

LOCAL / REGIONAL

5th Annual Black Arts Festival Celebrates Juneteenth: Full Month of Events June 4th – 25th | Ruben Studdard to give June 19th Concert at Chamberlin Pavilion on the UTC Campus

Chattanooga, TN: With a continued commitment to celebrating the extraordinary contributions of artists of African descent, the 5th Annual Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas will kick-off its Juneteenth Celebration on June 4th with its inaugural fundraiser the RBG Ball (Red, Black & Green) & Black Arts Awards. This black-tie affair will honor local artists in six disciplines. The program will include the introduction of three historical African princesses who will be available for public appearances, birthday parties and school visits throughout the year. The meal will be curated and prepared by celebrity chef, Kenyatta Ashford. Chef Ashford studied at the renowned Culinary Institute of America in New York.

In its fifth year (2022) the Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas: Juneteenth Independence Day will run June 4th - June 26th. Events and activities will take place in varying locations throughout the city. Our goal for year five is to include with local artists, speaker and workshop leaders those

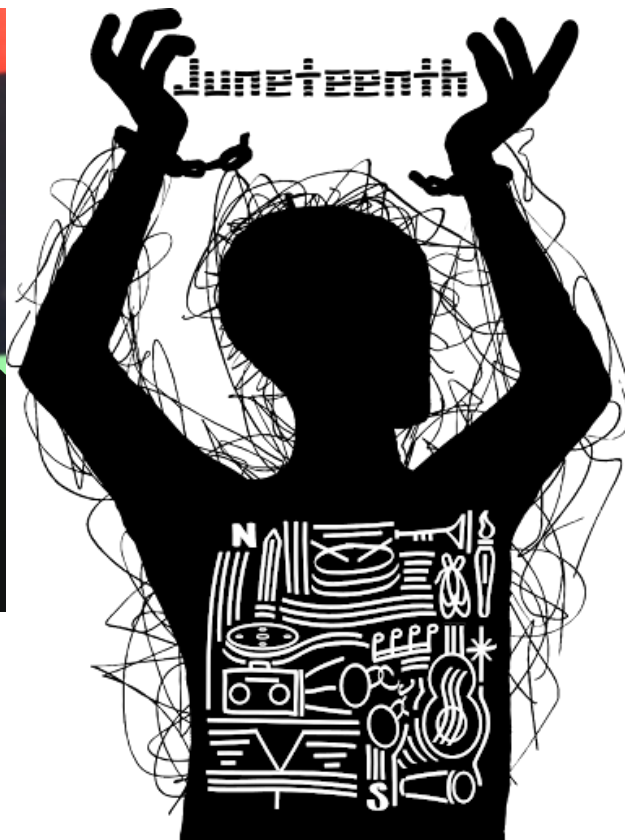


that are more regional, nationally and internationally recognized. For example, our events will include internationally recognized American Idol winner Ruben Studdard will perform on June 19th as part of the Juneteenth Ceremony; International spoken word artist & Las Vegas resident, Obba Babba Stanley; jazz trumpeter Melvin Miller & Co from Atlanta; playwright E. Claudette Freeman's from Fort Lauderdale; and internationally recognized West African drummer Obayana Ajanaku of Knoxville.

CFBA&I orbits around June 19th because Juneteenth represents an historic

triumph of the human spirit. We honor our ancestors by holding this day in reverence and celebrating ourselves to celebrate them.

Wielding the transformative powers of the arts, our festivals are revolutionary acts of *sankofa*—retrieving that which was ours and had been forgotten. The arts delight, instruct, console, awaken, and refine us and if we let them, they restore our humanity. Our mission is to showcase emerging



and established local artists of African descent who are creating, innovating and producing extraordinary work in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, film and literature.

2022 Schedule of Events Online at chattnewschronicle.com

Harris: from front

opportunities for your leadership. The future of our country and our world will be shaped by you."

The dark skies looming over Hale stadium didn't stop Harris' words of encouragement to shine through as she spoke value to more than one thousand attendees.

"You are fueled by self-determination," she said. "Students from all over the world come here because they have big dreams." About 15-minutes into her speech, Harris' shared a story regarding the first time she flew on the vice-presidential helicopter.

She looked out the window as the helicopter circled over her alma-mater and saw her 17-year-old self again toting

books around campus. "At a place just like this," she smiled.

"That reinforced that I can be anything. Do anything. Even if it had never been done before," she said as the crowd cheered. "Like you, and full of hope and full of dreams with a future full of possibility. I stand before you today as the Vice President of America and as a proud graduate of an HBCU to say, there is no limit to your capacity of greatness."

Harris reassured the graduates who will embark on a new journey, that their time at TSU has unlocked unimaginable opportunities.

"There is no barrier you cannot break," she said, noting that the graduate's perspective and experience will make the United States a stronger country. She mentioned that there will be a time that the graduates will walk into a room where

no one else may look like them.

