



Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the
Arts and Humanities
-Always the last week in January-

Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community Announces Program for 22nd Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA! Festival)

Eatonville, Florida -- The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, the historic preservation/arts organization which presents the annual, award-winning, nationally recognized Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities (ZORA! Festival) has released program information for upcoming 9-day event, Saturday, January 22 - Sunday, January 30, 2011.

Cited by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the “Top 20 Events for January 2010,” and by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as “One of 25 Cultural Tourism Success Stories in the United States,” and recipient of a much coveted National Endowment for the Arts grant, the annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities continues to be a one-of-a-kind event in the United States”. ZORA! Festival is an amazing amalgam of indoor events such as museum exhibition, public talks, panel discussions, workshops and theatrical productions combined with a three-day weekend Outdoor Festival of the Arts, which features literacy and health awareness programs; performances by local, regional and national acts; a juried art lane, an international marketplace, an international food pavilion, and booths for distributing public service information and community resources.

The 2011 Festival theme, “A Zora Neale Hurston Forum: Womanism, Feminism, and Issues of Gender” will look at women from many perspectives through six specific program elements. And, building on the historic link between Hurston and the country of Haiti, this year’s festival will also include five program elements in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. What better way to engage attendees than through these two impactful topics – Women’s Issues and Haiti!

A Women’s Festival

- A very compelling film, “A Powerful Noise” will be screened at the University of Central Florida on Tuesday January 25. This film takes the audience inside the lives of three women from three vastly different worlds to witness their daily challenges and their significant victories over poverty and oppression. A follow-up discussion, facilitated by local psychologist Dr. Lauren Josephs, will examine the “inherent potential of women to change the world.”
- Best-selling fiction writer, Pearl Cleage, will deliver the 2011 ZNH Humanities Lecture. Her popular novels “illuminate the generosity and power of women’s souls” and “summon the possibility of life’s wonders.”

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ZORA! Festival: January 22 – 30, 2011 – “A Zora Neale Hurston Forum: Womanism, Feminism, and Issues of Gender”

- Two panels on Friday afternoon will further elucidate women's issues: "Reclaiming our (S)hero: The Anthropological Contributions of Zora Neale Hurston", moderated by Dr. Irma McClaurin, North Carolina State University, Raleigh; and a panel of young scholars looking at the influence of Hurston on them and their contemporaries.
- A dramatic production of the Florida Historical Society will acquaint middle and high school students with the struggles and triumphs of five notable Florida women: Zora Neale Hurston, writer, folklorist, and anthropologist; Marjorie Stoneham Douglas, environmentalist; Mary McLeod Bethune, educator; Caroline P. Rositter, Standard Oil businesswoman; and Christa McAuliffe, teacher, astronaut will come alive on stage in "Female Voices from Florida Women."
- **HATitude** is back! A favorite, the program offers women (and men) a chance to adorn fashionable hats and gather in a festive setting for good food and good fun. It represents a timeless tradition enjoyed in many cultures.
- Three outstanding women will be recognized for their longstanding accomplishments at a festive **Saturday Evening Gala**. The names of the recipients will be kept secret; however, the 2010 honorees included Susan Taylor, editor-in-chief emeritus of *Essence* magazine and Catherine L. Hughes, founder, Radio One/TV One.

Focus on Haiti

- "**Art from Haiti**" featuring pieces from the collection of John and Vivian Hewitt will grace the gallery walls of 'The Hurston' Museum, beginning January 22.
- The traditional "**In Conversation**" returns in 2011 on Thursday evening, with the venerable Dr. Richard Long conversing with Dr. Vivian Hewitt about her love of Haitian art and its place in the visual art world.
- **The World Beat Stage** will debut at the three-day Outdoor Festival of the Arts at the east end of festival grounds. It will feature (1) a Percussion Contest with drums from the Caribbean Basin, North Africa, and America; (2) music representing cultures from the Americas, Asia, and North Africa; and (3) Spoken Word presentations by the Orlando Renaissance Writers Guild.
- "**Remembering Haiti**" will be an evening showcasing the music, food, and visual art of Haiti. The precedent for such an event was set in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's onslaught in New Orleans in 2004, both programs being presented because of the direct connection with Zora who researched folk life there and later published highly-respected collections of folklore.
- **The Haitian Pavilion** at the Outdoor Festival will afford artisans and merchants from Haiti an opportunity to garner much-needed income to take back to their home country by selling authentic Haitian goods and cuisine.

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What's New for ZORA! Festival 2011

1. The **“Eatonville Seminar”** will be a follow-up to an affinity session “Realized Communities: Necessary Spaces” at the October 2010 meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The seminar will bring together a variety of historic preservation professionals, community activists, and other interested stakeholders to explore the “Eatonville model” as a catalyst for community visioning. Their experiences will include an abbreviated Zora’s Cosmos tour, lunch at the home of an Eatonville matriarch, and attendance at ZORA! Festival.
2. The **Haitian Pavilion** is an aggressive attempt to bring 12 emerging and established artists and merchants from Haiti in order to “put money into their hands to take back home. Preparations for this event are already underway, with the support of the local Haitian community, technical assistance from the Smithsonian, and on-going coordination with the U.S. Department of State.
3. **The Florida Historical Society’s** production represents a first-time collaboration. This staging, however, is a natural link with the festival theme and the educational goals of the organization. The play is specifically targeted for middle and high school students and will have accompanying curriculum materials in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.
4. **The World Beat Stage** is an anticipated answer to the challenge of building an audience for the expansion of the eastern boundary of festival grounds. This global focus on music and literature anticipates creating excitement and luring more people to the east end.
5. **“Remembering Haiti”** will be a panoramic treatment of Haitian arts – visual, performing, and culinary-- as a tribute to the resilient spirit of our neighbors to the South. The audience should be reminded of Zora’s connection to Haiti and its prominence in her popular folkloric work, *Tell My Horse*.
6. Returning by popular demand after a three year hiatus is **HATitude**, a Saturday Brunch where hats of all colors, sizes, shapes, fabrics, and design claim the spotlight. A steering committee of Eatonville women is organizing what promises to be one of the most popular program pieces of 2011.

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