



NEWS RELEASE

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TMA Celebrates African American Identity with Fourth Annual Juneteenth Festival

Saturday, June 21, 2008, 11:30 A.M.–7 P.M.

Toledo, Ohio—On Saturday, June 21, the Toledo Museum of Art and its Committee for Cultural Diversity present the fourth annual Juneteenth Celebration. This free festival features music, dance, film, art demonstrations, food, and hands-on art activities. A highlight of this year's event is a talk and booksigning by author and actress, Victoria Rowell. Ms. Rowell will speak about how the arts influenced her childhood in the foster care system. Following her presentation, she will sign copies of her book, *The Women Who Raised Me*. A limited number of free booksigning tickets will be available after June 3 by calling 419-254-5771, ext. 7494.

TMA's Juneteenth Celebration recently received an Institutional Excellence Award from the Ohio Museums Association—the association's highest honor. In 2006, Juneteenth was named winner of a Northwest Ohio Black Media Association Impact Newsmaker Award for making a positive, newsworthy difference in the local African American community.

What is Juneteenth?

President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, freeing all enslaved people in the Confederate States. However, it was two years later, on June 19, 1865, when more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas heard the news that they could call themselves free. The celebrations that followed the reading of the Proclamation in Texas began a tradition that has lasted more than 130 years and is celebrated today in cities across America.

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What is TMA's Committee for Cultural Diversity?

The Museum's Committee for Cultural Diversity (CCD) initiated TMA's first Juneteenth Celebration in 2005 and continues to provide guidance and assistance in the planning and production of the festival. As an ad hoc committee of the Museum's Board of Directors, the CCD strives to encourage greater awareness and understanding of Toledo's culturally diverse community and to ensure the reflection of this cultural and ethnic heritage in the Museum's offerings. Those interested in volunteering to help with Juneteenth activities should contact the volunteer office at 419-254-5771, extension 7390.

Saturday, June 21, 2008

Rhythm of the Day

Local singers, dancers, and musicians will get you moving to the beat, tapping your toes and singing out loud.

Kaye Cook Praise Dancers

11:30 A.M. – NOON, Monroe Street Stage

Funga Alafia! I Welcome You! Join in as the Kaye Cook Praise Dancers begin the day with the *Funga* or Welcome Dance that also celebrates the harvest.

Like Water Drum and Dance

12:45–1:30 P.M., Monroe Street Stage

JJ Express (percussion)

2:15–2:30 P.M., Monroe Street Terrace

Da Phunk Brothers (hip hop)

3:45–4:15 P.M., Monroe Street Stage

Ramona Collins (jazz)

5–6 P.M., Monroe Street Stage

Funk Nation (funk and R & B)

6:15–7 P.M., Monroe Street Stage

Demos, Performances, & Events

Oral Histories: *100 Grandmothers*

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

3 – 4:30 P.M.

5:30 – 7 P.M. | Gilmartin Room

In an effort to build an oral history collection, Toledo's African American Legacy Project (AALP) interviews local grandmothers about the challenges they overcame while raising their families. Lend your voice to the story! All interested grandmothers over the age of 40 should visit the AALP table in the Quality of Life tent to reserve an interview time. Interviews may be pre-scheduled by calling Jone Catchings at 419-720-4369.

Performance: *Holy Blues with Reverend Robert & Sister Bernice Jones*

NOON – 12:45 P.M. | Glass Pavilion Stage

Rev. Robert and Sis. Bernice Jones combine music and narrative to present what they call "Holy Blues," celebrating blues, spirituals, and gospel music, along with generations of history.

Demonstration: *Hair Solutions*

12:15–12:45 P.M. & 3:15–3:45 P.M. | Classic Court

Stylist Nicolle Brown discusses the "roots" of hair art and demonstrates her technique. Stop by the Art in Africa Gallery to see an early representation of this art form on a recently acquired African mask made by the Mende people.

