



**George Washington Carver Museum
and Cultural Center**
1165 Angelina St
Austin, TX, 78702



Carver Brochure



GEORGE WASHINGTON
CARVER
MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER



Museum History

Our history begins in the 1,896 square-foot building that housed Austin's first library, at the corner of Ninth and Guadalupe Streets. Built in 1926, this small, wood-framed structure was soon overwhelmed by the demands of its patrons. During this time, the citizens of East Austin, along with the American Association of University Women, began to petition the city about the need for a library in their community. As a result, when a larger central library facility was built in 1933, the original building was moved to its current location on Angelina Street and later resurfaced in brick veneer.



In its early years, the Angelina Street library was simply known as the "Colored Branch". In 1947, however, it was christened the George Washington Carver Branch Library in honor of the inventor and scientist who brought so much pride to African-Americans. For decades, the Carver Library served the Central-East Austin community, and its patronage and book collection grew steadily.

As patrons increased and space became limited, the need for a larger Carver Branch Library became apparent. Through the efforts of the Central-East Austin Citizens for a New Carver Branch, this issue continued to have a voice. In 1979 a new facility was completed directly adjacent to the original Carver Library.

As for the original building – the community imagined a museum and community center that would promote African-American history and achievement in Austin, Travis County, and beyond. On October 24, 1980, their vision became a reality. What was once Austin's first library, and what later became Austin's first branch library, opened its doors as the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, the first African-American neighborhood museum in of Texas.

In a 1998 bond election, the citizens of Austin voted to further expand both the Carver Museum & Cultural Center and the Carver Branch Library. Today, the museum is housed in a 36,000 square-foot facility that includes four galleries, a conference room, classroom, darkroom, dance studio, 134-seat theatre, and archival space. The galleries feature a core exhibit on Juneteenth, a permanent exhibit on Austin African-American families, an Artists' Gallery, and a children's exhibit on African-American scientists and inventors.

The museum is owned and operated by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, History Arts Nature Division.

The Carver Museum & Cultural Center is dedicated to the collection, preservation, research and exhibition of African American historical and cultural material reflecting all dimensions of experiences of persons of African descent living in Austin, Travis County, Texas and in the United States. The museum is a key source of information on the history and celebration of Juneteenth.



Permanent Exhibits

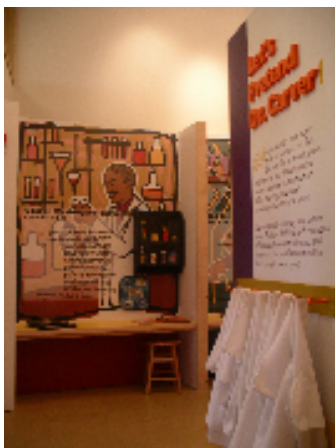


Juneteenth Gallery

A celebration of freedom, the Carver's core exhibit is dedicated to the history and evolution of Juneteenth. We are proud to be the first museum in the nation to feature a permanent exhibit honoring this Texas-born day of jubilee. Through a combination of visual and interactive activities, every day is Juneteenth at the Carver Museum!

Families Gallery

Our permanent exhibit on Austin African-American families highlights 10 families who have contributed greatly to the Central Texas landscape. From the area's first black settlements to some of this generation's strongest community leaders, this interactive gallery explores the history of Austin's African-American community and allows guests to present their own family stories for all to see.



Children's Gallery

The Children's Gallery, entitled *Let's Pretend Dr. Carver!*, is a hands-on look at famous African-American scientists and inventors. Children can learn about some of history's most creative minds while seeing that they, too, can achieve great things when they put their own minds to work. We invite all visitors to become an inventor for a day!

Programs



Museum in a Basket

Museum in a Basket is a history program offered to local schools and groups that visually conveys the story of the African-American. Its purpose is to foster an accurate understanding of our country's development and current culture, as influenced by past events. Each particular basket presents a different aspect of African-American history.

NOTE: This program is for small groups and is not recommended for school assemblies.



African-American Folktales

In this storytelling program, guest performers travel to schools and community groups to bring ethnic history and fables to life. The museum-sponsored artists recount tales of fantasy, mystery, heroes, and everyday life from many regions of Africa and the Americas.

NOTE: This program is offered to larger groups and school assemblies.



A Smile On My Face

SMILE, an 10-week program, is a series of 35mm photography and darkroom workshops for students ages 11-19. Participants focus on the art and science of photography in the Austin area while gaining an awareness of cultural pride. The program is offered free of charge, but space is limited and registration is required. Classes meet once a week, Parents please be prepared to stay before the first class for a small orientation. For more information, call 974-3651 or email danita.nelson@ci.austin.tx.us.

[SMILE Enrollment Form](#)



Broadway Bound Theatre Camp

Join youth from all over Austin this summer as we explore the possibilities of the performing arts. Students will not only have a great summer; they will also walk away from our camp having achieved a greater sense of self, poise, and confidence. Broadway Bound focuses on movement, voice, and the discipline it takes to pull off a successful performance. Registration begins in April. Broadway Bound is a 7 week camp, Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.— 5:30 p.m. Registrations will NOT be accepted before 10a.m., and the \$45 enrollment fee MUST accompany the registration form in order to guarantee your child's place in camp.

