

JUNETEENTH SYMPOSIUM

2024

The Seventh Trumpet, John Rodriguez, 2024



CELEBRATING
BLACK ACTIVISM
AND **PROGRESS**
THROUGH **ART**



June 20 & 21
juneteenth.umich.edu

LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus resides on land ceded through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Additionally, in 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan, ceded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs, with the agreement that their children would be educated in perpetuity.

We assert the sovereignty of tribal lands and acknowledge the painful historical and ongoing genocide, forced assimilation, and displacement of Native communities in establishing the University.

We affirm contemporary and ancestral Anishinaabeg ties to this land, the profound contributions of Native American peoples to this institution, and the University's commitment to educating the children of Native ancestors.

We further recognize that whether you are on campus in Ann Arbor or elsewhere in the United States, we stand on land developed at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We acknowledge that much of this country, including its culture, economic growth, and development has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

We remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage, those who were beaten and lynched, and those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom. We are indebted to their labor and unwilling sacrifice, and acknowledge the violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact and generational trauma still felt today.

The fights against settler colonialism and anti-blackness will always be inextricably linked. To the land, to the collective, and to the ancestors, we thank you, we thank you, we thank you.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Juneteenth, also called Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, Liberation Day, or Emancipation Day, is the designated holiday commemorating the freedom of the slaves in the United States, traditionally observed annually on June 19th. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had officially outlawed slavery in Texas and the other states in rebellion against the Union almost two and a half years earlier on January 1, 1863.

Enforcement of the Proclamation generally relied on the advancement of the Union troops. The anniversary of the June 19, 1865 date recognizes the day that the announcement by Union Army Major General Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery and the end of the Civil War was delivered to Galveston, Texas.

Juneteenth is celebrated throughout the nation and as a state holiday in Michigan. On May 17, 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as an annual holiday in the City of Ann Arbor via resolution by the Ann Arbor city legislature. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed Juneteenth into law as a federal holiday.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING (BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM)

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.



WELCOME LETTER

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER TABBYE CHAVOUS



Welcome to the 2024 Juneteenth celebration at the University of Michigan. This year's event celebrates Black activism and progress through art, paying tribute to the profound impact of African American artists, activists, and community leaders. Their talents and voices have significantly shaped a more inclusive, equitable and just society.

Juneteenth, a holiday of immense historical significance, commemorates the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation to the last group of enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th, 1865. This pivotal event marked a key moment in American history.

Although the State of Michigan officially recognized Juneteenth in 2005, it was not until 2021 that the day was acknowledged at the federal level. Since then, Juneteenth commemorations have grown significantly, serving as a vital reminder of our ongoing journey toward racial justice and equality.

This year's events feature a rich array of artistic expressions including visual arts, music, dance, and literature. Each medium offers a unique perspective on the Black experience in America, and connects us with past and current struggles and triumphs, while providing inspiration for the work and victories that lie ahead.

The arts are a powerful tool in activism, transcending language and cultural barriers, creating spaces for reflection, innovation, and, sometimes, revolution. As we immerse ourselves in performances and exhibitions, let us be moved not only by the artistry, but also by powerful messages of hope, resilience, and relentless pursuit of progress.

Juneteenth is not just a celebration; it is a call to action. Today and every day, let's stand together, celebrating our progress while actively contributing to an equitable and just future.

Thank you for joining us in this important annual celebration to promote Black liberation and excellence. Let's make it a day filled with joy, community, and re-commitment to the values we hold dear.

Tabbye Chavous
Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer
Professor of Education and Psychology

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Events are held in the Michigan League Ballroom unless noted otherwise

Thursday, June 20

8:30 am – 9:45 am

Prayer Breakfast

Trotter Multicultural Center

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Activist Art Display

*Michigan League Concourse
and Vandenberg Room (2nd Floor)*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Opening Keynote: How to be an effective activist in times of hate and divisiveness featuring Loretta J. Ross

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Breakout Session: The artist as activist and the importance of art in social justice movements

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Children and Family Activities:

*The History of the Negro Baseball League
Kidzone Tent - Top of the Park*

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Activist Art Display

Exhibit Hall - Top of the Park

Friday, June 21

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Closing Keynote: Using art as an effective means of activism featuring Damon Davis

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Closing Celebration: Activists' art in action

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Juneteenth Block Party

Regents Plaza

3:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Juneteenth Film Festival

Michigan Theater

For more event details, visit juneteenth.umich.edu

OPENING KEYNOTE

Loretta J. Ross

Loretta J. Ross is an activist, public intellectual, scholar, the 2022 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” award and an Associate Professor at Smith College. She has a passion for innovating creative imagining about global human rights and, social justice issues and started her career in activism and social change in the 1970s.



In 1978, she was the third executive director for DC Rape Crisis Center, the first rape crisis center in the country. This was her entry point into the women’s movement where she learned about women’s human rights, reproductive justice, white supremacy, and women of color organizing. Through her organizing she helped launch the movement to end violence against women that has evolved into today’s #MeToo movement. Throughout her 50-year career, she has worked with the National Football League Players’ Association, the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Black Women’s Health Project, the Center for Democratic Renewal (National Anti-Klan Network), the National Center for Human Rights Education, and SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective.

Loretta retired as an organizer in 2012 to teach and follow her passion to educate. In 1996, she founded the first center in the U.S. to innovate creative human rights education for all students transforming social justice issues to be more collaborative and less divisive. In her work, *Calling In the Calling Out Culture*, she transforms how people can overcome political differences to use empathy and respect to guide difficult conversations. In 2023, Loretta was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Damon Davis

Damon Davis is an award-winning, post-disciplinary artist based in St. Louis, Missouri. His work spans a spectrum of creative mediums to tell stories exploring how identity is informed by power and mythology.



Davis is co-director of the critically acclaimed documentary, *Whose Streets?*, chronicling the 2014 Ferguson uprisings. In 2020, critic Ben Davis cited his project *All Hands On Deck*, which captured the hands of people who shaped and upheld the Ferguson movement, as one of the “100 Works of Art That Defined the Decade.”

His work has been nominated for the Peabody Award, is featured in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Saint Louis Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, and the San Diego Contemporary Museum of Art. Davis is a Firelight Media, Sundance Labs, TED, and Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow.



Damon Davis
Cracks XXV
Obsidian and concrete

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, June 20

Prayer Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:45 am

Trotter Multicultural Center

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Daniels, Speaker
Imam Kamau Ayyubi, Officiant

The Prayer Breakfast is a strong tradition in the Black faith community, frequently observed during special occasions and meetings of the church. This prayer breakfast will celebrate Juneteenth and have intercessory prayers for the Black community.

Opening Keynote

Courageous Activism: Navigating hate and division with

Loretta J. Ross

10:00 pm - 12:00 pm

Michigan League Ballroom

Tabbye Chavous, Welcome
Irene Lopez, Land and Labor Acknowledgment
Lakyra Keys, Black National Anthem
Nicholas Love, Black Student Activism at U-M
Loretta Ross, Keynote Speaker

Join us for a transformative keynote session with Loretta Ross, a renowned activist and professor, as she shares her wisdom on effective activism in today's polarized world. In an era marked by rising hate and divisiveness, Loretta's insights are more relevant than ever.

Drawing from her extensive experience in social justice movements, including her work on women's rights, human rights, and racial justice, Loretta will illuminate the path toward impactful activism. She will delve into the strategies and mindset needed to confront hate and division while staying true to our values.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Breakout Session

The Artist as Activist: The importance of art in social justice movements

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Michigan League Ballroom

Ryan Henyard, Panelist
Takeisha Jefferson, Panelist
Jennifer Maples, Panelist
Wesley Taylor, Panelist
Victoria Wilson, Moderator

You do not want to miss this dynamic panel discussion with artist activists using a range of different creative approaches. Our panel will explore the pivotal role that art plays in driving social change and advancing justice.

Through their diverse practices, our panelists have harnessed the power of art to challenge inequities, center the voices of the underrepresented, and provoke critical dialogue. They will share their experiences and insights, discussing how art has the unique ability to transcend barriers, evoke empathy, and drive change.



