

Culver City Juneteenth Celebration 2022

A report of the Juneteenth Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittee
to be presented at the May 2022 Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee meeting

The Juneteenth Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittee is composed of Samia Bano, Haifaa Moammar and Rebecca Rona.

In April, after EHRAC had already begun planning a modest Juneteenth program, Mayor Daniel Lee approached Chair Rebecca Rona to suggest that he and this committee join forces to plan and host a Juneteenth Celebration to be sponsored in part by the City of Culver City. Mayor Lee independently had already accomplished much. At the April EHRAC meeting, the chair presented its report, including an announcement about the Mayor's invitation.

Since the April meeting, members of the Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the Mayor have met weekly.

Monday, May 23rd, the City Council will learn details of the Juneteenth Celebration and vote whether the city shall be a sponsor of the program. It is expected that the Council will vote in favor of this proposal.

The major contribution of the EHRAC Juneteenth Ad Hoc Subcommittee is producing the storytelling element of the program, as well as assistance in planning the event.

Date: Sunday, June 19, 2022

Time: 2pm to 6pm

Location: The Culver City Steps

Program Elements:

- African Drumming (Drummers provided by Apple)
- Storytelling
- Music with the singer/song leader Aloe
- Boxed or bagged food, free to the public (provided by Apple)
- Non-alcoholic drinks
- African Dancers (not confirmed)

Storytellers:

- Mayor Daniel Lee (will also serve as MC)
- Jared Morgan, member of EHRAC (confirmed)
- Menelik Tafari (confirmed)
- Summer McBride, CCUSD trustee (confirmed)
- Council member Yasmine Imani-McMorrin (confirmed)
- Umar Hakim Dey (confirmed)
- Christina Harley (playwrite) (confirmed)
- Student from Black Student Union (tentative)
- Doyan Richards (resident, Today Show guest) (tentative)
- Actor, Centre Theatre Group (tentative)

Groups of storytellers will share their stories throughout the afternoon. Each storyteller will be asked to limit the story/stories to 5 minutes. We are seeking a diverse group of storytellers in terms of age, gender, sexual orientation, region, and societal role.

Media sponsor

KJLH has agreed to be the media sponsor.

Music:

“Lift Every Voice,” “Oh Freedom,” (tentative) “We Shall Overcome” as well as other songs will be sung by the acclaimed musician Aloe.

We plan to print lyrics for the audience.

Donations:

Some donations have already been promised; other donations are still being sought.

- Hackman Capital Partners, owner of the Culver City Steps (free use of The Steps, variety of assistance)
- Amazon \$15,000
- Sony \$5000
- Downtown Business Association \$500
- Apple to provide African Drummers, other services
- KJLH Radio
- Culver City (support, tentative)
- African Drumming (Drummers provided by Apple)

A nonprofit organization is needed to accept the donations on the City’s behalf. The Mayor is communicating with an area nonprofit about this now. The matter may have been resolved by the 5/24 meeting.

Logistical matters

A wide variety of logistical matters are being discussed and planned. Among these are such matters as signage, banners, printed program, table rental, a welcome area, speakers and a sound system, food, a literature table.