

JUNE 2026; MEETING: 6/23, 5:30 P.M.



Symone Gittens is one of GTAAAC's newest commissioners. She comes in with experience in higher ed, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and community & government impact.

GTAAAC NEWSLETTER

Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission

Events

All June: Summer Reading Program Sign Up - All library locations

1: Greenwood Remembrance Day

5: First Friday Art Crawl - Downtown, 6 p.m.

5: T.E.G. International Jazz Fest - Guthrie Green, 6 p.m.

9: Starlight Jazz Orchestra: Jazz Under the Stars - Guthrie Green, 8 p.m.

13: Village Drum Festival - Reed Community Foundation, 10-4P.M.

13: Northside Carnival - Covenant Family Church, 10-6 p.m.

18: Greenwood Genealogy Workshop - Gradient, 10-7p.m.

18: Kool & the Gang - Riverspirit Casino, 8 p.m.

19: Juneteenth - Freedom Day

19: Greenwood Genealogy Workshop - Gradient, 10-7p.m.

20: Greenwood Genealogy Workshop - Gradient, 10-4p.m.

20: Juneteenth Festival - Greenwood, 2-11 p.m.

27: Caribbean Block Party - Kush Lounge, 12 p.m.

27: Sista Chat Book Club - Suburban Acres Library, 2 p.m.

Chair Update



GTAAAC welcomes two new commissioners: Symone Gittens and Michele Burdex.

Chair Humphrey shared updates on the progress of the Strategic Focus. The Strategic Focus committee met to discuss strategies for moving forward. To recap, the goal of the focus is to determine potential reasons the African American population in the city is decreasing and discuss what can be done to attract and retain them in Tulsa. As an initial step, the committee will focus on data gathering. The commission's core committees (policy, culture & engagement, and education) will consider surveys or hosting focus groups to obtain data. These findings will be combined into one document. More details to come.

Committee Updates



The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission created a 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook so employers and employees know their rights in regard to illegal search and seizure by federal agents. The [Policy Recommendations Committee](#) is working to collaborate with GTAHLAC to make the playbook available to Black immigrants that may be affected.

The [Culture and Engagement Committee](#) is continuing to work to create avenues for Tulsans to learn about areas of engagement. This includes sharing the newsletter with updates and events, highlighting information on the Resilient Tulsa Facebook page, and working on a database of local organizations that support African Americans in Tulsa.

The [Education Committee](#) is on a brief pause during the summer months. In the fall, they will be focusing on the 3rd Annual Dr. LaVerne Wimberly Black Educator Excellence Awards.

History Corner

June is Black Music Month.

The recognition was initiated by the Black Music Association, including Kenny Gamble, and Ed Wright in 1978, and federally proclaimed in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter. It became official in 2000 with the help of radio professional Dyana Williams.

National Black Music Month was founded as a way to celebrate the African American influence on music in the United States.

From the early oral traditions of spirituals and work songs, to folk music, blues, & jazz, to r&b, rock & roll, and hip hip, and all of the genres in between, the impact of Black American music is undeniable. Learn more [here](#).

