


## MEMORANDUM

TO: VICE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL  
JESUS MEREJO, CITY MANAGER  
RICHARD BERRIOS, CITY ATTORNEY  
SALLY WALSH, CITY CLERK

FROM: SHANNON M. MARTIN, MAYOR 

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP AND AUTHORIZATION TO  
PROCEED WITH PLANNING FOR JUNETEENTH EDUCATIONAL  
CELEBRATION EVENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2025

This memorandum serves to seek your support and approval for the City's sponsorship of an upcoming Juneteenth educational celebration event, reflecting the shared interest of local residents and business owners who have expressed a strong desire to create a meaningful community gathering to honor this important day.

As you may recall, the idea for this event was born from community members and business leaders who wished to celebrate Juneteenth in a way that fosters education, reflection, and cultural appreciation. Over the past few months I have met with staff and members of the community to bring the Juneteenth Educational Celebration Event to life. Recognizing Juneteenth's significance as the commemoration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, this event will provide an opportunity for our community to come together to learn, engage, and celebrate freedom and resilience.

### Event Details:

- Date: Thursday, June 19th
- Location: MIDFLORIDA Event Center

- Time: Afternoon and/or evening (final schedule pending)

Potential Program Highlights:

- Panel discussion with Q&A
- Keynote speaker
- Performances (musical act, choir, instrumental)
- Poetry slam/spoken word
- Interactive audience activity
- Refreshments/food

We also plan to involve the Youth Council to encourage civic participation and intergenerational learning. Additionally, we are seeking to engage a local news personality to emcee the event to help broaden its reach and appeal.

To support this event, staff has prepared a grant application to Florida Humanities, requesting \$10,000 to cover essential expenses such as honoraria, travel costs for panelists and performers, and equipment/supplies.

I am respectfully requesting the City Council's approval to sponsor this event and authorize the City Manager and staff to proceed with the planning and hosting of the celebration. Your support will not only help cover logistical needs but also demonstrate our commitment to being a city for all people while honoring the cultural heritage that strengthens our community.

Thank you for your consideration.