Talk: *A Quest for Freedom*

1–1:45 P.M. | Little Theater

Professor Abdul Alkalimat (Gerald McWhorter), former Director of Africana Studies and Professor of Sociology at the University of Toledo, speaks of his extraordinary ancestor Free Frank McWhorter who was the first free African American before the Civil War to overcome the challenges of establishing a town—New Philadelphia, Illinois. He was able to purchase not only his own freedom, but also the freedom of 15 family members.

Performance: *The Poet LaFe*

1:30–2:15 P.M. | Glass Pavilion Stage

Ophelia J. Thompson – also known as The Poet LaFe – shares poems about overcoming adversity, including her original works and those by well-known African American poets.

Guided Tour: *African and African American Art*

1:30–2:15 P.M. | Meet in Libbey Court

Join a TMA Docent for an enlightening gallery tour of highlights by African and African American artists.

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Quilting Demonstration

1:30–2:30 P.M. | Gilmartin Room

Join Euneda Liddell as she discusses the design manifestation and construction of the Legacy Quilt, sponsored by the African American Legacy Project.

Celebration Ceremony

2:30–3 P.M. | Monroe Street Stage

The Museum welcomes everyone with the story of Juneteenth, told by Anthony Lucas, and a sing-along with Jane and Phil Anosike. Robert Smith of Toledo's African American Legacy Project, as well as local officials, will share remarks and a spiritual dedication.

Ohio 5th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troop Demonstration

3–3:15 P.M. | Monroe Street Terrace

The troops of the reactivated Company C bring history to life through Civil War military drill reenactments.

Storytelling: *Story of the Baobab Tree and Other Tales*

3:15–3:45 & 4:30–5 P.M. | Glass Pavilion Stage

Anthony Lucas shares the engaging tales from Africa and African American folklore, including the story of the Baobab tree, or Tree of Life. Later, make sure to help our Quilt Tree of Life “grow” by adding felt leaves, flowers, and more.

Presentation: Victoria Rowell

4–4:45 P.M. | GlasSalon

Acclaimed television actress Victoria Rowell shares her experiences growing up in the foster care system and the importance of the arts and her mentors in helping her overcome obstacles. Ms. Rowell has since founded the Rowell Foster Children Positive Plan, which provides scholarships in the arts and education to foster youth.

Booksigning: *The Women Who Raised Me* by Victoria Rowell

5 P.M. | Cloister

In her deeply touching memoir, actress Victoria Rowell chronicles her remarkable life events, from the foster care system to celebrity. Rowell credits her success in life to her immersion in the arts, as well as an unlikely series of women who stepped forward to love her and nurture her talent. Free booksigning tickets will be available after June 3 by calling 419-254-5771, ext. 7494.

African-Inspired Glass Beads: Drop-in Sessions

NOON, 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 P.M. | Glass Pavilion

Use a small torch to “flamework” glass beads with African-inspired color schemes. Session tickets are \$10 for members, \$13 for nonmembers, and are available at the Glass Pavilion Visitor Services desk on a first-come, first-served basis on June 21. Adults and accompanied children aged 14 years and older are welcome.

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Glassblowing Demonstrations

1, 2, 3, & 4 P.M. | Glass Pavilion

Local artists illuminate their techniques for working molten glass into dazzling works of art. Supported by Libbey Inc.

Throughout the Day

Film: *Through Toledo's Eyes*

Runs continuously 11:30 A.M.–7 P.M. | Herrick Lobby

Based on interviews taped at the Mott Branch Library in 2006, this film gives first-person accounts of 1967 Civil Rights activities in Toledo. This series of short narratives was produced by WGTE Public Media.

Film: *Cornerstones: "The African Americans"*

Runs continuously 2–7 P.M. | Little Theater

Produced by WGTE Public Media, this film celebrates the lives and the legacy of Toledo's African American community. Discover how these individuals energized the Glass City by serving as community leaders, artists, educators, and musicians who helped put Toledo on the map.

