

PROJECT SUMMARY

Richmond Community Mediators
Empowering Future Generations Through
Literacy and Crime Prevention:
A Community & Faith Based Organization

OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a community where education, empowerment, and justice work hand in hand to eradicate violence and nurture the potential of every individual. Through the "Get Lit Initiative," we envision a future where innovative and non-traditional STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) approaches are seamlessly integrated into community and faith-based programs, as well as non-profits. We aspire to transform communities into thriving environments, where youth and adults are equipped with knowledge and skills to lead a fulfilling life.

OUR MISSION

To empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds to achieve literacy proficiency, fostering a lifelong love of learning and enabling them to fully participate in their communities through effective reading, writing, and communication skills.

"GET LIT Initiative"

We are dedicated to addressing literacy and crime prevention to empower prevention in justice impacted communities. We thrive to inspire, to make a positive change, to cultivate resilience, and to create lasting impact.

RICHMOND COMMUNITY MEDIATORS



CONTACT US

Richmond Community Mediators (RCM)
Community Youth & Intervention Services
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Richmond, Virginia 23220
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www.RVA.gov/police



RCM

ROOT ★ CAUSE

Root causes of violence, like poverty and lack of education, lead to higher crime rates and weaker communities, limiting literacy and opportunities. Intervention and prevention strategies, such as mentorship and mental health support, help break these cycles and create lasting change.

CHANGING ★ MINDSET

Changing mindsets reduces acts of violence, strengthens communities, and improves literacy by promoting education and opportunity. Prevention strategies like mentorship, mental health support, and economic resources help break crime cycles and create lasting change.

MAKING A ★ DIFFERENCE

Addressing root causes and changing mindsets help reduce crime, improve literacy, and create safer communities. Education, economic opportunities, and strong support systems empower individuals, breaking cycles of poverty and fostering impactful and long-term community growth.

“ Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty and a building block of development.

– **Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General of the United Nations**





RICHMOND COMMUNITY MEDIATORS AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATING PARTNERS PRESENT:

JUNETEENTH

Fulton Southern Soul Festival

A CELEBRATION TO HONOR FREEDOM AND HERITAGE
| CELEBRATE THE MEMORY OF ADMIRAL GRAVELY

THURSDAY JUNE 19

HISTORIC FULTON MEMORIAL PARK - 10 AM
MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 12 PM

COMMUNITY SPONSORS:



Innovate

Melodies to Memories
LIGHTING & SOUND



COME CELEBRATE WITH US TO ENJOY:

GREAT MUSIC | LINE DANCING (WHERE 'DEM FANS AT?)
FREE FOOD | FREE BOOKS | COMMUNITY GIVEAWAYS

THEHILLTOPRVA.COM/EVENTS

Visit The Website For More Information | Vendor Spaces Are Still Available



A "GET LIT Initiative"



RICHMOND COMMUNITY MEDIATORS AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATING PARTNERS PRESENT:

JUNETEENTH

Fulton Southern Soul Festival

Dear Community Members,

I hope you are doing well. As we continue working to strengthen community engagement. We want to personally invite you to explore a partnership with Richmond Community Mediators (RCM) and the "*GET LIT Initiative*" - beginning with our upcoming Juneteenth Celebration in Greater Fulton!

Date: Thursday June 19, 2025

Location: Fulton Community

Time: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

This event honors freedom and heritage, featuring a Freedom Walk, music, dance, Southern soul cuisine, interactive cultural exhibits, and youth engagement activities through the "GET LIT Initiative." Beyond the celebration, it's a space for organizations and businesses to connect, share resources, and uplift the community. We are looking for community partners, entertainer, and vendors to join us:

- Hosting a vendor booth to showcase products, services, or community resources.
- Leading an activity or engagement session that promotes education, wellness, or advocacy.
- Providing sponsorship or in-kind support to enhance accessibility and programming.
- Collaborating beyond this event to build lasting initiative for positive impact.
- Joining the conversation to explore long-term collaboration beyond this event.

I've attached the event overview and vendor registration details for your reference. If you are interested, let's connect and explore how we can make this an impactful experience together. Looking forward to collaborating with you!

Best Regards,

Charles Young
Richmond Community Mediator
charles.young@rva.gov | (804) 501-8696

Dr. Gwendolyn Andrews
gwendolyn.andrews@rva.gov
(804) 516-0451 Invitation



RICHMOND COMMUNITY MEDIATORS AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATING PARTNERS PRESENT:

JUNETEENTH

Fulton Southern Soul Festival

Dear Community Leaders, Partners, and Friends,

I hope this correspondence finds you well.

