

MGH Juneteenth Presenters

June 18th & 19th, 2020

Program: Our Voices

L'Merchie Frazier &
Dzidzor (Jee-Jaw)



L'Merchie Frazier is a visual artist, performance artist, educator and activist. She is the Director of Education at the Museum of African American History in Boston and an artist in the African-American Master Artist-in-Residence Program at Northeastern University.



Dzidzor (Jee-Jaw) is an African folklore, performing artist, author and entrepreneur. Dzidzor's style of call and response, has reimagined poetry and storytelling to include the audience in an experience to challenge, inspire and encourage self beyond traditional forms.

<https://www.dzidzor.com/>

Program: The Power of Arts

Al Wilson and Josie Santos from Beyond-Walls



Beyond-Walls uses a creative lens to address community needs. This diverse group believes cities best thrive when they are full of art and have engaged stakeholders and active spaces. Beyond-Walls introduces public art and curated experiences into the fabric of our communities by partnering with local organizations, municipalities, community members and experts to design, produce and manage projects and programs.

@[Beyondwallslynn](#)

Beyond-Walls.org

Program: Virtual Black Heritage Tour



Virtual Black Heritage Tour

Facilitated by Amelia Benstead

Amelia Benstead is a park ranger and has worked with the National Parks of Boston since 2015. She is currently pursuing a master's of history at Simmons University and writing a thesis on the contributions of Boston's women to the Underground Railroad in Boston.

https://www.maah.org/boston_heritage_trail

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Program: Juneteenth Prayer & Healing Words

Presenter: Uchenna Joan Awa



Uche is part of our MGH Spiritual Care team and is also a Resident in the Clinical Pastoral Education program.

Program: Juneteenth Significance

Presenter: Winfred W. Williams, MD



Dr. Win Williams is an Associate Chief in the MGH Division of Nephrology. He is also the founding Director of MGH Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Program: Front Porch Arts Collective

Conversation with local artists

Moderated by: Dawn Simmons



<https://www.frontporcharts.org/the-porch-family.html>

Dawn is the founder and director of the Front Porch Arts Collective, a culturally-specific performing arts company founded to produce political theater works in 2008.

Keynote Address

Presenter: Hasan Kwame Jeffries, PhD



Dr. Hasan Jeffries was born in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, New York. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, the nation's leading institution for educating African American men. He later earned his MA in American History from Duke University, and his PhD in American History specializing in African American History after that.

In 2009, Hasan published his first book, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt* (NYU Press).

His current book project, entitled *Stealing Home: Ebbets Field and Black Working Class Life in Post-Civil Rights New York*, explores the struggle of working class African Americans to secure and enjoy their freedom rights, from the height of the civil rights era through the present, by examining the experiences of the residents of Ebbets Field Apartments, an expansive, 1,200 unit, affordable housing complex built in 1962 on the site of old Ebbets Field, the former home of Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers.

He travels frequently to the South to visit friends, and returns often to Brooklyn to visit family.

@[ProfJeffries](#)

<https://history.osu.edu/people/jeffries.57>

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Program: The Hope for the Future of Healthcare

Presenter: LaShyra Nolen



LaShyra Nolen, known by her nickname, Lash, is an activist, writer, and rising second-year student at Harvard Medical School where she serves as student council president--the first documented Black woman to hold this position. Her commentary on health equity and justice has been featured in HuffPost, NPR, WBUR, Teen Vogue, Stat News, and the AAMC, among others and is a fervent advocate for social justice.

@[LashNolen](#)