



# MOJA ARTS FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ARTS

FULL PROGRAM DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR  
MOJA ARTS FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ARTS  
SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2016

**Charleston, SC** — The MOJA Arts Festival: A Celebration of African-American and Caribbean Arts, running from September 29 through October 9, 2016, has announced its full line-up of events and has made advance ticket sales available online, via phone and in person. Produced annually since 1983 by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the all-volunteer MOJA Arts Festival Program Committee, MOJA offers over eleven days a variety of arts and cultural programs, including theatre, dance, literary and visual arts, as well as jazz, gospel, reggae, R&B and classical music. A comprehensive listing of MOJA Arts Festival events is available online at [www.mojafestival.com](http://www.mojafestival.com), along with a downloadable program guide and links for online ticketing.

## **2016 MOJA Arts Festival Highlights (paid admission events):**

- MOJA returns to the newly renovated Gaillard on Thursday, October 6, co-presenting with the Charleston Gaillard Center **Dance Theatre of Harlem** in an evening-length program featuring the regional premiere of a new work.
- **R&B at the Joe** on Saturday, October 1 assembles a talented line-up including headliner Cameo alongside soulful pop singer Monica and DJ Kid Capri.
- Two-time Grammy nominated saxophonist and flautist **Najee** performs at the Gaillard Center on Friday, October 7.
- Charlton Singleton and Friends return to Charleston Music Hall with **Pop Life! Celebrating the Music of Prince** on Sunday, October 2.
- The MOJA Gospel Concert assembles three local choirs along with Lynn Boone and Mario Desaussure on Sunday, October 2 at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- Art Forms and Theatre Concepts, Inc. premieres **Stick Fly**, a wickedly funny, award-winning drama, at the Dock Street Theatre, running September 29 to October 2.
- Gullah culture takes center stage in two dramatic productions: **When I First Remember**, from Lady in White Productions, to be presented on Monday, October 3 at Old Bethel United Methodist Church; and Carlie Towne Productions in collaboration with Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, present on Saturday, October 8, **Gullah/Geechee Knows Emanuel: A Gullah/Geechee Story**, at The Pointe Event Center.
- Charleston Black Theatre presents the Charleston premiere of **Harriet's Return**, a one woman show celebrating the life of Harriet Tubman, starring Karen Jones Meadows, at the Dock Street Theatre, October 8 and 9.

## **2016 MOJA Arts Festival Highlights (free events):**

- MOJA officially opens on Thursday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m., with the annual **Opening Day Street Parade** beginning at Marion Square and concluding at the U.S. Custom House. Parade route heads down King and Market Streets, featuring festive Caribbean and African costumes, African drummers and youth groups. **Opening Reception** to follow in the courtyard of the Dock Street Theatre.
- The **Reggae Block Dance** begins at 6:30 p.m., at Brittlebank Park on Friday, September 30. The lineup of Reggae artists taking the stage includes Da Gullah Rootz featuring General Top Rank'n and Ras Bonghi featuring Deighton Charlemagne and Identity.
- **Heritage Day** at Marion Square on Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Marion Square showcasing the best in local and regional talent alongside artisans of global crafts and traditional wares and activities from local cultural ambassadors. The United States Postal Service will hold a First Day of Issue Stamp Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. to unveil the new Kwanzaa stamp.
- The **MOJA Finale** in Hampton Park starts at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 9, providing a lively end to a vibrant festival. There will also be African-American and Caribbean craft vendors, a pop-up art exhibition from Fabulon, sumptuous ethnic and festival foods and more.

**For more information on the other free festival events, visit [mojafestival.com](http://mojafestival.com)**

#### **2016 MOJA Arts Festival Visual Arts:**

- The poster artist for the 2016 MOJA Arts Festival is Fletcher Williams III. The piece that Fletcher Williams III created for the poster will be on display at the Dock Street Theatre throughout the festival.
- The **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual MOJA Arts Festival Juried Art Exhibition** features new works by regional artists on view at the Avery Research Center throughout the festival.
- The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art presents **Fahamu Pecou: DO or DIE: Affect, Ritual, Resistance** exploring the state of Black existence today.

#### **2016 MOJA COMMUNITY TRIBUTE LUNCHEON**

- MOJA honors outstanding community leaders for their contributions to the quality of life and community service at the **Community Tribute Luncheon** on Saturday October 15. A full list of honorees is available at [mojafestival.com](http://mojafestival.com).

#### **ABOUT MOJA ARTS FESTIVAL**

The MOJA Arts Festival is a multi-disciplinary festival produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the MOJA Planning Committee. *Moja*, a Swahili word meaning "One," is the appropriate name for this festival celebration of harmony among all people in our community. The Festival highlights the many African-American and Caribbean contributions to western and world cultures. MOJA's wide range of events include visual arts, classical music, dance, gospel, jazz, poetry, R&B music, storytelling, theatre, children's activities, traditional crafts, ethnic food, and much, much more. In addition to its myriad arts presentations, MOJA also includes an active and busy educational outreach component of workshops in the public schools and outreach in senior citizen homes.

## **FESTIVAL SPONSORS**

The 2016 MOJA Arts Festival is presented by The City of Charleston, and is funded, in part, by grants from the City of Charleston, County of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Festival is also greatly appreciative of the support provided by: The Boeing Company; SCE&G; Roper St. Francis Healthcare; Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina; C&A Unlimited Inc.-McDonalds; metroPCS; Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated; AT&T; Magnolia Plantation & Gardens; and Total Wine & More.

## **FOLLOW THE FESTIVAL**

Attendees are encouraged to follow the festival online to stay up to date with all the latest information, including additions, promotional offers and special pop-up events. To sign up for the MOJA Arts Festival e-newsletter, visit [mojafestival.com](http://mojafestival.com) or call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305. Events will additionally be promoted via Twitter and Facebook.

In addition to the MOJA website, a comprehensive Program Guide for the Festival will be available in hard copy format at the Office of Cultural Affairs, at host venues, and other public areas in September and during the run of the Festival. To request a copy of the printed Program Guide, patrons may call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305.

## **HOW TO BUY TICKETS**

Advance MOJA tickets will be on sale online at [mojafestival.com](http://mojafestival.com) and by phone through OvationTix at (866) 811-4111 (additional handling fees may apply). In-person ticket sales commence September 29 at the Dock Street Theatre daily from 11am to 5pm.

Tickets for shows at the Gaillard Center are only available for purchase at the Gaillard Center Box Office Monday through Friday from 11am to 6pm or by phone at (843) 242-3099.

Tickets for R&B at the Joe are only available through Joe Riley Stadium open Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm or by phone at (843) 577-3647. Produced by Mo10 Promotions and Heyward Consultant Group.

For additional ticket and schedule information, call the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs at (843) 724-7305, email [CulturalAffairs@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:CulturalAffairs@charleston-sc.gov) or visit [mojafestival.com](http://mojafestival.com).

###

FOR MORE INFO:

Cameron Wolfsen, Communications Coordinator  
City of Charleston Media Relations/Public Information  
Office: (843) 724-3746 Cell: (843) 735-8175  
Email: [wolfsenc@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:wolfsenc@charleston-sc.gov)