

Central Texas Juneteenth Celebration: *It's Good for the Soul*

Austin, Texas. The Central Texas Juneteenth Committee and the Greater East Austin Youth Association (GEAYA) are partnering with the broader Texas community to promote a multi-faceted events platform seeking to be more inclusive than ever before. With the core theme of Dream – Act – Believe, the 2009 celebration will incorporate a diversity of activities all designed to be “Good for the Soul”.

TJ Carter, Juneteenth Committee Chair, wants to remind all Central Texans that Juneteenth is important for all not just the African-American community. “We’re entering a new era around the growth of Texas’ Freedom Day Celebration (Juneteenth),” stated Mrs. Carter. The Juneteenth Committee has a meaningful cause and a challenge to recognize, promote, and celebrate contributions and sacrifices made for the benefit of the larger community by great Texans who were also African Americans. There is a general consensus that we are better as a region, state, and country because of them. With each event, program and project, the Juneteenth Committee strives to reflect this rich heritage and with each fundraising effort to support GEAYA, they seek to enable area youth to be successful in life on life’s terms with the support of mentorship along with skills and social training.

“Juneteenth celebratory events will take place throughout the month of June reflecting an interest in promoting the Arts, Scholarship, Health Education, Environmental Awareness and of course Social Networking,” commented Mrs. Carter. When asked what is meant by the phrase – Juneteenth: It’s Good for the Soul – she responded, “the word soul has many personas from either a spiritual, physical or an emotional frame of reference. The Juneteenth calendar of events seeks to feed each of these three dimensions.”

From an Arts standpoint, there will be signature events such as the Poetry Slam; in an effort to promote scholarship and recognize excellence, there will be an Essay Contest and a Quiz Bowl with an emphasis on African-American Heritage honoring Texas’ own Great Debater – Mr. James Farmer, Jr.; the 2K Freedom Run/Walk highlights the emphasis on Health Awareness and Education while the Green-and-Clean Neighborhood Clean-up Project will be a catalyst for Community and Environmental Activism.

For more information regarding logistics and opportunities to sponsor an event, please visit www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com or contact TJ Carter at tjocar@juneteenthcentraltexas.com.

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The Greater East Austin Youth Association (GEAYA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer organization established in 1975 to provide organized and structured sports activities for the economically challenged youth of East Austin yet has expanded throughout the years to have stronger mentorship and educational components. In 1996, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department designated GEAYA as the official City sponsor of the Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

The Juneteenth Committee was established by GEAYA and consists of volunteers from Businesses and Nonprofits. As an organization, it is dedicated to the promotion, enhancement and continual growth of the Freedom Day (Juneteenth) Celebration.

For more information: <http://www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com>

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