

# Chatham County Juneteenth 2019

## Celebrating African-American History, Culture and Resilience

Saturday, June 22, 2019  
Doors Open at 10:30am  
11:00am – 6:00pm  
Chatham Agriculture and Conference Center  
1192 US Hwy 64 Business, Pittsboro

Juneteenth commemorates the announcement of the emancipation of slaves in the state of Texas, two and a half years after the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation. More generally, it has become a national observance proclaiming the final emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America.

Chatham County's Juneteenth 2019 is hosted by the Chatham Community Library in partnership with Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity. The event is **FREE** and open to the public and is made possible with partial funding from the [Friends of the Chatham Community Library](#). It will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the Chatham Agriculture and Conference Center.

Chatham's Juneteenth program aims to increase understanding and unity concerning slavery and the historic efforts required to abolish it. It celebrates the commitment that African Americans have made to the betterment of life for their children and grandchildren. Juneteenth 2019 will also draw attention to modern-day slavery, such as unlawful child labor and human trafficking, and provide information on how we may work together as a community toward eliminating it.

*Juneteenth 2019* will feature informative talks by historians from North Carolina universities. Dr. Charles Johnson, NC Central University, will speak about *African Civilization Before Slavery*, Dr. James Crawford, Chatham County Commissioner, will talk about *The Origins and Trajectory of Slavery in the US*, and Dr. Arwin Smallwood, North Carolina A&T, will discuss *Native Americans, Africans and Slavery in NC*. An additional speaker, Robin Cleary, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, will discuss *Human Trafficking in a Historical Context*.

The event will also include engaging performance artists, such as the Tryon Palace Jonkonnu Drummers and Mitch Capel, award-winning actor and author. They will be joined by poets, storytellers, musicians, and others whose work demonstrates the depth of the African American heritage and the wide range of important contributions that African Americans have made to the state and country.

Health screenings and information, materials on nutrition, family fitness activities, displays and exhibits will be offered. For the younger audience, "A Child's World" will provide learning experiences, crafts and a storyteller. Food trucks will be on site as well, and the first 400 guests to arrive will receive **FREE \$5.00 food truck coupons**.

For more information, visit [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org) or call the Chatham Community Library at (919) 545-8084.