Takeisha Jefferson
Photography

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

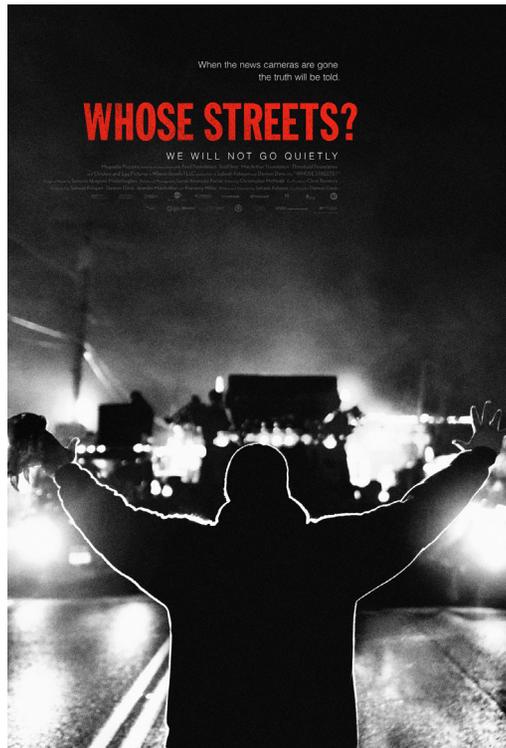
Friday, June 21

Closing Keynote
Using art as an effective means of activism
with Damon Davis
10:30 am - 11:45 am
Michigan League Ballroom

Dr. Laurie McCauley, Opening Remarks
Damon Davis, Keynote Speaker
Deborah Mitchell Covington, PhD, Moderator

Join us for a thought-provoking fireside chat between U-M's Dr. Debbie Mitchell Covington and acclaimed artist Damon Davis as we explore the power of art as a catalyst for social change. Damon's work spans various mediums, from painting to music to film, and has been a driving force in the conversation around race, identity, and activism.

In this intimate discussion, Damon will share insights into his creative process, discussing how he uses art to amplify marginalized voices and challenge societal norms. He will delve into the role of artists in activism, highlighting the ways in which art can ignite conversations, inspire action, and foster empathy.



Film poster for *Whose Streets?*
co-directed by Sabaah Folyan
and Damon Davis

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Closing Session
Activists' art in action
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Michigan League Ballroom

Harold Green, Spoken Word
Sherri Nunn-Berry, Singer
Erika "Red" Stowall, Dancer
Shaun Strong, MC

Join us for a soul-stirring celebration of Juneteenth, featuring a captivating fusion of gospel music, spoken word poetry, and expressive dance, all in honor of this historic day of liberation. Our lineup includes a talented gospel singer whose voice will uplift and inspire, a gifted spoken word artist whose words will ignite passion and reflection, and a mesmerizing dancer whose movements will tell stories of freedom and resilience.

As we commemorate Juneteenth and reflect on the journey toward freedom for all, we are reminded of the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality. This session will not only celebrate the cultural significance of Juneteenth but also highlight the role of activism in bringing about meaningful change.

Through powerful performances and insightful commentary, our artists and activists will invite you to join in the celebration and continue the work of those who have fought for freedom and equality throughout history. Come be a part of this inspiring session.



Still from
Reclamation in Detroit
with Dancer Erika 'Big
Red' Stowall
KQED Arts Short video

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Thursday, June 20th

Juneteenth Art Exhibition – Show Me Justice: Exploring art as activism

9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Michigan League Concourse and Vandenberg Room

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Top of the Park Exhibit Hall on Ingalls Mall

Attendees will be treated to a range of visual art pieces from photography to graphic design to paintings where the artist is using their art to promote or urge on social justice.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame: A history of the Negro Baseball League

Top of the Park, KidZone Tent

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Ingalls Mall

Come learn all about the history of Negro League Baseball! Join the University of Michigan Juneteenth Committee to color photos of Negro League players, collect baseball cards, and see if you can throw a pitch like Negro League great, Satchel Paige! We'll learn about the different teams and top players and will have Cracker Jacks and Big League Chew gum treats!

Friday, June 21st

Juneteenth Film Festival

Michigan Theater

View films highlighting the impact of art in Black culture and activism. Featuring the following films: *The Last Repair Shop*, *Bob Marley: One Love*, *The Summer of Soul*. For details and tickets visit marquee-arts.org.

Juneteenth Block Party

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Regents Plaza

Celebrate freedom and community at our Juneteenth Block Party! Join us for music, food, and fun as we commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Enjoy a DJ, indulge in delicious food, and play games. Don't miss this opportunity to honor our history and embrace our future together!

