

# PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **27th Annual Juneteenth Celebration Oxnard, CA**

Free fun filled family event at the Historic Downtown Plaza Park

**Oxnard, CA – June 1, 2017** Ventura County's **27th Annual Juneteenth Celebration** will be held on **Saturday, June 17th 2017** at **Oxnard's historic Plaza Park** hosted by the **Black American Political Association of California Ventura County Chapter (BAPAC-VC)**. The festivities are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 500 South "C" St, Oxnard, CA 93030.

A FREE fun filled day for the entire family (ALL AGES). A fan favorite, Mess O' Greens Cook-Off is back, highlighting the importance of "eating green" with a grand prize of \$500 for the best greens recipe. Go to: [www.mess-o-greens.com](http://www.mess-o-greens.com) for more details. The Juneteenth annual event will also feature free health screenings, musical entertainment coordinated by KNS Rockstar with featured headliner Dennis "Finger Roll" Nelson, Designs by Lowell fashion show and a lively performance by the Oxnard High School Jazz Ensemble. Shoppers will browse vendor booths selling art work, high end apparel, exquisite jewelry, as well as food by some of the most popular local vendors in Ventura County. There will be a presentation and an encampment exhibit by the Buffalo Soldiers 10th Cavalry. A "Harmony" Art Walk featuring many up and coming artists along with many other fun attractions for the young and young at heart.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, rode into Galveston, Texas with news the war had ended and the slaves in Texas were now free.

*It is vital to the BAPAC organization to elevate the awareness of this important piece of African American history," states BAPAC President, Mr. Don Montgomery, " By continuing this Juneteenth celebration we honor its significance by sharing this history with the children and families of the Ventura County community.*

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a greater national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten. Currently, Juneteenth is enjoying phenomenal growth within communities throughout the country and is either a state holiday or a day of commemoration in the 50 states. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities - all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

**About BAPAC:** BAPAC's purpose is to identify, document, and develop the resources necessary to achieve the educational, economic, and cultural goals of African Americans in the state of California. Furthermore, BAPAC steadfastly develops and maintains an assertive posture in securing the rights of all Americans in California. BAPAC is further authorized to pursue any lawful acts consistent with the stated goals herein, or to pursue any additional objectives which will improve the quality of life for African Americans. As we are the only chapter on the central coast, we welcome membership and support from the entire region. For more information, please visit [www.bapacvc.org](http://www.bapacvc.org).

**MEDIA AND EVENT CONTACT:**

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