



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and Washington Revels Present Week-long Juneteenth Celebration

Diverse Voices: A Juneteenth Celebration includes educational activities, a film preview, community sings, storytelling, performances by local, regional, and internationally known artists, and more!

GLEN ECHO, MD (May 25, 2023) – Join the [Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture](#), [Washington Revels](#) and communities around the Washington D.C. metropolitan area for a festive week celebrating freedom! From June 17–25, *Diverse Voices: A Juneteenth Celebration*, the DMV’s first regional Juneteenth festival, will commemorate the end of slavery in America and honor the rich history of the Civil Rights era, particularly the 1960 [desegregation of the privately-owned Glen Echo Amusement Park in Montgomery County](#). These events will recognize how the span of history from abolition to the civil rights movement has shaped American history, our communities, and our culture, and how that history helped to transform a segregated amusement park into an arts destination and green space that is open to all.

“We are thrilled to partner with Washington Revels, one of our amazing resident arts programs at the Park, to celebrate Juneteenth – a milestone in our country’s history – as well as the civil rights story of Glen Echo Park, which was a milestone in the Washington, DC area civil rights movement,” said Glen Echo Park Partnership CEO Katey Boerner. “This multi-day festival commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans is one of a number of local events that are vital to understanding the past and how history has shaped our current story. With a multi-disciplinary approach that features performances, discussions, storytelling, and more, we know that there will be many ways for the community to connect to this celebration. And because access and inclusion are a priority, the festival schedule includes both virtual and in-person options.”

Opening on June 17 in Kensington, Maryland, the week-long series of events will feature concerts; virtual and in-person songfests, historical discussions and educational activities; a film preview; community sings; local events; and storytelling; along with performances by local, regional, and internationally known artists and Washington Revels ensembles. On June 25, the celebration culminates in a family-friendly **Festival of Freedom**, starting with a symbolic procession into Glen Echo Park and a carousel ride, as well as a **concert featuring Grammy award-winning artists [Dan & Claudia Zanes](#), former member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Grammy award-winning artist [Hubby Jenkins](#), and the legendary vocal ensemble [Sweet Honey in the Rock](#).**

“I am so proud of our collaboration with the Glen Echo Park Partnership to create the DMV’s first regional Juneteenth festival,” said Washington Revels Executive Director Tamara C. Williams. “This is the beginning of what we intend to be a yearly artistic and cultural celebration of African-American history that is integral to our nation’s progress. A combination of educational, artistic, and community activities meant to acknowledge the pain of the past and move us forward into healing and connection as a region and nation will continue to be part of this celebration of freedom. It

took the bold actions of African American students and local neighborhood residents – many of them Jewish – to desegregate the former Glen Echo Amusement Park, so we will honor them as we march forward together – literally and figuratively – with people of all backgrounds into Glen Echo Park on June 25. We look forward to building a new and meaningful Juneteenth tradition that recognizes the rich history and diversity of our area.”

Festival program partners include **Carpe Diem Arts** and **Montgomery History**, whose respective missions are to inspire creative self-expression through shared arts experiences, and to collect, interpret, and promote the history, heritage, and culture of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Glen Echo Park Partnership and Washington Revels have also collaborated with a number of other local and regional organizations (see activities list below) to produce this unique series of events that brings together artists, musicians, and local historians to tell the story of our past and usher in a new sense of joy and equity for our future.

The full list of events includes:

Saturday, June 17 | Kensington Juneteenth Celebration

Noon to 4:00 p.m. (St. Paul Park, 10564 St. Paul St., Kensington, MD)

The festivities kick off in Montgomery County at the [Kensington Juneteenth Celebration](#). Co-sponsored by the Town of Kensington, the Racial Justice Committee, and Kensington's Historical Society, [Kensington's 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration](#) will bring together a multiracial coalition of organizers, historians, living history performers, civic and faith leaders, local and Black-owned businesses, musicians, artists, brewmasters, and supporters to proudly commemorate Juneteenth with fun educational activities for all ages and a commitment to building a better future together.