SPEAKER PROFILES



Imam Kamau Ayyubi has been a chaplain at Michigan Medicine for the past 8 years, providing spiritual care in the inpatient hospital both in pediatric and adult units, including new born and adult intensive care units, Muslim patient care, and Adult and youth psychiatry. For the past year, Kamau has served as a program manager for Healthcare Equity Consult Service as a meaningful response to stigma and bias that affects patient care.

Tabbye Chavous, PhD is the Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan. She is also a professor of education and professor of psychology. Dr. Chavous attended the University of Virginia where she received her bachelor's degree and went on to earn a PhD in Community Psychology. Following her graduate work, Dr. Chavous entered the University of Michigan as an assistant professor and moved up the ranks to professor.



Dr. Chavous has held leadership roles at the department, college, and central administration levels during her almost 24 years at U-M. Most recently, she was the director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Prior to that, Dr. Chavous served as an associate vice president for research, associate dean for academic programs and initiatives in the Rackham Graduate School, and chair of the Combined Program in Education and Psychology.

Dr. Chavous' expertise and research activities center around (1) social identity development among Black adolescents and young adults; (2) achievement motivation processes among ethnic minority students; and (3) the measurement and impacts of diversity climates in secondary and higher education settings and implications for students' academic, social, and psychological adjustment. In collaboration with a number of her graduate student and postdoctoral mentees, she has published extensively in these areas.



Rev. Dr. Steven J. Daniels serves as the lead pastor of The Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor. As a gifted and passionate preacher, teacher, and visionary, Dr. Daniels strives to spread the message of Jesus Christ to everyone.

Dr. Daniels earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications from Norfolk State University, a Master of Divinity degree from The Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary.

He exemplifies leadership in his home as the husband of Elder Dr. Trina L. Daniels, and the proud father of three children: Davion, Yhasman, and Steven II (S.J.). Dr. Daniels models above-reproach behavior and integrity in his public and private life.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Harold Green is a highly sought-after speaker, bandleader, and event producer. His first collection of poetry, *From Englewood, with Love* (2014) earned the prestigious Carl Sandburg Literary Award. Harold's commercial publishing debut is *BLACK ROSES* and *BLACK OAK*, a duo of illustrated volumes inspired by his viral odes to Black celebrities who are making history today (HarperDesign, 2022), followed by his children's board book series, *SUNDAY ADVENTURES*, has made its debut with leading titles, *THE RAINBOW PARK* and *THE NUMBER STORE*, and his debut picture book, *LOVE BUBBLE*.

Green studied English Secondary Education at Grambling State University before earning a B.A. in Creative Writing from DePaul University and a Master of Humanities in Creative Writing from Tiffin University.

He is the architect and curator of "Flowers for the Living," an artist collective that layers poetry on performances by Chicago's top singers and musicians. He has created numerous recorded albums of poetry, videos, plays, and other productions. Green is also the executive director of the Flowers for the Living Foundation.

Green's work has led his poetry to be featured in unexpected venues such as the Chicago Mayoral Inauguration, Illinois Holocaust Museum, Talks at Google, TEDx, and at the Aspen Ideas Festival. He has won a New York Emmy, and has done commissioned work in partnership with major brands/organizations including Nike, Foot Locker, Lululemon, Jordan, Illinois Holocaust Museum, Google, Chicago Public Schools, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Ryan Henyard is an educator, interdisciplinary artist, and cultural organizer based in Southeast Michigan. He currently serves as the director of faculty & education initiatives in workforce development at the Association of American Medical Colleges, where he heads various leadership development programs designed around the needs of faculty underrepresented in academic medicine. Ryan is a deeply rooted community catalyst, co-creating art, organizations, learning experiences and opportunities that elevate equity and center the needs and dreams of marginalized people. A native Detroiter, Ryan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Languages & Cultures (Japanese) and a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education (Student Access & Success), both from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.



He organizes against police violence, through education (creating the Police Brutality in America course for Michigan Online), and collective action as a founding member of the Coalition for Re-envisioning Our Safety (CROS); Ryan also served on the design team creating Care-Based Safety, a nonprofit organization creating the first unarmed, non-police response program in the state of Michigan. Ryan is also a trustee for Avalon Housing, a permanent supportive housing non-profit that serves the holistic needs of neighbors, and was part of the 2020 Champions for Change fellowship cohort at NEW.

