



WEEKLY UPDATE – Sept. 21

The Cultural Centers

The **Cultural Centers** serve as outlets for student-run programs to explore social issues and identity. The centers bring students together to increase their understanding and embrace their roles, as members of a diverse community on local and global levels. Their programs explore race, ethnicity, class, and culture-based topics through creative and engaging dialogues and workshops. Programs include Lyricist Lounge, Community Meetups, Common Ground Series, and Media Series. Check out the two events mentioned below and register to receive the Zoom link. **Learn more about their online programs and events this semester »**

Cafe International

Cafe International is a community space for international students to make friends and learn to live in the multicultural USF campus. It often features representatives from university departments and student organizations who share information about academic life, career development, campus resources, and student activities, as well as cultures and identities represented by our international students. This semester, these events will take place every second and fourth Sunday of the month from 7–8 p.m. PDT. **Register for an event »**



Womxn of Color Meetup

This semester, the Cultural Centers will host a Womxn of Color meetup. This series offers a safe space and empowering community for Womxn of Color students to build connections and support and learn from one another. They take place on Wednesday

evenings at 5:30–6:30 p.m. PDT (Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 11). **Register for an event »**

Black Lives Matter Movement

If you are in the US, or even from news abroad, you have probably heard of the **Black Lives Matter (BLM)** movement. The BLM movement began in 2013 in response to a specific incident where a US court ruled in favor of a white man who had murdered a black youth in Florida. This incident highlighted social injustices that exist in American society and are rooted in hundreds of years of oppression and racism. Although many Black leaders and groups have challenged these injustices, the Black Lives Matter movement has brought new light in the last seven years to this reality of American society.



Protests and Safety: The momentum behind the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement is strong and it is a pivotal time in US society. We encourage our international students to learn about and support this movement but we also want you to be safe. If you do attend a protest or happen upon one, be aware of your surroundings. Although most protests and protesters are peaceful, some have turned violent usually later in the evening. Students should avoid protests where conflict is present, and where police and protestors are clashing. Encounters with US law enforcement can impact your immigration status. ISSS supports you in voicing your opinions and standing in solidarity with one another, but stay safe!

BLM Resources and Further Learning

It's important to engage in further learning surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-Black racism in the United States. See below for opportunities to get started or continue on your learning journey. Some media recommendations include: Netflix show, *Dear White People* (Justin Simien), Netflix film, *13th* (Ava DuVernay), or *New York Times'* podcast, *1619*. Additionally, **University Ministry** and the Mission Council have compiled **resources for racial justice education, prayer, and reflection**. We encourage international students to engage with these topics as BLM is a powerful and pivotal social movement in US society.



A Matter of Liberation: Artwork from Prison Renaissance

Curated by Antwan “Banks” Williams, A Matter of Liberation presents artists Emile DeWeaver, Eddie Herena, Sara J. Kruzan, Jason Perry, Orlando Smith, and Antwan “Banks” Williams answering the question, “What does liberation mean to you?” Through paintings, drawings, photography, collage, spoken word, and dance, these artists reveal the ways in which the pursuit for liberation unites us all. **Visit the exhibition online »**



Gleeson Library Resources

Gleeson Library staff has collected online materials for the USF community to engage with anti-racism and social justice. This guide offers a selection of USF resources which can support learning about racial justice and allyship, processing uncomfortable feelings, or finding community. The resources will continue to be updated as the library sources and purchases additional content. **View a full list of library resources »**

ISSS OFFICE RESOURCES

Requesting a document from ISSS?

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we request **ten business days** to process requests. Make sure you plan accordingly so you have enough time to receive your document before you need it. **You can also make some document requests through online submission.**

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the **ISSS website** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 30-minute increments.

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