




\*\*\* GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS


# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## A Decade of Service to the African Community

Tuesday, September 27, 2016  
Doors: 5:30pm



**Lincoln Theatre**  
1215 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009





# Proclamation



## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2016

WHEREAS, September is recognized as African Heritage Month to commemorate African Union Day on September 9 which celebrates the anniversary of the signing of one of the founding documents of the African Union, the Sirte Declaration; and



WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to numerous African businesses, over 16,000 residents and families who represent diverse cultures, linguistic and religious backgrounds that enrich the cultural fabric of our cosmopolitan global city; and

WHEREAS, Africans in the District, through their high educational attainment and strong entrepreneurial drive, have contributed significantly to the economic diversity and social vitality of the city, particularly in business, health, and service sectors; and

WHEREAS, African Heritage Month is an opportunity to increase awareness among the broader community and government organizations about key issues and priorities within the African community; namely healthcare access, business development, language access, institutional capacity building, and the need for collecting disaggregated demographic data;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim September 2016 in Washington, DC, as "AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH".





### Recipients 2016



### Note of Welcome

On behalf of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA), it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 10th Year Anniversary Celebration, marking a decade of service to the District African community. We are keenly aware of the responsibilities that come with serving a culturally and linguistically diverse community.

We are a part of a rich legacy and take pride in our strong and vibrant contributions to this great city.

As we reflect on our tenth year, we count the following among our recent accomplishments directly connected to Mayor Bowser's key policy priorities: establishment of the African Liaison Unit within the Metropolitan Police Department to help address the public safety needs of Africans; production and screening of the *Diaspora in Dialogue* film series in partnership with the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment, with the aim of increasing awareness of the District's African community and promote dialogue; launching the first-of-its-kind, EKO | African Diaspora Coding Academy, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer to provide web and mobile application training to over 120 African residents; and launching our inaugural Young African Connections Summit and the Mandela Day of Service, commemorating Mandela's legacy with 67 minutes of public service.

These highlights are extensions of our six program areas, namely Constituent Services, Outreach and Engagement, Capacity Building, the African Community Grant Program, Multicultural Awareness, and Youth Engagement.

We are very excited about Mayor Bowser's vision for the District which we support through partnership and collaboration with District agencies, community-based organizations and residents. We encourage you to continue to engage the Mayor's Office on African Affairs and the Commission on African Affairs through our various programs and activities.

Mamadou Samba

Executive Director,  
Mayor's Office on African Affairs

**Advocacy Award:** **Menna Demessie**, Ph.D., serves as the Vice President of Policy Analysis and Research at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and leads the foundation's policy initiatives. In 2013, Dr. Demessie established the DC African Coalition with likeminded advocates, successfully lobbying the DC City Council to authorize its first-ever grant making authority for the Mayor's Office on African Affairs. Dr. Demessie is an advisory board member for the Diaspora African Women's Network.



**Public Service Award:** **Mwiza Munthali** is a Malawian-born activist and specialist in Africa and African Diaspora affairs. He is the host of *Africa Now*, on Washington DC's Pacifica Station WPFW 89.3FM radio. He is also the co-founder and co-director of the Africa World Now Project (AWNP) and is co-host and co-producer of Africa World Now Project Radio from the studio of WSNC 90.5 on the campus of Winston Salem State University.



**Cultural Education & Arts Award:** **Gathoni Kamau** currently serves as the Community Outreach Specialist for Education at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art. Over the past years, she's partnered with MOAA on strengthening relationships with the African community and increasing awareness of African arts and culture in the District.



**Youth Leadership Award: Young African Professionals' (YAP's)** mission is to connect young African professionals and harness the intellectual wealth of the African Diaspora for career development and opportunity creation. YAP is a network of more than 10,000 young African professionals in the DC Metro area, which provides a forum for professionals interested in Africa to engage with contemporary leaders in business, technology, philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.



**Special Recognition Award:** **Henok Tesfaye** is the President and CEO of U Street Parking, Inc., a company that employs over 1,200 District residents and hundreds more living in the Washington Metro area. D.C. Henok is a Board Member of Shaw Main Streets and Capital Bank, as well as of numerous civic and professional associations including, the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, 9th Street Business Association, The Enterprise Development Group, and The National Parking Association.



## Meet the Performers



**Wondaboy**, is far from a novice to Nigeria's Music Industry. His hit record "Before Then" featuring BET Award winner Sarkodie, became a massive success on international radio and television. This year, Wondaboy was featured in the sold-out ALL ACCESS GHANA Concert Event in Washington DC. He was personally selected by Ms. Lauryn Hill to be featured in her sold out concert streamed live by Tidal – TIDAL X Diaspora Calling Concert.



**KanKouran** was formed in 1983 in Washington, DC, by Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. After months of recruiting, training and performing at local venues, KanKourna presented its first full-length concert, "A Visit to Africa" in 1985 — and with that an institution was born. KanKouran is dedicated to preserving and sharing the culture and performing arts of Africa.



