



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
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College of Arts and Sciences
Department of African-American
Studies

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The Afro-Brazilian Studies and Research Institute - IPEAFRO, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, organizer of the 3rd Congress of African Culture in the Americas (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1982) and Temple University's Department of African-American Studies, issue this Call to a Regional Preparatory Meeting for North America of the

4th CONGRESS OF AFRICAN CULTURE IN THE AMERICAS

1st Congress: Cali, Colombia, 1977
2nd Congress: Panama, 1980
3rd Congress: Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1982
4th Congress: Paris, France, 6-8 March 1991

Paris 1991: the Historical Context of the 4th Congress

On the eve of the 500th anniversary of the European invasion of the Americas, the 4th Congress will take place in Paris, at UNESCO headquarters. In a context in which commemoration of the "Encounter between Two Worlds" is being prepared, we ask: which two worlds? The African world clearly plays a fundamental role in the 500 years of colonialism and freedom struggles which characterize the encounter of Europe and the Americas. Long before 1492, sovereign Africans were bringing important contributions to the pre-Columbian American world from the technologically and culturally advanced classical African civilizations.

The world at the present historical moment is witnessing a process of redefinition and re-creation of philosophy, epistemology and worldview. Africans in the Americas constitute a creative force defining new and unique values systems; assuming their protagonism on the stage of world history and asserting these specific value systems, they have much to contribute to that process. The 4th Congress of African Culture in the Americas is a major forum for this to take place.

AGENDA

1. African-America's Impact on Europe

2. African Culture in the Americas

- a. Historical groundings: Classical African civilizations (Meroe, Axum, Nubia, Kemet) and their presence in the Americas before Columbus.
- b. Liberating tools in the building of a new African-American identity: art, literature, religion, philosophy, science, education, politics, economics.

3. Five Hundred Years of Cultural Confrontation

- a. Pre-Columbian African presence in the Americas.
- b. Ethnicity, movements for social change, race and class discrimination, power and participative democracy.

4. The Contemporary Technological Challenge

- a. Historical groundings: technological and scientific achievements of classical African civilizations.
- b. Science and traditional empiricism: ecology, transference of technologies and creativity of empirical agents as contribution to the humanities.
- c. Orientation of science to the service of mankind and our community in particular.

5. The Historical Role of African Women

PARTICIPATION

The Congresses of African Culture in the Americas have always been open to all segments of our community, including religious and militant organizations, union and rural groups, representatives of Native American peoples and artists and artesans of all areas. It is not exclusively an academic exercise, although intellectuals, social scientists, researchers, writers, professors and teachers have participated.

National and regional delegations, and individuals, will meet their transportation and accommodation costs. Information on accommodations in Paris is available from the European Technical Committee (address below).

Papers are welcome and should be sent to the European Technical Committee by 01 February 1991. The Congress records will be published, including papers accepted by the respective committee. The registration fee is US\$50.00.

PREPARATORY MEETING

Regional preparatory meetings of the 4th Congress have been held in Caracas, Venezuela (for South America) in March 1990 and Kingston, Jamaica (for the Caribbean) in September 1990. The purpose of the regional preparatory meeting is to organize the region's delegation, define the Agenda of its contributions and outline general norms of participation.

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for North America will be hosted by the African-American Studies Department of Temple University, on Saturday, 26 January 1991, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. More detailed information is available from the Department at the number on the letterhead or at 787-1992.

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