Sunday, June 18 - Sunday, June 25 (Daily) | Daily Antidote of Song: “Juneteenth Week”

Daily at Noon EST (virtual – Zoom and Facebook)

Presented by [Carpe Diem Arts](#). Each day, learn a song about freedom, civil rights and social justice--and the stories behind them--from local, national and internationally known artists. This virtual community, uniting attendees from across the country and around the globe, was established in 2020 with the onset of the COVID pandemic. Programs are recorded and available online at <https://carpediemarts.org/daily-antidote-of-song>

Monday, June 19 | “Singing the Journey: Juneteenth Joy”

2:00 p.m. (Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria, VA)

Presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria, Washington Revels Jubilee Voices will perform a lively, interactive performance featuring traditional African American music, dance and spoken word that traces the history of African Americans from enslavement to the Civil Rights Movement. Celebrate freedom and join the journey! *Co-sponsored by Washington Revels and the Alexandria Black History Museum.*

Tuesday, June 20 | Voices of History

6:45 p.m. (virtual – Zoom)

A virtual community conversation, hosted in partnership with [Montgomery History](#), that will explore the national and local significance of Juneteenth, the themes of freedom and emancipation, and the continuing fight for equality and justice in Montgomery County.

Wednesday, June 21 | Juneteenth Community Sing

6:30 p.m. (virtual – Zoom and Facebook)

From [Carpe Diem Arts](#), featuring music from the African American tradition, the Civil Rights Movement, protest songs and more, featuring area and regional artists.

Thursday, June 22 | “South in America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation”

6:30 p.m. (Barbara M. Donnellan Auditorium, 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA)

Join Arlington Public Library for a conversation between author Imani Perry and Library Director Diane Kresh about Perry's novel, *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation*. The book is a narrative journey through the American South, positioning it as the heart of the American experiment for better and

worse. A “rich and imaginative tour of a crucial piece of America” (*Publishers Weekly*), the book debuted on *The New York Times* bestsellers list. Due to limited space, an RSVP is required. (Visit [Arlington Central Library](#) to RSVP.)

Friday, June 23 | “Jazz Night in D.C.”

6:00 p.m. (*Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, Washington, D.C.*)

A DC jazz institution with the best musicians and the best jazz lovers, featuring a tribute to Freddie Hubbard. Due to limited space, an RSVP is required. (Visit www.revelsdc.org for more information)

Sunday, June 25 | “Diverse Voices: Festival of Freedom”

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (*Glen Echo Park, 7300 Macarthur Blvd, Glen Echo, MD*)

The week closes with a day-long “**Diverse Voices: Festival of Freedom**” at Glen Echo Park. Celebrating the rich cultural history of Glen Echo Park, the festival will feature live musical performances, children’s activities, and more. The celebration will include a commemorative ceremony honoring those who were key to the 1960 desegregation of the former Glen Echo Amusement Park, and a preview of a documentary about the successful integration efforts. The day will close on a high note with a concert featuring an array of local and internationally known artists, including Sweet Honey in the Rock.

For a full list of events and locations, visit: <https://revelsdc.org/juneteenth/> or <https://glenechoark.org/diversevoices>

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About Glen Echo Park and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children’s theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 350,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. For more information on Glen Echo Park, visit glenechopark.org or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Washington Revels

Now celebrating its 40th anniversary, Washington was founded in 1983 as a multi-generational performing arts community of professionals and nonprofessionals that presents traditional music, dance, storytelling, and drama in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. It includes four performing ensembles — Gallery Voices, Heritage Voices, Jubilee Voices, and Maritime Voices — and produces workshops for adults and children, community participation and service events, pub sings, and performances year round. Signature programs include *The Christmas Revels* each December, *May Revels* each spring, and a new Juneteenth program each summer. For more information, visit revelsdc.org or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (creativemoco.com). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.

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