



Juneteenth is an annual holiday for millions, to commemorate the news of Emancipation to the enslaved people of Texas, delivered at Galveston on June 19, 1865. Authentically Texan, Juneteenth was first celebrated in 1866 by those who witnessed the actual event. It has continued across generations, throughout the state of Texas, across the country, and around the world – symbolic of the hope of freedom for all people everywhere.

In an effort to continue with the message of unity and importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the City of McKinney proudly hosted the 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration, one of the many cultural highlights featured this year in our community.

The 2022 McKinney Juneteenth Celebration was held in a new location, Towne Lake Park. Due to the previous location (Finch Park) being under construction, Towne Lake was a natural alternative that provided ample space for attendees, parking, and room for increased activities.

Over 3,500 community members attended the family reunion-styled showcase of local businesses and food vendors, artistic expressions, and educational offerings. Performances included fan favorite the Big Easy Brass Band and Dallas Poetry Slams.

Much like the inaugural year, the City of McKinney 2022 Juneteenth Celebration was the culmination of a city-wide vision and planning team dream, including dozens of volunteers, and support and collaboration among organizations, such as AEYL, McKinney Chamber of Commerce, and H.E.B.

Juneteenth has been celebrated in McKinney, Texas, by the African American community for more than 125 years, with festivities such as picnics, music, parades, and pageants – most memorably at Finch Park and the historic Doty School. In 2006 the McKinney Parks & Recreation department joined that tradition by offering special activities at Old Settler's Recreation Complex. The 2008 program featured among its festivities a parade through east McKinney neighborhoods, and a community gospel and jazz concert which attracted approximately 2,000 visitors to Old Settler's. In later years, other locations, such as Towne Lake and Bonnie Wenk Park, were host sites for the Cultural Music Series, which also included Juneteenth recognitions.

Plans for 2023 and beyond, are centered around providing an inclusive cultural and entertaining experience, increasing the number of participant agencies, and further develop this cherished event as regional destination to commemorate this national holiday.