



# NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Kristin Boylston

Director of Marketing and Public Relations

912.790.8890 | [boylstonk@telfair.org](mailto:boylstonk@telfair.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Telfair Museum of Art presents  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Festival*

Annual celebration of freedom commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.

[Savannah, Georgia] — This summer, the Telfair Museum of Art presents its 2nd Annual Juneteenth Festival from June 15-20, 2009. Begun in 1865 and traditionally held on June 19, Juneteenth marks the anniversary of the end of slavery in the United States.

“The Emancipation Proclamation is an important document that ended the institution of slavery in the United States,” said the Telfair’s assistant education curator, Vaughnette Goode-Walker.

“To commemorate that symbol of freedom, the 2009 Juneteenth lecture is being held at the historic Second African Baptist Church where the Emancipation Proclamation was read to the ‘colored’ citizens of Savannah on February 5, 1865.”

The Juneteenth Festival will celebrate the Gullah culture in Savannah—from its African origins to its connection to the Telfair’s Owens-Thomas House. This year, the event includes a series of dynamic and educational programs spotlighting African American history, heritage, and culture in remembrance of this important milestone in American history.

To kick-off the weeklong festival, the museum will offer three opportunities—on June 15, 17, and 19 at 9:30 am—to participate in the popular Andrew C. Marshall Walking Tour, free of charge. The tour begins at the Owens-Thomas House and winds its way through the northeastern section of Savannah’s historic district. Based on the story of the Reverend Andrew C. Marshall—a former slave who became a prominent Savannah minister, the tour explores the city’s history from an African American perspective.

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On Friday, June 19 at 7 pm, Naomi Tutu—activist, scholar, and daughter of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu—will give a lecture entitled “Truth and Reconciliation: Healing Wounds.” Using South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a starting place and model, Tutu will talk about how we can heal and be healed as individuals and a society. Born in South Africa during Apartheid, Tutu is an internationally-renowned speaker and consultant on gender, race, and human relations. The lecture will be held at Second African Baptist Church, 123 Houston Street.

The festival concludes on June 20 with a Family Day at the Owens-Thomas House. This fun-filled event features a concert by well-known musical group the McIntosh County Shouters, a “Jumping the Broom” ceremony, storytelling, artist demonstrations, art-making activities for youth, tours of the Owens-Thomas House, and more.

Juneteenth programs are free and open to the public, thanks to project funding provided by the City of Savannah. Reservations are required for the Andrew Marshall Walking tour; to register, call 790-8880. For more information, please visit [www.telfair.org](http://www.telfair.org).

### **About the Telfair**

Located in the heart of Savannah’s historic district, the Telfair Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the South. It is comprised of two National Historic Landmark Buildings—the Telfair Academy and the Owens-Thomas House—and the contemporary Jepson Center for the Arts. With three unique buildings housing three distinct collections, the Telfair bridges three centuries of art and architecture.

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*The Telfair Museum of Art is supported by its members, with partial support of the annual operating fund provided by the City of Savannah and by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly.*

*The Telfair Academy is located on Telfair Square at 121 Barnard Street, Savannah, GA. The Jepson Center is also located on Telfair Square, just steps from the Academy building, at 207 W. York Street. The Telfair’s Owens-Thomas House is located at 124 Abercorn Street on Oglethorpe Square. General admission (which includes a one-time visit to each of the Telfair’s three sites) is \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors, military personnel, and AAA members; \$5 for K-12 students; children under 5 are free. Members are always admitted free.*

*The Telfair’s Jepson Center for the Arts and Telfair Academy are open Sunday 12-5 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Tuesday-Closed, and Thursday 10 am-8 pm. Call 912.790.8880 for Owens-Thomas House hours or visit [www.telfair.org](http://www.telfair.org). Museum sites are closed some holidays.*

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