

# CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Informational Flyer curated by the SOS **DEI** Committee

## Our Newest Federal Holiday

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army issued General Order No. 3 in Galveston, TX. The order announced to the people of Texas that the Emancipation Proclamation's freeing of enslaved people in the Confederate states was in effect. Specifically, General Order No. 3 stated: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Texas was the last state to abolish slavery and free all slaves in the USA.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. The act amends Section 6103(a), Title 5 of the United States Code to designate June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day. <https://crsreports.congress.gov>

## Celebrating in Syracuse



The poster features a central yellow box with the title "2022 JUNETEENTH EVENT SCHEDULE". Below the title, it states "THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION WILL BE AT SYRACUSE CITY HALL". The schedule is organized by date:

- FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH**
  - FLAG RAISING CEREMONY (CITY HALL—12:00)
  - MISS JUNETEENTH PAGEANT (LOCATION TBD—12:00)
  - LOCAL ARTISTS
  - ATLAS
- SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH**
  - PARADE (11:00—FROM DUNBAR ASSOCIATION TO CITY HALL)
  - LINDSEY WILLIAMS & DIVINE CONNECTION
  - LOCAL ARTISTS
  - JON B
- FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH**
  - ANCESTRAL CELEBRATION (LOCATION TBD)

The poster is decorated with circular logos on the sides, each containing a map of the United States with the word "JUNETEENTH" written across it.

For more information, please visit: <https://syracusejuneteenth.org/>

## How Can I Celebrate Juneteenth?

**Support black business owners in the community.** Invest in local economy and help black business owners by purchasing items, services, or ordering food. Yelp and Uber Eats can help you find these restaurants on their apps. You can also visit Hungry for the Culture (website) to find black-owned restaurants in most major US cities.

Some Syracuse black-owned businesses: Chi'Soul Food, Creole Soul Café, Darwin, Eden, EthioEritrea Restaurant, the Fish Friar, Jerk Hut, Taste of Africa, Sista Sweets NY.

**Educate yourself and reflect.** While slavery ended in 1865, racism persists in countless institutions. Use June 19 as a day to reflect on critical issues that perpetuate discrimination against Black people in America and around the world. Spend the day reading about Juneteenth's history, including how Black families felt after being emancipated. Watch the documentary 13th on Netflix, or engage with other movies, shows, books and podcasts that can help reveal real-world, present-day issues.

Here is a list of more movies/books to look into:

<https://www.cnet.com/culture/black-history-month-movies-tv-shows-and-books-on-systemic-racism/>

For an \*amazing\* start to educating yourself, see this:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H-Vxs6jEUByXylMS2BjGH1kQ7mEuZnHpPSs1Bpaqmw0/mobilebasic>

**Donate to support black lives and communities of color.**

See this list of organizations you can donate to:

<https://nymag.com/strategist/article/where-to-donate-for-black-lives-matter.html>

**Sign petitions online, send texts, make phone calls.** Becoming more involved in political action is a step anyone can take; it can be as easy as taking 20 seconds to click on a prewritten petition.

For example, the ACLU website offers a handful of quick, fairly low-key ways to participate on its site as well as some more involved options, like making phone calls or texts on behalf of the organization's causes, and signing up to learn about local events like town hall meetings.

ACLU: <https://www.aclu.org/action/>

**Link up with local community groups and religious organizations.** Your local school PTA, religious organizations, and city hall are excellent places to listen to the challenges facing the broader community and start to help make changes where you live. You can also search for local social change groups on social media.

BLM Syracuse Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/blmsyr2>

Black Cuse Pride Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/blackcusepride>

## Purpose Statement

SOS as a medical practice and a contributor to the local community is committed in its support of diversity, equity, and inclusion. SOS seeks to build patient and team-member relationships among individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual identities that fully represents many cultures, backgrounds and viewpoints and thereby cultivate a culture of tolerance where all feel welcome.

## DEI Committee Members

Brandi Brown | Yolanda Brown | Melissa Butler | Helena Capone | Nicole Chidsey  
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Diana Jones | Melissa Patnella | Victoria Rolls | Robert Taylor | Dr. Daniel Wnorowski

*Please reach out to anyone in the DEI committee to share your thoughts and ideas.*

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, have suggestions for future topics, or would like to contribute to the DEI newsletter, please contact the DEI newsletter editor in chief, Melissa Patnella, at [melissa.patnella@sosbones.com](mailto:melissa.patnella@sosbones.com) OR any of the DEI committee members.