

MEDIA ALERT

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The 28th Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland – The Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival will return to the Annapolis City Dock for another exciting year of cultural celebration on Saturday, September 23, 2017, 10:00am - 7:00pm. The festival is a free event for all ages to enjoy live performances, world foods and artisan vendors, as well as heritage and history. The festival continues to be an occasion for people from all walks of life to come together and celebrate cultural heritage.

Highlights of the festival are:

- Opening of the festival with libations ceremony to honor the ancestors
- Live music and dance performances all throughout the day on the Maryland Live! Main Stage, featuring West African dance company Keur Khaleyi, Clones of Funk, BlaqueStone, and Davonne D'Neil
- More world food vendors, arts & crafts vendors, and education & community vendors than last year

New to the festival this year:

- Community Stage featuring community and educational performers and speakers sponsored by Anne Arundel Community College
- Children's Activity Tent sponsored by Chesapeake Children's Museum featuring a petting zoo of goats and chickens
- Festival merchandise featuring the art of the renowned Maryland-based artist Larry "Poncho" Brown - "Behold"

Free parking can be found at the Calvert Street Garage at 19 St. Johns Street, Annapolis, MD.

Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization responsible for organizing the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival. The original Kunta Kinte Celebration was held in September 1987 and it has grown over the years into a celebration attended by thousands of festival-goers.

For more information, please visit www.kuntakinte.org.

History of Kunta Kinte

In 1767, Kunta Kinte was brought aboard the ship Lord Ligonier from The Gambia in West Africa to the Annapolis city dock to be sold into slavery. This legendary character is known from Alex Haley's best-selling novel *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* and the recent History Channel remake, *Roots* (television mini-series). Kunta Kinte never lost his connection to his African heritage despite many years in bondage. Kunta Kinte's experience symbolizes the struggle of all ethnic groups to preserve their cultural identity.

28th Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival
Susan Campbell Park (Annapolis City Dock) - Annapolis, MD 21401
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017
Time: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Admission: Free

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