium
Seattle, 1946

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Office of Equity and Social Justice
Black & African Affinity Group
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Seattle

Office of Labor Standards
Racial and Social Justice Change Team
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@SeaUrbanLeague



A Decade Of Racial Equity, Now Outcomes



By Dr. Brent Jones

Superintendent Seattle Public Schools

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has been on the journey to achieve equity for more than a decade. Since 2012, we are proudly the second school district in the nation to have a policy ensuring educational and racial equity. Our leaders are well experienced in implementing strategies, initiatives, and programs to advance the concept. *Seattle Excellence*, SPS' current strategic plan, is centered on racial equity, specifically targeting higher outcomes for

our African-American male learners.

We are excited about improving on our plan. SPS is in the process of adopting a new governance model that focuses the entire educational system on putting students and student outcomes at the core of every decision. Our goal is to meet and exceed learning outcomes. Equity plans without real results are merely aspirational and simply do not cut it.

In our earliest equity work, we strived for our Black boys and teens to feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging and equal participation. Now, we are not only committed to creating healthy environments, but also to ensuring that all efforts lead to powerful learning for these young men. We are moving into a phase of accountability where we are consistently monitoring progress with great intention. To aide in our success, we are also actively seeking clarity and building collaboration between the School Board, which represents our community, and the Superintendent's Office, which represents schools and staff. This model is known as Student Outcome Focused Governance and

has potential to be catalytic. When done right, the community can be assured that its values are being championed by the board, and the superintendent is carrying out those values. Accordingly, my job as Superintendent is to lead using the *goals and guardrails* outlined in the strategic plan. **Goals** are what students know and can do. **Guardrails** are the conditions in which the Superintendent, and by extension, schools, can achieve those goals.

So, what's the big deal? Why is this important? The big deal is that our families and students' voices will be engaged and represented by the School Board membership. Further, SPS is clearly narrowing our focus to three essential priorities (goals) - reading, math and college and career readiness. As a community, you can expect consistency as well as an easy way to monitor progress on the matters that you have deemed as most important. Now, instead of trying to find evidence of progress toward achieving equity, we are making it plain. Here is what you can expect:

On his SPS journey, a young Brent will

read proficiently by 3rd grade, meet and exceed 7th grade math standards, earn HS credits, and take, at minimum, one advanced course in high school. The adults teaching him will act in an *anti-racist* manner; he will feel *welcome and safe* in his schools, and he will participate in school programs that have prioritized racial equity in their design. Should adjustments be needed, young Brent will experience *restorative alternatives to punishment* that are culturally responsive and socially and emotionally supportive. Throughout his academic journey, his family will also be *engaged* and have influence on major initiatives before they are launched.

I am proud to lead us through this time of uncertainty and bring the focus into the future of excellence. My job is to create the conditions for our students to thrive. As we celebrate Juneteenth, I strive to keep the ancestors' dreams of freedom, equity, and opportunity alive in my space of influence - public education. My commitment is to ensure our students are Seattle Ready!



Congratulations Graduates!

The past year has been like no other, and it has taken perseverance, grit and resilience to earn your diploma – characteristics we look for in our workforce. As you look to your future, consider the rewarding career of firefighter/EMT with the Seattle Fire Department. Learn more at [SeattleFireJobs.com](https://seattlefirejobs.com).



Juneteenth Is An Important Symbol In The Ongoing Fight For Freedom



By Dow Constantine
King County Executive

This year King County will recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday for the first time for our 16,000 employees. It’s my hope that each of us will use the time to acknowledge the continuing struggle for racial justice in our nation, and our continued work to build an anti-racist and pro-equity regional government.

Making Juneteenth an official holiday affords all our employees a chance to honor the immense contributions of Black and African Americans to the history and culture of our nation and region, and to further understand our nation’s history of racial injustice, and reaffirm our commitment to building a racially-just

future.

Juneteenth also gives King County employees an opportunity to reflect on how we can sharpen our focus and commitment to undo institutionalized racist practices and policies, especially those that harm Black communities.

Our Office of Equity and Social Justice is working with our departments and staff to ensure that equity and racial justice isn’t an afterthought or a checkbox – rather it is at the center of everything we do as an enterprise. And at the same time, we’re driving equity forward directly in the community through investments in the community.

For example, over the last year the County has allocated nearly \$7 million in

grants to address the disproportionately harmful impacts of COVID-19 to those most harmed by systemic racism. Those grants are advancing digital equity, supporting the Coalition Against Hate and Bias that is serving communities impacted by hate and bias incidents, and partnering with community-based organizations and community media entities to better reach diverse communities in King County. These funds are increasing language access and advancing disability equity in King County government. We are also working with community to co-create how to utilize a \$25 million fund, all towards becoming a pro-equity and anti-racist government that invests in community as one way of addressing the public health crisis that is racism.

Our government recognizes that racial injustice, inequality, and race-based violence remain deeply embedded in American society – a fact many Black Americans have known, lived, and still experience today. This reality will not change overnight, but these investments are first steps in a long journey toward a future free of racism, violence and hate.

In King County, Juneteenth will be a day of celebration, as well as a day of service, learning, and action. Juneteenth is an important symbol of the ongoing fight for freedom – as one reminder of how far we have come, and how far we still have to go to truly achieve a racially just America.



LET’S COMMEMORATE THE PAST TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.



PROUDLY SUPPORTS

#JUNETEENTH

Celebrating freedom, fighting for equality.

