

13th Annual SANKOFA FESTIVAL Returns to Florence!

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FLORENCE – With its mission of Connecting to the Cultural Corridor, the heralded Sankofa Festival makes its 13th annual visit to historic Timrod Park on Saturday, July 6, for a day full of activities celebrating the contributions of the African Diaspora.

The day begins at 10 a.m. with a two-hour workshop by the WOSE African Dance and Drummers from Charleston, SC; at the Timrod Park Center. Enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend and learn how to participate in the esteemed Opening Procession.

From 3 to 8 p.m., the Festival's Village comes alive with a wide array of artisans, performers, and vendors providing fun for the family. Headlining on the main stage is renowned reggae group Mystic Vibrations performing their hits and selections from their upcoming album, *Stop Dis War*. By popular demand, the mesmerizing Soul Power and The Evolutionary Soul Band returns with their unique brand of conscious message music sprinkled with elements of Jazz and Funk. Gospel hip-hop artist Kerry Lee, soul singer Terrence Miles, DJ Johnson and the Soul Food Band, GLS Jazz Band, and Outlaw Productions from Atlanta, GA round out the entertainment.

In addition, there will be dance exhibitions by Artist in Residence: Justine Roberts' Performing Arts Academy from Marion, SC; the NAZU African Dancers from Baltimore, MD; and the aforementioned WOSE group. Festival goers are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and stay all day at this free event.

The Sankofa Festival, sponsored by The City of Florence and The Kemet School, bases its mission on the West Afrikan proverb which states, "As you move forward, you cannot forget your past." In keeping, this edition will once again honor the late Dr. Atu Tyehimba, co-founder and ardent supporter of the festival. For more information, call: (803) 534-5287, or visit: www.facebook.com/SankofaFestival .