

**News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: May 23, 2023**

**Contact:**

Mahogany Waldon, 757/728-5316

[mahogany.waldon@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:mahogany.waldon@hamptoncvb.com)

## **Hampton to host inspiring Black history, cultural events this summer**

**Hampton, VA** – Explore legacy and culture this spring and summer in Hampton, Virginia with events and tours that commemorate and celebrate Black history and culture. Hampton's more than 400-year African American history tells a powerful story of perseverance, heritage and pride. The first enslaved Africans brought to English North America landed in 1619 at Point Comfort, modern day Fort Monroe. Today, visitors can experience and [tour](#) the landing site and the Fort Monroe Visitor & Education Center to pay homage and learn about the history of 1619. Also visit our sites and learn about the Contraband Decision during the Civil War, experience the majesty of the Emancipation Oak and view the oldest African American museum in the country at Hampton University.

From festivals to commemorations, come and experience a summer filled with history, reflection, fellowship, and entertainment at the following [events](#):

### **[Contraband Commemoration 2023](#)**

**May 24**

**7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

#### **Fort Monroe Chapel of the Centurion**

Commemorate and remember those individuals impacted by and descended from the Contraband Decision of 1861 at Fort Monroe. Join us at the historic Chapel of the Centurion as we bring together local "Contraband" Descendants with 3rd-great-grandson of Major General Benjamin Butler. This program will also be available virtually. Register [here](#).

### **[12th Annual Day of Remembrance](#)**

**June 10**

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

#### **Fort Monroe Outlook Beach**

Celebrate the richness and diversity of the African diaspora and bring awareness to this tragic chapter in American and global history. The program includes African drumming, songs, dance, poetry, historical presentations, and traditional African libation.

## **Second Annual Juneteenth Freedom Fest Peninsula**

**June 18**

**10 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.**

**Darling Stadium**

Guests can enjoy this free festival that will include worship service, cultural arts and entertainment, a job and community resource fair, a book author's corner and so much more. Special guest entertainment will include Washington D.C. go-go band EU featuring Sugar Bear.

## **Hampton Jazz Festival**

**June 23-25**

**Hampton Coliseum**

The Hampton Jazz Festival is back! Headliners for this year's Jazz Festival include Fantasia, Anthony Hamilton, Charlie Wilson and more. This year's festival marks the first Jazz Festival in three years.

## **Hampton African American Heritage Festival**

**June 23-24**

**Mill Point Park**

Celebrates Hampton's rich African American history with over 60 arts and crafts and food vendors, live entertainment, and a children's area. Enjoy live jazz and R&B bands and a community paint party.

## **1619 Commemoration of the First Enslaved African Landing**

**August 25-27**

**Fort Monroe**

Commemoration of the First Enslaved African Landing with this special ceremony and program. The events reflect on the significance of the 1619 landing of enslaved Africans and the contributions of Africans and their descendants to American society. The event includes African drumming, dancing, libation ceremony, vendors and more.

###

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.