



Media Contact: Ebony Easley
Direct Phone: 918-858-2370
Email: eeasley@ywcatusla.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YWCA TULSA STAND AGAINST RACISM 2021: FROM DECLARATIONS TO CHANGE ADDRESSING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Tulsa, OK – This year YWCA Tulsa will host a week of community-centered events dedicated to uplifting YWCA USA annual Stand Against Racism campaign. Stand Against Racism takes place annually in April and is a signature campaign of YWCA USA to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities and to build community among those who work for racial justice. This year, our Stand Against Racism Campaign theme is titled “From Declarations to Change: Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis.” YWCA Tulsa seeks to build a space for Tulsans passionate about uplifting the Tulsa community from racial disparities.

"Our goal with this year's Stand Against Racism events is to raise awareness about the ways that racism can impact our community health -- through food security, access to healthcare, and navigating the complex systems tied to our health." - Julie Davis, YWCA Tulsa CEO

The week of events consists of multiple opportunities for community members to connect to tangible way to help stand against racism and understand how the economic and social determinants of health can be impacted by racism. All events are free and open to the public.

2021 YWCA Tulsa Stand Against Racism Week Announced

Beginning **April 22, 2021**, the Community Healthcare Enrollment Assistance event will be an opportunity for community members to enroll in health care coverage and receive assistance from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the **YWCA Tulsa East Community Center** located at **8145 E 17th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74112**. Bilingual Blue Cross Blue Shield representatives will be present to provide education or assistance to anyone with questions or concerns about how to qualify and enroll in affordable health care coverage.

On **April 23, 2021** Moving Meditation – Healing Space for BIPOC Trauma will take place from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park. This restorative yoga series will be designed to help relieve BIPOC trauma rooted in decolonizing the stigmas around yoga practices and empowering a healing journey triggered by racial trauma.

On **April 24, 2021** we will host our virtual Women’s Health Panel; Addressing Systemic Racism in Healthcare is from **3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This opportunity will provide education to individuals about health advocacy, financial empowerment, racism as a social determinant, healthy food access, and some educational resources for how to be successful in a climate with no options. Confirmed panelists; Dr. Leah Upton -- Medical Director for Community Health Connection, Krystal Reyes (CFO of City of Tulsa), Eunice Tarver (VP TCC Student Success and Equity), and Sherry Laskey (Community Health Empowerment Program)

The last and final event for the week will **April 25, 2021**, the Food Daze; A Fresh Produce Drive-Thru Event in partnership with the Met Cares Foundation & EduRec Tulsa will be an opportunity for anyone in need of fresh produce, groceries, and healthy food options to anyone in need. The healthy produce is provided by R&G Family Grocer and distribution will be from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at Hawthorne Elementary (1105 E 33rd St N, Tulsa, OK 74106) and YWCA Tulsa East Community Center (8145 E 17th St, Tulsa, OK 74112).

By investing in marginalized communities, empowering people of color, and expanding public resources, we can challenge centuries of unfair social, economic, and political systems which contribute to inequity. **Public health** is, and always has been, central to **racial justice work**. This year our theme is especially pertinent as our nation continues to face the intersecting public health crises of COVID-19 and racism and we are calling on all Tulsans to help us improve access to essential resources. To RSVP for any of these events [click here](#).

To learn more about these events or about YWCA Tulsa, visit www.ywcatulsa.org. You can also Like us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/YWCATulsa](https://www.facebook.com/YWCATulsa)) or follow us on Instagram ([@ywcatulsa](https://www.instagram.com/ywcatulsa))