

JUNE 2023 *Holiday this month: Juneteenth. Monday June 19th, 2023, celebrates Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Black Independence Day, Jubilee Day. First Celebrated in 1866 after being proclaimed in 1865. Juneteenth became Federally recognized in 2021 and state recognized in 2023.

SHOUT OUT TO:

Tawney Carlson

Jnana Hand

Kate Asperheim

Bradley Brunfelt

Thank you kindly for the hard work on the BIPOC website and cultural calendar. If anyone has any add-ons for events, please reach out to the following link.

<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/our-county/about-st-louis-county/county-initiatives/bipoc-leadership-team>

Email for any questions, comments, requests, or concerns.

BIPOC THE ORIGATION

As a recent topic of discussion arises, the “new” or “popular” term BIPOC is raising some questions. Why is this term used? Is it new? Where did it come from? And what does it really mean? Let’s dive in.

Originating back in 1796, the term “People of Colour” spelled with “OU” from the British language was adapted for non-white folks. Martin Luther King Jr. took this further in his I have a Dream speech, changing the term to “Citizens of Color”. Today, you may often hear POC, the acronym or abbreviation.

After the 2020 murder of George Floyd, BIPOC grew as a more normalized term to focus attention on BLACK, INDIGENOUS, and PEOPLE OF COLOR highlighting those who have been more disproportionately and systematically discriminated against over time, while being inclusive to all folks of color.

The first use of the term has been traced back to 2013 as reported by Sandra E. Garcia, of the New York Times. Note that this was a decade ago. This is not a new term. It has only gained traction in recent years and has yet to be determined if it will stick.

Many folks in the BIPOC community believe that the term, though aware language is often developed by the dominant culture, and has been for centuries, allows solidarity, mutual support of many ethnic backgrounds, and opens conversations.

Language and words are powerful and affect all of those around you. Remember that it is important to have uncomfortable, respectable conversations, check your informational sources, and ask questions. It takes all of us for a better tomorrow.

Written By - 

JUNE READING LIST:

Minor Feelings-An Asian American Reckoning/Author: Cathy Park Hong

Between The World and Me/Author: Ta-Neshi Coates

We Too Sing America/Author: Deepa Iyer

The New Jim Crow/Author: Michelle Alexander

Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land/Author: Toni Jensen

You Sound Like A White Girl-The Case for Rejecting Assimilation/Author: Julissa Arce

