

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
John C. Egan, COMMISSIONER

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AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY DAY COMES TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

Popular Local Celebration of Cultural Diversity to Feature the Chi-Lites and More

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner John C. Egan announced that the 2009 African American Family Day, with the theme "Celebrating the African Diaspora," will take place on Saturday, August 1st, from noon until 7:00 p.m. at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York.

The second biggest program in OGS' "Summer At The Plaza" series, the event is being produced collaboratively with multiple state agencies, corporate sponsors, and more than 110 Capital Region community partners. Key sponsors include State Farm Insurance, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Fidelis Care, Child Health Plus, JAMZ 96.3, CBS 6, Crowne Plaza, Lang Media, Price Chopper, Times Union, Total Events, and the City of Albany.

"Each year, we all come together to honor families in the Capital District. OGS is delighted to provide a place for the community to salute African American culture," said OGS Commissioner Egan. "The overwhelming community and family spirit that permeates the day reminds us why Governor David Paterson and OGS remain committed to making events like this happen, even when everyone's budget is tight."

African American Family Day serves as a public educational forum about the countless past and present contributions of African Americans in the areas of art, drama, dance, and music. The Five Community Principles of family, love, peace, respect, and unity form a common thread running through the entire festival. In keeping with this year's theme, children and adults attending will be able to explore a cultural village, presented by the Hamilton Hill Arts Center of Schenectady, that will tell the story of how people of African descent, although scattered across the globe, have managed to retain their cultural traditions.

With programming on four different stages, the day will be packed with more live entertainment than ever. The Chi-Lites, known for their legendary hits such as "Oh Girl" and "Have You Seen Her," is the headline group. Among many other

outstanding performers will be local gospel recording artist Geri Howard Dewitt, Stage Left playing jazz, Shaun H. Mykals performing hip-hop soul music, and the Harlem Jazzmobile with the incomparable trumpeter Jimmy Owens. Jazzmobile is one of the nation's premiere not-for-profit arts organizations promoting the preservation and presentation of jazz. Following each set, Owens will be available to talk with the audience. OGS also welcomes local musicians to bring along their own instruments to participate in a community acoustic jam session.

Additional crowd-engaging events are an electric slide dance line, which organizers hope will set a record for participation, and the all-new Urban Fairy Tales, to be presented by the Capital District YMCA Black and Latino Achievers and Too Deep Entertainment.

Courtesy of the New York State Museum, a replica of the historic Emancipation Proclamation will be on display, along with a long-term public exhibit entitled "Black Capital: Harlem in the 20s." The New York State Library will present "Practical Field Tools for Locating African Ancestors in the Americas: Methods, Tips, Tools, and Habits for Afro-American Genealogy," with genealogist Aaron Mair.

The complete African American Family Day program schedule is attached. For more information, call the OGS Special Events Office at 1-(877) 659-4ESP or visit www.empirestateplaza.org.

The final event in the Summer At The Plaza series will be the Hannaford Hispanic Heritage Celebration, scheduled for Saturday, September 19, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2009 African American Family Day Program Schedule
(last updated 7/29/09)

MAIN STAGE Noon – 7pm

Noon	Welcoming Remarks Blessing – Rev. Macklin Anthem – Arielle Patterson-King
12:15	Capital District YMCA Black and Latino Achievers and Too Deep Entertainment Present: Urban Fairy Tales
1:00	Metropolitan Baptist Church Youth and Young Adult Choir
1:15	Geri Howard Dewitt
2:00	OGS Announcements and Remarks
2:15	Gomni African Drumming
3:00	Shaun Mykals
3:45	Stage Left
5:15	The Chi-Lites
6:45	Electric Slide
7:00	Program Concludes

GOSPEL STAGE Noon – 5pm

Noon	Welcoming Remarks by OGS and Sponsors
12:10	Gospel Open Mike
1:00	Donald Hyman's Dramatic Portrayal of Thomas Dorsey
1:20	Community Praise Dancers, Liturgical Dance
1:40	Lucy Taylor, Liturgical Dance, United Ordained Church of God and Christ
2:00	Arthur Danzy, National Recording Artist
2:20	Cheyenne Clark, World Harvest Family Center
2:40	Var-Da Allstar, World Harvest Family Worship Center
3:00	Male Chorus, Duryee A.M.E. Zion Church, Schenectady
3:20	Emmanuel and Friends, Various Capital District Churches
3:40	"God's Anointed" Musical Ensemble, Various Capital District Churches
4:00	Male Chorus, Mount Olive Southern Missionary Baptist Church
4:20	Voices of Faith, Macedonia Baptist Church
4:40	Male Chorus, Metropolitan New Testament Baptist Church
5:00	Stage Closed

COMMUNITY KIDS AND TEEN STAGE Noon – 7pm

Noon	Welcoming Remarks by OGS and Frank Chapman Memorial Institute, Inc.
12:05	Negro National Anthem
1:00	Double Dutch Showcase
1:15	Frank Chapman Summer Camps, Various Dance Crews
2:15	Kids with a Dream, Hip Hop Dance Presentation
2:25	2 Hot 4 You, Hip Hop Dance Presentation
2:35	Poetry Session
2:50	Laurie Ann Dancers
3:00	OGS Announcement Community Moment – Mark Bobb-Semple, Albany YMCA
3:10	Moment of Fame and Soultry Poetry (Open Performance Time)
3:35	Fransceca Ortiz, Musical Presentation
3:45	Pacman Finest, Dance Troupe
3:55	Hot G'z Featuring Jay O and K-Wise, Empire State Records
4:00	Community Moment – Justice Helena Heath Roland

4:05 Art Partners, Dance Presentation
4:15 Teen Esteem, Dance and Musical Presentations
4:25 Mattie Allen, Hip Hop Presentation in Tribute to Michael Jackson
4:35 Sylvester Rivers, Saxophonist
4:45 No Turning Back
4:55 Community Moment – Ron Cook Barrett, City of Albany Gang Prevention
5:00 Let's Get It In, Dance Presentation
5:05 Rits and Ethan Moore, Big Face Entertainment
5:15 J. Master, 518 Positive Reinforcement, Inc.
5:30 Shaun Mykals
6:30 Stage Closed

JAZZMOBILE AND ACOUSTIC JAM SESSION 12:30pm – 5pm

12:30 Welcome – Jazzmobile
12:45 Jimmy Owens
1:30 Q & A Period
1:45 Open Jam Session with Gomni African Drumming
3:00 Jimmy Owens
3:30 Q & A Period
4:00 Jam Session Begins
5:00 Jam Session Concludes