As a person of many passions, Henyard utilizes writing, art, and creativity to expand imaginations and create meaningful change. Through his conservation photography, he works to reclaim wild spaces for BIPOC, Queer & disabled communities and break down barriers to equity in the great outdoors.

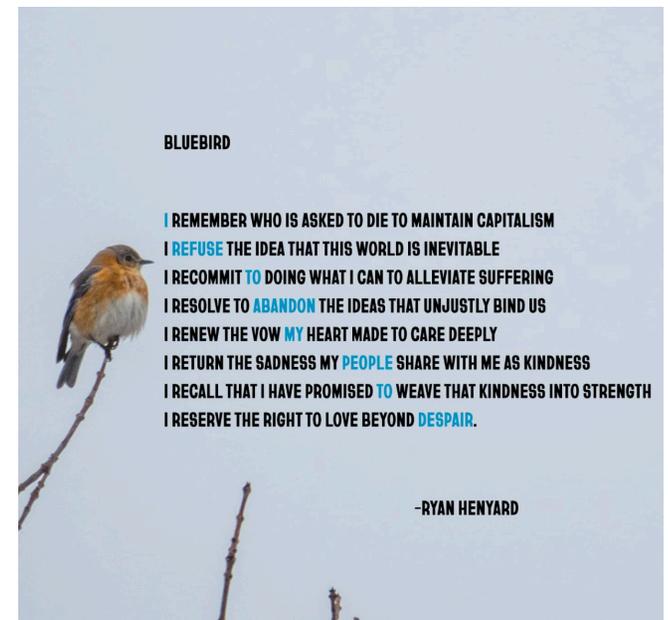
SPEAKER PROFILES



Takeisha Jefferson is an international portrait photographer and artist based in Michigan. Her artistic journey began at the age of nine and was further developed during her time as a military journalist. After serving in the Air Force, she established a successful photography business and continued to refine her craft at Auburn of Montgomery University. During this time, she expanded her Birthright Series and developed a deep passion for art history.

Takeisha Jefferson's talent and dedication have led to her participation in over 50 global exhibitions. Her work has garnered recognition, including a nomination for the Lecia Oskar Barnack Award and a feature on Google Arts and Culture. Her art revolves around significant themes such as family, Black womanhood, and empowerment.

One notable accomplishment in her career was being featured in "As We See It - Redefining Black Identity," a publication from the UK that showcased 30 global artists. Takeisha Jefferson's artistic practice has been greatly influenced by her experiences as a disabled veteran, wife, and mother of four, adding depth and richness to her work.



Ryan Henyard
Photography and poetry

SPEAKER PROFILES



Lakyra Keys is a junior at U-M and Detroit native. She studies Psychology with a minor in Philosophy on the Pre-Law track. Lakyra is a member at Tabernacle of Praise C.O.G.I.C (Church of God in Christ), an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Incorporated, her pre-law fraternity Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Honor Society where she serves as the DEI chair, Sisters in Scripture, Women in Law, and SuccessConnects.

Lakyra is an Alumni Relations Undergraduate Fellow and Program Coordinator Assistant for Wolverine Pathways. She enjoys singing and has sung for the U-M basketball and hockey teams.

She volunteers at House by the Side of the Road in Ann Arbor and is an intern at Washtenaw County Public Defenders Offices, working closely with the misdemeanor supervisor. Outside of her organizations, volunteering, jobs, and internships, Lakyra enjoys spending time with her family, learning new things, and starting new art projects.

Irene Lopez is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan College of LSA with a Bachelors of Science in Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience and a minor in Latina/o Studies. She is originally from Detroit, MI. She currently works at Michigan Medicine as a patient attendant and in OAMI as an administrative assistant/welcome desk worker. She is simultaneously preparing to apply to medical school with hopes to one day give back to her community.



Nicholas Love (he/him) is a rising senior in the College of Literature, Science, and Arts (LSA), majoring in Psychology with minors in Political Science and Community Action and Social Change (CASC). Nick is deeply passionate about race and ethnicity and how these factors influence a person's college experience and sense of community within higher education institutions. He actively contributes to campus life as the SEBA for the Black Student Union, H.E.A.D.S. Core, a UROP Peer Facilitator, and a freelance photographer, LoveJayPhotos.

