

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Shout Hallelujah: Juneteenth at the MMFA is a community event that will honor African American culture and traditions with a celebration of art, music, fashion, and dance.



Event headliner Souled Out Groove

Montgomery, AL, June 4, 2021 – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with Mayor Steven L. Reed and the City of Montgomery, is excited to invite the community to Shout Hallelujah: Juneteenth at the MMFA, a celebration of African American culture and creativity highlighting the artistic traditions of African Americans as seen in art, music, fashion, and dance. Due to ongoing repair work to the iconic stone bridge in Blount Cultural Park, event attendees should enter the park using the Woodmere Boulevard entrance.

On Saturday, June 19 from 9 AM to 2 PM, visitors of all ages are invited to the Museum to join in this celebration of freedom. From the main stage on the front lawn, educator and performer Michelle Summers will emcee the event and provide cultural commentary throughout the day, as visitors enjoy music by Amon Robinson (Jazz), DJ ALI, Lee B. Walker Jr. (Gospel), Jeremy Flyy & Flight Control (R&B), and event headliner Souled Out Groove (R&B); segments on traditional fashion design provided by journalist Tonya Terry and the story of Juneteenth presented by Ibrahim Kareem Lee; and Afro-centric dance led by SQAD. Under tents and on the lawn, participants will be able to design their own mixed media Juneteenth flags and enjoy yard games. Around the perimeter of the event, the outdoor exhibition *Voices of Change* will be installed, featuring reproductions of portraits by photographer Yousuf Karsh of civil rights leaders whose ideals, words, and actions made an impact on our world. Inside the Museum, visitors can explore works of art from the Museum's collection by African American artists, from Edmonia Lewis's exquisite sculpture *Hiawatha's Marriage* (1868) to Amy Sherald's attention grabbing print *Handsome* (2020) and many more. Additionally, local artists Carole Carson, SaQuia Evans, Homer Johnson, Karvarus Moore, and Toni Toney will be onsite hosting demonstrations with works available for purchase, and Winfred Hawkins will lead an outdoor sketching studio in the Museum's sculpture garden.

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

One Museum Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117
334.625.4333 | @MontgomeryMFA | mmfa.org

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from local food trucks, including All About Juice (cold-pressed juices), Arctic Ice (cool treats), Can a Brotha Get a Slice (pizza), The Pastry Vault (pastries), Plant Bae (vegan), and Potz and Panz (authentic Southern cuisine).

"The Museum is thrilled to contribute to the expansion of the community's Juneteenth celebrations," said MMFA Board President Cathy Martin. "This is just the first of what we intend to be an annual celebration of the emancipation and enormous creative contributions of African Americans in our community and beyond. For us, this program has quickly become a powerful expression of our Museum's commitment to becoming a more inclusive and welcoming resource for today's Montgomery and River Region."

"We so appreciate Cathy's vision for bringing Juneteenth to the Museum's grounds and galleries and applaud the way she has worked to engage so many community contributors as partners in realizing this component of Montgomery's 2021 commemoration," said MMFA Director Angie Dodson.

Mayor Steven Reed added, "We are proud to partner with the Museum to celebrate Juneteenth with an experience that reflects the vibrancy and diversity of our city. New voices will join longtime Montgomery icons to elevate the vast contributions made by African American culture in Montgomery and beyond."

After enjoying the events in Blount Cultural Park, head downtown for the Rosa Parks Museum's Annual Juneteenth Celebration from 11 AM to 6 PM and then over to the Riverwalk Amphitheater from 4 to 9 PM where the City of Montgomery Department of Cultural Affairs will round out celebrations with an event honoring Global African Diaspora Heritage Day. In the event of inclement weather, some activities may be canceled or moved indoors. In order to safely welcome participants inside during the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the MMFA will be limiting the number of visitors allowed into the indoor spaces at any one time.

Shout Hallelujah: Juneteenth at the MMFA is presented by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, the MMFA Junior Executive Board, and the City of Montgomery Department of Cultural Affairs.