Juneteenth Holiday Quick Facts

The Washington State Juneteenth holiday legislation was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee on May 13, 2021.

The federal Juneteenth holiday legislation was signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 17, 2021.

Happy Juneteenth!



Do you identify as a black woman over 40 who has never had a mammogram, or hasn't had one for more than 2 years?

We would like to invite you to participate in a research study.

Your voice is important!

This study is looking to improve health care for Black women, specifically focusing on breast cancer screening.

If you are eligible, you will:

- Participate in 1-3 virtual interviews
- Be given \$75 gift cards for the completion of each interview



For more information, you can email BreastEquity@seattlecca.org, call is **206-606-4553**, or **scan the QR Code**.

The Real Story Of Juneteenth Must Be Told, Historians And Educators Say

By Hazel Trice Edney

(Trice Edney Wire) – When President Joe Biden signed into law the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act last year, making Juneteenth a federal holiday, he and Vice President Kamala Harris envisioned it as a holiday mostly for the celebration of freedom.

“We are gathered here in a house built by enslaved people. We are footsteps away from where President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation,” said Harris at the White House signing ceremony alongside Black Caucus members on June 17, 2021. “We have come far, and we have far to go. But today is a day of celebration. It is not only a day of pride. It’s also a day for us to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to action.”

But, a year later, based on interviews with historians and educators around the nation, this year’s Juneteenth public holiday, Monday, June 20, 2022, will likely turn out to be mostly a day to turn up the struggle for freedom, justice and equality that have yet to be attained.

“I had to warm up to this day like everybody else because it wasn’t on my radar as a significant holiday until Congress passed the bill,” said Dr. Frank Smith, president/CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based African American Civil War Museum and Memorial which will spend Juneteenth correcting a wrong. “We will be lifting up the names of those 200,000 Black troops” who helped defeat the Confederate Army in the Civil War,” Smith said, a story that is so often untold.

The overwhelming bipartisan support for the Juneteenth federal holiday came last year amidst widespread protests as millions of people took to the streets against police violence in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and other racial traumas and inequities. It was the first federal holiday attained since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established in 1983. But, African-Americans and several states had celebrated Juneteenth for decades as the day they’d been freed.

However, given the nearly 4,000 lynchings of Black people across the U. S since the end of slavery; given the August 28, 1955 killing of Emmett Till; the massacre of nine Black people by Dylann Roof at a Bible study in 2016, the horrific public murder of George Floyd by police only two years ago, and the shocking



Dr. Frank Smith, president/CEO of the African American Civil War Museum and Memorial, says he will spend Juneteenth telling the heroic story of how 200,000 Black soldiers helped to win the Civil War for America, a story that he says is not told enough. Photo/Courtesy, Dr. Frank Smith

murders of 10 people in a racist rampage at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y. on May 14 this year, many think they’d best spend Juneteenth continuing to work for freedom instead of just celebrating it.

Caroline Brewer, the author of 13 children’s books, agrees. She pointed out that Black people have long commemorated Juneteenth. Therefore, she has noticed that during the official holiday, her associates are leaning toward continuing their work to build up the Black community as she is attempting to do with Black children.

“I think with any holiday, and when it comes to Black history, where most people that I know are and where I am is that I am celebrating Black history every day. I am doing something for the liberation of our people every day. So, I am focused on promoting my children’s books,” one of which is going to be published in August.

The new book is titled, “Say Their Names”, Brewer said. “We’re having conversations about the trauma that we’ve experienced as Black people as a result of police violence and racial violence.”

The story of Juneteenth is quite simple. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1,

1863. It declared a formal end to slavery in the United States. But word was slow getting to Galveston, Texas. The slaves in Galveston didn’t know that they were free until almost two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865. It was on that day that they got the news from Union army troops, including 6,000 Black soldiers who helped to inform them that the war was over and “slavery no longer existed in America,” Smith recounted. The next year, the freed slaves of Galveston commemorated that day as Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom. Such unofficial annual celebrations had occurred across the U. S. ever since until President Biden has now made the holiday official.

But America must be careful to focus on the real story, Smith said. Many of those “seasoned veteran” Black soldiers had helped to chase away defeated General Robert E. Lee after he surrendered in Richmond, Va., the former Confederate capital, Smith stressed. Actually, those soldiers were sent to Galveston in order to keep them from participating in the Grand Review Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., celebrating the defeat of the Confederacy.

“They actually sent them out of town,

so they’d have an excuse to not let America see that it took two hundred thousand African-American soldiers in the Union Army to help the Army win this war...If we don’t tell that story, nobody else is going to tell it,” Smith said.

Black Press historian A. Peter Bailey agrees that the heroism of those Black soldiers is practically the only reason to celebrate Juneteenth.

“What I think we could use it for if we’re going to do something serious about it is to make it a day to celebrate the major contribution that Black soldiers made to the Union victory in the Civil War. This is something that to me is not nearly stressed enough.”

Brewer concludes, “So we will continue to participate in Juneteenth celebrations and appreciate the holiday. But we know that our work is three-sixty-five, twenty-four seven...It just doesn’t end for us. And I don’t know that that has really come across in some of the major media conversations about Juneteenth. For a lot of people who may cover the White House, it’s just another holiday with symbolism. But for us, it’s about celebrating the progress we’ve made and the work that still needs to be done.”

