

Sankofa Passage is a cultural destination in Los Angeles' African American Village. A testament to the ever-evolving artistic presence rooted in the Leimert Park/Crenshaw District, this community-driven effort documents and honors many past and present creative channels who continue to influence the spirit and cultural fabric of Los Angeles and the global village.

The name Sankofa Passage symbolizes African culture in America. Sankofa is an Afrikan principle from the Akan people of Ghana. Literally meaning, "reach back and fetch it", Sankofa reminds us that we must respect and honor the past as the foundation from which current and future generations must forge a future filled with growth and progress. The term Passage evokes the strength and indomitable spirit of those Africans who were permanently extracted from their families and homelands to survive the "Middle Passage" and the uncertainty of enslavement in the Americas. Passage further denotes a contemporary "Rite of Passage" bridge providing inspiration to aspiring artists.

Each Sankofa Passage honoree will have a pyramid with their name, artistic discipline and place of birth embedded on a diamond shaped bronze plaque along the passage. An image of the mythical Sankofa bird with its head turned back (symbolizing a reverence for the past) and symbols of branding irons used in slavery will border the perimeter of the plaques. These historically accurate symbols (and their like) were once burned into the flesh of all enslaved Africans to identify them as property of their owners. Additional branding was burned into the slaves with each subsequent sale or transfer of ownership.

In spite of the inhumanity of the "Maafa" (African Holocaust), world art and culture continue to be profoundly influenced by the great wealth of spiritual creativity throughout the Diaspora. The artistic spectrum of the Sankofa Passage honorees is a noble example of this community's contribution to a prolific global legacy of dedicated artists committed to artistic excellence.



Sankofa Passage

Councilmember Bernard Parks

The Greater Leimert Park Village

Crenshaw Corridor

Business Improvement District

and

The Community Redevelopment Agency

*Cordially request
the honor of your attendance
at the*

Sankofa Passage

dedication ceremony

on

Friday

November 30, 2007

at

2:00 p.m.

in

Community Build Park

located at

4305 Degnan Boulevard

Los Angeles, California

RSVP

Clint Rosemond (323) 290-6565

Honorees

Richard Fulton, Community Spirit

Billy Higgins, Musician

Horace Tapscott, Musician

Alonzo Davis, Artist

Harold Land, Sr., Musician

Dexter Gordon, Musician

Eric Dolphy, Musician

John Riddle, Artist

Charles White, Artist

John Outterbridge, Artist

Samuel Browne, Musician/Teacher

Cecil Ferguson, Arts Patron/Scholar

Paul Williams, Architect

Marla Gibbs, Actor

Beah Richards, Actor

Frances Williams, Actor

Kamau Daaood, Poet

Hampton Hawes, Musician

Clora Bryant, Musician

Marie Bryant, Dancer/Singer

Melba Liston, Musician

Juno Lewis, Musician

Charles Mingus, Musician

Gerald Wilson, Musician

Buddy Collette, Musician

Elvira Redd, Musician

Ernie Andrews, Singer

Jeni LeGon, Dancer

Willie Covan, Dance Theatre

Alma Hightower, Music Teacher

Roy Porter, Musician

Melvonna Ballenger, Theatrical Production