

# DE&I SPOTLIGHT

Fostering a Culture of Awareness and Equality

## Reflecting on the Origins of Juneteenth

**Juneteenth**  
Freedom Day



June 19, 2022 marked the 157<sup>th</sup> year of emancipation of enslaved Black Americans. It marks the date when, in 1865, the news of slavery's abolishment arrived in Galveston, Texas solidifying the state as the final state to adopt the abolition.

Although June 19th was not recognized as a federal holiday until 2021, Black Americans have been celebrating this holiday since the one-year anniversary of the Union soldiers arriving in Galveston. These celebrations have spread throughout the country with advocacy continuing throughout the twentieth century, with about half of the States recognizing the day as one of ceremonial observance by the early 2000s.

On this second year of Juneteenth being a federal holiday, we remember the legacy of those who sacrificed and fought to fulfill the American promise of equality.

Visit [www.Juneteenth.com](http://www.Juneteenth.com) to learn more.

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