City of Seattle

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation legally ended slavery in the Confederate states, but the low presence of Union troops and refusal of white slaveowners to comply with the proclamation prolonged slavery in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation and over a month after the end of the Civil War, a Union general arrived in Galveston, TX and issued General Order No. 3 securing the Union Army's authority over Texas and informing enslaved persons in the state that they were free by executive decree; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, one year after the Union general's announcement, the freed African American men and women in the state of Texas held the first "Juneteenth," or African American Independence Day celebration, and Juneteenth celebrations would later spread to all corners of the country including here in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has been celebrated in smaller communities across the nation as Juneteenth and also is known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, and Black Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the late Ms. DeCharlene Williams, who founded the Central Area Chamber of Commerce and was one of the most visible advocates for Juneteenth in Seattle beginning nearly 40 years ago; and

WHEREAS, there are still many vestiges of slavery that persist and we as a country have a long way to go until we reach full economic and social equity, and put an end to anti-blackness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has officially established and recognizes Juneteenth as a legal holiday;

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY
PROCLAIM JUNE 19, 2022 TO BE*

JUNETEENTH DAY

Bruce A. Harrell

Mayor Bruce A. Harrell
City of Seattle



The Symbolism Behind The Juneteenth Flag



The first Juneteenth flag — a banner with a bursting star in the middle is the Juneteenth Flag, a symbolic representation of the end of slavery in the United States — was created in 1997 by Ben Haith, the founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF). In 2000, artist Lisa Jeanne Graf modified the flag to its' present, modern-day design. In 2007, the date of the first Juneteenth (June 19, 1865) was added to the flag.

According to the NJCF, the Juneteenth Flag represents a star of Texas bursting with new freedom throughout the land, over a new horizon. The Juneteenth Flag also represents a new freedom, a new people, and a new star.

Contrary to what some may believe, the official Juneteenth flag uses the colors of red, white, and blue and not red, black, and green.

The significance of the flag's symbols

The Star

The star at the center of the flag has a dual meaning. First, the star is representative of Texas, "the Lone Star State," where the last remaining enslaved people in the South learned that they were free, and where Juneteenth was first celebrated in 1865. In addition, it also stands for the freedom of every Black American in all 50 states.

The Date

The "June 19, 1865" date was added in 2007 to commemorate the exact day enslaved people in Galveston learned about the Emancipation Proclamation.

The "Nova"

A cloud burst or nova encircles the star. This represents a new beginning for African Americans in Galveston and throughout the United States.

The Arc

The arc that divides the flag laterally is another symbol of hope. The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon, new opportunities and a promising future for Black Americans.

The colors

The red, white, and blue color scheme is the same as the American flag. This serves as a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants were and are Americans.

The King County Sheriff's Office is proud to join the community in commemorating Juneteenth 2022



KING COUNTY SHERIFF PATTI COLE-TINDALL

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JUNE 17-19, SEATTLE CENTER

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Black women are leading liberation.

Black women and the organizations they lead are an integral part of the fabric of Washington state, shaping our self-determination, prosperity, and liberation.

As we celebrate Juneteenth, we celebrate these visionary women and the grandmother ancestors who have shown us how to create a new future for Black Washingtonians.

Meet our 2022 “We See You” grant recipients

African Community Housing
& Development
Agape House
Arte Noir
BIPOC ED Coalition
Black Coffee Northwest
Black Heritage Society of
Washington State

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas
Community Connection Place
Global Perinatal Services
Health & Justice Recovery Alliance
James and Janie Washington
Cultural Center
Lavender Rights Project
Legacy Learners

Maxine Mimms Academies
Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center
Stand for Children
Technology Access Foundation
TeamWrk
Trufant Family Foundation
Village of Hope
Wonder of Women



WE SEE YOU!



A Liberated Future by and for Black
Washingtonians | blackfuturewa.org

JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION FROM KING COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, hence forward and forever free”; and

WHEREAS, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas, when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston, Texas, and spread the word that slavery had been abolished and they were “free”; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is currently the most popular day of commemorating the end of slavery in the United States (although there were other available options, including January 31, the date the 13th Amendment passed Congress in 1865; or December 6, the day the 13th Amendment was ratified that year); and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, one year after Major Granger’s announcement, the freed African American men and women in the state of Texas held the first official “Juneteenth” celebration, and Juneteenth celebrations have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, the state of Texas became the first state in our nation to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979;

WHEREAS, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 19209 on November 17, 2020, making Juneteenth an official holiday for King County employees, leading the State of Washington as the first local government to do so;

WHEREAS, 2022 will be the first year Juneteenth will be observed as an official state and federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and to celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, in King County and across the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council and the King County Executive, proclaim June 19, 2022, as

JUNETEENTH

in Martin Luther King, Jr. County, recognize its historic importance, and encourage all residents to join us in its commemoration.

DATED this nineteenth day of June, 2022.



Dow Constantine, County Executive



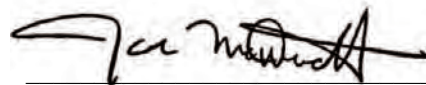
Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



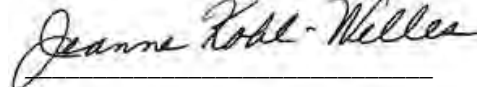
Joe McDermott, District Eight



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



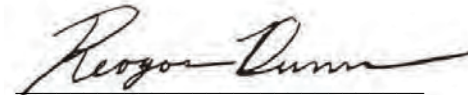
Girmay Zahlay, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine

SAVE THE DATE



End of Summer Event

hosted by | The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

SEPTEMBER

3

Black Business Directory

In an effort to promote community support and uplift our local Black-owned businesses, we've created an extensive directory featuring 100+ Black businesses local to King County, WA.

