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Events set to bring light to Tulsa Race Riot

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Rapper 'Algebra,' or Dan Hahn (left) performs with the hip hop collective called Oilhouse at Guthrie Green on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Hahn helped organize 1921: Tulsa Race Riot Memorial Arts Showcase. JOHN CLANTON/Tulsa World File



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Events marking the 93rd anniversary of the Tulsa Race Riot

17th annual Black Wall Street Memorial March

5 p.m. Sunday at Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church, 311 N. Greenwood Ave.

Symposium on Reconciliation in America: Education for Reconciliation

By Jerry Wofford World Scene Writer | 7 comments

Ninety-three years after the Tulsa Race Riot leveled parts of Tulsa and left scores dead, momentum is building to bring that chapter of Tulsa's history to a higher level of honesty and discourse.

A new event this year hopes to spark that honest dialogue through art with 1921: Tulsa Race Riot Memorial Arts Showcase. It is set for Saturday — the 93rd anniversary of the deadly riot — at Guthrie Green, 111 E. Brady St.

The event will provide another avenue to reach out and educate those who may not know the history of the ground on which they stand, organizer Dan Hahn said.

"The main goal is to educate patrons of the Brady Arts District about what happened there," Hahn said. "So many people are frequenting businesses located on land that should be historically sacred. This event is for them, so that they are no longer comfortable in ignorance of the massacre that happened in 1921."

The event will feature music, art, spoken word and dance, all meant to memorialize the estimated 300 victims of the riot.

Video



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Public events: 8 a.m. Thursday at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, featuring keynote speaker Freeman Hrabowski

8:30 p.m. Thursday at Guthrie Green: A screening of "Freedom's School," the documentary looking at the 100 year history of Booker T. Washington High School.

More information including how to register is at jhfccenter.org

1921: Tulsa Race Riot Memorial Arts Showcase

7 p.m. Saturday at Guthrie Green: Performers and artists from a variety of disciplines displaying their work in an effort to educate and remember the victims of the riot.

More information at guthriegreen.com

Ride through the Riot

11 a.m. and 4 p.m. June 1: Historian Lee Roy Chapman leads a bike tour of the area where the riots occurred. The 8-mile ride starts at the Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave. Participants are asked to make a \$10 donation to the center before the ride.

Greenwood Battleground: Hannibal Johnson on Tulsa's Past, Tulsa's Future

7 p.m. June 3 at Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave.: Author and historian Hannibal Johnson will discuss his work on the Tulsa Race Riots and the history of Tulsa since as well as a screening of the short documentary "Greenwood Battleground."

"The artwork will all be centered on remembering the victims and imparting real knowledge of the massacre," Hahn said. "So many people think they know and have foggy or completely untrue information. Hopefully, for those in attendance, the presentation will be such as to ignite a lifelong pursuit of truth and reconciliation amongst the attendees."

Hahn, a hip-hop artist and member of the rap collective Oilhouse, as well as a teacher with the Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, said he and others saw an opportunity to take a new, multifaceted approach to memorializing the 1921 riot.

For an event that was so transformative to a city, it's still shrouded in misinformation and can be an uncomfortable topic.

"As far as our event, I would say just come, converse and share as much as possible," Hahn said. "For folks that don't know, come and find out. For those that think they know, come with an open mind. For those that already know, come and share your wealth of knowledge with others."

Guthrie Green, the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa and Louder than a Bomb — Tulsa are event sponsors.

The anniversary will also be commemorated with the fifth Symposium on Reconciliation in America, organized by the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation.

This year's symposium is focused on "Education for Reconciliation," looking at how education can make and sustain strong and diverse communities. Featured speakers are Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and George C. Wright, president of Prairie View A&M University.

The symposium will focus on science, technology, engineering and math education, also called STEM.

Jocelyn Lee Payne, executive director of the Greenwood Cultural Center, echoed Hahn's thoughts on the importance of education, particularly in creating a more successful future.



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“We came to the decision to focus on education because last year, one of our speakers talked about the challenges faced by some major corporate entities in the Tulsa area in recruiting and maintaining a diverse workforce,” she said. “When we thought about it, we realized that the magnitude of that challenge is much greater than many initially might think. STEM is one of the areas, fields, that is really important in the Tulsa area.”

As Tulsa moves forward, Payne and others said it’s important for the city to have the tools to succeed. But, it’s important to remember the past. And more and more attention is being paid to the Tulsa Race Riot, with more events and even a proposed miniseries. They also see that when schools visit the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park near the historic Greenwood District.

“When children are exposed to new ideas, they carry those conversations forward,” Payne said. “Those kinds of experiences lead to more conversations, more people being interested, more people being curious and more people being mindful about what happened and how what happened may have impact on some aspects of life today.”

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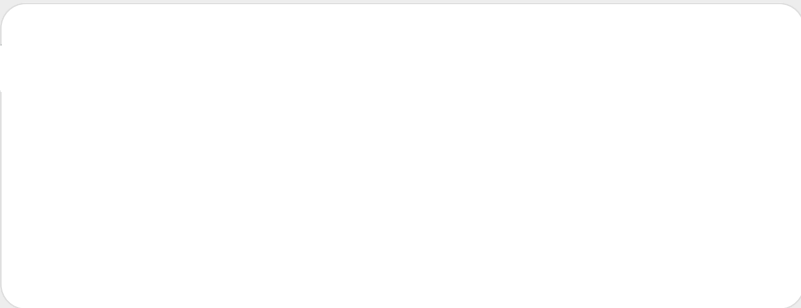
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David Zemel posted at 9:20 am on Sun, May 25, 2014.



You can hear the personal story of a survivor of the riot, Otis Clark, at Voices of Oklahoma. http://voicesofoklahoma.com/otis_clark.html

Warning icon | Link | Reply

John Elwell posted at 7:03 am on Sun, May 25, 2014.



Never knew it was hidden.

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Peggy Pinalto posted at 9:31 am on Sun, May 25, 2014.



I know. I've known about it all my life and was really surprised a few years ago when it was suddenly a "thing" and everyone was shocked.

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Ken Bailey posted at 4:22 pm on Sat, May 24, 2014.



It is good to hear T-town is facing its ugly past. Of course those who presided over raining down on the Greenwood District and destroying a great community are long gone or were never recorded as the perps. Justice is truly blind as this horrible black eye for Tulsa and OK demonstrates and must be given justice.

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Peggy Pinalto posted at 9:33 am on Sun, May 25, 2014.



There's a time to stop "facing the ugly past" and move on. We're stuck wallowing and refuse to move ahead and get over it.

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Updated: May 23

Gordon Mills posted at 1:13 pm on Sat, May 24, 2014.



Posts: 2834

Until Tulsey Town removes its ball and chain it will never move forward.



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Ken Bailey posted at 4:24 pm on Sat, May 24, 2014.



Posts: 17

Tulsey Town! Yes, even the Mvskoke Nation lost her beloved new tribal town in Indian Country as set forth by Congress to yet another atrocity against them.



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