

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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## Juneteeth at Easter Short Park



A performance by Jujuba, a 10-piece Afrobeat ensemble from Portland, will highlight the city of Vancouver's inaugural Juneteenth Celebration, coming Friday, June 17, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver.

### Vancouver plans inaugural celebration

All members of the community are invited to the city of Vancouver's inaugural Juneteenth celebration, coming Friday, June 17, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver.

Sponsored by the city of Van-

couver in association with Odyssey World International Education Services, the event will include multicultural music, food, welcoming words from community representatives, games and other activities.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday recognizing the liberation of the last African American enslaved people in Texas by American soldiers in June of 1865.

Organizers plan Vancouver's celebration to highlight a com-

munity's commitment to liberty for all, the freedom to have creative expression, to achieve financial stability, to access healthcare, to acquire an education, to be civically engaged, to appreciate our heritages, and to make a fresh start.

Volunteers are still needed and greatly appreciated, organizers say. Visit [juneteenthfreedomcelebration.com](http://juneteenthfreedomcelebration.com) to sign-up and for a complete line-up of the activities planned.

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## Songs of the Black Experience

### Duo to team up for first ever Juneteenth Concert

The community is invited to join Saxophonist Eldon T Jones and singer LaRhonda Steele at the Alberta Rose Theatre for their first-ever Juneteenth Celebration Concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 18.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that celebrates the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

Jones and Steele have curated songs drawing from all African-American musical art forms, and their performance will evoke the joy of emancipation that slaves experienced in 1865.



Saxophonist Eldon T. Jones and singer Laronda Steele will perform a special Juneteenth celebration concert on Saturday, June 18 at the Alberta Rose Theater.

A World Arts Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Jones is known for captivating Portland audiences with his heartfelt saxophone playing. His 2021 single "T's Jam" peaked at No. 54 in a 16-week run on the Smooth Jazz Network Top 100 and hit No. 4 on the Billboard Smooth Jazz Most Added chart.

Oregon Music Hall of Fame inductee LaRhonda Steele, a blues and gospel singer-songwriter, is

recognized as one of the region's best rhythm and blues vocalists. She has been dubbed "The First Lady of Portland Blues"—a title of leadership that she lives up to as she shares songs that carry forth directly from her soul and spiritual life force.

The concert tickets are \$20 in advance and \$26 at the door, available at the Alberta Rose Theatre Box Office, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., or by visiting [etix.com](http://etix.com).



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