

# WEST OAKLAND JUNETEENTH EVENT CULTIVATED LOVE FOR ALL

Posted on July 12, 2024 by OAKLAND POST



Since 2008, Barbara Howard of B-H Brilliant Minds' has prided herself on holding the last Juneteenth event in Oakland. And since, unlike most other Bay Area cities, Oakland has not hosted a free observation of the holiday celebrating the end of chattel slavery in the U.S., Howard's is also the only formally organized Juneteenth event in the city. The post West Oakland Juneteenth Event Cultivated Love for All first appeared on Post News Group.

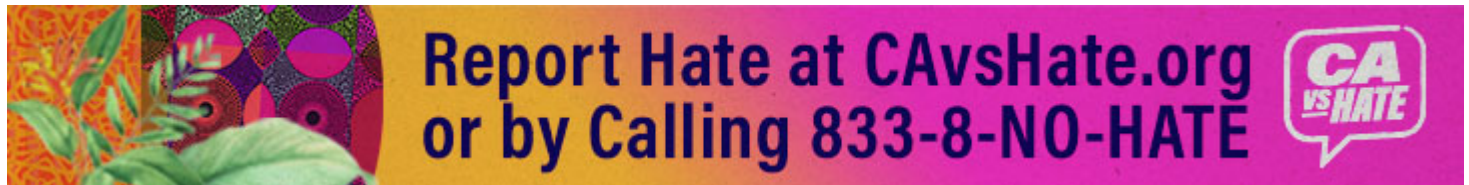
**Categories:** [#NNPA BlackPress](#), [Black News](#), [Community](#), [Featured](#), [Featured](#), [National](#), [NNPA](#), [NNPA Newswire](#)

**Tags:** ["Reaching for Wholeness One Love & One Liberation, \(bhbrilliantminds.org\) .](#), [Arts and Culture](#), [B-H Brilliant Minds'](#), [bags](#), [Barbara Howard](#), [Bay Area](#), [Black cowboys](#), [Black Excellence](#), [Books](#), [candles Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency \(BOSS\)](#), [chattel slavery](#), [children and adults](#), [Clint Sockwell](#), [Clothes](#), [Community](#), [Community Ready Corps \(CRC\)](#), [Daisha Williams](#), [DeFremery Park](#), [economic empowerment](#), [Events](#), [Family](#), [featured](#), [festival](#), [food](#), [gospel performances](#), [hand dipped incense](#), [holiday](#), [holistic wellness](#), [horse and pony rides](#), [jewelry](#), [Juneteenth](#), [leadership skills](#), [Lifestyle](#), [live DJs](#), [Local](#), [Made-Men Bay Area Motorcycle Club](#), [martial arts](#), [Music](#), [Oakland](#), [Oakland Post](#), [Omnira Institute's Awon Ohun Omnira \(Voices of Freedom.\)](#), [performances](#), [personal growth](#), [Post News Group](#), [R&B](#), [rap](#), [self-improvement](#), [The Cutting Edge](#), [The Oakland Black Cowboy Association](#), [the Oakland Public Library](#), [the U.S.](#), [the West Oakland Youth Center](#), [west oakland community](#), [Wilbert F. McAlister](#)



**By Mike Aldax, Mike Kinney and  
Kathy Chouteau**  
**The Richmond Standard**

A bright sun greeted one of Richmond's most important community gatherings on June 22: the annual Juneteenth Parade and Festival.

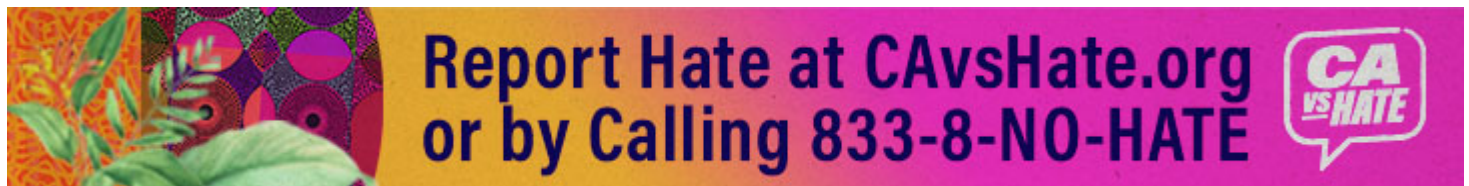


Hundreds of people greeted the lengthy parade that began at Kennedy High School, passed under the recently-created [Juneteenth Freedom Underpass Mural](#) on 37th Street, and continued on to Nicholl Park, where a colorful festival took place through the afternoon.

