

City of Dallas News Release

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For Immediate Release
May 13, 2008

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Africa Day at the Dallas Public Library part of African Unity Festival; *The June 1 event will involve 24 local African cultural organizations*

Dallas, TX - Dallas – The DFW International Community Alliance and the Dallas Public Library will hold the region's first Africa Day on Sunday, June 1. The free festival will be held at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St. from 1 and 5pm, and will include participation by 24 local African cultural organizations.

Africa Day is one of three events in the African Unity Festival; the first north Texas celebration to spotlight New Americans from the continent of Africa, and is sponsored by the Embrey Family Foundation and DFW International Community Alliance. The three elements forming the festival are the African Unity Cup at UT Dallas May 31; and Africa Day June 1 at the Dallas Central Library; followed by the Taste of Africa Food Festival at Southern Methodist University (SMU).

Interactive workshops on Africa Day will include drumming and dance workshops from Ethiopia, Ghana, Eritrea and Morocco; a wedding ceremony from Sierra Leone; capoeira (martial arts / dance by Africans in the diaspora); name ceremony by African tribal elders, and African Safari Quest. Henna (Sudan, Eritrea, Morocco), jewelry (Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), raffia doll-making (Sierra Leone), basketmaking (Ethiopia), weaving (Ghana) and masks (Gambia) will be the themes of free craft workshops. Educational booths from 15 countries will offer insights into African culture and the 150,000 African-born residents of North Texas.

"I'm honored to invite you to this historic event," said African Unity Festival Co-Chair Florence Coker-Campbell. "Join us in creating awareness of Africans in the metroplex. The beauty of Mother Africa lies in the strength of her people: her people's strength lies in Africa's unity."

The DFW Unity Cup is a six week long soccer tournament with the Third Place and Championship games at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 31st at the UT Dallas Soccer Field in Richardson. Tickets for the games are \$5 and are available at the door. Children under 10 are free.

- **Sunday, June 1**, 1 to 5 p.m., Africa Day at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library will include interactive workshops for children, African arts and crafts and cultural booths. Free.
- **Sunday, June 1**, 6:30 p.m., Taste of Africa Food Festival and Cultural Evening at the SMU Hughes-Trigg Student Center. The evening will include dishes from 12 African countries, cultural displays, Parade of Nations and DFW Africa Unity Cup awards. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 10; children under 5 free. Tickets are available at the door or online at <http://www.dfwinternational.org/AfricanUnity/>.

An event flier can be downloaded at www.dfwinternational.org/AfricanUnity. North Texan African communities participating in the events include: Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda.

DFW International Community Alliance is the portal for global North Texas, a network of 1,600 of the regions ethnic and internationally-focused civic, community and educational organizations. Its mission is to build mutual understanding and respect by linking diverse international cultural communities. The organization promotes and links North Texas global groups through its website and cultural calendar at <http://www.dfwinternational.org/>. For more details about DFW International Community Alliance, see the media page [HERE](#) or call (972) 661-2764.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, visit: www.dallaslibrary.org.

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