On behalf of the Richmond Community Mediators, *"GET LIT Initiative"* and our valued collaborative partners, we are honored to invite you to the **Fulton Southern Soul Juneteenth Festival** taking place on Thursday, June 19, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, in the Historic Fulton Hill Community.

The day will begin with a deeply moving Opening Ceremony at Historic Fulton Memorial Park, where we pay tribute to the resilience and enduring spirit of the Fulton Community. Through powerful storytelling, community alumni will share their inspiring experiences of overcoming challenges, celebrating victories, and building a brighter future. This heartfelt ceremony will reflect on Admiral Gravely's extraordinary contributions and remind us of the unyielding determination that binds our community.

Following the Opening Ceremony, we invite you to participate in the Freedom Walk at 11:30 AM, attendees are invited to participate in the Freedom Walk, a symbolic procession through the community that connects our shared past to our hopeful future. The walk will culminate at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church where the festival will unfold in a vibrant celebration of culture and unity.

Festival Highlights:

Southern Soul Cuisine: A Celebration of Culture, Nourishment, and Community – Food has long been a powerful connector - bringing families, friends, and neighbors together to share traditions, strengthens bonds and build resilience. The Free Cookout Cuisine, while supplies last is more than just a meal – it is a symbol of togetherness and an opportunity to foster deeper community connections.

Live Southern Soul Music and Entertainment: Vibe in captivating performances from renowned local musicians, dancers, and spoken word artist, celebrating the cultural heartbeat of our community.

Interactive Activities for Guests of All Ages: Engage in creative workshops, games, and experiences designed to inspire and connect.

Special Presentation: Explore the impactful legacy of Admiral Gravelly through an engaging and educational exhibit.

Community Line Dancing: Boots on the Ground / "Where Dem Fans At" – Come enjoy the joy, energy and unity of community line dancing, a tradition that brings people together while offering meaningful health benefits. Culturally rhythmic group dance enhances cardiovascular endurance, balance, and coordination, providing a fun and engaging way to boost physical fitness. Additionally, line dancing contributes to mental and emotional well-being by reducing stress, promoting social connections, and stimulating memory and focus. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or trying it for the first time, this lively experience encourages self-expression, inclusivity, and overall wellness, making it the perfect way to celebrate culture while strengthening your mind, body, and soul.

"GET LIT Initiative": Non- Traditional STEAM Activities for Youth & Families – A cornerstone of this year's event, the **"GET LIT Initiative"** will offer dynamic, hands-on experiences integrating DJing, music production, gaming/e-sports, performing arts and movement-based learning, and interactive workshops designed to engage youth and families in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) disciplines in exciting, accessible ways.

By encouraging positive engagement opportunities, the **"GET LIT Initiative"** serves as a violence intervention and prevention strategy, offering youth and families safe, creative spaces to channel their energy into self-expression, leadership, and skill building rather than conflict. This initiative ensures the festival is not just a celebration but also a catalyst for resilience, empowerment, and community healing.

This year's festival marks our second collaboration with the HillTop Foundation, and we are delighted to welcome, Innovate Fulton, Mt Calvary Baptist Church, Greater Fulton Civic Association, Friends of Historic Memorial Park, Melodies 2 Memories LLC, and Jay Luv Audio-Visual Productions, who share our unified mission to empower communities, providing structured activities that serve as positive alternatives to conflict and disengagement.

Together, we leverage Non-Traditional STEAM education, cultural programming, and strategic interventions to address the root causes of violence including social isolation, educational inequities, and economic barriers. By offering safe spaces for self-expression, skill building and mentorship, our initiatives serve as a catalyst for community health, positive identity formation, and long-term opportunities.

We would be delighted to have your organization join us in this remarkable endeavor. Opportunities to participate include participating in ways that fit your organization's mission, sponsoring activities, providing services, or showcasing your products to festivalgoers. Please confirm your participation by June 1, 2025, or reach out to any of our community partners for details. Your presence would greatly enhance this Celebration of freedom, culture, and community unity.

Thank you for considering this invitation. Together, let's make the Fulton Southern Soul Festival an unforgettable and impactful event.

With warm regards,

Charles Young & Dr. Gwendolyn Andrews
Richmond Community Mediators