

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES JUNETEENTH

Rejoice at the MMFA as we celebrate African American culture, creativity, and community on Saturday, June 18.



Juneteenth 2021; Photograph by Mickey Welsh for the Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, AL, June 7, 2022 – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the City of Montgomery and its Department of Cultural Affairs, is excited to invite the community to Juneteenth at the MMFA, a celebration of African American culture and creativity, on Saturday, June 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event will highlight and celebrate the artistic traditions of African Americans: art, music, dance, and spoken word.

The festivities kick off at 10 AM with a performance of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” a hymn of thanksgiving and freedom. Later in the day, The Avant Garde will lead a Second Line-style procession around the Museum grounds. From the main stage in the Caddell Sculpture Garden, author and advocate Tonya Terry will emcee the event and provide cultural commentary throughout the day as visitors enjoy music from Amon Robinson, DJ Ali, Souled Out Groove with Terrence Baldwin, The Avant Garde with Jonathan Avant, Shelia Jackson, and Alabama Boys, as well as spoken word poetry from Jae Green and Afro-centric dance led by SQAD at the

new Bayeté Ross Smith artwork, *Got the Power: Montgomery*. Under tents and on the lawn, participants will enjoy yard games, art-making activities including paper beads and homemade tambourines, and open studio artmaking with artists Toni Toney, Milton Madison, and E L Chisolm. Chisolm, an Atlanta-based artist and Birmingham native, is designing a mural that will be collaboratively completed during this Juneteenth event by Montgomery community members who will be able to sign up for timed entry participation.

Inside and around the Museum, visitors can explore the exhibition *Lava Thomas: Homecoming*, which features portraits inspired by photographs of remarkable African American people to tackle issues of representation and memorialization, specifically her series, *Mugshot Portraits: Women of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, which depicts women who were arrested for participating in the city’s

1955–1956 boycott in Alabama. During Juneteenth, *Homecoming* exhibition curator Dr. Bridget R. Cooks and historian and activist Georgette Norman will join a conversation examining Cooks' book *Exhibiting Blackness: African Americans and the American Art Museum* via Zoom in the galleries surrounded by Thomas' stunning drawings. In addition to the installation, visitors can participate in self-guided tours throughout the Museum's collection of African American artists, from Edmonia Lewis' exquisite sculpture *Hiawatha's Marriage* (1868) to Amy Sherald's attention-grabbing print *Handsome* (2020) and many more.



Juneteenth 2021; Photograph by Rob Dabney

“This year’s Juneteenth commemoration builds on the strengths of last year’s program and will again celebrate the creative contributions of African Americans in our community and beyond,” said MMFA President Cathy Martin. “For us, this now-annual program stands as but one expression of our Museum’s commitment to becoming a more inclusive and welcoming resource for today’s Montgomery and River Region.”

“Following on Cathy’s words—like last year’s commemoration, our Juneteenth 2022 festivities will again celebrate local creatives,” said MMFA Director Angie Dodson. “And, this year we also celebrate the works of two African American artists whose works are currently on view at the Museum—New York-based Bayeté Ross Smith’s whose site-specific, sonic sculpture *Got the Power: Montgomery* was recently created in the Museum’s Sculpture Garden and San Francisco-based Lava Thomas, whose exhibition *Homecoming* currently occupies the Museum’s changing exhibition galleries.”

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from local food trucks, including Potz and Panz (authentic Southern cuisine), Fire Meats Wood (wood smoked cuisine), and sweet treats from Mary Finley.

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 6 to 9 PM, where the City of Montgomery Department of Cultural Affairs will round out the celebrations with an evening of free festivities. In the event of inclement weather, some activities may be canceled or moved indoors.

Support for Juneteenth is provided by lead sponsor Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC and sponsor Coca-Cola. Annual support for events at the MMFA is provided by lead sponsors Lamar and MGMWERX, with additional support from sponsors Gene and Ray Ingram and Margaret and Jimmy Lowder, and co-sponsors Confero, Mary Lil Owens and Bill Little, Renasant Bank, and Synovus Bank.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

On Stage*

The Alabama Boys, Gospel
Aleta Davis, Musician
Amon Robinson, Jazz Performer
The Avant Garde, Brass Ensemble
Ayesha Monét, Musician
Bo Cobbs, Musician
DJ Ali
Eric Perkins, Musician
Jae Green, Poet
James Milner, Musician
Meow Academy
Shelia Jackson, Vocalist
Souled Out Groove, R&B

SQAD, Dance School
Tonya Terry, Journalist (Event Emcee)

Artists

E L Chisolm
Milton Madison
Toni Toney

Vendors

Mary Finley
Fire Meats Wood
Potz and Panz
Rashad Provitt, Provitt Prints

* For the most up-to-date list of performers for this year's Juneteenth, please visit our website.

ABOUT JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States that celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth's commemoration is held on the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when Army Major General Gordon Granger proclaimed freedom for enslaved people in Texas, the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery, due to the ratification of the Emancipation Proclamation. Originating in Galveston, Texas, Juneteenth has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1866 as a celebration of African American culture. It became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983.

FOR YOUR SAFETY | COVID-19

The MMFA remains committed to serving our members and visitors in a safe and responsible manner, especially during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. According to your comfort level, all Museum visitors are welcome to mask and encouraged to practice social distancing during their visit. If you are feeling ill or have recently been exposed to COVID-19, please [refer to CDC quarantine guidelines](#) before visiting the Museum.

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 late September 2018, MMFA visitors can now relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning new 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 now 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:	Juneteenth
WHEN:	Saturday, June 18, 2022; 10 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, ArtWorks, 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.

###

MEDIA CONTACT

Stephen Hayes: shayes@mmfa.org | 334.625.4347