



VILLAGE OF WISDOM is working to close the academic opportunity gap by protecting the intellectual curiosity and positive racial self-concept of Black children through the love and wisdom of their families and communities.

The struggle for Black liberation does not occur on a linear timeline. It reverberates from the bold actions of our youth, back to the timeless vision of our ancestors, and DNA. At each step we look back for guidance, reimagine a better future, and follow the path of our destiny.

# LIBERATION IS INEVITABLE.

**What is Juneteenth?**

On June 19, 1865, liberated Black people in Galveston, TX commemorated this day in history as a day to celebrate their emancipation and freedom, marking June 19th as "Juneteenth." On this day, these formerly enslaved people learned they were free after 2000 federal troops, led by Major General Gordon Granger, enforced President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, effective on January 1, 1863, nearly two and a half years earlier.

**Juneteenth in Durham**

North Carolina abolished slavery on November 28, 1865. At the time, newly freed African American men and women migrated from the Cameron-Bennehan Plantation, and other places throughout the region, to form an all-black settlement and safe haven in Durham, known as Hayti.

This independent "city-within-a-city", has had a decades-long tradition of celebrating Emancipation Day. On January 2, 1933, thousands participated in a Hayti neighborhood parade: school children, factory workers, local churches, fraternal orders, civic organizations, and the business elite. African-Americans came together from all classes of society for the holiday as they remembered a shared slave past.

**Black Genius Time Capsule**

Launched into the Afro-future during Village of Wisdom's 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration in 2019, the Black Genius Time Capsule holds existing artifacts and radical new visions of Black liberation for our future generation to receive in 2050. We celebrate annually the liberation we know is inevitable.

**Ezili Freda**

Sitting atop the steeple at St. Joseph's African Methodist Episcopal Church, is a veve for the Haitian vodou spirit Ezil Freda. Traditionally a veve is drawn on the ground in a fine powdery substance, often cornmeal. The intricate patterns call forth a specific lwa or goddess into the temple. During the ceremony, worshippers sing, drum and dance to commune with the spirit and in doing so, dance over the veve. The most common Ezili spirits are Ezili Danto' a Black single mother who is fiercely protective who fought on the front lines of Haitian Revolution. La Syrenne, a gender-fluid mulatta mermaid and keeper of sacred knowledge who lives below the waters' surface. And Ezili Freda, depicted as an iron heart pierced with an arrow on top of St. Joe's. This "Goddess of the Dream " adores fine luxurious material possessions, and eternally wants more. In pictorial representations, Ezili Freda is white.



**POWERED BY VILLAGE OF WISDOM**

# JUNETEENTH: EZILI EDITION EVENTS

**Black Business Marketplace & Food Trucks** An array of vendors, social justice organizations, food trucks and catering services line Old Fayetteville Road to create an outdoor marketplace in the spirit of Historic Hayti's business and cultural vibrancy. 3 -9 pm

**Black Genius™ Affirmation Photo Booth** Kumolu Studios takes individual and group photographs onsite and offers free printed copies with a Black Genius™ digital frame. 7 - 9 pm

**Black Genius™ Classroom** A model community classroom that affirms our Black Genius, tells our stories past and present, and centers learning that leads to Black liberation. Curated by VOW's Black Parent CUREators. 3 - 6 pm

**Black Genius™ Futures Photo Booth** An interactive photo booth where our dreams transform us into the superhero avatars of our Black genius. Live full-color illustrations by Malcolm Goff and his team of young artists will be shared to participants' mobile devices. 3- 6 pm