Amy Sherald (American, born 1973), *Handsome*, 2020, screen print on paper, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association Purchase, 2021.2

JUNETEENTH BACKGROUND

Juneteenth is a national celebration of the emancipation of the last enslaved people in the Confederacy. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln on September 22, 1862, and became effective on January 1, 1863, many slave owners in Texas withheld this information from their slaves. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX to announce the end of slavery in the Confederacy. Despite this proclamation, slavery was not fully abolished until December 6, 1865, with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. In 1866, formerly enslaved people celebrated their freedom on June 19, starting the tradition of Juneteenth. Today, 47 states officially commemorate or observe June 19th as Juneteenth.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

On Stage

Avant Garde, Brass Ensemble
DJ ALI
Jeremy Flyy & Flight Control, R&B
Sheila Jackson, Vocalist
Ibrahim Kareem Lee, Performer
Dionn Overton, Vocalist
Amon Robinson, Jazz
Souled Out Groove, R&B
SQAD, Dance School
Michelle Summers, host
Henry Terry, Pianist
Tonya Terry, Journalist
Lee B. Walker Jr., Gospel

Artists

Carole Carson
SaQuia Evans
Winfred Hawkins
Homer Johnson
Karvarus Moore
Toni Toney

Food Trucks

All About Juice
Arctic Ice
Can a Brotha Get a Slice
The Pastry Vault
Plant Bae
Potz and Panz

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9 AM

DJ ALI
Michelle Summers + Tonya Terry
Move Montgomery | Afro-centric dance Led by
SQAD

9:30 AM

DJ ALI
Michelle Summers
Design Cemented in Time | Tonya Terry
Juneteenth Story | Ibrahim Kareem Lee
Second Line-style Procession led by Avant
Garde

10 AM

Amon Robinson (Jazz)

10:45 AM

DJ ALI
Michelle Summers
Design Cemented in Time (1920s, 30s, + 40s) |
Tonya Terry

11 AM

Lee B. Walker Jr. (Gospel)

11:45 AM

DJ ALI
Michelle Summers
Design Cemented in Time (1950s, 60s, + 70s) |
Tonya Terry
Lift Every Voice and Sing led by Henry Terry +
Sheila Jackson

Noon

Jeremy Flyy & Flight Control (R&B)

12:45 PM

DJ ALI
Michelle Summers
Design Cemented in Time (1980s – Today) |
Tonya Terry

1 PM

Souled Out Groove (R&B) featuring Dionn
Overton

FOR YOUR SAFETY | COVID-19

We remain committed to serving our members and visitors in a safe and responsible manner, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this end: we request that all Museum visitors over the age of five wear a mask or face covering during their visit. Social distancing is encouraged and indicated by signage throughout the Garden and the Galleries. Following CDC and ADPH guidelines, we have increased the frequency that we clean and disinfect high-touch areas. Additionally, hand sanitizer is readily available for visitors.

Please stay at home if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the fourteen (14) days prior to your visit.

MMFA BACKGROUND

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1930 by a group of local artists as a place for both exhibiting art and space for art education. The original intentions of our founders—to exhibit and teach—continue to inspire and inform every action and activity here at the Museum which, since 1988, has shared the 277-acre Blount Cultural Park with our partners across the lake at the celebrated Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Today's MMFA visitors stroll through art-studded grounds and permanent collection galleries. They see compelling changing exhibitions and learn about art by playing in our interactive gallery, Artworks, making art in its bustling studios, or by participating in other engaging events and programs. And, as of September 2018, MMFA visitors can now relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning three-acre sculpture garden.

While the Museum's collection is still home to the art of many of the regional artists who first established it, over time it has become known for its strength in American art and Old Master Prints. Recent, important acquisitions of art made by African American and Asian artists and works inspired by images and themes related to the experiences of these groups represent the breadth and depth of the lives and concerns of those who call Montgomery and the River Region home. Through the exhibition of this work as well as the programs and events that help connect our communities with it, the MMFA is recognized as a leading arts and cultural resource here in the state and Southeastern region.

The MMFA is a department of the City of Montgomery and is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, with additional funds from the Montgomery County Commission and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT: Shout Hallelujah: Juneteenth at the MMFA

WHEN: Saturday, June 19, 2021; 9 AM–2 PM

WHERE: Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park
One Museum Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

INFORMATION: mmfa.org
334.625.4333
@MontgomeryMFA

HOURS:
Galleries, Mondays, Closed
Sculpture Garden, Tuesdays–Saturdays, 10 AM–5 PM
Terrace, and Store: Sundays, Noon to 5 PM
Last entry at 4:45 PM

ADMISSION: Free! With ample, free parking.

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MEDIA CONTACT

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