



# RACE TALKS: UNITING TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF RACISM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PORTLAND, OR: On June 16, 2022, RACE TALKS will host a special Juneteenth and Pride Community Forum. This is RACE TALKS' 128th community forum and 7th hybrid event — in-person and virtual participation.

*“The History of Black Drag in Portland: An Evening of Conversation & Performance”*

**EVENT DETAILS:**

*Thursday, June 16, 2022*  
*McMenamins Kennedy School Theater*  
*5736 NE 33rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211*

**FEATURED PANELISTS:**

Cicely / Harold Strong; Lawanda Jackson; Maria Peters Lake; Sheniqua Volt

**FEATURED PERFORMANCES:**

Alexis Campbell Starr; Coco Jem Holiday ; Nay Nay Leakes Cartier; DJ NO Bi.Es.

[RACE TALKS: Uniting to Break the Chains of Racism](#) is pained by the rising violence and hate crimes enacted against Black and brown people, especially Black trans women, who are the highest murdered demographic in the world. As a Black femme-led organization, we acknowledge that the contributions of Black people link Pride and Juneteenth, which are historical events in our American history that would not have been achievable without the resilience, determination, and fortitude of Black Americans.

RACE TALKS: Uniting to Break the Chains of Racism, McMenamins History, Poison Waters and local Black drag queens, along with local organizations are teaming up to present *The History of Black Drag in Portland*, an intersectional Pride and Juneteenth event that will explore the history and contemporary experience of Black drag in Portland; hosted at the McMenamins Kennedy School Theater on June 16, 2022. This event features fabulous drag performances and a special forum to learn about the intersection between the history of BIPOC and QT+ communities. We are emphasizing QTBIPOC in-person attendance *because there are few Pride events that are centered around Black and brown queer folx in Portland.*

The origins of Pride began with Black and brown trans women fighting for their place among cis queer and heteronormative society. Juneteenth is celebrated on or around June 19th, and commemorates the two-year extension of enslaved labor that Blacks in Texas were forced to provide because white people did not convey the news that the Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved Blacks in the Southern States.

This year, Juneteenth falls during Portland's Pride celebrations. Pride encapsulates the many colors of the Queer Rainbow family, but Queer Trans Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (QTBIPOC) still struggle to find spaces where they are welcomed, seen, and safe. RACE TALKS is committed to making an event space for our most marginalized communities during Pride and Juneteenth that celebrates.

The event has limited capacity at the McMenamins Kennedy School Theater. People can participate as follows:

QTBIPOC Community members

All Ages - Receive a [FREE community supported ticket](#). It includes admission and a \$30 food and beverage voucher.

- NOTE: You must submit a [community supported request form](#) in order to receive your ticket. This offer is good for one ticket per person for in-person events. One ticket per household for virtual events.
- To ensure a seat, youth must also submit a form for their own ticket.

Community Organizations *servicing* QTBIPOC

There are two ways to participate:

- (1) Promote the event to QTBIPOC community members. See our Social Media and Press Kit for promotional materials.
- (2) Reserve a row at the event.
  - Contact [RACE TALKS](#) to reserve a row in your organization's name.
  - Your organization will receive up to 8 guest seats specifically for QT BIPOC members. Each guest will receive free admission and a \$30 food and beverage voucher at the door.
  - Submit the names of the people attending or we can fill the seats.
  - If you plan to fill the seats, please be sure to have your members complete our community supported request form. You will be the verifying source for each person, so no further verification will be required of them.

Virtual Participation - HOST A WATCH PARTY for your friends and family. Take photos and share with us!

#### IMPORTANT FOR IN PERSON ATTENDANCE:

Due to a high resurgence of COVID in Oregon, and the high predisposition QTBIPOC folk have to COVID, RACE TALKS is taking preventative precautions to ensure this is a healthy and safe space for all of us.

Please Bring the following:

- State ID or Driver's License; if drinking, you will need to show the bar legal ID. Minors must have a student ID or be verified by their adult.
- Valid Vaccination Card OR COVID test results within the past 72 hours; a limited number of COVID tests will be available for on site testing before entry.
- Masks are required in the theater, unless you are consuming food or beverages, or taking pictures. Masks will be made available.
- We are serious about this. A failure to comply will result in a forfeiture of entry.

#### DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS

This is a fundraiser event for RACE TALKS! We provide monthly in-person and virtual community programming that focuses on building community through educational events and facilitated dialogue. Help keep our programming free and reduced.

There are two ways to support us:

- (1) [Donate!](#) Become a monthly patron or contribute to our community supported ticket program.

(2) [Be a RACE TALKS sponsor!](#) Help keep the lights on and our programming accessible to all.

*RACE TALKS is a community dialogue series founded by Donna Maxey, a Black femme Portland Native. RACE TALKS' mission is 'filling the spaces between races with compassion, conversation, and education.' RACE TALKS envisions a world beyond superficial connections where race, ethnicity, gender, and religion are no longer barriers to connecting with others, but a means to enhance cross-cultural connections through deep and shared experiences. To learn more, visit [racetalkspdx.com](http://racetalkspdx.com).*

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact RACE TALKS at 971-361-9191 or email [info@racetalkspdx.com](mailto:info@racetalkspdx.com).