Learn More Here ▶

www.UrbanLeague.org/

FREEDOM DAY IS OPPORTUNITY NOW FOR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

Remembering Juneteenth

To join us in paving pathways for business success and financial stability for BIPOC communities, contact



Seattle Metro Chamber VP of Economic Development
Vaughn Taylor at vaughnt@seattlechamber.com



Business Impact NW President and CEO
Joe Sky-Tucker at joes@businessimpactnw.org

Join Us Today! Make the call!

(206) 389-7200



JOIN
THE ENDEAVOR



HIRE
BLACK-OWNED
BUSINESSES



KD HALL
COMMUNICATIONS



Every Month is Black History Month

Juneteenth Events

June 15th 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Northwest African American Museum's (NAAM) Juneteenth Youth Night
New Holly Soccer Field (7054 32nd Avenue S, Seattle 98118)

June 18th 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Renton School District Juneteenth Celebration
Campbell Hill Elementary School, (6418 S. 124th St, Seattle, 98178)

June 19th 11:00am – 3:00pm

Atlantic Street Center Juneteenth and Community Health Fair
Rainier Beach Community Center Plaza, (8825 Rainier Ave S, Seattle 98118)

June 19th 11:00am

NAAM Juneteenth National Black Museum presentation
Skate rink, food trucks, and viewing of *We The People*
Judkins Park, (2150 S. Norman Street, Seattle 98144).

For more information or if you need help with health insurance or accessing health care services please call: 1-800-756-5437





A Beacon of Soul Returns to the Library

This Juneteenth we are reminded of the resilience and restorative energy within the Central Area community as we celebrate the conservation of the Soul Pole at the Douglass-Truth Branch of The Seattle Public Library. The historic 21-foot sculpture, which represents 400 years of African American history, was donated to the Library in 1972 by the Rotary Boys Club.

The Seattle Public Library thanks our community, partners and supporters for standing together in the effort to save the Soul Pole and archive its history.

Thank you:

- Family members of Rotary Boys Club leaders Wilson Gulley, Sr. and Raqib Mu'ied (formerly Gregory X) and Soul Pole artists Brenda Davis, Larry Gordon, Gregory Jackson, Cindy Jones and Gaylord Young
- The Black Heritage Society of Washington State
- Converge Media • Artech Fine Art Services • Landrieu Conservation

Located in the heart of the Central District, the Soul Pole won Historic Seattle's 2022 "Preserving Neighborhood Character" award. Learn more and watch a Converge Media film about the Soul Pole at www.spl.org/SoulPole.



Historic photo of Raqib Mu'ied with the Soul Pole at its 1973 installation, shown with permission from MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, 2000.107.190.05.01, photo by Tom Barlet

General Gordon Granger: The Man Behind The "Juneteenth" Message Of Freedom

By Jeffrey L. Boney

Special to The Seattle Medium from The Houston Forward Times

On June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and issued General Order Number 3, effectively freeing slaves in the South. A lot of people celebrate "Juneteenth" as a holiday tradition, as well as share the stories of how former slaves received the news that they were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, but don't know much about the person who declared their freedom on the shores of Galveston, Texas.

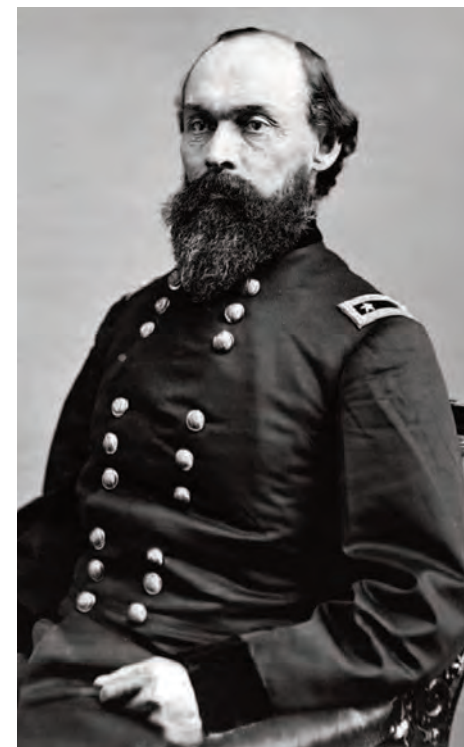
Who exactly was Union Major General Gordon Granger?

Union Major General Gordon Granger was born in Joy, New York, on November 6, 1822.

Granger graduated from West Point in 1845, and was promoted twice for his service in the Mexican War. Until the beginning of the Civil War, Granger was part of the Mounted Rifles on the frontier. When the war began, he fought under Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis at Dug Spring and Wilson's Creek, Missouri. He became a brigadier general on March 26, 1862, and commanded troops at Campaigns of New Madrid, Island No. 10 and the Corinth.

After leading several brigades in the Army of the Ohio in 1862, he was promoted to major general on September 17, 1862. Granger was a short man, a strict disciplinarian and unpopular among troops. Nevertheless, he led his forces effectively, and contributed to the Union war effort. He took part in the Battle of Chickamauga, during which Major General George H. Thomas and his troops attempted to cover the Union retreat by standing firm at Horseshoe Ridge. Although he had not been ordered to do so, Granger sent two of his three brigades to support Thomas' corps, helping the Union troops hold the Confederate forces back until dark. This action allowed Maj. Gen. Rosecrans' troops to pass safely. He once wrote to Rosecrans: "the battle is neither to the swift nor to the strong but to him that holds on to the end."

