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12th Annual African Diaspora Dance & Drum Festival of Florida

September 6, 2021 | Informative

by Tiffany Rigby and Alanna Burwell





Drum Festival of Florida

Production Circles

By Tiffany Rigby
and Alanna Burwell

Delou Africa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to African heritage and arts education celebrated its 12th annual African Diaspora Dance & Drum Festival of Florida. The weekend-long festival displayed African culture through fashion, dance, food, workshops and yoga.

Members of the West African arts diaspora from throughout the U.S. met up at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex and attended the festival that included over 20 dance and drum workshops taught by renowned artists who hail from Haiti, Congo, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Guinea and other countries. Workshops were available in-person and online for everyone to enjoy.



Funmilayo Chesney showing the band the virtual students taking the class

The dance workshops were very interactive. Each dance class had a live band while everyone danced to the rhythm of the drums. In the middle of the room women practicing traditional dances could be seen while men were off to the left side of the room providing the rhythm that flowed with the dance moves.

There were vendors selling traditional African clothing, jewelry and food so you got to take home a piece of your experience with you that night. [Real Treat](#) provided amazing meals like jerk chicken. [Queen of the Marketplace](#) displayed waist beads of all colors with spiritual meanings and gave the run down on each meaning.



Traditional African Clothing

Anita Macbeth of [Anita's Creative Expressions](#) provided handmade clothing and jewelry. Anita Macbeth emphasized why the teachings of the African Diaspora are so important. "This festival is important so people can learn the different techniques of African cultural and traditional dance," said Ms. Macbeth. Delou Africa's dedication to its mission really showed during this festival to "*Bridge Cultural & Communal Gaps*" by expanding the knowledge base of the community through a variety of program components for the entire family to enjoy."

Text format...

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