



BECK CULTURAL EXCHANGE CENTER (BECK)

African American History & Culture

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Wednesday, June 19, 2019 in recognition of the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States, Beck announces its second annual Juneteenth Celebration. The Celebration will include a very special Juneteenth Town Hall meeting with members of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators sponsored in partnership with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Greater Knoxville Chapter, a Juneteenth Living Museum Experience along with Juneteenth Bingo sponsored in partnership with Austin-East High School Class of 1972. The events are free and open to the entire greater community.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 | BECK CULTURAL EXCHANGE CENTER | FREE TO THE PUBLIC

JUNETEENTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JUNETEENTH BINGO

Noon – 1:30P

Come play Bingo with a history twist, win prizes and enjoy munching on butter popcorn

JUNETEENTH LIVING MUSEUM

5:30P – 6:30P

Walk through the Exhibit Hall where you will experience a “Living Museum”

A VERY SPECIAL JUNETEENTH TOWN HALL MEETING

7:00P – 8:00P

Special community dialogue with members of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators

ABOUT JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the union soldiers, led by major general Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. Note that in Tennessee Beck hosts an annual celebration on August 8 commemorating the emancipation of the first slaves in the state of Tennessee, August 8, 1863.

ABOUT BECK

Beck is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1975 as a result of Knoxville’s Urban Renewal projects. The Urban Renewal projects began in 1959 under Title I of the Housing Act of 1949. The projects relocated and displaced many black families and businesses. Much of the heritage of the black community was erased from the map. Except for one or two structures in the city, edifices that once stood as monuments to the struggles of early leaders no longer exist. Absent of the establishment of Beck, these places and the people may never have existed.

Beck is the only organization in the region dedicated to local and regional African American history and culture. Beck is the storehouse of African American history and culture and is designated by the state as a primary repository of black history and culture in East Tennessee.

BECK MISSION

To be the place where African American history and culture are preserved, nurtured, taught, & continued.

BECK VISION

To be the desired place that people go to learn, discover and experience the rich legacy of African Americans inside a vibrant Cultural Corridor.

JAMES AND ETHEL BECK

Beck is named in honor of James Garfield (1881-1969) and Ethel Benson (1897-1970) Beck. James and Ethel were two of the most glamorous and influential members of the black community in Knoxville during the period of the 1920s-1960s and were the last people to live in the Beck mansion.

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