

City of Dallas News Release

Public Information Office

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For more information contact:
Ronnie Jessie – Dallas Public Library
(214) 671-8076

African Unity Festival includes Africa Day at the Central Library; *The May 2 event will feature interactive workshops for children, plus African arts and crafts*

Dallas, TX – The DFW International Community Alliance will present *Africa Day* as part of the second annual African Unity Festival, from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 2 at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public and will include participation by 24 local African cultural organizations.

“We are excited about our continued partnership with DFW International Community Alliance and the opportunity to host Africa Day as part of the African Unity Festival,” said Dallas Public Library Multicultural Programs Administrator Ronnie Jessie. “This event brings a wealth of experience from the African culture and supports the library’s efforts to showcase and celebrate the multiculturalism that exists in our community and the world.”

Booths from 13 countries will offer insights into African culture and the 150,000 African-born residents of North Texas. Interactive activities and workshops will include:

- Interactive drumming and dance workshops from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Eritrea and Morocco
- Wedding ceremony from Sierra Leone
- Name writing in Tigrena, Amharic, Arabic, Egyptian Hieroglyphics
- Traditional games: balaburo (Eritrea), awale (Ivory Coast) Iodo (Sierra Leone), capoeira (martial arts / dance by Africans in the Diaspora)
- Name ceremony by African tribal elders from Nigeria
- Craft workshops: Henna (Sudan, Eritrea, Morocco), jewelry (Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), raffia doll making (Sierra Leone), basket making (Ethiopia), weaving (Ghana) and masks (Gambia)

North Texan African communities participating in the different events include: Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, 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. For more information go to www.dfwinternational.org.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 26 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.