

We would like to take a moment today to recognize the upcoming Juneteenth Day of Observance, also known as Emancipation Day. This holiday commemorates the day when enslaved people in Texas were finally granted their freedom, two years *after* the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth is an important day in our nation's history, and it is a time to reflect on the legacy of slavery and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice for African Americans. We encourage everyone in the Santa Monica College community to take some time to learn more about this significant time in history, and to participate in any local events/celebrations that may be happening in your area. Let us use this opportunity to come together as a community and continue the important work of building a more just and equitable society.

History of Juneteenth:

On June 19, 1865, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated enslaved Africans and African Americans in America, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas with news of freedom. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. With the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy magnifying their hopes and dreams, those Texans held fast to the promise of true liberty for all. (Source: The Smithsonian)

Ways to Honor Juneteenth

- [Support Local Owned Black Business](#)
- [Take time to learn more about Black History](#)
- [Donate to Black led social justice organizations dedicated to advancing racial equity](#)
- [Take a moment to reflect and read about the contributions of Black and African Americans in the United States](#)
- [Explore the many events happening across Los Angeles for Juneteenth](#)

Resources

- [Overview of Juneteenth by the Smithsonian](#)
- [5 Ways to Celebrate Juneteenth on Your College Campus](#)
- [10 Powerful Ways to Celebrate Juneteenth In Los Angeles](#)

Upcoming Events

[31st Annual Juneteenth Celebration 2023 at Virginia Park](#)

- Saturday, Jun 17, 2023 | 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Join the City of Santa Monica and the Juneteenth Celebration Committee, Inc. for an afternoon of music, unique food and craft vendors, and local resources to celebrate the 31st annual Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17th, from 1 to 7 pm in Virginia Avenue Park under the theme of **Coming Together in Appreciation, Reconciliation, and Commemoration!**
- [Learn more about the event](#)

[Other events and resources happening across Los Angeles](#) (Discover Los Angeles)

The above resources are only a start to understanding the significance of the upcoming holiday. We hope you will take the time to intentionally participate this Juneteenth in a way that you find meaningful.

--The SMC Pan African Alliance and the SMC Racial Justice Center