Granger later took part in the Siege of Knoxville and in the capture of Mobile, Alabama. After the Civil War, he was on sick leave a great deal of the time.



Union Major General Gordon Granger

What is interesting is that while many people, including Blacks, often cite Granger as the significant figure who helped deliver the message of freedom to Blacks in Texas, he became extremely unpopular among many Whites in the state of Texas. He was blackballed and ostracized by many Whites, so much so, that after only six months in command of the Department of Texas, Granger was relieved of his command on August 6, 1865. On October 31, 1865, he was placed in command of the District of New Mexico.

Granger's military career began to take a turn, along with his health.

On December 15, 1870, Granger was assigned to the 15th Infantry and ordered to the New Mexico Territory, but his health began to deteriorate. Granger served in that capacity until January 10, 1876, when he died after suffering a stroke in Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory.

Granger was married to Maria Letcher, who was twenty years his junior, on July 14, 1869. Their marriage produced one son and one daughter, both of whom died in infancy.

Granger is buried at Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Kentucky.

CELEBRATE FREEDOM!



CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH!



JUNE 19TH 2022

**JUNETEENTH IS NOW A STATE AND FEDERAL HOLIDAY RECOGNIZING
THE OFFICIAL END OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES!**



Washington State Commission On

African American Affairs

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Moving forward together

Redistricting Is The 10-year Commitment We Need To Be Cautious About Now



NiRae Petty

By NiRae Petty and Jude Ahmed

If you have lived in this city for over a decade, you would agree that 2013 was a pivotal year for Seattle. Our Seahawks won their first Superbowl, Macklemore was overplayed on every major radio station, and an influx of inclusion signs stating, “In This House” infiltrated the Central District. Among all this, our city approved a charter amendment to create city council districts for the first time in history.

For many, this monumental amendment to our Charter went unnoticed. In fact, most communities of color are uninformed and disengaged with the redistricting process in general. Yet, we tend to be the most impacted by it.

This year, the Seattle Districting Commission will redraw the city council districts for the next ten years. At the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, our Advocacy and Community Engagement department is a team of young Black and Brown women. We acknowledge that for the average young adult like us, city council districts are the last thing we would place on our ten-year vision board. But here’s why we believe they should be: your city council members are some of the most influential people in determining the funding and policies for your interests and well-being, and the district you live in determines who you’ll vote for to advocate for those interests.

We cannot allow the new districts to be established again without informed decisions from all our communities. It is

imperative for culturally competent outreach and education to equip our communities to contribute to such governmental processes. To understand the significance of the Seattle redistricting process, we must examine its history.

In 2013, Charter Amendment 19 created a Districting Commission to redraw seven districts every 10 years. It set the rules for redistricting; districts must be compact and contiguous, be roughly equal in population, and cannot be based on the residence of any person. In addition, when practical, new boundaries should follow existing district boundaries, factor waterways and geographic boundaries, and Seattle communities and neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, these “existing district boundaries” were created with limited public input and had no accountability to the input that was given by advocates. By the time Charter Amendment 19 came to a direct vote to Seattleites on the 2013 ballot, the Seattle district map was already drawn by a UW Geography Professor. All the while, the number of districts was quietly negotiated among Seattle’s elite political players and those funding the ballot initiative.

On the City Clerk’s website, you can read ballot initiatives from 1994 and 2002 that attempted to create city council districts. However, in these failed initiatives they proposed drawing nine districts to fill all the nine council positions. When asked what made the Charter Amendment 19 different from the previous initiatives,



Jude Ahmed

Eugene Wasserman, of Seattle Districts Now, shared that, this time, the amendment proposed a map and compromised two at-large seats.

Preserving two at-large seats was the best shot at moving towards a system in which the elites would have to loosen their grasp on city-wide city council power. But who benefited from that political compromise? Certainly not Black and Brown communities, especially in Yesler Terrace and Chinatown-International District.

These vibrant neighborhoods of Black and Asian communities were split between three districts as an unwilling sacrifice for the new Charter Amendment. In response to advocates against the map, Faye Garneau, who bankrolled the Charter Amendment 19 campaign, stated, “We’re all part of the same race. The human race.” But like every other political process, “color-blind” approaches result in further discrimination.

Ten years later, though districts intended to bind certain elected officials to newly empowered neighborhoods, communities of color are left out of the benefits of districting. The only majority-minority district, District 2, got whiter, and all the other districts got richer. The same Black and Brown communities that were excluded in the creation of these districts were uncoincidentally the most gentrified, underserved, and displaced communities.

Ultimately, our communities’ challenges can only be remedied with

serious reform of our electoral system. Our current voting system is flawed with a lack of equitable voter education and outreach, restrictive voting laws, gerrymandering, and it desperately needs reformation.

But with this year’s redistricting process we can increase equitable representation by amplifying the voices in underserved communities and keeping our communities together. The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle is one of many organizations in the Redistricting Justice for Seattle Coalition (RJS) dedicated to providing culturally competent, language inclusive outreach and mapping sessions to community.

Started in May, RJS plans to host multiple mapping sessions focused on marginalized communities and present sample city council maps drafted by More Equitable Democracy. The community can learn more about the redistricting process, review alternative city council maps and provide input on the RJS maps through Q&A and Ranked-Choice Voting.

