



**Honoring Our History, Shaping Our Future**  
**BLACK FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION**

**Glass Pavilion  
Johns Hopkins University  
Homewood Campus  
Baltimore, MD**

**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**  
**FRIDAY • JUNE 12, 2026**  
*5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.*



Black Faculty &  
Staff Association

www.bfsa.jhu.edu | <https://jhu.campusgroups.com/bfsa/home/> | e: BFSA@JHU.EDU

## 2026 Juneteenth Program

Master of Ceremony ..... Calvin L. Smith, Jr., BFSA Past President  
Welcome ..... Lorraine Smith, BFSA President  
Invocation ..... Jamon Bailey, BFSA Chaplain  
Liberation ..... Griot, Grandma Edna  
Musical Selections ..... Singing Sensations Youth Choir  
*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

BFSA Executive Board - Juneteenth Planning Committee Address  
Lorraine Smith, BFSA President

BFSA Highlights  
Dr. Wayne L. Bethea, BFSA Vice President

### **Juneteenth Greetings - Ron Daniels, JHU President**

Blessing of the Food ..... Jamon Bailey, BFSA Chaplain

**Dinner is Served**  
Catered by 3 Chefs Catering

Dancers and Drummers ..... Keur Khaleyi African Dance Company  
Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... Dr. James Calvin, BFSA Faculty Advisor  
Keynote Speaker ..... Dr. Lawrence T. Brown  
*Research Scientist and Author*  
Comedian ..... Larry Lancaster  
Closing Remarks ..... Lorraine Smith, BFSA President  
Celebration Continues with a dance party ..... DJ Marty Mar

*Thank you to all of the businesses, vendors, partners and  
sponsors for making this program a great success!*

**The BFSA Executive Board**

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

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 list'ning 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.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers  
sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has  
been watered.

We have come, treading our path through the  
blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is  
cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might.

Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the  
world, we forget Thee.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,

True to our God,  
True to our native land.





**The Black Faculty and Staff Association at Johns Hopkins University**  
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## **BFSA's Mission**

The mission of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) is to help foster a culture of oneness for all by serving as an advocate dedicated to promoting and enhancing identity and professional welfare and growth through collaborations, community service, research, outreach and cultural activities among faculty and staff; and to be a critical resource for the continued success of Johns Hopkins in pursuit of its objectives towards an inclusive community by developing and cultivating working relationships with key administrators and operating units.

## **BFSA History and Purpose**

The BFSA was first envisioned in 1995 during a lunch meeting at the Polo Grill in the Colonnade Baltimore as seven all black Hopkins employees, who held positions of senior staff or faculty in different departments, discussed what they saw as the University's inadequate response to a white staff's physical assault of a Black colleague.

The BFSA role is to help ensure the fair and equitable treatment of Blacks at Johns Hopkins University and to be a critical resource for growing inclusivity in pursuit of its objectives towards an inclusive community. We continue to develop and cultivate working relationships with our senior administration and operating units here at Johns Hopkins. We serve as a trusted resource for JHU faculty and staff by providing a forum for meaningful exchange that identifies and address issues of value to us and our community to conduct outreach activities and cultural events. We are dedicated to serving you and the community.

## **Membership**

The BFSA is a Johns Hopkins University Employee Resource Group (ERG). Membership is open to all JHU faculty and staff. Your membership is secured by completing the BFSA Membership Questionnaire Form located on the BFSA website ([bfsa.jhu.edu](http://bfsa.jhu.edu)). The group is an active organization with many programs, meetings, workshops and events planned throughout the year.



# BFSA Black Faculty & Staff Association

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**Dear Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) Members, Members of the Johns Hopkins University Community, faculty, staff, students, family, friends, and allies,**

On behalf of the BFSA, I/we are so happy that you have decided to join us as we proudly commemorate the 161st Anniversary of Juneteenth. This moment calls us to pause, internalize and rededicate ourselves to the work of equity, justice and solidarity.

This year's theme, *"Honoring Our History, Shaping Our Future."* forces us to take a step back to reflect on the sacrifices, manual exertion, perseverance, resilience and commitment of our ancestors to making future generations lives a little better and more bearable today. Reminding us that we have an obligation to continue the work and to being a driving, active force in shaping our future through our labor, our advocacy, our solitary stance, our exercising power and strength and our driving of structural change.