Gallery Explorations

11:30 A.M.–7 P.M. | TMA Galleries

Embark on a self-guided gallery hunt for TMA collection favorites and new acquisitions by African or African American artists. Stop by any Museum entrance for a pamphlet. Supported by Paramount Advantage.

Quality of Life

11:30 A.M.–7 P.M. | Monroe Street Terrace

Maintain and improve your health and well-being with information from local quality-of-life organizations. This year, we welcome Toledo's African American Legacy Project, which introduces the *100 Grandmothers* oral history project.

Ohio 5th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troop

11:30 A.M.–5 P.M. | Glass Pavilion Grounds

The troops of the reactivated Company C share how African Americans met the challenges of surviving during the Civil War.

Exhibition: *Continuing the Tradition: Celebrating Juneteenth*

11:30 A.M.–7 P.M. | Community Gallery

Explore works of art by African American artists in the Toledo community.

Exhibition:***A Place to Call Home: Martin Luther King & the Struggle for Fair Housing***

11:30 A.M.–7 P.M. | Little Theater Gallery

This exhibition of color photographs by Bernie Kleina honors the 40th anniversaries of both the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Fair Housing Movement, which he strongly supported.

Delectable Dishes

NOON–7 P.M. | Monroe Street, Glass Pavilion Coffee Bar, Museum Café

From barbeque to sandwiches to frozen treats, have a big meal or snack all day on mouth-watering goodies from local vendors and the Museum.

Family Activity Stations

11:30 A.M.–6:30 P.M.

For kids and kids-at-heart, these hands-on activities are located both indoors and outdoors of the Museum campus. Be sure to visit each one for maximum fun!

Interactive Map | Libbey Court

On this world map, find the place where you live, your family lives, or your ancestors lived, and make your mark.

Face Painting | Glass Pavilion Grounds

Put your best face forward with unique decorations such as a freedom bell, friendship symbol, U.S. flag, kente cloth, and a variety of animals.

Quilt Tree | Glass Pavilion Grounds

Known as the “Tree of Life,” the Baobab tree manages to survive in a harsh climate. Using felt, decorate a leaf, fruit, flower, or animal, and place it on our “tree.” Watch as the tree comes to life with the variety of creative additions!

Loom Weaving | Libbey Court

Use a cardboard loom and brightly colored yarn to follow the designs used in African tribal clothing.

Hairbraiding | Glass Pavilion Grounds

Create your own colorful sample hairbraids, such as those found in Africa.

Mancala | Glass Pavilion Grounds

Mancala may well be the oldest board game in the world, and it’s played by hundreds of African tribes. Make your own Mancala game using egg cartons and handmade paper beads and then learn how to play!

African Masks | Classic Court

Using TMA’s African masks for inspiration, make a mask using beads, raffia, and other materials.

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Shekere (Shaker) | Main Terrace

Make and shake your own rhythm instrument like those found in many shapes and sizes across Africa.

African Drums | Main Terrace

Create and decorate a drum, similar to those used in African tribal dances celebrating festivals, ceremonies, and special events. Play it along with your shekere!

Thumb Pianos | Main Terrace

Used for hundreds of years by the Shona people of Zimbabwe, the thumb piano is played by plucking metal keys with your thumbs. Make your own version using a candy tin, hairpins, and more.

Juneteenth is supported, in part, by Urban Radio Broadcasting.

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The mission of the Toledo Museum of Art is based upon the belief in the power of art to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought, and provide enjoyment. Through our collection and programs, we strive to integrate art into the lives of people.

The Toledo Museum of Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art through a sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10 A.M.–4 P.M.; Friday, 10 A.M.–10 P.M.; Sunday, 11 A.M.–5 P.M.; but closed Mondays and major holidays. Friday evening hours are made possible by Fifth Third Bank.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit www.toledomuseum.org