Most Geography experts may tell you they create story-telling through maps. The current city council districts tell the story of a political feud without prioritizing collaborative effort from communities of color, resulting in further housing and economic disparities. This year, Seattle has a chance to change the narrative with the redistricting process.

~ AWAKENING ~



By Dr. E. Faye Williams

(Trice Edney Wire) — *Juneteenth* is known by many names. It's officially *Juneteenth National Independence Day*, but is also known as *Jubilee Day*, *Emancipation Day*, *Freedom Day*, and *Black Independence Day*. On that day we commemorate the emancipation of enslaved persons of African descent and celebrate the richness of the African-American culture.

Before (and since) *Juneteenth* became a

federal holiday, I've been deeply curious about the emotions of those enslaved persons in Galveston, TX, who listened to Union Major General Gordon Granger deliver his announcement of General Order No. 3 proclaiming freedom for the enslaved persons of Texas on June 19, 1865. Although there are arguments related to the location of the announcement, I can imagine crowds of enslaved persons gathered at 24th and Broadway below the veranda of Ashton Villa as Granger read:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.

The freedmen are advised to

remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

After the imagined euphoria subsided, I wonder if those formerly enslaved persons realized that, although freed, they had been admonished to return to where they came from. Returning from where they came, could their fates really have changed?

Reflecting on my personal thoughts and emotions on June 17, 2021, I can remember the initial joy of receiving the announcement of a *Juneteenth National Holiday*. In part, I had hoped for a renewed affirmation of the worth and humanity of African-Americans and a recognition of our integral and undeniable participation in the story of this nation. However, Congressional inaction proved this holiday to be an empty

gesture.

Lest we forget, on June 25, 2013, the US Supreme Court held it unconstitutional to use the coverage formula of the Voting Rights Act to determine which jurisdictions are subject to the preclearance requirement of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (Shelby v. Holder). The effect of the decision is that jurisdictions identified by the coverage formula no longer need to seek preclearance for new voting changes which supported the reemergence of racially motivated voter suppression.

Lest we forget, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 47-year-old African-American male was brutally murdered while in the custody of Minneapolis, MN, police. His murder was another in a never-ending series of indiscriminate police murders of African-Americans. If not for the courage and testimony of witnessing by-standers, the murder of Floyd would have been

another institutionally justified legal lynching.

While creating a national holiday to commemorate an event of significance, Congress ignored/denied the most important and fundamental right and protection available to African-Americans by failing to enact voter protections or justice in policing. It's as if we're being told, "You can party, but only if you can survive."

The significance of *Juneteenth* to the African American and larger community cannot be underestimated. It represents the awakening of the hopes and dreams of a people who had previously been denied both hope and dreams. It is the first new federal holiday since the King Holiday was adopted in 1983, but it must be more than just a party. It must be a vehicle for change – for improvement in the quality of life that all African-Americans can reasonably expect for meritorious achievement.

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Despite Barriers African Americans Have Always Found A Way To Celebrate Juneteenth

By Aaron Allen
The Seattle Medium

As a young eighteen-year-old, Vivian Lee, a retired nurse, was traveling across the border of Texas and Louisiana on her way to a family member's wedding where she was the maid of honor. It was June 19, 1960.

As her mind was on the wedding experience, Lee's mind was not on the date. Hungry and on the back roads of the South in 1960 finding a place to eat was difficult. So, Lee and her travel companion stopped at the nearest store to purchase bread, bologna and a soda pop.

After paying for the goods, the old white woman at the counter proclaimed, "Ya'll must not appreciate being free no more," said the woman to Lee. "I don't see many people out here celebrating, I don't see no barbecues."

A young, socially conscious Lee wanted to react, but her chaperon grabbed her by the arm and took her out of the store.

"I was just a senior in high school," says Lee. "[My] mother allowed me along with a friend of hers to drive across country and we didn't have any way of knowing in those little towns where we could find a Black restaurant and back then you had white and Black water fountains and everything."

"That day just happened to be June 19, but I hadn't thought about it because of the wedding," added Lee.

"I walked in the store and I was a very sophisticated lady," recalled Lee with a laugh. "[I was an] honor student and I had kind of gotten away from really realizing the differences in the South."

"I opened my mouth and my mother's friend grabbed my arm and took me out of there before I could say anything," said Lee of the incident.

This was just one of Lee's earliest memories of celebrating June 19th or Juneteenth.

Juneteenth, or "Freedom Day" as it is often referred is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. The holiday is considered the "longest running African-American holiday" and has been called by some "America's second Independence



This photo provided by Vivian Lee shows four generations of her family in Harris County, Texas. The family, like many other Black families in Texas, have celebrated Juneteenth for many generations. Photo courtesy of Vivian Lee.

Day, as it honors the day – June 19, 1865 — when African Americans in the state of Texas belatedly received word of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that freed the nation's slaves.

Today, the descendants of Africa are celebrating a newly minted state and federal holiday, as both the State of Washington and the Federal government passed legislation last year recognizing Juneteenth as an official holiday.

"Our family from the time I was a toddler knew this was a special day," says Ted Howard, Sr., a retired Seattle Public School educator, who grew up in Lubbock, Texas.

"I remember as a child asking, 'how come we are always barbecuing and doing all these things on this day,' and I was told, 'this was when the slaves were really freed,' and I said, 'I thought it was the fourth of July,'" Howard continued with a laugh.