Juneteenth is far from just a date on the calendar. It is a day of reflection, reconstruction, reevaluation, and reformation. It's a day to think of our next steps to reshaping our futures that will redesign the future of our children and our children's children. Let us be steadfast and unmovable to our core values and principles. It's a time to rejoice and celebrate our freedom, our work and our accomplishments.

BFSA Membership is open to ALL JHU faculty or staff members and that includes You! Our programs, workshops and events are open to all BFSA ERG partners, community partners, sponsors, alias and stakeholders.

With warm regards,

**Lorraine Smith**

*President, Black Faculty and Staff Association*

Johns Hopkins University (2026-2027)

ph: 443-927-3498 e: [Lorraine.Smith@jhu.edu](mailto:Lorraine.Smith@jhu.edu)

BFSA Past IRB Co-Chair 2022-2025

BFSA Past East Baltimore Caucus Chair/Rep 2023-2025

BFSA Past-President 2019-2021

2023 IRB Inductee

2023 DLC Diversity Champion

Lifetime BFSA Member since 2006



Friday, June 12, 2026

Dear Juneteenth Celebration attendees,

Today we mark the anniversary of a significant moment in our nation's history. On June 19, 1865—more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation—the last enslaved African Americans in Texas finally learned of their freedom. Juneteenth honors the resilience of Black Americans and the enduring hope and courage of generations who held fast to our nation's founding ideals of equality and opportunity.

At Johns Hopkins, we observe Juneteenth not only as a commemoration of a pivotal chapter in the American story, but as a celebration of the many contributions that Black faculty, students, and staff have made—and continue to make—across every facet of our institution and in their communities.

Thank you to the BFSA for your continued partnership and commitment to Johns Hopkins, and for hosting this yearly celebration.

We wish everyone a joyful and meaningful Juneteenth.

Sincerely,

**Ron Daniels**  
*President*

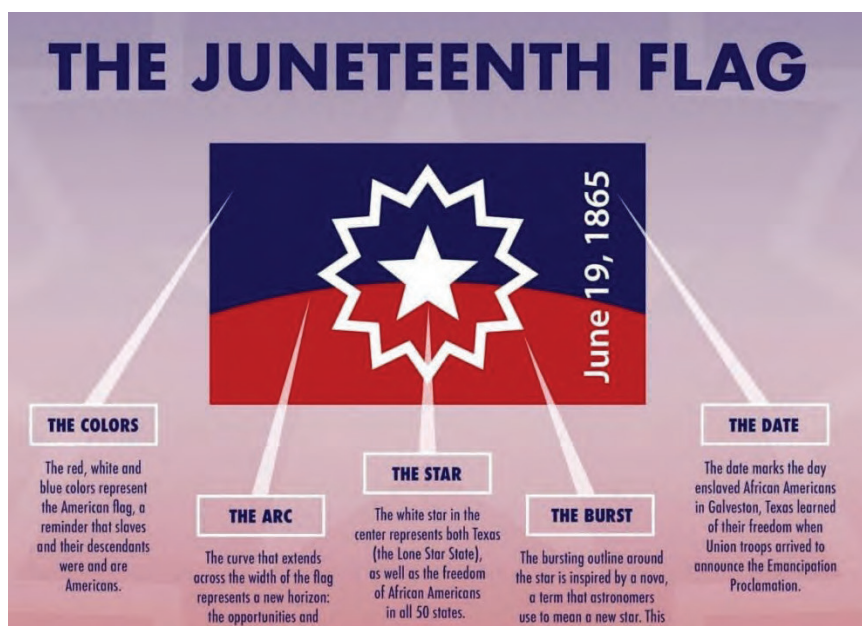
**Lainie Rutkow**  
*Interim Provost*

## What is Juneteenth?

**D**uring the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863. It declared all slaves were to be freed in the Confederate States of American in rebellion and not in Union hands. This excluded the five states known later as border states, which were the four slave states that were not in rebellion—Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri—and those counties of Virginia soon to form the state of West Virginia, and also the three zones under Union occupation: the state of Tennessee, lower Louisiana and Southeast Virginia.

More isolated geographically, Texas was not a battleground, and thus the Emancipation Proclamation did not affect its slaves unless they escaped. Planters and other slaveholders had migrated into Texas from eastern states to escape the fighting, and many brought their slaves with them, increasing by the thousands the number of slaves in the state at the end of the Civil War.

