



## What is The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration?

### Ain't No Stoppin Us Now

Juneteenth celebrates the unique culture of African Americans and all Americans that can embrace emancipation of people enslaved for profit. African Americans have thrived in creating many of the American traditions that are synonymous to the United States in many ways, not the least being the arts, including literary, music, fashion, and sports. Juneteenth is not just an African American holiday, it's an American holiday. Celebrating culture, unity, conquest over evil and national pride. Juneteenth is a cultural celebration for all.

The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration was crafted by Councilman Gregory McLemore for the City of Franklin, as a part of a five-year plan to create a national tourist destination event in the County. Which played such a significant role in both slavery and the emancipation from slavery that Juneteenth celebrates. The Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is a multi-day event held in June, on or around the weekend of June 19th which is the official holiday for Juneteenth. This year marks the second year of the celebration. By design, it is created to be larger, grander, and longer than any other Juneteenth celebration in Virginia. Pursuing our goal to create a national tourist destination in Franklin/Southampton County dedicated to capitalizing on our rich emancipation history.

The theme for our second annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is "Ain't No Stoppin Us Now" for those who would hold us back. In celebrating our Juneteenth Cultural Celebration, we want to present a different narrative for one of Southampton's own, Nat Turner. For over a century, the deeds of Nat Turner who is known worldwide, has been cast in an extremely negative light. When in reality to the population of millions of enslaved people and abolitionist, he was seen as a freedom fighter and hero. Ain't no stopping the truth, or the 2nd Annual Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration.