

Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Arrival of First Africans in New World Commemorated in Hampton
Saturday, August 20**

Hampton, VA- On Saturday, August 20, honor the arrival of the First Africans in the New World at African Arrival Commemoration Day, an inaugural program being presented by the City of Hampton and Project 1619, Inc.

The celebration begins at The American Theatre (125 E. Mellen Street Hampton) at 3:30 p.m. with “Dispelling the Myth of Jamestown,” a free symposium featuring an interactive audience and panel discussion on the misrepresentation of Africans in Virginia. The panelist includes renowned scholar and historian Dr. Bill Wiggins; Calvin Pearson of Project 1619, Inc.; and Rev. Ronald Myers, Founder of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Immediately following the symposium, at 6:00 p.m., The American Theatre will host the Juneteenth Jazz Heritage, Reconciliation, and Healing Concert. Donations are appreciated.

A ceremony commemorating the 392nd anniversary of the historic landing of Africans in the New World will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Fort Monroe (**ADDRESS**), near the site of the first African arrival marker. The African Landing Commemoration Day Candlelight Ceremony begins with a prayer, followed by a song, and then a historical overview of the first arrival. The commemoration will conclude with a candlelight remembrance vigil and prayer.

African Arrival Commemoration Day

Saturday, August 20, 2011

3:30 p.m. “Dispelling the Myth of Jamestown” symposium The American Theatre FREE

6:00 p.m. Juneteenth Jazz Heritage, Reconciliation, and Healing Concert The American Theatre
Donations Appreciated

7:30 p.m. The African Landing Commemoration Day Candlelight Ceremony Fort Monroe FREE

Those wishing to attend the African Landing Commemoration Day Candlelight Ceremony must have a valid photo I.D., vehicle registration, and proof of insurance as there will be a mandatory identification check to access Fort Monroe.

For more information on African Arrival Commemoration Day, contact Calvin Pearson at 757/380-1319.

Project 1619, Inc. is a national non-profit organization based in Hampton, Virginia dedicated to remembering and honoring the first Africans that arrived on English occupied territory in 1619, at what is now Point Comfort on Fort Monroe. In 2019, the City of Hampton and Project 1619 will commemorate the 400th anniversary of this arrival. The organization is in the process of raising funds, with the hope of building a national monument in time for the anniversary. For more info, check out www.project1619.org.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center, is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX ® Theater, Hampton Maritime Center, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others.

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