JUN 18

Ascendant:

The Power of Descendant Communities to Shape Our Stories, Places and Future

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monticello's West Lawn

Join us for a special Juneteenth event at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello: "Ascendant: The Power of Descendant Communities to Shape Our Stories, Places, and Future."

Part of a two-day event to honor Monticello's *Getting Word* community and the rededication of the Burial Ground for Enslaved People, this public program will highlight the importance of descendant voices in the telling of American history—voices that have often been marginalized, or left out completely.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Unable to attend in person? Join the event livestream on our Facebook page, website, or YouTube channel.

Ascendant is just one of many local Juneteenth events. Explore other powerful programs and activities in the Charlottesville area.



Watch on our YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvS53XgBWAA)

Event Schedule

9:15 am - Musical Prelude +

Performance by contempo world jazz musician **Karen Briggs Kuartet**

9:30 am - The Journey at Monticello +

Opening conversation

Leslie Greene Bowman, President, TJF

Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

William "Bill" Webb, *Getting Word* Descendant and Member of the *Getting Word* Advisory

Committee

Melody Barnes, Chair, Thomas Jefferson Foundation (TJF) and Executive Director of the Karsh Institute of Democracy and W.L. Lyons Brown Family Director for Policy and Public Engagement at the Democracy Initiative, University of Virginia (Moderator)

10:00 am - Honoring the Ancestors: Descendants, Burial Grounds, and Sites of Conscience +

Michael Blakey, National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology, Africana Studies, and American Studies, College of William & Mary

Peter Cook, Design Principal at HGA Architects & Engineers

Brian Palmer, Peabody Award-winning journalist

Brent Leggs, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Moderator)

Closing poetry from **Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely**, Poet, Activist, *Getting Word* Descendant, and *Getting Word* Advisory Committee Member, accompanied by **Angela Niles**, Musician and *Getting Word* Descendant, on drums

10:45 am - Young Voices Rising: New Generations of Descendants +

Niya Bates, Ph.D. Candidate, History Department and Department of African American Studies at Princeton University

Andrew Davenport, *Getting Word* Descendant, TJF Public Historian and Director of the Getting Word African American Oral History Project and Ph.D. Candidate, History Department, Georgetown University

Justin Reid, Director of Community Initiatives, Virginia Humanities

Hannah Scruggs, Public Historian

Gayle Jessup White, *Getting Word* Descendant, and Public Relations & Community Engagement

Officer (Moderator)

11:30 am - Musical Interlude +

Performance by contempo world jazz musician **Karen Briggs Kuartet**

11:40 am - Descendant Communities and the Arts +

Ava DuVernay, Writer, Director, and Filmmaker
Sarah Lewis, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies at Harvard University; Founder of The Vision & Justice Project
Wynton Marsalis, Musician, Composer, Bandleader, Educator, and Advocate of American Culture
Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely, Poet, Activist, *Getting Word* Descendant, and *Getting Word* Advisory Committee member
Melody Barnes, Chair, TJF, and Executive Director of the Karsh Institute of Democracy and W.L. Lyons Brown Family Director for Policy and Public Engagement at the Democracy Initiative, University of Virginia (Moderator)

12:45 pm - Closing Commentary +

Annette Gordon-Reed, Trustee, TJF, and Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard University
Clint Smith, Author and Staff Writer at *The Atlantic*

1:10 pm - Conclusion +

Leslie Greene Bowman, President, TJF
J. Calvin Jefferson, *Getting Word* Descendant

Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

Photos & Bios

Event Speakers



We are honored to welcome more than twenty speakers to this event. Explore their biographies.

LEARN MORE (https://www.monticello.org/exhibits-events/calendar-of-events/ascendant/speaker-l

June 18 – July 10

Artwork on Display



Artwork on display from groundbreaking painter Titus Kaphar, including a piece commissioned especially for “Ascendant,” and mixed media artist and "Getting Word" descendant Jabari Jefferson.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (https://www.monticello.org/exhibits-events

Getting Word African American Oral History Project

“This is how the word is passed down,” said a descendant of Monticello’s

African American community. He and other descendants have shared stories handed down over generations. Now their Monticello ancestors are "getting word" to us today about their lives, their families, and their dreams.

With Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

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