6th Annual Black Arts Festival Nears

Reston’s Sixth Annual Black Arts Festival gets underway Saturday, August 31, with an all-day conference - New Town Agenda - at the Sheraton and runs through Monday, September 2 (Labor Day), with a host of activities in between.

In addition to the conference, the offering of activities includes the annual Black Arts Festival Dance on Saturday night, a tennis tournament and exhibition match (see page B-1 of this week’s Times), a tour of homes of some black residents of Reston, a film festival at the Reston Twin Cinemas featuring blacks in acting, production and directing roles, free entertainment, a fashion show featuring creations from Toast and Strawberries and a free Dag Hammarskjold Plaza dance from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight Sunday, Sept. 1.

Additionally, booths and exhibits will be open Sunday and Monday, Sept. 1-2, and rides for children will be available near the International Center beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day.

New Town Agenda

The Saturday conference, entitled “New Town Agenda - Concepts and Realities”, is billed as one of the first resident-initiated conferences which brings planners, developers and residents together to compare their various viewpoints on new towns.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the appearance of the developer of Soul City, N.C., Floyd B. McKissick, the luncheon speaker Saturday. McKissick will speak on the “Interdynamics of a New Town,” keying on his experience in getting Soul City off the ground.

Late entrants into the conference are three social scientists from the Center for Urban and Regional Studies of the University of North Carolina -- Dr. Raymond J. Burby, III, Dr. Robert B. Zehner and David F. Lewis. The Center recently released the results of a “New Community Development Project” which compared the experience of those living in new towns, both privately and federally funded, to those of residents in a traditional community. The preliminary conclusion most recently reported in the Washington Post (Saturday, Aug. 24), was that new towners are no more satisfied in most areas than residents of the control groups.

A host of Reston residents, many with wide experience in various aspects of new town planning and development, will participate in panel discussions with nationally recognized leaders in the field.

Representatives from HUD’s New Communities Administration, HEW, the National Urban League, the Urban Coalition, the American Institute of Architecture, several universities, Gulf Reston, Inc. and Columbia, Md., are on the speaker’s docket.

The conference is broken into two parts: the morning session, which begins with registra-

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tion at 8 a.m., explores concepts of new towns, and the afternoon session, which begins following McKissick’s address, deals with the realities of new town living. A 4:00 plenary session will attempt to summarize the day’s work.

It is still possible to register for the conference. Registration forms and programs are available in Lake Anne Hall and the Hunters Woods Regional Library. Cost to students is $15; to singles, $25; and to couples, $35. Those who wish to attend the luncheon only must ante up $12. Those unable to get to either library in time to register may call 860-1484.

Broad Cross-Section
Howard T. Robinson, general chairman of the 1974 Festival Committee, said the festival is designed and organized to attract and encourage the “broadest cross-section of the total Reston community.”

Robinson expressed the hope that “those residents who have concerns about the level and kinds of services, factors of governance and education, will find an opportunity to interact with professionals with a national reputation, with persons who are residents in other new towns, as well as other residents of Reston at the Conference.”

All Restonians Invited
The Festival Committee has designed the program to be of interest to all residents, with the hope that the festival will provide an avenue of enlightenment to the contributions of blacks to the total community.