



For Immediate Release

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June 1, 2023

Threading the Fabric of Freedom

**State College to Celebrate Juneteenth with Art Exhibition and Block Party
Food, Music, Poetry, Dance and More on South Fraser Street's 100 Block & MLK Plaza**

State College, Pa.— Community members are invited to an Art Exhibition that opens on Friday, June 16 and Juneteenth Block Party in downtown State College on Saturday June 17, 2023. Hosted by State College Chapter of the NAACP, in partnership with Center for Performing Arts at Penn State, Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and the State College Borough. The Block Party begins at NOON and will showcase live performances by a wide range of musicians, poets, dancers and more. There will be food trucks, an array of Black vendors, and fun activities throughout the day for kids and adults.

“We are so grateful to continue collaborating in solidarity with the State College NAACP, the State College Borough, and all the partners involved in this community-wide event to celebrate Black liberation, entrepreneurship, and creativity in central Pennsylvania”, Sita Frederick, Director of the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State.

Leslie Laing, State College NAACP Educational Chair says, “this is our 4th Juneteenth commemoration, and we are proud to feature two extraordinary headliners this year, Mckie & Res from Philadelphia and Warren Wolf from Baltimore. In addition to showcasing Black excellence, successful entrepreneurs, and in connection with our Juneteenth theme, *Threading the Fabric of Freedom*, community members will have the opportunity to create a vibrant Story Quilt. Historically, individuals worked in secret, armed with needle and thread, to create a visual language mapping the way to freedom. Shapes, symbols, textures and colors were often weaved together to celebrate family events such as marriage, a birth, keeping record of those we loved as they were sent to other places. Quilts like memories, and traditions are passed down from one generation to the next.”

“This celebration is important to the community and the values its members hold, and the State College Borough recognizes that. Supporting the annual Juneteenth commemoration is one of the ways the Borough contributes toward building a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community and creates a sense of belonging,” said Chiluvya Zulu, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for the State College Borough.

Residents, community members and guests are encouraged to attend this celebration that marks the all-important Emancipation Day in American history, 1865, when the last enslaved Africans were notified of their freedom.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP's mission is to secure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.