Although most slaves lived in rural areas, more than 1000 resided in both Galveston and Houston by 1860, with several hundred in other large towns. By 1865, there were an estimated 250,000 slaves in Texas. As news of end of the war moved slowly, it did not reach Texas until May 1865, and the Army of Trans-Mississippi did not surrender until June 2. On June 18, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston Island with 2,000 federal troops to occupy Texas on behalf of the federal government. On June 19, standing on the balcony of Galveston’s Ashton Villa, Granger read aloud the contents of “General Order No. 3”, announcing the total emancipation of slaves:



The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets after the announcement, although in the years afterward many struggled to work through the changes against resistance of whites. However, the following year, freedmen organized the first of what became annual celebrations of Juneteenth in Texas. Barred in some cities from using public parks because of state-sponsored segregation of facilities, across parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land to hold their celebrations.

In 1980, Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday under legislation. Juneteenth is a “skelton crew” day in the state; government offices do not close but agencies may operate with reduced staff.

## What is the Juneteenth Story?

Juneteenth is a historical tipping point for the African American community and the nation, recognizing the monumental moment that ended slavery. On June 19, 1865, Union Major-General Gordon Granger issued General Order #3 in Galveston announcing freedom from slavery in Texas, one of the last places to receive the news.

The date, since dubbed “Juneteenth,” is now observed annually as a federal holiday to celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation’s enforcement and the liberation of the remainder of the enslaved both in Texas and throughout the newly reformed United States.

### December 31, 1862

Freedom’s Eve, the first Watch Night service was held amongst enslaved and free African Americans at churches and homes, awaiting the news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect.

### January 1, 1863

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln.

### March 3, 1865

The creation of the Freedmen’s Bureau, a federal agency created to help African Americans transition from slavery to freedom.

### June 19, 1865

Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of the civil war and the end of slavery.

### December 6, 1865

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified: Abolition of slavery in the United States.

### April 6, 1866

Civil Rights Act of 1866, the nation’s first civil rights law declaring that all persons born in the United States to be citizens, “*without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude.*”

### June 19, 1866

The first Juneteenth was celebrated, marking the one-year anniversary of the official end of the US Civil War and slavery.

### June 19, 1867

The first official Juneteenth celebration took place in Austin, Texas established with the help of the Freedmen’s Bureau.

### June 19, 1868

The 14th Amendment granted African Americans the right of citizenship.

### February 3, 1868

The 15th Amendment asserted that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on the account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

### 1900s

Emancipation Day (Juneteenth) Celebrations.

### 1950-1960 Civil Rights Era

Public Juneteenth celebrations dwindled in favor of more private celebrations, as the move towards greater freedom for African Americans expanded during the Civil Rights Movement.

Continued on Page 8 >>



To discover more about Juneteenth and the National Juneteenth Museum visit: [nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org](http://nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org)

## What is the Juneteenth Story?

### 1965

Voting Rights Act directed the Attorney General to enforce the right to vote for African Americans.

### May 12–June 24, 1968

The Poor People’s Campaign led more than fifty thousand people to gather to commemorate Juneteenth at the Solidarity Day and march on Washington, D.C., inspiring a “spirit of Juneteenth” to be spread across the country in local communities.

### 1970

A revival of Juneteenth celebrations emerged across the United States in major cities.

### January 1, 1980

Texas is the first state to declare Juneteenth a state holiday led by Al Edwards, a state legislator.

### 1989

Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1989 prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, and family status.

### 1994

The era of the “Modern Juneteenth Movement” began when a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, LA to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth, birthing several national Juneteenth organizations.

### 1997

Through the leadership of Lula Briggs Galloway, President of the NAJL and Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Chairman of the NAJL, the U.S. Congress officially passed historic legislation recognizing Juneteenth as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in America.

The first flag representing the Juneteenth holiday was created by Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF).

### 2014

Juneteenth Historical Marker erected in Galveston by the Texas Historical Commission.

### 2016

Dr. Opal Lee conducted a symbolic walk from Fort Worth, TX to Washington, D.C., leaving in September 2016 and arriving in Washington in January 2017 to petition to make Juneteenth a federal holiday

### 2020

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee introduced a resolution recognizing the historical significance of the Juneteenth. Many corporations began recognizing Juneteenth as a company holiday.

