



## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Staff Report**

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**Date:** January 7, 2025

**From:** Zoe Mombert, Assistant to the City Manager

**Subject:** Juneteenth 2025

### **Recommended Action:**

Provide directions to staff to advance the 2025 project planning process.

### **Background:**

Now a federal and state holiday, Juneteenth recognizes the emancipation of black Americans. Its origin dates to 1866, when Texans celebrated the first anniversary of the day word arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865 – more than two years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation – that slavery had been abolished.

In Wilsonville, since 2021, the City has formally celebrated Juneteenth with a free two-hour event to bring the community together to celebrate our shared humanity and acknowledge history that continues to influence society. The event is planned and executed by the City’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and City staff.

The second annual event in 2022, featured live music from afro beat band Jujuba, food from Dar Essalam, a keynote address and remarks from the City’s mayor. Books and products from black-owned businesses were purchased and given away to approximately 200 participants. The event was funded by a \$7,500 Community Opportunity Grant from Wilsonville Parks and Recreation.

In 2023, an expanded three-hour event was made possible by local sponsorship from SWIRE Coca-Cola, Hilton Garden Inn, and the Oregon Institute of Technology. DeeJay Bryson Wallace provided music, and keynote speaker Pamela Slaughter shared the importance of interacting with nature. Miss’ipi Chef catered the free event, which also included book giveaways and family fun.

In 2024, local sponsorship from SWIRE Coca-Cola, Hilton Garden Inn, Oregon Institute of Technology, and Columbia Distribution made the event possible. An estimated 300 people attended the event which featured a keynote speaker, Kimberly Howard Wade, Executive Director of Caldera Arts, DJ Bryson Wallace with catering from Café Yumm. The event also included book giveaways and family fun.

The Wilsonville event, which grows annually in terms of scale and popularity each year, has featured a short program, giveaways, live music and educational materials.

### **Fiscal Implications:**

It is anticipated that \$8,000 will be available from three of the 2024 sponsors. Additional sponsorship will allow for additional event activities and programming.

**Following Steps:**

Juneteenth planning including speaker, music, food, giveaways, activities, theme (if needed), other

**Attachments:**

2025 Sponsorship Packet