

Black History 365

June: Juneteenth, which is also known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. The name Juneteenth comes from combining "June" and "nineteenth", the date enslaved African Americans were freed from slavery in Texas in 1865. In 2021, Juneteenth became the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was adopted in 1983. It is celebrated in the United States on June 19.

Readings



Opal Lee: The Grandmother of Juneteenth

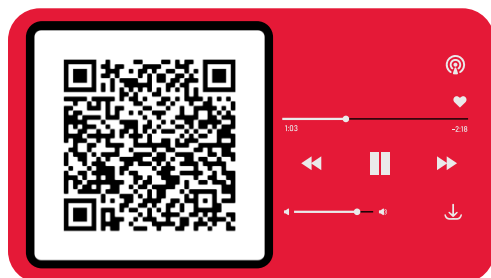
Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth", is a retired teacher, counselor, and activist who was a driving force in the push to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. Juneteenth was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021.



From The Conversation: 6 Books that explain the meaning and history of Juneteenth

The Conversation collaborated with professor Corey D. B. Walker on a [list of readings](#) that can help people better understand Juneteenth.

Scan to check out our Black Music Month playlist.



Multimedia

- [Read about Opal Lee](#), the "Grandmother of Juneteenth" in an article from the *Star Telegram*.
- [Watch the video](#) of Joe Biden signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.



TV / Videos

- [Young Dylan: "Friday the Juneteenth"](#) (Full Episode) | Nickelodeon
- [10 things to watch in celebration of Juneteenth](#) | News One



Jams

- June was declared Black Music Appreciation Month by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. In 2009, President Barack Obama declared June African American Music Month.
- Learn about Soul Train, one of the longest-running syndicated TV shows. [Article](#) | [Video](#)