### 2021

The day was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when the 117th U.S. Congress enacted and President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

### 2026

National Juneteenth Museum is set to open to the public in Fort Worth, TX.



To discover more about Juneteenth and the National Juneteenth Museum visit: [nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org](https://nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org)



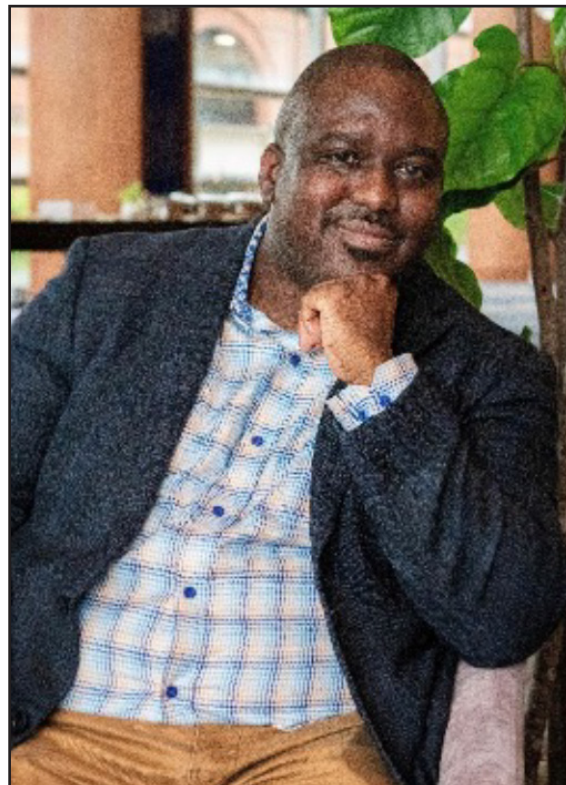
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## 2026 Keynote Speaker

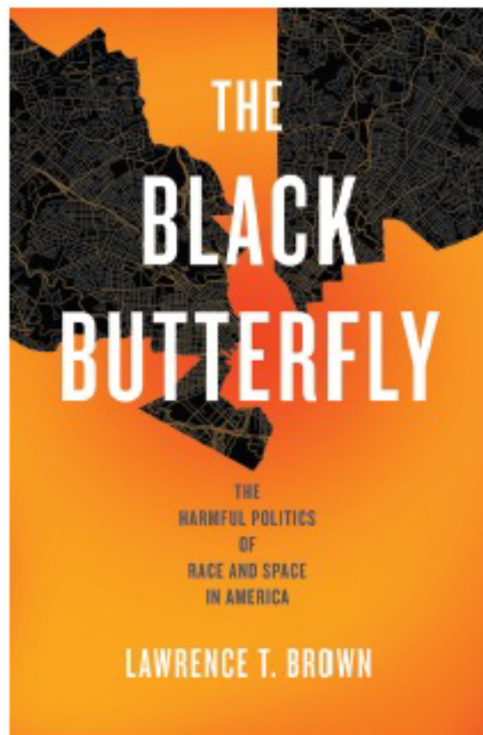
Dr. Lawrence T. Brown

*Research Scientist and Author*



Dr. Lawrence T. Brown is a game designer, curator, and scholar. He serves as a research scientist in the Center for Urban Health Equity at Morgan State University. Dr. Brown is the author of *The Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America*. The book was published in January 2021 by Johns Hopkins University Press. Five years later, it remains a critical text for understanding Baltimore City and other hypersegregated cities across America.

Additionally, he is the director of the Black Butterfly Dream Lab, an educational consulting firm which creates hands-on learning tools for decoding urban apartheid. He has created an educational board game called Urban Cipher and co-authored an educational comic book named Journey and the Abolition Democracy. These are fun ways for people of all ages and organizations to unpack how government policy has impacted our neighborhoods.



\$19.95 • Paperback • 9781421445441  
Also available as an ebook

**Lawrence T. Brown** is an equity scientist, urban Afrofuturist, and the director of the Black Butterfly Academy, a racial equity education and consulting firm. In June 2018, he was honored by Open Society Institute—Baltimore with the Bold Thinker award for sparking critical discourse regarding Baltimore's racial segregation. He is currently a research scientist in the new Center for Urban Health Equity at Morgan State University, where he is leading the Black Butterfly Rising Initiative.