[Broadway Bound Theatre Camp Brochure](#)

[Broadway Bound Theatre Camp Registration Form](#)



Youth Arts Safari Spring Break and Summer Camp

Join youth from all over Austin for a creative adventure as we explore CREATIVITY through music, dance, arts, and crafts. Youth Arts Safari will allow students to use their imaginations– to create artworks, play the drums, and dance. Students will come away with a wonderful experience and a more creative outlook. Registration for Spring Break Camp begins in February, and registration for Summer Camp begins in April. Youth Arts Safari Spring Break is a 1 week camp, and YAS Summer Camp is a 3 week camp both run Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.— 5:30 p.m. Registrations will NOT be accepted before 10a.m., and the \$20 enrollment fee MUST accompany the registration form in order to guarantee your child's place in camp.

[Youth Arts Safari Brochure](#)

[Youth Arts Safari Camp Registration Form](#)

Rental Spaces

Boyd Vance Theatre

The Boyd Vance Theatre is a proscenium stage with stadium seating to fit 134 patrons, including seating for those who are mobility impaired. Our plush seating has served audiences for many different types of events, from city meetings to dance performances.

We have a full sound system, including Sennheiser microphones, compact disc player, cassette player, and a professional sound board. The theatre includes a full multimedia system including digital projection and the ability for surround sound. The technology includes a digital projector, slide projector, VCR and DVD players. The sound system is capable of connecting to compact disc player, DVD player, cassette player, MP3 players, and personal laptops.

The Boyd Vance theatre comes equipped with a computerized light board with an inventory of 101 instruments. Our instruments include 19 degree ellipsoids, 6" Fresnels, source 4 pars, scoops, followspots and cyclorama lights. The lighting system has the capacity of 200 dimmers.

The theatre includes a double counterweight system for flying scenery up and down to the stage. We have a maroon grand curtain, 4 black legs on either side, and a black traveler which can open and close. For screening, either our full screen, or the cyclorama screen can be used.

Backstage includes two full dressing rooms, complete with bathrooms and showers, and makeup counters. Outside the dressing rooms, there are also two makeup counters in the hallway. We also have a complete Clear-Com system.

The Boyd Vance Theatre is also adjacent to the dance studio which has its own sound system, mounted double barre, and a complete mirrored side, along with a permanent Marley dance floor.

[Boyd Vance Theatre Reservation Application](#)

Carver Museum Lobby "The Drum"

The Carver Museum and Cultural Center Lobby Serves as the grand entry to the museum. The lobby, affectionately referred to as "The Drum", is a wonderful open space designed to maximize natural light, perfect for receptions.

The drum has the capacity to seat 100 with banquet style seating and 250 as a standing reception space. To reserve the Lobby please complete and return the reservation packet, by clicking the link below, to the Carver Museum. The completed reservation packet may be faxed, e-mailed, or returned in person.

DEPOSIT: (refundable)

Your reservation is considered tentative until a deposit has been received and a reservation agreement has been signed. The reservation deposit converts to a clean-up and damage deposit.

Deposits will be returned upon final inspection of area used. If areas used are restored to original condition (reasonable wear and tear expected), clean and without damage and/or if the Renter does not use the facility beyond the hours agreed to in the reservation agreement, the deposit will be returned in full. The deposit will be mailed from the City of Austin to the Renter who signed the Reservation Agreement. Please, allow 6-8 weeks to be received.

Facility rental fees shall be paid in full 60 days prior to the date of first scheduled use. Should the reservation be made within 60 days before the first scheduled use date the deposit and facility rental fees shall be due at the same time.

For reservation information please contact Para Agboga at 512-974-3660

[Carver Museum Lobby "The Drum" Reservation Application](#)

Room Information

Thank you for your interest in reserving a room at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center. We look forward to hosting your group, and hope that everyone enjoys their time in our new facility. To ensure that your reservation process runs as smoothly as possible, please review the information and guidelines below prior to scheduling your meeting.

Rates & Scheduling

Meeting rooms at the Carver Museum are offered free of charge and on a first-come, first-served basis. Rooms are only available during our normal business hours, and can be reserved no more than **one month** in advance from the date of your call. To reserve a room, please contact the museum staff at (512) 974-4926 with the following information:

- Desired Date, Time, and Room for Meeting
 - Name of Organization (School, Adult Group, Church, etc.)
 - Number of People in Group
- Contact Name, Phone Number, and Email Address

Room Information

The following rooms are available to reserve at the Carver Museum:

Room Name	Capacity	Food Allowed?
Onie B. Conley Conference Room	12 - 15	No
Classroom	25 - 30	Yes
Orientation Room	5 - 6	Yes

Rules / Policies

Rooms are only available for meetings and programs that **DO NOT** charge a registration and/or entrance fee. If you would like to schedule a meeting or class that requires fees, you must apply with the City of Austin to do so. Please call the museum staff at (512) 974-4926 for more information.

