

News Release
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**1619 Commemoration of the First Enslaved African
Landing to be held at Fort Monroe August 21**

Event to feature remarks by KRS-One, concert by Delfeayo Marsalis

Hampton, Virginia - Join the Fort Monroe Authority, National Park Service, Project 1619 and the City of Hampton for the 1619 Commemoration of the First Enslaved African Landing program and concert on Saturday, August 21, at 11 a.m. at Fort Monroe Continental Park. As we commemorate 402 years of African American history we will reflect on the national and global significance of the African landing and the contributions of Africans and their descendants to American society. Throughout the day, speakers will explore themes of origins, identity, and freedom.

At 11 am, featured keynote speaker, author, emcee and producer KRS-One, will give remarks. The program will also include a libation ceremony and African dance and drum performances. At 12 noon, there will be a National Bell Ringing Ceremony to remember the first enslaved Africans and honor 402 years of African American history.

The Evolution of Freedom afternoon concert featuring trombonist, composer, and producer Delfeayo Marsalis will be held at 1:30 pm. Immediately following the concert Marsalis and KRS-One will hold a talk back session continuing the discussion of concepts of freedom. The program and concert are free and open to the public.

Kris Parker, also known as KRS-ONE (Knowledge Reigns Supreme Over Nearly Everyone), is one of the most important and influential rappers in the industry. Introducing himself as Hip Hop's first "teacher", KRS – One's body of work includes his ground-breaking album *Criminal Minded* and acclaimed work *Self-Destruction* which raised half a million dollars for the Nation Urban League, establishing the Stop the Violence Movement in 1989, Human Education Against Lies-H.E.A.L. in 1991 as well as the Temple of Hip Hop in 1996, and publishing three ground-breaking books. With over 19 classic releases over 30 years, KRS-One's songs, lectures, and interviews have inspired millions of people to think in new

and empowering ways and are representative of the “Golden Age of Hip Hop”.

As an acclaimed trombonist, composer, and producer, Delfeayo Marsalis has dedicated his prolific career to music theatre and education. Along with the Marsalis family of musicians including his father Ellis, the artist was destined to a life in music. Marsalis has toured internationally with jazz legends such as Ray Charles, Art Blakey, Max Roach, Elvin Jones, and Slide Hampton, as well as leading his groups. At the age of 17, Marsalis began his career as a producer and has to date produced over 120 recordings garnering a Grammy award and several nominations. Marsalis’ recent work includes a tribute to Breonna Taylor and the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the country seeks to honor, remember, and heal.

The 1619 Commemoration of the First Enslaved African Landing program and Evolution of Freedom concert are free and open to the public. The program and concert will also be live streamed on the Fort Monroe at Old Point Comfort [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#) sites. For more information visit Fortmonroe.org.