

# Historic Triangle comes together to celebrate Juneteenth

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For the first time in the organization's history, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is offering free admission to the Historic Area and the Art Museums on June 19 so that community members and visitors can fully experience the Black history of Williamsburg. Courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

As Juneteenth approaches its second year as an established national holiday, several Williamsburg area organizations have come together to create a comprehensive four-day celebration with a calendar full of events.

The Williamsburg organizations formed the [Juneteenth Community Consortium](#), a group dedicated to educating, commemorating and celebrating the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans. As a national holiday, Juneteenth is recognized every June 19th to celebrate the end of slavery.



The bell being rung during the 2021 Juneteenth celebration by the YJCCW NAACP. Courtesy of Ti'Juana Gholson

The consortium was inspired by Opal Lee — known as the grandmother of Juneteenth for her work for national recognition of the holiday — who visited Williamsburg in 2019. The consortium hopes to build on that momentum, said Connie Matthews Harshaw, president of the Let Freedom Ring Foundation.

“We are continuing our work to just raise the level of awareness and telling the complete story of this place we call America,” Harshaw said. “We are just excited to be working together with all ages and races and genders and religions and everybody to understand and accept and embrace this idea of freedom.”

The organizations participating in the Juneteenth Community Consortium include the City of Williamsburg, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Coming To The Table, Historic Area Religions Together, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, League of Women Voters of Williamsburg, Let Freedom Ring Foundation, Village The Initiative For Equity in Education, Virginia Arts Festival - Williamsburg Live, Visit Williamsburg, William & Mary, Williamsburg Action and York James City Williamsburg NAACP.

While individual organizations have celebrated Juneteenth individually for years, this is the first time they have all come together to make a collaborative celebration.

For the first time in the organization’s history, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is offering free admission to the Historic Area and the Art Museums on June 19 from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., so that community members and visitors can fully experience the Black history of Williamsburg.

“This year we are honored to partner as never before with a broad spectrum of organizations to commemorate Juneteenth,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “By opening our doors to the community, we hope to share our educational spaces, programs and other resources with the widest audience possible.”