Food and drink is only allowed in the rooms designated above, and is not permitted in any other area of the museum. Upon your arrival, the primary contact person will sign in at the front desk. At the conclusion of your meeting, please ensure that guests return the room to its original condition (tables and chairs put back in order, dry-erase boards cleaned, trashed removed, etc.), and sign out at the front desk.

Occasionally, programs of both the Carver Museum and the City of Austin may need meeting rooms on short notice. These programs take precedent over all other scheduled meetings. In the event that this conflicts with your reservation, your meeting may be relocated to a different room or you may be asked to re-schedule. Should this happen, the museum staff will make every attempt to contact you in advance, explain the situation, and discuss a resolution.

Dance Studio Reservations

If you would like to reserve the Carver Museum's Dance Studio for rehearsal or practice time, please contact the museum staff at (512) 974-4926.

Parking

Parking is readily available in front of the museum along Angelina Street, and there is also a parking lot on the north side of the building. There is no charge for parking in the museum lot.

Re-Scheduling / Cancellation

Should you need to change or cancel your reservation, please contact the museum at least two days in advance of your scheduled meeting.

Group Tours

Thank you for your interest in a guided tour at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center. We look forward to hosting your group, and hope that everyone enjoys their time in our new facility. To ensure that your tour proceeds as smoothly as possible, please review the information and guidelines below prior to scheduling your visit.

Rates & Scheduling

Guided tours of the Carver Museum are free of charge. To schedule a tour, please contact the museum staff at (512) 974-4926 and have the following information available:

- Desired Tour Date and Time
- Name of Organization (School, Adult Group, Church, etc.)
- Number of People in Group (please see “Group Size” below for more information)
- Average Age or Grade Level of Group
- Contact Name, Phone Number, and Email Address

NOTE: Two weeks notice in advance is preferred for scheduling tours.

Time & Duration

Tours are offered at the following times and are available on a first come, first served basis:

Monday – Friday:	Every hour from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday:	No Guided Tours Offered
Sunday:	Museum Closed

Though tour duration may vary based on group size, the average tour length is 45 minutes.

Group Size

The Carver Museum welcomes groups of all sizes. However, due to limited space, tours are guided through the main gallery in groups of up to 50 at a time, and through the children’s gallery in groups of up to 20 at a time. If your group size exceeds these amounts, **please arrive at the museum prepared to form smaller groups and tour the facility one group at a time.** Those not in the galleries may wait outside the front entrance or in the main lobby.

Chaperones

Students and children must remain with a chaperone at all times. For groups of students and children, please observe the following adult to child ratios:

School Type and/or Average Age	Adult to Child Ratio
elementary school (ages 11 and younger)	one adult for every five students
middle school and high school (ages 12 and older)	one adult for every ten students
special needs students	one adult for every five students

Rules / Behavior

Prior to your visit, please educate all members of your group (especially children) on the following rules of behavior:

- No gum, candy, or other outside food or drink is allowed in the museum.
- No running, pushing, shouting, or other horseplay is allowed.
- Visitors may touch only those interactive exhibits that are labeled accordingly.

Photography is NOT allowed in the museum gallery, but is okay in the main lobby.

Facilities

There is no outside food or drink allowed in the museum. If your group would like to bring a lunch to eat before or after their tour, there are picnic areas and playground equipment available for use in Kealing Park directly behind the building. Restrooms are available only for visitors of the museum, and **children must be accompanied to the restroom by an adult.** For school groups, please allow students restroom time PRIOR to arriving to avoid long lines.

Parking

Buses and other vehicles may load and unload groups in front of the main entrance on Angelina Street; however, vehicles should be parked in the museum lot on the north side of the building. There is no charge for parking in the museum lot.

Re-Scheduling / Cancellation

Should you need to change or cancel your reservation, please contact the museum at least two days in advance of your scheduled tour. For groups larger than 50, three days advance notice is preferred.

Volunteers

The Carver Museum welcomes all individuals and groups interested in volunteering. Whether it be escorting visitors through our galleries, assisting at an event, or just helping out around the offices, your time and support will help make the Carver Museum an even greater success!

If you would like to become a volunteer, complete an application by clicking the link at the bottom. Applications can be e-mailed back to the Carver Museum or returned to the front desk.

Willing workers must attend orientation, complete a volunteer application, participate in an interview, and complete the initial training session prior to assignment. Each volunteer is asked to commit to at least one three (3)-hour shift every month. We accept applications throughout the year. For more information please contact Danita Nelson at 974-3651. [Volunteer Application](#)

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Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Kimberly A. McNeeley, Assistant Director
Kelly F. Snook, ASLA, Assistant Director
Cora D. Wright, Assistant Director

Mission

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.

REC Principles - Program Determinants - Childcare Standards Ordinance



<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks>

The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call 974-4926