Jennifer Maples is a talented artist who uses her unique vision to explore mental health through art. Jennifer, born in 1991 and raised in Detroit, draws inspiration from her personal journey with mental health, which started after a traumatic car accident in 2019. Her experiences led her to create Art is My Therapy, a brand that reflects her healing through art.

Jennifer's artworks, spanning painting, photography, and mixed media, delve into the complexities of mental health with both vulnerability and resilience. Jennifer's work encourages viewers to connect with their own emotional landscapes, fostering empathy and introspection. In a world where mental health is often silenced, Jennifer's art is a beacon, shining a light on the shadows and sparking conversations about mental health and societal stigmas.

As an emerging artist, Jennifer has exhibited her creations at local galleries and art fairs, resonating with art enthusiasts and mental health advocates alike. She was selected by



SPEAKER PROFILES

the City of Detroit to complete an art installation to celebrate the 2024 NFL Draft. Her dedication extends beyond the art world – she uses her platform to raise awareness about mental health and break down stigmas. With authenticity and deep empathy, Maples leaves an indelible mark on both the art world and the hearts of those who engage with her transformative creations.



Laurie McCauley is provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Michigan, overseeing the university's academic and budgetary affairs. During her tenure, the Office of the Provost created new focus areas for the office including focuses on sustainability and climate and undergraduate education.

Provost McCauley has been a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, receiving the Ida Gray award for her outstanding efforts in promoting multicultural ideals. She is also a passionate advocate for the health and well-being of faculty, students, and staff and serves as a leader in the university's Well-Being Collective. Since taking on the role of provost, she has committed to creating a more accessible and inclusive environment for people with disabilities at the university, as well as integrating disability awareness into more educational contexts across campus.

Prior to her appointment as provost, she served as the dean of the School of Dentistry. She is the William K. and Mary Anne Najjar Professor of Periodontics in the School of Dentistry and professor of pathology in the Medical School. Provost McCauley joined U-M as an assistant professor of dentistry in 1992. She holds four degrees from the Ohio State University: Bachelor of Science in education, Doctor of Dental Surgery, Master of Science in dentistry, and PhD in veterinary pathology.

Deborah Mitchell Covington is a transformative figure whose professional journey blends executive leadership coaching, higher education expertise, social work, and spiritual guidance. She leverages her multifaceted experience to inspire and propel individuals, organizations, and communities toward achieving their diverse educational, business, spiritual, and life aspirations.

As Director of Strategic Partnerships and Equity Initiatives at U-M College of Engineering, Dr. Covington spearheads initiatives that nurture partnerships with minority-serving institutions and fortify diversity, equity, and inclusion—particularly by offering workshops aimed at reducing anti-Black racism and fostering bystander intervention. She is a co-creator of the Equity-Centered Student Services Framework for the Office of Student Affairs.

In 2023, her dedication to leadership development led her to create VestedIn U, LLC. The firm focuses on executive leadership coaching, emotional intelligence, cultural intelligence, and applying DEI theory in real-world scenarios.

Dr. Covington has been an instrumental force behind the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County, where, as Board Chair, she led the museum's transformation from a museum without a physical space to a fully functional entity with a permanent location. Her efforts were further acknowledged with a significant grant obtained in March 2024. She also serves on the U-M School of Social Work Alumni Board, contributing to her alma mater's enduring legacy. Debby is a performance poet who has published two poetry books with companion sound recordings.



SPEAKER PROFILES



Sherrie Nunn-Berry is known for her soul stirring Gospel Soprano vocals, began singing as a child. She recalls standing in the choir stand with all grown-ups because there was no children's choir at her church at that time. One of her favorite memories is the choir ordering robes and there being no robe for her just adult robes, so her grandmother ordered Sherrie a robe and altered it to fit her because "I insisted on having a robe." Sherrie has been a featured vocalist throughout the United States and has ALWAYS loved church music and music ministry. She has sung background for many Gospel greats such as Byron Cage, Marvin Winans, Karen Clark Sheard, and she currently sings with the World Renowned "Whitfield Company". She is a Rhythm

of Gospel Award Winner and recently was featured on a release called, "Dwell in the House".

