

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Festival of the Carolinas** returns to Charlotte on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> in Independence Park. Admission is free and the festival begins at 10:00 am and goes until 10:00 pm. The Cultural Camp on Thursday begins at 9 am and runs until 5 pm at A New Vision CDC on 500 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

The Juneteenth Festival is a celebration of not only freedom for enslaved blacks in America, but freedom of all people that have been enslaved throughout time. The festival will offer a rich array of cultural traditions and diversity through food, arts and music. It offers a broad variety of tantalizing, ethnic foods, plus an even greater selection of vendors displaying unique arts, crafts and clothing from around the world. Enjoy fabulous R&B, Blues, Jazz, Reggae, Hip-Hop and many more soul-stirring sounds as music and dance groups perform throughout the weekend's festivities. Below are highlights of this year's festivities:

- Once again we will be holding our ever popularly **Cultural Camp** on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 5 pm at A New Vision, CDC located at 500 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street; Charlotte, NC 28206. Mask making, beading, storytelling and songs will renew the children ages 3 and up to a true cultural experience. Please bring a t-shirt for our tie-dye class (Doors will open at 9 am).
- On Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> we will once again be hosting our ever popular **Drum Circle**. The Drum Circle attracts music and dance enthusiasts of all ethnicities and from all over the US and World.
- **An Education Village** is an integral part of the festival. Events in this village range from lectures by prominent educators and historians, to book signings and discussions. African-American history is on display for those wishing to simply gather information.
- The **Marilyn Griffith Turner Scholarship Fund** which is named posthumously after our long standing Chairwoman. This full four year college scholarship is given to a deserving youth approved by our selection committee in conjunction with the awarding college. The award is valued at \$80,000 and is offered by St. Augustine College.
- A **Healthcare Village** that is staffed with health care professionals from Carolinas Medical Center and First Care Medical clinic will be on site. There will be various FREE healthcare screenings available to all festival goers.
- **Children's Village** children will enjoy the Juneteenth Festival as well, with our special area filled with entertaining and educational crafts, as well as a story teller, performing stage and other interactive activities designed just for kids.
- The **Entertainment Stages** spotlights all genres of entertainment to include fashion, dance, singing, poetry, a gospel fest and much more.
- The **Multi-cultural vendors** that travel from all across the country and parts of Africa showcasing food, exquisite art, music and culturally relevant specialty items add even more "*flavor*" to this must attend event.

This year the Juneteenth Festival planning committee expects about 50,000 attendees. For more information, to volunteer, or a chance to perform at this year's festival please reach out to one of the following contacts, or click on the following link [www.juneteenthofthecarolinas.com](http://www.juneteenthofthecarolinas.com). The Juneteenth Festival of the Carolinas is a non-profit organization with a 501c3. Proudly serving Charlotte, NC for 17 years.

### **Contact(s):**

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