## ***The Black Butterfly***

*The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America*

**Lawrence T. Brown**

Winner of the IPPY Book Award Current Events II by the Independent Publisher, Finalist for the Pattis Family Foundation Global Cities by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs

The world gasped in April 2015 as Baltimore erupted and Black Lives Matter activists, incensed by Freddie Gray's brutal death in police custody, shut down highways and marched on city streets. In *The Black Butterfly*—a reference to the fact that Baltimore's majority-Black population spreads out like a butterfly's wings on both sides of the coveted strip of real estate running down the center of the city—Lawrence T. Brown reveals that ongoing historical trauma caused by a combination of policies, practices, systems, and budgets is at the root of uprisings and crises in hypersegregated cities around the country.

Putting Baltimore under a microscope, Brown looks closely at the causes of segregation, many of which exist in current legislation and regulatory policy despite the common belief that overtly racist policies are a thing of the past. Drawing on social science research, policy analysis, and archival materials, Brown reveals the long history of racial segregation's impact on health, from toxic pollution to police brutality. Beginning with an analysis of the current political moment, Brown delves into how Baltimore's history influenced actions in sister cities such as St. Louis and Cleveland, as well as Baltimore's adoption of increasingly oppressive techniques from cities such as Chicago.

But there is reason to hope. Throughout the book, Brown offers a clear five-step plan for activists, nonprofits, and public officials to achieve racial equity. Not content to simply describe and decry urban problems, Brown offers up a wide range of innovative solutions to help heal and restore redlined Black neighborhoods, including municipal reparations. Persuasively arguing that, since urban apartheid was intentionally erected, it can be intentionally dismantled, *The Black Butterfly* demonstrates that America cannot reflect that Black lives matter until we see how Black neighborhoods matter.

**"An unsparing new geography of 'American apartheid'."**

—**Bloomberg CityLab**



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## 2026 Presenters and Entertainers



### ■ Edna Lawrence Williams (Sacred Grandmother Edna)

Grandmother Edna has been an educator, social activist, and the CEO/Founder of A Grandmother's Pilgrimage, Historic Theater/Educational Classroom & the Total Women (Heal Thyself) Experience. Grandmother Edna has provided a safe haven for youth in Maryland and the cities she visits.



### ■ Singing Sensation Youth Choir

The Singing Sensations Youth Choir was founded in 2004 with the expectation of exposing underprivileged youth in the Baltimore Metropolitan area to the diverse and multifaceted aspects of the performing arts. We provide a myriad of performing opportunities to students, ages 4-19, exposing them to other people, cultures, and musical experiences in Maryland, throughout the country and abroad.



### ■ Keur Khaleyi African Dance

Keur Khaleyi Youth Ensemble prides themselves on performing traditional West African dance and drum. They have traveled and performed on the East Coast at such venues as the Nation of Flags in Port Covington, Black Girls Rock at the Kennedy Center, and The Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. They have trained for 10+ years and it shows in their performances.



### ■ Larry Lancaster, Comedian and Radio Show Host

Larry Lancaster is a Comedian and the Host of Throwback Saturdays Radio Show on WEAA 88.9 FM or WEAA.ORG every Saturday morning 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

His accomplishments include appearances on The Apollo, BET ComicView, national television commercials, clubs, theaters, colleges and churches throughout the East, West and Southeast Coasts. He has opened for: Mike Epps, Paul Mooney, Bruce Bruce, Rodney Perry, Cedric The Entertainer, Eddie Griffin, Tony Rock, Sommore, Michael Blackson, Tracey Morgan, Musiq Soulchild, Chrisette Michelle, The Manhattan's and The Temptations to name a few.



### ■ DJ Marty Mar

DJ Marty Mar has been bringing music and energy to crowds since 1986, building a strong reputation as a talented and dependable DJ for private parties, birthdays, and special events. Known for creating the right vibe for every occasion, DJ Marty Mar combines decades of experience with a passion for entertaining people through music. Since 2017, he has also been working at Melba's, continuing to connect with the community and keep audiences entertained.



