

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

Researching African American Ancestors

Researching African American ancestry can be both a tremendous struggle and tremendously rewarding. This session will offer helpful resources, tips, and pitfalls to avoid with Jessica Trotter.



Monday, June 12, 6 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room

JUNETEENTH

African Masquerade Dancers: A Tribute to Juneteenth

Go on an interactive journey with the African Masquerade Dancers to learn more about the historical aspects of Juneteenth through song and dance.

Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.
Helen Warner Branch



Follow the Drinking Gourd: A Juneteenth Celebration

Take a journey during this interactive storytelling experience taking place after June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas. That day, now known as Juneteenth, was when enslaved persons in Texas learned slavery was over. Rachel Behr will lead children in a drum circle while explaining the importance of drums to African cultures in a kid-friendly way. As a culminating activity, participants will create a paper "quilt" square to form a community quilt.

Wednesday, June 14, 10 a.m.
Helen Warner Branch

The Sound of Freedom: A Juneteenth Celebration

As we celebrate Juneteenth, Willard Library presents the "Sound of Freedom," a celebration of African-American musicians who nurtured their art in Battle Creek and went on to change the world. The event will feature a mix of musical performances and conversations, moderated by Sonya Bernard-Hollins, author of "Here I Stand."

This is a ticketed event. Tickets may be picked up from either library location beginning Thursday, June 1 while supplies last.

Thursday, June 15, 6 p.m.
Battle Creek Regional History Museum,
307 Jackson St. W.



Southwestern Michigan Urban League

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

Juneteenth Lunch and Learn

Enjoy lunch and community while learning about the history and significance of Juneteenth, which became a federal holiday in 2021. The Lunch & Learn will be led by Pastor L.E. Johnson of the Southwestern Michigan Urban League. Lunch will be provided for those who register.

Friday, June 16, 12 p.m.
Downtown Programming Room
Register at tinyurl.com/JuneteenthLunch



Juneteenth Family Day Celebration

Enjoy food, vendors, live entertainment, and more at the annual Juneteenth celebration. Stop by the Willard Library booth and say hello to Library staff!

Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Claude Evans Park,
300 N. Washington Ave