Sherrie is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration. She also earned a Master of Science Degree in Business Management with a concentration in Business Operations from Walsh College.

Sherrie is married and thanks God for her wonderful husband Dennis Berry. Sherrie believes she is "Created for Praise and Saved for Service."

Erika "Red" Stowall (BFA '08, Dance) is an educator, dancer, and choreographer residing in Detroit. Stowall is a recipient of the Kresge Artist Fellowship, Applebaum's Emerging Artist Award, and a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant, awarded through the University of Detroit Mercy. Stowall uses her classical training, combined with her background in West African dance, as the foundation of her work. She also enjoys adding her love of mythology, anime, and comic books/graphic novels into her dances.



Many of her works explore her real-life experiences navigating being a Black woman in society. Her work is based on positive portrayal of Black stories and advocating for Black women's voices. Stowall sees dance as a calling and is passionate about creating performance pieces that invite conversation on safe spaces for women of color, restoration, and positive narrative/images of Black communities. She is currently the dance teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Detroit, her alma mater. Stowall is the founder and current artistic director of Big Red Wall Dance Company, which has been active since 2011.



Shaun Strong is committed to restorative and social justice, focusing his talents on increasing minority participation in civic engagement and philanthropy. A native of Toledo, Ohio, his resume includes extensive work in the public sector including more than a decade of experience managing political campaigns from the local to the federal level. Shaun is also active in his community as member of the Board of Directors for the Belstrumental Foundation, an organization committed to expanding opportunities for music education and music mentorship in underserved populations, as well as leading his neighborhood Blockwatch which recently received a distinction as one of the top 10 safest neighborhoods in the City of Toledo.

SPEAKER PROFILES



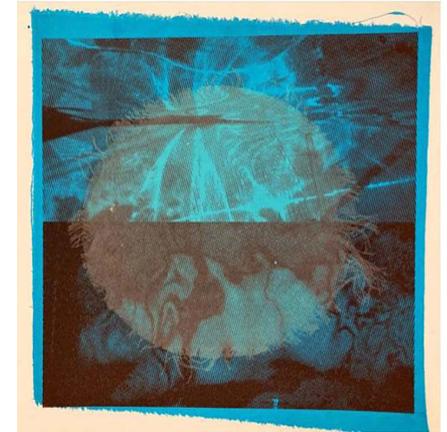
Wesley Taylor is an interdisciplinary designer and fine artist, musician, filmmaker, and curator. Taylor holds an MFA in 2-D Design from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He taught at Virginia Commonwealth University before joining Wayne State University.

Taylor's diverse skill set and extensive collaborations have established him as a critical member of the Detroit creative community. As a musician and designer, he has made many contributions to the Detroit hip-hop scene. Locally and beyond, he is widely recognized for building stronger

bridges between design and social justice movements. He describes his projects as institutional grassroots initiatives.

Taylor co-directs the artist space and residency Talking Dolls Detroit with Ron Watters and Andrea Cardinal. The mission of Talking Dolls is to "... empower our northeast Detroit neighborhood through justice-focused initiatives."

Taylor is also a founder of Emergence Media, which has a far-reaching mission and purpose to work with a core group of artists and projects, and a wide network of collaborative partners to produce music, multimedia, installations, tours, workshops, and special events.



Wesley Taylor
Printwork

Victoria 'Tori' Wilson is a third-year Michigan student from Detroit pursuing a degree in Cellular & Molecular Biomedical Science with a Spanish minor.

Her campus impact is multifaceted—shaping perspectives through lens and leadership as a Michigan Daily photojournalist, culture and diversity advocate at La Casa, former creative director at Duemoda magazine, and student auxiliary within the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Off-duty, Tori's the passionate owner of almaticpulse.com. Her photography celebrates the simple moments, displaying the interconnectedness between different walks of life. Her goal? To spotlight the beauty and hidden similarities of human kind.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome and Blessing of Food

Imam Kamau Ayubbi
Michigan Medicine

Breakfast

Call to Worship

Sharon Burch
Office of Academic Multicultural
Initiatives

We gather in the presence of our God, whose favor is on justice, who loves the liberation of all. We gather to celebrate freedom from oppression and the full humanity of every man, woman, and child. We gather to celebrate the resilience and contributions of Black Americans, and to pledge our continued work to build a just society. We gather to pray and come seeking your presence as we tarry here and when we depart.

