



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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**Hampton History Museum to Commemorate Juneteenth
or Freedom Day with Original Performance
“Why Should We Celebrate Juneteenth?” June 19**

Hampton, VA- In commemoration of Juneteenth, otherwise known as “Freedom Day,” recognizing the abolition of slavery, the Musical Mosaic Vocal Ensemble presents an original theatrical production “Why Should We Celebrate Juneteenth” at the Hampton History Museum as part of its monthly music series on Wednesday, June 19, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Created by Marie St. Claire, this event featuring music, poetry and dance explores the rich history of Juneteenth and seeks to shed light on the importance of the celebration. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865 the last of the enslaved in Texas were told that slavery had been abolished and that they were now free.

-More-

Hampton History Museum to Commemorate Juneteenth or Freedom Day with the Original Performance “Why Should We Celebrate Juneteenth?” June 19 – page 2

The premise of the play introduces the audience to a local talk show host interviewing a college professor and a local activist who debate the issue of the significance of Juneteenth. The host and activist are transported back through time to the day that freedom was announced. On their journey they encounter other people from whom they learn the importance of the day and why it should be celebrated. The production incorporates poetry, music, African drumming and dance to tell the story, while honoring its historical significance in an exuberant and entertaining way. The production includes familiar songs such as “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and “People Get Ready” as part of the celebration.

Musical Mosaic is Debra Petteway, Faith Gilliam, Jeannie Mosley, Mildred Lawson, Candyce St.Clair and Marie St.Clair. Special musical selections will be presented by Aundre Rashard. Mathew St.Clair, aka LEVI, will perform an original spoken word piece. Dreason Ruckett will also perform in the show. Original Crawford is drumming for the production.

Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds support the museum.

Admission is free for museum members, \$5 for non-members. Seating and capacity are limited, and first come, first serve. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Held in the Hampton History Museum’s Great Hall on the third Wednesday of each month, the Front Porch Music Series presents different genres of music that have shaped the American soundscape and influenced talent in Hampton Roads’ vibrant music scene.

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Hampton History Museum to Commemorate Juneteenth or Freedom Day with the Original Performance “Why Should We Celebrate Juneteenth?” June 19 – page 3

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102 or visit www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org.

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 Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

During 2019, Hampton commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first African landing in English North America at Hampton's Old Point Comfort on Fort Monroe National Monument. In addition to honoring the men and women who arrived in 1619, the city will also celebrate the contributions of African Americans have made to our city, state and nation. A commission has planned events across the entire year to recognize and celebrate African American impact, including a three-day long Commemoration event, August 23-25.

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