

THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER
OF NEW BERN
Post Office Box 1354, New Bern, NC 28563-1354

PRESS RELEASE

For Release Immediately

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Celebrate JUNETEENTH with

The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern

New Bern, North Carolina (May 2019) - On June 19, 2019, eastern North Carolinians will celebrate JUNETEENTH with the launch of The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern.

“June 19 is JUNETEENTH, the national celebration of the emancipation of formerly enslaved peoples.” Rick Fisher, newly elected Board President announces that “JUNETEENTH was chosen because of its significance to African Americans throughout the country. Launching on JUNETEENTH in New Bern demonstrates our organization’s commitment to presenting the

historical impact and progression of African American heritage and culture in Eastern North Carolina.”

The African American Heritage & Cultural Center (AAHCC) launch on JUNETEENTH is one event among many planned that week throughout New Bern. “Our leadership looks forward to all the events and encourages families throughout the region to come to New Bern for the JUNETEENTH celebrations.”

The AAHCC launch is June 19 6 to 8:00 pm at 408 Hancock Street in New Bern. “We are planning an evening of fellowship, good traditional food, music, and art”, said Board Vice-President Ann Herndon. “I’m honored to be on the founding Board of Directors and look forward to AAHCC’s first public event.” Details and tickets for the event are available on EventBrite. The program begins at 6:00 and registrants are encouraged to park in the nearby free parking lot and arrive by 5:45.

ABOUT AAHCC

A strategic group of community leaders, elected officials and nonprofit organization leaders gathered early in 2018 to discuss the continuing need to increase the visibility of the heritage of eastern North Carolina’s African American community. Beyond the recorded history of the region that is included in traditional educational environments exists an important legacy of remarkable and determined individuals who contributed to the development of this region. As 2018 discussion continued, these early AAHCC leaders determined to established a 501(c)(3)

nonprofit which would collaborate with existing nonprofits, organizations and groups to secure resources to present a broad spectrum of the African American Experience.

In early 2019, AAHCC became a nonprofit organization and elected its founding Board of Directors and Officers. Officers are Rick Fisher – President, Ann Herndon – Vice-President, Kathy Adolph – Secretary, Jim Copland – Treasurer, and Board Directors are Carol Bonner Becton, Maria Cho, and Tahira Coble Copland. AAHCC is staffed by Executive Director Carrie Gallagher.

Future AAHCC programs will include developing an oral history library with universal access, and presenting creative performances, seminars and lectures, exhibitions of artwork including murals, artifacts and personal collections, along with music, food and live art events.

ADDITIONAL JUNETEENTH EVENTS IN NEW BERN

AAHCC's June 19 launch is one of many JUNETEENTH events throughout New Bern:

- Friday, June 14th at 5 – 8pm “JUNETEENTH Opening Reception” featuring a month-long exhibit of eight local African American artists at Craven Arts Council, Bank of the Arts, 317 Middle Street
- Monday June 17th at 7 PM - Juneteenth Week Kickoff with Charles Tendell Podcast
- Tuesday June 18th – “Community Service/Health Day” Health and Mental Health Free Screenings at the OMEGA Center – *watch for publication of registration details*
- **JUNETEENTH Wednesday June 19th at 6-8 PM – AAHCC Public Lunch – register on EventBrite today!**

- Thursday June 20th at 7 PM - Tryon Palace African American Lecture, NC History Center
- Friday June 21st at 7 PM – “Celebration of Cultures” hosted by Y.U.P. Annual Rooftop Social, 401 Middle Street. Registration required.
- Saturday June 22nd, 10 AM - 4 PM - DuffFest Presents Juneteenth hosted by GDRC, Stanley White Field
- Saturday, June 22nd, “HBCA DAY” at Omega Center – *watch for publication of registration details*
- Sunday June 23rd is “Community Freedom and Fellowship Day” at Local Churches and Union Point Park Recreation – *watch for publication of details*
- Sunday June 23rd “Gospel Concert” being planned at OMEGA Center – *watch for publication of details*

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The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New Bern North Carolina and serving communities throughout Eastern North Carolina. Contact information: Post Office Box 1354, NBNC 28563-1354 or TheCenterofNewBern@gmail.com.