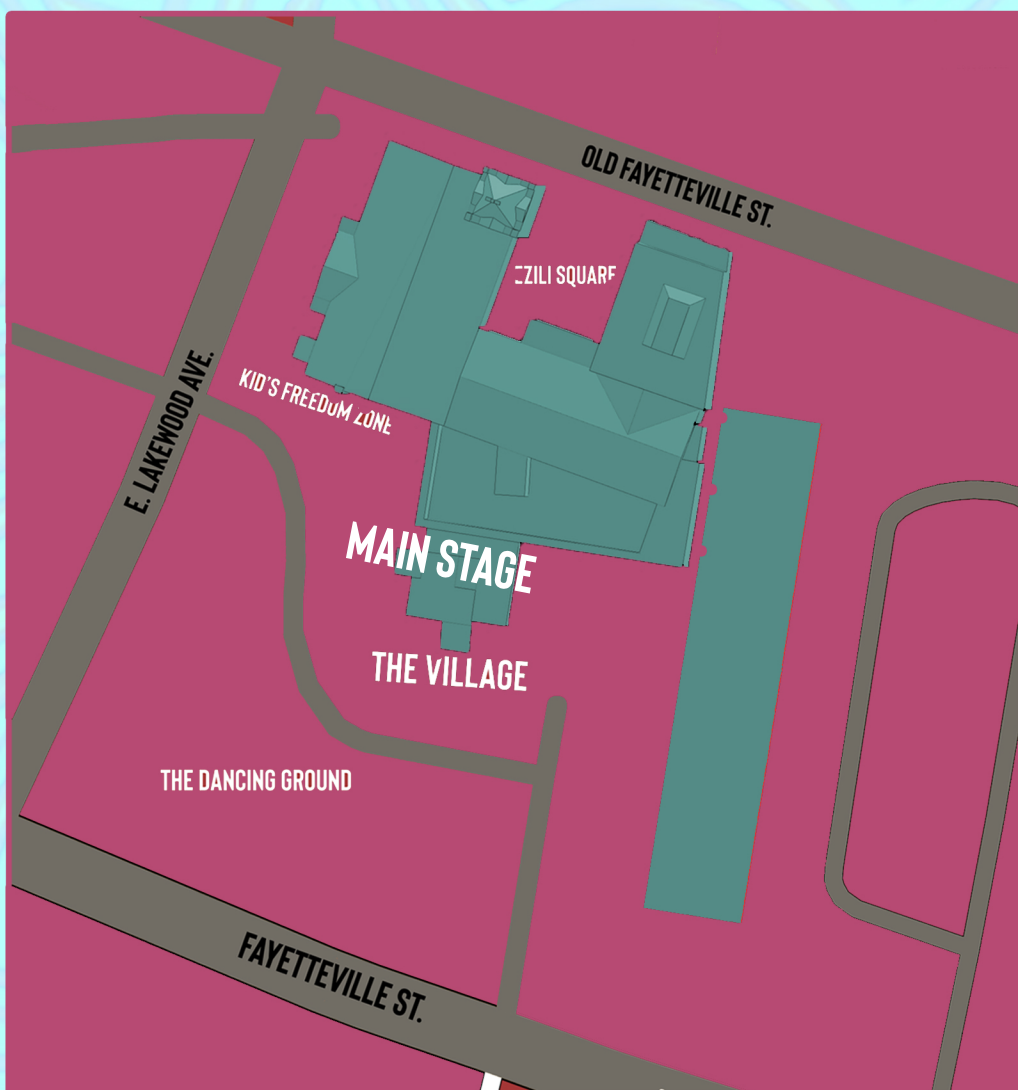
**BUMP Karaoke** Black Liberation has always had a playlist, from Negro Spirituals to trap music. This Black Music Month BUMP the Triangle offers participants a variety of instrumentals and lyrics to sing along to. 3 - 4 pm & 5 - 6 pm

**Diggable History** A fun way to uncover and reclaim our stories. Mobile devices are used to complete missions, earn points and win prizes. A product of Whistle Stop Tours, curated by Meli Kimathi. 3 -9 pm

**DIY Screenprinting** A MacFly Fresh Print Co. Poster & Tee Shirt Screen Station. Youth volunteers guide participants through the process. Posters & Tee Shirts are free and available while supplies last. 3 pm until

**Everybody Eats Food Truck** Island Coconut Kitchen is the featured food truck for Juneteenth and the "Everybody Eats" Campaign. This Durham-based business caters fresh and authentic Jamaican cuisine. 3 pm until

**Slow Art Tours** A welcoming and safe space to slow down and enjoy a visual arts retreat as Durham-based muralist Wade H. Williams presents his art on the gallery walls and in community conversation. Curated by Gail Belvett. 7 - 9 pm



**Ezili Square** is the heart of the festival - a place for re-membering our freedom legacies of pouring libation, drumming, dancing and making offerings at the altar to the feminine spirits that protect us. Curated by Village Conjureess Taylor Mary. 5 - 9 pm

**The Village** A resource for Juneteenth festival information as well as community services for equity in education, wearable affirmations, mental health and wellness, and sexual assault awareness. 3 - 9 pm

**Main Stage** Hosted by Desmera Gatewood featuring Live & Love Music for the People and guest speakers championing Equitable Engagement on the Fayetteville Street Corridor, also known as the Historic Hayti District. 3 - 9 pm

**Dancing Ground** Reserved for liberatory dance and Black joy, Grupo Nzinga de Capoeira Angolera of Durham will offer youth and adult capoeira workshops. Spontaneous contributions from the community are expected at the climax of the Procession. 4 - 5 pm & 7 pm

**Kid's Freedom Zone** An area of free-play and exploration staffed by a FSC volunteer. 3 - 8 pm

## Juneteenth Performances & Procession

A joyous reclamation of the Hayti neighborhood and Black expressive culture featuring Adinkra Dance Company, Blue Steele Drumline, The Magic of African Rhythm and Grupo Nzinga de Capoeira Angolera of Durham. It starts at Ezili Sq. and culminates at the Dancing Ground with a cypher. Curated by Jess Huddleston 6 - 7 pm