**Emé & Heteru** is best known for performing irresistible dance grooves. Their funky brass and horns, tight rhythms, and uplifting vocals effortlessly joins the dots between DC's hip-jazz pulse, Afrobeat, and Reggae music. Awarded 2014 Atlas Performing Artists, the group says it draws inspiration from diverse cultures and identifies with music as a uniting agent.



**Feedel** is the Amharic word for letter or alphabet. Feedel Band is taking Ethiopian music and jazz, and blending it into a simmering stew of musical genres, textures and feeling. Feedel takes Ethiopian melodies structured over the traditional scales and play them highlighting rhythms of the world.



**Anna Mwalagho** is an internationally recognized actress, comedian, poet/spoken word artist, African dancer, singer/songwriter, and storyteller. She has won numerous national awards in her native country Kenya, and here in the U.S.A, where she is recognized as the Queen of spoken Afro beat.

## 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*A Decade of Service to the African Community*

### PROGRAM

#### EMCEE

Heran Sereke-Brhan, Ph.D. | Deputy Director

#### WELCOME REMARKS

Mamadou Samba | Director, Mayor's Office on African Affairs  
Arthur Espinoza | Director, DC Commission on Arts & Humanities

#### DRUM, DANCE , AND AFROROOTS!

KanKouran West African Dance Group  
Eme & Heteru

#### VIDEO PRESENTATION

Profile of MOAA's African Community Grant Recipients

#### KEYNOTE

Muriel Bowser | Mayor

#### AFRICAN COMMUNITY AWARDS

**Comedy** | Anna Mwalagho

**Contemporary Jazz** | Feedel Ethiojazz Band

**Raffle Ticket Draw** | South African Airways

Free round-trip tickets to South Africa

**Headliner** | Wondaboy

**#MOAATurns10**

## Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA)

The Mayor's Office on African Affairs, (MOAA) was established in March 2006 by the Council of the District of Columbia's enactment of DC ACT 16-313. MOAA envisions the District of Columbia as a community that thrives on the full engagement of its culturally and linguistically diverse residents. Through its programs and services, MOAA's mission is to ensure that a full range of health, education, employment, and social services are available to the African community in the District of Columbia.

MOAA's program areas include Constituent Services; Outreach and Education; Capacity Building (Business and Nonprofit Development); African Community Grant; Multicultural Awareness and Development; and Youth Engagement. MOAA also hosts a bi-weekly electronic newsletter, *African Beat*, which provides resources for individuals and organizations and relevant information on local African Diaspora activities. By serving as the liaison between the District's African community, District government agencies, and the Mayor, MOAA seeks to improve the quality of life of the District's diverse African-born constituencies, increase civic and public engagement in the District's African community, and support community development.

For more about MOAA, visit our website: [www.oaa.dc.gov](http://www.oaa.dc.gov)

### A Decade of Accomplishments

- \* The Mayor's Office on African Affairs is the only office established at a municipal level to serve African immigrant communities in the U.S.
- \* Since its establishment, the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA) has had four directors, three women and one man. By FY2017, our staff capacity will grow by 200% for a total of four full-time employees.
- \* Since 2011, MOAA has hosted over 65 interns who speak over 25 African languages. MOAA has also hosted Capital City and AmeriCorps Vista Fellows, District Leadership Program and Young African Leadership Initiative Fellows.
- \* MOAA's e-newsletter began as *The Drum* in 2007 with an initial subscription of 3,913 readers. Since its reincarnation as the *African Beat*, readership has expanded to an additional 7,714 for a total of 11,627 subscribers.
- \* With support from MOAA's African Community Grant funding, community-based organizations have conducted outreach and provided services to a combined 14,547 African District residents from FY2014 to FY2016.

## Commission on African Affairs (COAA)

The Commission on African Affairs (COAA) was established in 2006 along with the Mayor's Office on African Affairs, as mandated by DC Law 16-313. It is composed of fifteen members appointed by the Mayor with consent of the DC Council.

The Mayor appoints individuals who have shown dedication to and knowledge of the African community with due consideration of representation from established public, nonprofit, and community-based organizations as well as other members of the public who serve the African community in various capacities.

The Commission serves as an advocate for the District's African residents. They review and submit to the Mayor, the Council, and the Office, an annual report that includes an analysis of the needs of the African community in the District. The Commission brings to the attention of the Mayor and MOAA concerns and challenges that members of the African community face, and assist in finding appropriate solutions connecting communities to DC Government resources.

COAA also reviews and comments on proposed District and federal legislation, regulations, policies, and programs and makes policy recommendations on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the African community.

The Commission holds meetings the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. For more on COAA, visit: [www.oaa.dc.gov](http://www.oaa.dc.gov).



**COAA 2016** (first row l-r): Akua Asare, M.D., Chair, Loide George, Esq., Vice Chair, Kedist Geremaw, Secretary; Abdel Maliky, Chibu Anyanwu.

(Second row l-r): Ikenna Udjiofor, Kotheid Nicoue, Lafayette Barnes, Lydia Nylander, Nana Ama Afari-Dwamena, Pape Cissé, Willair St. Vil.