



Ebony Road
Players



GRAND RAPIDS
Children's
MUSEUM



Be curious.
GRAND
RAPIDS
PUBLIC
MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2024

CONTACT:

Dustin Tyler, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations
616.929.1724; dtyler@grpm.org

IMAGES:

[Click to view](#)

West Michigan to Celebrate Loving Day with Community Programming and Family Activities

On June 15, 2024, in downtown Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids, MI - The West Michigan community is coming together in honor of Loving Day which celebrates the Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia (1967). This landmark decision struck down all state laws against interracial marriage in the United States.

The day will begin with a family-oriented celebration “Faces of Family”, hosted by Ebony Road Players and the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum (GRCM). “Faces of Family” takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the GRCM, and features free outdoor activities and more inside with GRCM admission.

Just around the corner from the Children’s Museum at Fountain Street Church, attendees will have the opportunity to listen to a GR Stories panel discussion titled “A June Wedding in Grand Rapids; Celebrating the Humanity of Love,” featuring Grand Rapids families whose relationships were legally affirmed by Loving v. Virginia. Panelists will share personal stories of challenges, acceptance, love, community, and how their unions have made Grand Rapids the city it is today. Panelists include Juan and Mary Olivarez, Ruth and Carl Kelly, Edye Evans and Mike Hyde, and Arick Davis and Sarah Laman-Davis. Fountain Street Church Chaplain, Margie Derks Peterson, will moderate the discussion.

“A June Wedding in Grand Rapids” is part two in a three-part GR Stories series “The 14th Amendment: Learning, Living, and Loving in Grand Rapids.” GR Stories is an ongoing series hosted by the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) showcasing the rich history and contributions of communities in the Greater Grand Rapids area. The panel discussion will begin at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a reception until 6 p.m. with light refreshments and wedding cake.

The GR Stories panel discussion is free to the public, but advanced registration is recommended. Visit www.grpm.org/gr-stories/ to register.

Later this Summer, the GR Stories series will delve into “Living” in Grand Rapids with “Shelley v. Kramer and the Fair Housing Act” in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Museum, shedding light on fair housing and civil rights advocacy.

This three-part series is presented in partnership with Fountain Street Church, the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives, the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Kent District Library, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.

Ebony Road Players

Now in their ninth year celebrating Loving Day in West Michigan, Ebony Road Players is a Grand Rapids theater company whose mission is to inspire, educate and engage the cultures of our community with high-quality theater productions focused on the Black experience. Ebony Road Players strives to bring together all facets of the Grand Rapids community through theater arts education, producing plays by renowned Black playwrights, and community-based works that tell the histories and stories of underrepresented people in our community and beyond. The West Michigan Loving Day: Faces of Family celebrates multicultural and multiracial families in our community.

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

The Grand Rapids Children's Museum is open to the public during the school year on Tuesdays, Friday, and Saturdays from 9am-4pm, Thursday from 9am-7pm, and Sunday from noon-4pm. Regular admission is \$12.00 per person and \$11.00 for ages 65+. Admission for teachers, healthcare and frontline workers, and active military members is \$10.00. Admission is \$6 per person on Thursdays during Family Night from 4-7pm. During the summer (June 1-August 30), the Grand Rapids Children's Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday from 11am-4pm. Through Museums for All, admission for EBT and WIC cardholders is \$1.75 per person for up to 12 people per card. GRCM members and children under 1 are free! GRCM is a non-profit organization located at 11 Sheldon Avenue NE in downtown Grand Rapids. For more information and daily schedule of programming and events, please visit grcm.org.

About GR Stories

GR Stories is an ongoing series hosted by the Grand Rapids Public Museum showcasing authentic stories from within the community. Created to dive deeper into the local community, GR Stories takes us throughout Greater Grand Rapids to hear from the people themselves, sharing their rich history and contributions to the area. These programs are bridges being built to better understand one another. As part of these programs, the Museum is actively collecting the stories and artifacts of our diverse community in the Collections.

Grand Rapids Public Museum

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is a 170-year-old, publicly-owned institution home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond. Funded in part by Kent County taxpayers through a 10-year millage (2016), the Grand Rapids Public Museum offers three floors of exhibits, the region's only planetarium, extensive educational offerings, and protection of The Mounds, a National Historic Landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its primary location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees including Kent County discounts, and exhibit/event listings, visit grpm.org.

###