Michelle Milam, crime prevention manager for the City of Richmond and an organizer, said the parade boasted 70 entries and the festival had 117 booths staffed with community organizations, businesses, and resources. Soul food was being served by a number of popular local eateries such as CJ's BBQ & Fish, Snapper Seafood and Cousins Maine Lobster.

The annual event is supported via a partnership between the N.B.A., City of Richmond and Chevron.

*The Standard* asked dozens of community members at this event what Juneteenth means to them.



"It is a celebration of freedom," said AJ Jelani, president of the Belding Woods Neighborhood Council.

Jelani founded the nonprofit organization A.J./Sealcraft, which honors African American individuals, organizations, groups, and businesses who contributed to empowering fellow African Americans to improve their communities.

"Juneteenth is a recognition of our culture, our history," he said. "Our unique past was a functionality of the community. It brought us together."

Trending

[COMMENTARY: Afghanistan is not worth it](#)

Richmond resident Gloria Wilson added, "Juneteenth is a day to remember our ancestors' struggles for our freedom."

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia told us the celebration is “about our community coming together.”

“It’s about recognizing the struggles that it has taken up until now, and that there is still work ahead to achieve true equity and equality,” Gioia said.

Gioia noted Richmond is unique for having had an annual Juneteenth parade and festival years before Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

“Richmond has had a great history of winning struggles,” Gioia said. “It is important for us to continue that work.”

“We all have the responsibility to uplift and celebrate how people persevered and continue to persevere in the face of challenge.”

Gioia said that is why the County has an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.

“I was just talking to the school board and superintendent about the work we’re doing, and the superintendent was talking about their equity plan for the school district, so it all comes together,” Gioia said. “Agencies working together.”

Richmond City Councilmember Doria Robinson, who helped carry the City Council banner in the parade alongside some of her Council colleagues, said Juneteenth is a celebration of perseverance.

“It’s the day where everyone...can reflect on what happened with slavery and can realize that we all carry that burden,” Robinson said, “and that we all have the responsibility to uplift and celebrate how people persevered, and continue to persevere in the face of challenge.”

Added Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, “Richmond has been at the forefront of making sure that our community is aware of Juneteenth. And just more recently, people are finding out about Juneteenth and celebrating it in their cities. Once again Richmond is at the forefront.”

Fast on the heels of Juneteenth, Richmond will get a jump on Independence Day by celebrating along the waterfront Wednesday, July 3.

The City of Richmond will celebrate the “3<sup>rd</sup> of July Fireworks & Celebration” July 3 from 5-10 p.m. at Marina Bay Park. The fireworks will start at 9:15 p.m., with the show lasting approximately 20 minutes. Along with the fireworks, festivities will include live music, a selection of food choices and an interactive Fun Zone for the kids. Marina Bay Park is located at Marina Bay & Regatta Blvd. in Richmond.

Also on Wednesday, July 3, “Fireworks at the Point at Riggers Loft Wine Company” will take place from 6-10 p.m. Andre Thierry, a.k.a. “the Zydeco king,” will entertain the crowd while they enjoy a choice of cuisine from five food tents prepared by Chef Frank Miller.

Games, wine, cider, and sodas will also be part of the mix. At 9:15 p.m., the venue—and its bayside patio—are perfectly poised to take in the City of Richmond's fireworks show, for which beach chairs and blankets are suggested.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$15 for those under 21 and free for kids 5 and under. Purchase tickets [here](#) and find Riggers Loft at 1325 Canal Blvd. in Richmond.

For those heading to San Francisco on the Fourth of July, the city's fireworks are set off via two locations in front of Fisherman's Wharf: The end of Municipal Pier and barges in front of Pier 39. Transit options from Richmond to San Francisco include the San Francisco Bay Ferry, which will operate on a weekend schedule from Thursday, July 4, through Sunday, July 7—learn more <https://sanfranciscobayferry.com/holiday-ferry-schedule>

BART will run a Sunday schedule (8 a.m. until midnight) on Independence Day— go to <https://www.bart.gov/guide/holidaysfor> more information. And visit [AC Transit](#) for info on catching a bus.



## Oakland Post

**There are no comments yet.**