While Juneteenth celebrations were exciting to Blacks, they were not met with much fanfare from Southern whites. In the early part of Black freedom, Black families and communities in the South could not openly celebrate this liberation. White southerners were well aware of the meaning

of this date and in different forms refused to acknowledge its relevance, significance and even its existence.

Some families like the Howards celebrated Juneteenth in intimate family settings with good southern cooking and all the barbecue they could eat.

"You couldn't celebrate," says Howard. "If you worked for white folks, you couldn't take a day off. White people were aware that June 19th was a day that Black people were going to celebrate, and you had to act like you were not celebrating, you couldn't boast about it."

"We never understood as children why we were enjoying a day that we had to sneak and enjoy," continued Howard. "We never had everybody there at the same time, especially if the date fell on a weekday, it was kind of odd in the way we had to celebrate this day, and this was in the 1940's."

Historically June 19th carries a significant shift in the psychosocial awareness of the descendants of African-born slaves. On paper Black people were free, but in reality, in the physical world, Black people found themselves, particularly during the Reconstruction and

Jim Crow eras in the South, living in a state of oppression and some were even in a perpetual state of servitude.

In Spring, Texas, Lee's family experience was different in that their environment carried a sense of compassion on the part of white people her family grew up knowing.

The Lee family remained on the land as sharecroppers that was bequeathed to them prior to June 19, 1865. From Lee's great grandfather to her grandmother, the Lee family remained in what she labels, "a kind of indentured slavery even after freedom."

Howard had a similar experience growing up and says that the notion of being free at the time was different from the reality of being free and independent.

"We were still slaves in a way," said Howard. "Jim Crow was just a reduced term, but we still worked for white people, and you couldn't stand up or be an activist in those days or it was 'oooh well, you don't have a job now, boy.' So you were still a boy, so you couldn't boast about not being a slave because you were still a slave in their eyes, in a way."

It has been 157 years since the declaration of freedom was conveyed to Blacks in Texas, and Black folks, as a people, despite many barriers have achieved at a rate unmatched by others under contemporary forms of oppression. Juneteenth not only celebrates the freedom of African Americans from slavery, but it also is a time when the achievements of African Americans are noted, and continuous self-development is encouraged. It is a time for African Americans to dress in celebration to show their soul, spirit and pride.

This day of national pride is celebrated with food, festivals, music and other activities to promote community cohesiveness and cultural awareness.

"In grade school we would ask about June 19th and our teacher would say it is a day of celebration and one day it will be a holiday," says Howard. "As I got older I understood [Juneteenth's] meaning a lot more, in that this was a day that will always be celebrated."

Beyond Juneteenth: Breaking The Chains To Access Capital And Achieve Real Freedom

By Vercie Lark, Region 7 Great Plains Administrator and Ted James, Region 6 South Central Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

Being black and walking away from a person who legally owned you became reality on June 17, 1865, when Texas became the last state to implement the Emancipation Proclamation. The day, now known as Juneteenth, has become one of celebration for black Americans.

It was a start. As black Americans, however, we continually must ask the question: “Are we truly emancipated?”

While important to celebrate a day that freed our ancestors from the physical bondages and the inhumane capacity of slave owners to treat them as less than human beings, we must also look to the day as a reminder we have yet to successfully free black community, from the vestiges of restraints, controls and power structures that bond us far beyond the physical realm of being enslaved.

Participating in capitalism through business ownership is one of them. Many people were then, and still remain reluctant to accept our access of all that our country offers. The quest for equity, fairness and impartiality –at the least from the federal government – has been attempted through years of court rulings and reforms. Still, equity in America, even after 157 years, is a work in progress.

• According to an analysis from the White House Council of Economic Advisers, differences in business ownership account for 20 percent of the wealth gap between average white and Black households. The analysis noted that people of color, women, and those from rural areas are underrepresented in their share of total Federal procurement dollars, even relative to their low rates of ownership in the general economy.

Seeing that a whole government corrective action was needed, the Biden/Harris Administration instructed by executive action more than 90 federal agencies to scour their agencies for changes they could make to provide more equity in



Vercie Lark
SBA, Region 7 Administrator

services and programs to the underserved – a group which includes black Americans and other communities disproportionately impacted by poverty and inequity over the years. In response, agencies released a combined total of 300 new actions to address barriers to equity in federal services.

The federal government procures 90% of its goods and services in America each year, and is the largest purchaser in the world, so access to the federal marketplace is an obvious key to economic equity.

The Biden/Harris Administration has set an agency goal of increasing federal spending to small, disadvantaged businesses by 50% by fiscal year 2025. Acting on that goal, the U.S. Small Business Administration made several changes to give disadvantaged small businesses more access to federal contracting dollars.

The SBA worked with federal agencies to set up measures so they could accurately track spending and publicly report progress. That awareness has already raised governmentwide spending with Small Disadvantaged Businesses to 11% this year, from 5% the previous year.



Ted James
SBA, Region 6 Administrator

Additionally, the SBA has allocated more funding to resource partners who counsel and train small businesses to enter not only the contracting world but to start and grow their businesses. This funding added 24 new Women’s Business Centers in 2021, thus tripling of the number of centers located on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and continues the expansion of largest WBC network in the history of the SBA. With these new additions, the complete listing of WBCs housed on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) now include:

- Morgan State University, Baltimore (MD)
- Benedict College, Columbia (SC)
- Virginia Union University, Richmond (VA)
- Jackson State University, Jackson (MS)
- Alcorn State University, Lorman (MS)
- Winston-Salem State University, Winston Salem State (NC)
- Bennett College, Greensboro (NC)
- Miles College, Fairfield (AL)
- Bowie State University, Bowie (MD)
- Savannah State University, Savannah (GA)

In an effort to increase the number of

black Americans participating in the SBA 8(a) contracting program by 12,000 nationwide, the SBA is also increasing its outreach to the National Urban League, specific sororities and fraternities for black Americans, and business students at HBCUs to expand their knowledge about business ownership and federal contracting.