"And at that moment you must remember, you are not in that room alone. Always know that you carried the voices of everyone here and those upon the shoulders you stand," Harris comforted the students.

A little piece of advice to the graduates from Harris: Be true to yourself.

Graduate Derrick Sanders, Jr., who now has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English, said that Harris telling the students to live in the moment, is what resonated with him most.

"To know now that she will forever be a part of my TSU history, and to be inducted as an official member of the Tiger Family was a tremendous honor to witness."

As Harris is the first woman, and first person of color as Vice President

of the United States, she closed out her commencement speech with a phrase her late-mother always told her.

Kamala, you may be the first to do many things ... make sure you are not the last.

"I have been many first in my lifetime and as I look out at all of you today, I know I will not be the last," Harris told the TSU graduates.

"Your country is so proud of you." "May God bless you and may God bless America."

The Biden-Harris Administration has invested \$5.8 billion in resources and the renaissance of the White House Initiative on HBCUs. In March, President Biden announced TSU President Dr. Glenda Glover would serve as Vice Chair of President Biden's Board of Advisors on HBCUs.

Kane Brown: from front

were already out and moved on in life," Mayor Kelly said. "We're super proud of Kane Brown and want to give the credit that he's due now."

Rep. Hakeem, who also serves as Bessie Smith Cultural Center Board chair, described Brown's show as "monumental" and the "largest concert" the city will have yet seen. He said Brown's story is an inspiring one for the region's children.

"I think it says to our young people, you know, God has given us all talents and blessings," Hakeem, who represents District 28, said. "Kane has the opportunity to be that role model, that says I am willing to come back home. I am

willing to be a part of this community, just because I made it doesn't mean I am above it."

Sometimes homeless, Brown's family moved around northwest Georgia when he was younger, before finally settling in Red Bank, Tenn. As a result, he attended many schools, among them Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. where he sang in the choir with Lauren Alaina, the runner-up on Season 10 of American Idol.

After winning a school talent show in 11th grade with a rendition of Chris Young's "Gettin' You Home," Brown began to perform country music. He auditioned for both American Idol and The X Factor. He was chosen for The X Factor after an audition in 2013, but left the show when its produc-

ers wanted to include him in a boy band.

In 2014, Brown began posting videos of his covers of country music songs on social media. His own single "Used to Love You Sober" hit one million views in less than three hours upon its release on Oct. 8, 2015, and then reached more than 11 million views in two weeks.

Brown's No. 1 self-titled debut album spent 13 weeks at the top of the chart and helped him become the first artist in Billboard history to top all 5 Billboard Country charts simultaneously.

Brown's "Heaven" and "What If's" are the 3rd and 7th most streamed country songs of all time, and his sophomore album "Experiment" debuted No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and solidified Brown

as the only male country artist in more than 24 years to achieve this all-genre chart feat.

The 28-year-old entertainer earned an Academy of Country Music (ACM) Album of the Year nomination for "Mixtape Vol. 1," (2020) and won an ACM Video of the Year Award for his anthem "Worldwide Beautiful."

Brown has a few more stops on his "Blessed and Free" tour before he performs at CMA Fest in Nashville in June. He'll begin his "Drunk or Dreaming" tour overseas starting in September.

Representatives from the Bessie Smith Cultural Center said a new Kane Brown exhibit will be a part of the organization's Phase II renovations.

Coonrod: from front

cused, clear their mind every morning once they get up. Just clear their minds of those negative thoughts, always say affirming words to yourself and surround yourself with people who are going to support you and guide you and continue to champion for your very best."

Slow and steady is OK, she said. "You'll eventually complete the goal."

Chatt State: from pg 3

nology, Mechatronics Technology, or Computer Information Technology. Students gain academic success, build lifelong friendships, and gain skills to be college and career ready in a learning environment with access to state-of-the-art equipment at Chattanooga State Community College.

Mechatronics Academy and Polytech Academy are accepting students for Fall 2022! To learn more, visit our website at <https://chattanoogaastate.edu/earlycollege>.

BlueSky: from pg 3

will join the program from: Central High School, Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, Chattanooga High Center for Creative Arts, Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences, East Ridge High School, Hixson High School, Home Life Academy, Ooltewah High School, Ringgold High School, Soddy Daisy High School, STEM School of Chattanooga and Trine University.

The program will welcome these first students to the BlueCross headquarters on Cameron Hill in August.

"We are excited for what the future holds for each of these students, and we are proud to be the educational partner for this innovative program that provides a solution to a critical workforce need," said Dr. Brian Noland, president of ETSU. "The BlueSky Institute will expand opportunities and open doors, truly making a difference for people across the region and beyond."

Father's Day

Sunday June 19, 2022

Recognize your Father, Dad, Daddy GrandFather, Pops, GrandDaddy, or Special person with a Photo, Tribute, or Memorial in the CNC.

Call Ms. Faith at 423/308-9969 or email at newschronicleinc@gmail.com for details and cost!



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