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## Executive Board

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lorraine Smith .....        | President               |
| Dr. Wayne L. Bethea .....   | Vice President          |
| Alicia L. Wilson, Esq. .... | ERG Executive Sponsor   |
| Dr. James Calvin .....      | Faculty Representative  |
| Jamon T. Bailey .....       | BFSA Chaplain           |
| Hunter Bryant .....         | Events Director         |
| Shekeitha Jeffries .....    | Membership Director     |
| Kerry G. Johnson .....      | Communications Director |
| Maria Martin .....          | Parliamentarian         |
| Lisa Moreland .....         | Recording Secretary     |
| MaDonna Perry .....         | Treasurer               |

### APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY CAUCUS

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Chanel Person ..... | Chair, Applied Physics Laboratory          |
| Mark Allen .....    | Representative, Applied Physics Laboratory |

### CAREY BUSINESS SCHOOL CAUCUS

(Includes Carey Business School Baltimore and DC locations, SAIS, Bloomberg Center-DC, and the School of Government and Policy)

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sikoka Frett .....        | Chair, Carey Business School          |
| Miller Simmons, III ..... | Representative, Carey Business School |

### EAST BALTIMORE CAUCUS

(Includes SOM, SON, BSPH, CCP, JHPIEGO, and Bayview, Sibley and Suburban)

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aiesha Wactor .....    | Chair, East Baltimore          |
| Constance Mercer ..... | Representative, East Baltimore |

### HOMEWOOD CAUCUS

(Includes Homewood, Eastern, DAR, Keswick, Mt. Washington, CTY, SOE and Peabody)

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jenny Wohl .....            | Chair, Homewood          |
| Calvin L. Smith, Jr.* ..... | Representative, Homewood |

*\*BFSA Past President*



**BFSA**

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## 2026 Juneteenth Celebration Planning Committee

Hunter Bryant  
*BFSA Events Director  
and  
Chair,  
Juneteenth Committee*

**Get your limited edition 2026 BFSA Juneteenth  
Commemorative T-Shirt while supplies last!**

Lorraine Smith  
*BFSA President*

Marcus Braithwaite

Reginia Hawkins

Kerry G. Johnson

Lisa Jones

Cordelia Lee

Aminah Leekins

Constance Mercer

MaDonna Perry

Jasen Richardson

Tiff Washington

Gay Williams

Iris Young



Artwork by Kerry G. Johnson



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## Special Thank You To All!

**As we commemorate the 161st Anniversary of Juneteenth, we reflect on the power of truth, our ancestry history and the shaping of our future. The legacy of those who fought for our freedom and the torch we all now carry forward.**

**We would like to say Thank You to all who have attended this year's event and give special thanks to all our vendors, the Juneteenth Planning Committee and all of those who have contributed to making this event great.**

**Thank you Johns Hopkins University's Leadership Team, partners, sponsors, donors and all who contributed to this important annual event.**

### **Caterer**

3 Chefs Catering; David Hill; 443-469-8715

### **Presenters and Entertainers**

Groit - Sacred Grandmother Edna; Edna Lawrence Williams; 443-683-4696

Singing Sensations Youth Choir, Inc.; Dr. Hollie Hood-Mincey Director | [www.sensationalsingermd.org](http://www.sensationalsingermd.org)

Keur Khaleyi African Dance & Cultural Institute, Inc., Jihan von Hendericks

e: [keurkhaleyidance@gmail.com](mailto:keurkhaleyidance@gmail.com) | [www.keurkhaleyi.org](http://www.keurkhaleyi.org)

Comedian and Talk Show Host – Larry Lancaster; Julie King (JK Artist Management2, LLC)

410 917-3048 [Jrking118@gmail.com](mailto:Jrking118@gmail.com) or Instagram @Julielawsonking

Master of Music – DJ Marty Mar; Marty Johnson; 443-722-9032

### **Decorations/Set-up**

BFSA Juneteenth Celebration Committee Members

Yudell Richburg – Balloon Artist

Let's Do Linens, Inc. | [www.letsdolinens.com](http://www.letsdolinens.com)

### **Graphic Design, T-shirt and Booklet Design**

KGJ Design & Illustration, Kerry G. Johnson | [www.kerryjohnsondraws.com](http://www.kerryjohnsondraws.com)

### **T-shirt Production and Silk Screening**

The Kreative Print Shop | ph: 667.217.2490 | [www.thekreativeprintshop.com](http://www.thekreativeprintshop.com)

### **A/V, Communications and Media**

JHU KIT-CATS

JHU Office of Communications, photographer Will Kirk

Website: Alan Regenberg, Research Scientist Berman Institute of Bioethics

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