A CELEBRATION

Juneteenth is considered to be the true Black Independence Day. Formally enslaved citizens, in Galveston, TX (announcement) celebrated after the announcement, but it wouldn’t be until the following year that freedmen of Texas would organize the first of the annual celebrations of what is known as Jubilee Day. In Austin 1867, under the Freedmen’s Bureau, Juneteenth was first celebrated.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Many people think that the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed people considered to be slaves, “within rebellious states” from the white supremacist institution of slavery.

But.....

Now, not all enslaved people were freed on Juneteenth. There were still those left in Union territory. They were not freed until December of 1867. In fact, Texas would not go on to free their enslaved, by order of General Order No. 3, until June 19, 1865. Hence the holiday name Juneteenth!

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

(Listen to the Black National Anthem)

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing! 'Til
earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on ’til victory is won

ISH.......

If you are White, consider leveraging your privilege and donate to projects and movements led by Black people. There are several in Louisville:

- Black Lives Matter - Louisville
- Feed the West
- Louisville Community Bail Fund
- Join Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

If you know a person of color protesting on the frontlines, take their place.

If you have been protesting on the frontlines, TAKE A BREAK! 2020 has been utterly exhausting and it’s only June.

If you haven’t been protesting on the frontlines, TAKE A BREAK! If you’ve been protesting on the frontlines, it’s time to take a break.

If you are Black or a Person of Color

Dig deeper to learn more about Juneteenth and teach other people about it.

Learn the Black National Anthem— and teach it to your kids (or nieces, nephews, niblings, etc).

Volunteer in the community

Join Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

How to Celebrate JUNETEENTH

For Juneteenth, consider:

- Dig deeper to learn more about Juneteenth and teach other people about it.
- Learn the Black National Anthem— and teach it to your kids (or nieces, nephews, niblings, etc).
- Volunteer in the community
- Join Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
- If you know a person of color protesting on the frontlines, take their place.
- Commit to being an anti-racist white person and embody the work so that you show up as such where you live, work and play.

IN OBSERVANCE

Juneteenth is considered to be the true Black Independence Day. Formally enslaved citizens, in Galveston, TX (location of the announcement) celebrated after the announcement, but it wouldn’t be until the following year that freedmen of Texas would organize the first of the annual celebrations of what is known as Jubilee Day. In Austin 1867, under the Freedmen’s Bureau, Juneteenth was first celebrated.

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM (LIFT EVERY VOICE)

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing! 'Til
earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on ’til victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chafing rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, trudging our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.