Please Touch Museum Celebrates Juneteenth with Freedom Day Family Festival

The Museum’s inaugural celebration of the holiday includes interactive dance and storytelling performances, and a meet and greet with artist Joy O. Ude

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Please Touch Museum is hosting its inaugural celebration of Juneteenth—the worldwide celebration of the end of slavery in the United States—on Saturday, June 17. The Freedom Day Family Festival will celebrate African American culture and this important day in history with hands-on art-making, performances, and a meet and greet with mixed-media artist and designer Joy O. Ude.

Quilt-making is a time-honored traditional way of telling stories, and sharing messages and ideas about freedom. Throughout the day from 10 am – 3 pm, children and families can create their own works of art inspired by the shapes and colors found in freedom quilts. At 10 and 11 am, Ude will greet visitors, share a glimpse of the rich history of quilt-making, and demonstrate how secret messages and symbols are shared through textiles. An American-born child of Nigerian immigrants, her art explores Black culture as a subset of American culture.

Hip Hop Fundamentals, the Philadelphia-based organization dedicated to spreading Hip Hop as an inspiration and academic tool, will celebrate with a new interactive performance highlighting freedom, diversity and togetherness. There will be two opportunities to enjoy the performance at 12 and 2 pm. The day’s celebrations will also include storytelling performances brought to life with music and movement, and end with a Juneteenth Jamboree through the Museum.

“The celebration of Juneteenth is a time to rejoice and reflect on a pivotal moment in our nation’s history, while prompting important conversations about ideas and themes that are still very prevalent today,” says Please Touch Museum President & CEO Patricia D. Wellenbach. “This special event will introduce these themes to the youngest learners and their families in a meaningful and accessible way.”

All Freedom Day Family Festival programming is included with general Museum admission.

About Please Touch Museum

Please Touch Museum’s mission is to change a child’s life as they discover the power of learning through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children’s museums, Please Touch Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $19 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181 or visit our website at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

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