

Commemorating Juneteenth

*If the cruelties of slavery
could not stop us, the
opposition we now face will
surely fail. Because the goal
of America is freedom,
abused and scorned though
we may be, our destiny is tied
up with America's destiny.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Juneteenth commemorates the last enslaved African Americans in the United States (U.S.) being declared free. U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* Jan. 1, 1863. Unfortunately, news about slaves being declared free did not reach the state of Texas until two and a half years later, when Major General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865, to the people of Galveston, Texas. The order read:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an



absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

The period after Juneteenth became known as the "scatter." Despite the recommendation for former slaves to remain with their former enslavers, many of them left *en masse* in the ensuing weeks to find family members and to migrate north and west. Forty-seven states, as well as the District of Columbia, recognize and observe Juneteenth (some by different names) as a state or ceremonial holiday. The Calaboose African American History Museum's Board of Directors, docents and volunteers take great pride in bringing this year's Juneteenth Celebration and Grand Reopening to the San Marco community!

Join Us for the Calaboose's Grand Reopening and Juneteenth Celebration!



Dr. Leonard N. Moore

As the year-long coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic eases its grip, the country's businesses, schools and organizations are working to return to a sense of normalcy. No organization is as eager to do that as the Calaboose African American History Museum. Located at 200 W. Martin Luther King Drive in San Marcos, Texas, the Calaboose Museum's Juneteenth Celebration and Grand Reopening is slated for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 19, 2021. Admission to this family-friendly event is **free**.

"The board of directors, docents and other Calaboose volunteers have planned an exciting grand reopening to coincide with one of the most important observances for African Americans in Texas, Juneteenth," Dr. Skyller Walkes, Calaboose African American History Museum board president, said.

Dr. Leonard Moore headlines activities with his presentation, "Juneteenth and the Spirit of Black Self-Reliance." Moore is Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement and the George Littlefield Professor of American History at the University of Texas-Austin. He has earned the Jean Holloway Award for Excellence in Teaching and the John Warfield Teaching Award. He also is author of several books on black politics, including *The Defeat of Black Power: Civil Rights and the National Black Political Convention of 1972*.

The celebration continues with museum tours that feature a new exhibit, "Remembering Black Wall Street and Celebrating 100 Years of Black Entrepreneurship in San Marcos." The grounds will have fun activities such as chalk drawings and youth crafts, as well as tables for dominoes and card games. Interested attendees may take advantage of the opportunity to get COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, which has been made possible through United Way (Austin) grant funding.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	
10 a.m.	Welcome and Announcements
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Station
10:30 a.m.	Dr. Leonard Moore of U.T. Austin: "Juneteenth and the Spirit of Black Self Reliance"
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Museum Tours: New Exhibit – "Remembering Black Wall Street and Celebrating 100 Years of Black Entrepreneurship in San Marcos"
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Celebratory Activities: Chalk Drawing, Youth Crafts, Dominoes and Spades Tables
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Peace Pie Social

Hogg Foundation Awards Healthy Minds Grant to Calaboose Museum

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health recently awarded \$42,500 for 2021 Central Texas African American Healthy Minds grants to 10 recipients, including the Calaboose African American History Museum.

“We plan to use this funding to create a comprehensive virtual curriculum for community members,” Dr. Skyller Walkes, Calaboose African American History Museum board president, said, adding that



programming would include pre-recorded mental wellness sessions and experiential learning lessons to support local African American history and geography education.

In a release announcing the awards, Dr. Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., executive director of the Hogg Foundation said, “Our decades of involvement with the Black community in our own backyard

has helped shape our identity as a statewide funder. The Healthy Minds grants only underscores just how true that is.”

Calaboose to Participate in National Museum Social Impact Study

We understand how critical community engagement is to our success. We aim to be intentional in our efforts to effectively educate and support our community through a diverse and expansive programmatic thrust that includes insightful exhibitions, children’s programming and an enthusiastic celebration of local African American history and culture.

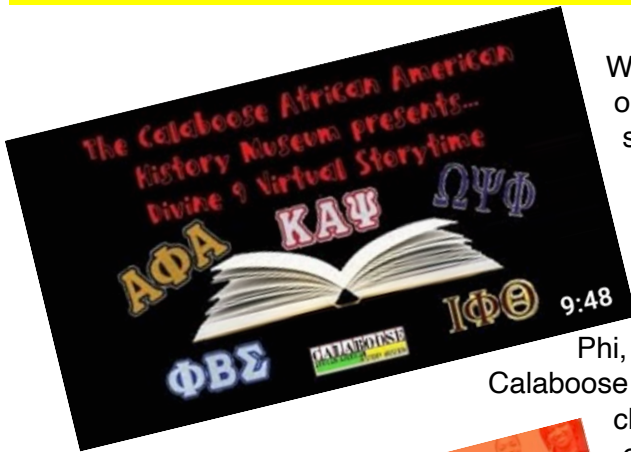
*Dr. Skyller Walkes,
Calaboose Board President*

As part of the Measurement of Museum Social Impact (MOMSI) project, the Calaboose Museum will study the social impact it has on its local community.

The Utah Division of Arts & Museums in partnership with Thanksgiving Point and with the funding of an Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant held a competitive application and review process and selected the Calaboose Museum as one of 38 museums to participate in the MOMSI project.

