



LANSING JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION  
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Lansing Juneteenth Committee  
Progressive Empowerment Education Resource Services – P.E.E.R.S. 501(c)(3)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 27623, Lansing MI 48909-7623

*“Juneteenth! Where the Reunion Begins”*

February 8, 2016

Dear Community Leaders and Friends,

Greetings from the Lansing Juneteenth Committee! We are excited to be celebrating Lansing’s **23rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration** and the **12th year of "Juneteenth Day" as a state of Michigan holiday**. The Lansing Juneteenth Celebration has served as a respected voice in the community, with the City of Lansing as its backdrop, for over twenty years! The 2016 celebration will take place from June 16 through June 18, 2016.

The Juneteenth Recognition Ceremony and Festival is a celebration of great historical significance. Juneteenth is the oldest African American holiday; the celebration was first recognized on **June 19, 1865**. Juneteenth represents the joy of freedom and new beginnings. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States by celebrating the joys of liberty, educating the community about our heritage and by promoting positive cultural interaction. Our founding theme was **“Beyond Emancipation-Continuing Towards Empowerment-Moving to the Next Level.”** Our 2016 Celebration theme is: *“Juneteenth, Where the Reunion Begins.”*

The celebration dates are as follows and are all open to the public at no cost: The **Opening Ceremony** will kick-off the three-day event on **Thursday, June 16, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lansing City Hall Lobby** and will include our keynote speaker, Dr. Sephira Bailey Shuttlesworth special recognitions, music and refreshments. Our guests will include Michigan’s Legislative members, Lansing public officials, area community leaders and, of course, all of you. The Celebration continues **Friday, June 17, 2016** and **Saturday, June 18, 2016 at St. Joseph Park in Lansing**. The African American Parade is a new addition to the Juneteenth Celebration and honors the memory of its founder, the late Rev. Dr. Michael C. Murphy to be held on Saturday morning. A special memorial dedication for two of our great community advocates, the late Rudy Wilson and Gregory Kelley will also be included. Our event also features food and merchant vendors, children’s activities, a baseball game that commemorates the Negro League, a health fair, educational exhibits and musical entertainment. Celebration updates are available by visiting our website at [www.LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](http://www.LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org) or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/LansingJuneteenthCelebration](http://www.facebook.com/LansingJuneteenthCelebration).

If you would like to: place an ad in the Juneteenth Telegraph, be a vendor (food, exhibitor or merchandise), volunteer, or participate in our annual health fair, parade, or youth essay contest. All forms for participation are available on our website at [www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](http://www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org). We ask that you complete your forms and return to **Lansing Juneteenth Committee/PEERS, P.O. Box 27623, Lansing, MI 48909** or via email to [LansingJuneteenthCommittee@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](mailto:LansingJuneteenthCommittee@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org).

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Marilyn Plummer at (517) 402-2927 or email at [mdplummer@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](mailto:mdplummer@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org). We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your support for this year’s **Juneteenth Celebration**.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn D. Plummer*  
Marilyn Plummer, Chair