Being realists, we know these reforms will not work overnight to transform areas of poverty into wealthy enclaves or combat the many pockets in our nation where institutional racism or lending disparities still exist.

But if capitalism is to work to sustain our nation’s people, our federal government, first, and then our whole country needs reforms. Poverty knows no boundaries. Struggle is struggle – even in a country that boasts the greatest wealth on earth. And the federal government alone cannot change that.

For capitalism to work - all of us must get engaged to individually and collectively provide solid financial and business learning and mentoring experiences to our children and build community ecosystems where the possibility of small businesses, wealth accumulation and a working capitalism can exist.

The SBA and its resource partners are committed to providing training and counseling on creating and sustaining small businesses for every client – whether they live in a poverty pocket, a rural town or are held back because of skin color or gender designation. Visit us at www.sba.gov

As a start, the federal government is on the right track on this issue. It may bring a higher tide to lift some boats, but we are all going to have to paddle much harder together if we are to achieve equity and all of America’s people can truly enjoy the freedoms promised by democracy and capitalism.

Right now, black Americans are still chained to systems of financial bondage. We must think beyond Juneteenth to continue to find ways to access capital, which brings real freedom.



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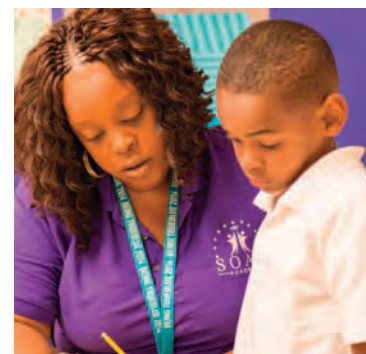
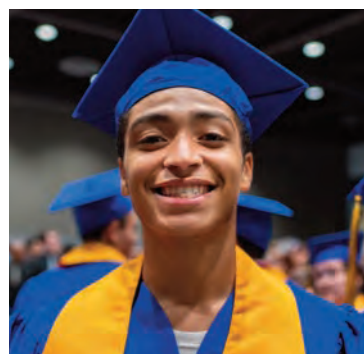


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Let's Recognize Juneteenth As More Than A Celebration



By Terry White

On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, the descendants of Africans brought to America as slaves were finally freed from bondage. They had remained enslaved for two years after the Emancipation Proclamation—and **TWO MONTHS** after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, officially ending the Civil War.

Union General Gordon Granger's proclamation of the end of slavery quickly spread across the plantations and farms throughout the state. That announcement was a day of celebration. In the years that followed, former slaves in Texas who had been freed from their chains turned the date of their emancipation—June 19—into an annual commemoration of their hard past and the more hopeful future for themselves and their families. The day became known as Juneteenth.

What began as a community celebration among African Americans was recognized as a statewide holiday in Texas in 1980. As the descendants of those men

and women from Texas spread across the United States, they took the celebration—and the pain, joy and hope that is all part of Juneteenth—with them. The day is a reminder that even after many generations, we are still very connected to those men and women in Texas. And while history indicates that bondage continued for many even after June 19, 1865, it is that day that the African-American community has traditionally commemorated the end of slavery.

We are proud that in 2022, Juneteenth is now a paid holiday for King County employees. Juneteenth is also recognized federally and – as of this February – in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

June 19 is a day of celebration—but it is also a day of recognition that, as far as we have come as a nation, challenges still face the descendants of those slaves from Texas and all communities of color, regardless of how they arrived.

For King County Metro, Juneteenth is an opportunity to continue discussions that started in earnest after the May 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

How do we acknowledge and address the racial disparities in our region and our country while building better communities for everyone?

We invite you to be part of Metro's journey to becoming an anti-racist organization to help our county and our country be an anti-racist society. We are reimagining what a safe and welcoming transit system looks like for all who ride Metro, especially those communities that have historically borne the brunt of racism and discrimination. Being a new arrival to this country, living with a disability, your gender identity, your sexual orientation or your ethnicity should not be a barrier to feeling secure whenever you ride with us.

Metro is committed to creating a workforce across our organization that reflects the community we serve, and building a workplace where everyone feels appreciated, empowered and heard. Metro offers forums to listen and learn from personal truths and experiences, and is committed to increasing accountability and providing enhanced trainings. Metro also is working internally to implement long-


lasting systemic shifts that build, nurture and sustain a culture of belonging throughout our organization and across all our services.

Metro knows that Black Lives Matter is a movement, not a moment. Two years ago, we asked the talented employees of Metro to show us what "Black Lives Matter" meant to them, and we are still so proud of what they produced. Their art graces two of our coaches as bus wraps as well as exterior transit advertisements, and permanent art installations at all our worksites.


On this, the first celebration of Juneteenth as an official holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. County, let's recognize it with more than a celebration. Let's recognize it by taking the steps necessary to create an equitable future. By doing so, we honor the courage of those who waited two years to learn they were free.

Happy Juneteenth!

Terry White is General Manager of King County Metro.



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Location #1: 1522 14th Ave,
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Location #2: John Lewis Memorial Bridge
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King County