In addition to studying social impact, the Calaboose’s participation assists in refining a social impact tool for the museum field. Social impact is the effect of an activity on the social fabric of a community and the well-being of those who live there. Measurements include strengthened relationships, health and well-being, continued education and engagement, and intercultural competency.

Divine Nine Story Time Series Brings Weekly Readings to Your Children



What is better than mom or dad reading a story to the little ones? The answer is ... when mom and dad get to listen to the story along with the little ones. The Calaboose Museum is making that story-time fantasy a reality with the “Divine Nine Story Time Series.”

This virtual programming brings the Black Greek fraternities of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi, Inc.; and Iota Phi Theta, Inc., to you and your children via the Calaboose African American History Museum website and YouTube channel. Each week, beginning June 1, 2021, your family can enjoy readings from one of the five historically Black divine nine Greek letter organizations.



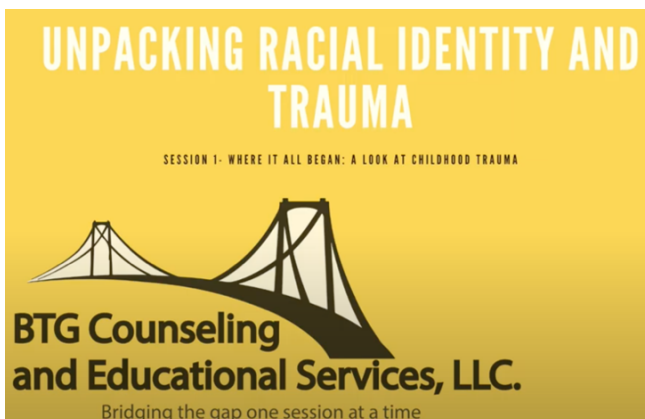
The fraternity brothers will read a wonderful children’s book that positively affirms the identity of young learners by bringing to life diverse characters and presenting a fun reading experience for all.

Access the Calaboose Museum’s “Divine Nine Story Time Series” at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/d9brotherhood>

Calaboose Providing Free, Limited Virtual Mental Wellness Programming

As part of the Calaboose Museum’s mental wellness series, Bridging the Gap Counseling is presenting virtual sessions that focus on different themes each week for over a five-month period. The series, which began in February, focuses on topics that primarily affect the African American community.



June Session 1 covered “Where It All Began: A Look at Childhood Trauma.” Session 2 was “The Correlation Between Racial Trauma and Your Health.” Visit or subscribe to the **Calaboose Museum YouTube** channel to watch a session in private and at your convenience.

Historic Cephas House Annexed

City of San Marcos officials recently approved a long-sought annexation of the historic Cephas House with the Calaboose African American History Museum. City Council will take a formal vote on the project during its July 6 meeting.



The Cephas House, located at 213 Martin Luther King Drive in San Marcos and adjacent to Eddie Durham Park, was the home of Ulysses Cephas, who was a blacksmith and leader in the city's African American community. Situated in the Dunbar Neighborhood, the area was home to many influential residents, including jazz and swing composer/musician Eddie Durham.

Calaboose Archivist Dr. Elvin Holt explained that the Cephas annexation was part of the City of San Marcos honoring its original intended use of the historic property. In the early 2000s Mrs. Johnnie Armstead and Mr. Richard Gachot spearheaded efforts to acquire the Cephas House as an annex to the Calaboose until Mrs. Armstead's death in 2008. New Board President Dr. Skyller Walkes resumed efforts and negotiations with City officials to bring the annexation project to fruition.

Calaboose Board Member Honored with Street Naming on University Campus



Dr. Elvin Holt

The Texas State University System Board of Regents recently honored Dr. Elvin Holt, the Calaboose Museum's longest serving board president and member, with the naming of a street for him on the Texas State University Round Rock campus.

Texas State University set forth motions to rename two residence halls that originally were named for rivers — Angelina and San Gabriel on the San Marcos campus — and name two unnamed streets on the Round Rock campus after distinguished members of the university's family who are from African American or Hispanic/Latinx communities. One of the unnamed roadways will be named Elvin Holt Drive.

A pioneering educator, Dr. Holt was the first Black professor in Texas State University's Department of English.

Congratulations, Dr. Holt!

Texas State University Graduate Student Earns Elvin Holt Scholarship



Seneca Green

Texas State University graduate student, Seneca Green, recently earned the Calaboose Museum's first Dr. Elvin Holt Scholarship.

Seneca Green, who will be entering the Criminal Justice program in the Graduate School, carries a 4.0 grade point average and is completing the final 60 hours of her undergraduate degree. Green has expressed that she has an interest in pursuing a career in the U.S. Navy.

The scholarship fund was established to honor Dr. Holt's dedication to education and to the museum. He was a founding member of the board, served as its president for 11 years, and continues service as the museum's dedicated archivist.

Our Mission

The Calaboose Museum serves as a home for African American history and culture in San Marcos and Hays County. Through preservation, events, and education, the museum strives to serve as not only an African American History museum, but a center of support for the San Marcos community.

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Find the Calaboose Museum on Social Media:



LaMarriol Smith, Newsletter Editor

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