

PRESS RELEASE

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF MADISON, INC

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AFRICA FEST 2009

A festival of African Folklife

Madison, Wisconsin — Individuals, institutions and organizations interested in African culture will want to attend **AFRICA FEST 2009**. The African Association of Madison, Inc., in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin - Madison African Studies Program and the Urban League of Greater Dane County will produce **AFRICA FEST 2009** scheduled for **Saturday, August 15, 2009** from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Warner Park in Madison, Wisconsin.

Under the theme "Fulfillment of the Diaspora," **AFRICA FEST 2009** is a community-based cultural and educational event devoted to grassroots cultural heritage. The festival is open and free to the public. The diverse audience expected from in and around the Dane County will consist of children, students, and members of academia, news media, arts enthusiasts and other members of the Madison community and its environs who are interested in learning about the rich cultures of Africa from Africans.

Featured performers include Jam-Ak-Jam Troupe from Senegal, WADOMA, Nigerian and Cameroonian dancers; traditional dance and music, hair braiding demonstrations, African apparel and fashion parade, cooking demonstrations, craft and fashion vendors, wood-carving demonstrations, food vendors and exhibits about Africa.

The African Village Tour, which is perfect in the park, will bring alive a physical representation of a real African village. Themes of African traditional life will be re-enacted in the village, including libations, naming ceremonies, masquerade dances and marriage ceremonies.

The African Association of Madison, Inc., founded in 1991 is a federally recognized non-profit organization. The association serves as a forum to unite in purpose and bring together people of African descent and friends of Africa in Madison and its vicinities. The Association seeks to safeguard and share the diverse heritage and traditions inherent in the rich cultures of Africa with the Wisconsin community. To achieve these goals, the Association is organizing **AFRICA FEST 2009** as an opportunity for the community to learn about African culture and traditions directly from Africans.