Opening Song

Kellen Brooks Ensemble

Quran Scripture: Quran 41:34-37

Sandy Zalmout
ICPSR, U-M Institute for Social Research

Prayer for Good to Overcome Evil

Rev. Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns
Pastor, First AME Church of Farmington
Hills & U-M Assistant Professor Emerita

Bible Scripture: Ephesians 6: 13-18

Linda Hart
Michigan Medicine

**Prayer for Protection of
Those Who Fight for Good**

Evangelist Cheryl Ingram
Bibleway Mountain Moving Faith
Ministries

Juneteenth Litany

Ellen Copeland-Brown
Michigan Medicine

Song

Kellen Brooks Ensemble

Meditation

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Daniels
Second Baptist Church, Ann Arbor

Prayer for Peace and Unity

All

God of all, help us see the world through your eyes, without dividing lines, to lay aside our class, skin, background and race, to know our shared humanity. Help us wear forgiveness, and seek to understand, so that peace and reconciliation reign. Help us weave threads of grace so seeds of hope can live. Let us rise as your children and seek what is just and fair. Help us make bonds of trust with neighbors near and far, and fashion a world of peace on Earth. Amen.

Closing Song

Kellen Brooks Ensemble

PRAYER BREAKFAST

JUNETEENTH LITANY

Leader: Holy God of Liberation and Justice, we thank You for this day. We bless You for your unfailing love, care, and concern for all who have been and are marginalized, oppressed, and enslaved, throughout human history up to this very day. Today we give You special thanks for your unfailing love, care, and concern for the descendants of enslaved African people.

People: We remember and lift up our ancestors who were forcibly taken from Africa, taken from their families and tribes and villages and lands.

Leader: We remember and lift up our ancestors who chose the Atlantic Ocean as their grave instead of enslavement in an unknown land.

People: We remember and lift up our ancestors who arrived and survived on these shores even as their humanity was denied, their bodies were abused, and their labor was exploited.

Leader: We remember and lift up our ancestors whose lives were brutally ended by enslavers and their descendants out of entitlement, anger, envy, resentment, spitefulness, fear, bigotry, racism, and sheer, unbridled evil.

People: We remember and lift up our ancestors who survived in the face of and in spite of the heinous horrors of enslavement and those who enslaved them. Thank You for the strength, tenacity, ingenuity, wisdom, perseverance, and resilience with which You imbued them. Thank You for bringing our ancestors through the eras and times of enslavement, Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and fights for civil rights.

Leader: We thank You for how those attributes continue to live on in us descendants in spite of systems and people who still seek our destruction.

People: Loving and Liberating God, may your vision, love, care, and concern for all people of African descent be fully realized in our lifetime. Help and strengthen us to partner with You in working to make it so.

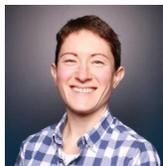
All: We offer this prayer, and ourselves, to You, Amen.



2024 JUNETEENTH SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE



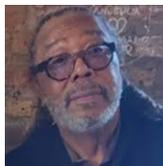
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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Juneteenth events honor the progress of African Americans in the U.S. since the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, while continuing to recognize the ongoing efforts to overcome systemic injustices and inequities faced by Black communities. This year's celebratory events include a community prayer breakfast, a Black film festival, a block party, and the KidZone tent at the Top of the Park. A host of panel discussions, keynote sessions, and riveting performances will celebrate Black activism and progress through art.

Our hope is to enrich the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor communities by underscoring the importance of Juneteenth, ensuring all students, staff, faculty, and residents feel a deep sense of belonging. We hope you can join us for our celebration while we advance our educational mission as a university and seek to empower the community in a longstanding annual tradition to promote Black liberation and excellence.

SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS



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SPECIAL THANKS

The U-M Juneteenth Planning Committee appreciates the support of our symposium attendees, speakers, and volunteers. Your participation contributes to the success of this event. We especially appreciate our U-M sponsors for their special contributions to this important DEI activity.



**JUNETEENTH
SYMPOSIUM**



CELEBRATING
BLACK LIBERATION &
EXCELLENCE **OVERCOMING**
SYSTEMIC RACISM &
INJUSTICE



juneteenth.umich.edu