**Media Contact for Photos, Interviews:**

Lydia Duncombe, Marketing Coordinator, Sellmark

210-824-9474

marketing@wheretexasbecametexas.org

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Juneteenth Heritage Celebration
at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site**

On the 19th of June 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and made a declaration of freedom ending the bondage of approximately 250,000 enslaved men, women and children in Texas.  Since that time, Juneteenth has been celebrated and remembered by picnics, parades, family reunions, pageants, barbecues and games. The Brazos Valley has a rich history in celebrating Juneteenth, including the Juneteenth parade in Brenham, TX, which began in the early 1870s and continues to this day.

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site and H-E-B observe this important occasion with its **Juneteenth Heritage Celebration** from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880. Celebrating the rich African American heritage and culture of the Brazos Valley, past and present, the event will occur on the park’s shaded grounds and in the conference centers.

The family friendly Juneteenth Heritage Celebration will include a full day of food, art displays, musical performances. The Brown Sugar Band will headline. Formed in Texas in 1975 by Ms. Lorraine Brown and led now by Sandra "Brown Sugar" Lee. Brown Sugar consists of 5 members all of whom are skilled in their independent musical crafts which easily enables them to come together as one and give you a musical moment to be remembered!

**Interested in learning more?**

Additional activities include singer/songwriter Brandi Pace, The Fantasy Band playing jazz and blues, the Mt. Rose Missionary Baptist Church Men’s Chorus, food trucks, a Kids Zone with old time games, and craft-making with volunteers from the Children’s Museum of the Brazos Valley.

Exhibits featured are the Johnnie Swearingen Artwork brought to you by Chappell Hill History Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Buffalo Soldiers, Prairie View Trail Riders Association, Buffalo Soldier Museum, Washington County Historical Juneteenth Association, Brazos Valley African American Museum, Cherokee County Historical Commission, Brenham Heritage Museum, Lincoln Recreation Center from College Station Parks & Recreation Department, Local Artist Lloyd Mays, and Washington Cemetery Association.

The prominent guest speaker will be Cleveland Franklin, a Brenham native who first played football for Baylor and in 1974 was a member of the team which beat No. 1 ranked Oklahoma during what was called the “Miracle on the Brazos”. Mr. Franklin then went on to play professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles and Baltimore Colts (now the Indianapolis Colts).

**Sponsors include H-E-B,** Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Herzstein Foundation, City of Navasota, Arts Council of the Brazos Valley and Rotary Club of Washington County. For more information,contact Jordan Anderson at (936) 878-2214 ext. 224 or at Jordan.anderson@tpwd.texas.gov

**Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site**

There are many reasons to join the [Washington on the Brazos State Park Association](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/park-association/) as a member and explore this Texas treasure. Besides the irreplaceable satisfaction of helping to uphold Texas history through the Association’s preservation projects, celebrations and programming, spending time at the park is an easy, inexpensive, educational and fun way to entertain families and visitors. Park Association membership levels are available for individuals, families and businesses and include free admission to the Site’s attractions for a year, and—for some levels—private parties during the park’s special celebrations.

**The Park:** The expansive park grounds of this state park along the Brazos River also provide a beautiful setting for picnicking, sightseeing and bird watching, as well as four geocaching sites—two each from TPWD and the Brenham/Washington County Chamber and CVB. It also features a Conference and Education Center, which is available for rent for meetings, weddings and reunions. An outdoor amphitheater and two pavilions are also available to rent.

Leashed pets are allowed in the park, but not allowed onto farm site or in the buildings. All attractions are accessible for the mobility impaired. For lodging information, please contact the Brenham Visitor Center at [www.visitbrenhamtexas.com/](http://www.visitbrenhamtexas.com/) or 1-888-BRENHAM, or the city of Navasota at [www.navasotagrimeschamber.com](http://www.navasotagrimeschamber.com).

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site is found on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas, a major political and commercial center in early Texas. It is located at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880—approximately halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off of State Hwy. 105. From Hwy. 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12. For additional information, call (936) 878-2214 or visit the site’s website at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).