

FOR : RESTON BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL
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N E W S F O R T H E P R E S S
R E L E A S E A T W I L L

VARIETY OF EVENTS TO MARK
6TH ANNUAL RESTON FESTIVAL

RESTON, VA., AUG. 12, 1974---A variety of cultural, educational, and entertainment events will highlight the sixth annual Reston Black Arts Festival scheduled for the International Conference Center at Reston, on the holiday Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

One of the main features will be the annual festival dance, with this year's theme, "Uptown Saturday Night," and the awarding

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of prizes for persons wearing the snazziest uptown attire. The affair is set for Sat. night, Aug. 31, from 10 p.m. to 2 p.m., at Sheraton Inn's main ballroom.

As in the past years, proceeds from the dance will be donated to charities. This year's recipients will be the D.C. Repertory Theater under direction of Robert Hooks, actor-director, and the Ralph Bunche Awards Program, a program launched by the United Nations Association of the United States in memory of the late Dr. Ralph J. Bunche who served as United Nations under-secretary general for 20 years.

Music for the benefit dance will be provided by The Mood Experience dance band, and admission is \$15 per person. Dance tickets are available in Reston through Barbara A. Merriwether, ticket chairperson, at 860-0762. Other ticket sources are the Common Grounds on Lake Anne Plaza and the Fin Factory on Hunters Woods Plaza in Reston.

MORE FESTIVAL EVENTS

Among other entertainment highlights of the three-day festival are a variety of free-admission events to be staged on the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in the Reston International

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Conference Center. They include an open public dance, a musical variety featuring gospel, Nigerian and dance groups, and a dramatic presentation of the life of Nat Turner, historic black hero.

A number of festival events, in addition to the annual benefit dance, will require admission tickets, the proceeds of which will aid the charity fund. They include a poolside fashion show, black feature films at Reston Twin Cinema, a Reston black residents' homes tour, an invitational tennis tournament, and a one-day conference on new towns.

NEW TOWNS CONFERENCE

The New Towns Conference is a new feature which is expected attract many town planners and developers and provide a positive forum for discussion of new town perspectives for Reston residents as well as visitors from other new towns.

The one-day conference is set for Sat., Aug. 31, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with the subject: "New Town Agenda-- Concepts and Realities."

Floyd B. McKissick, new town developer of Soul City in North Carolina, will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

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He is scheduled to talk on "Soul City: The Interdynamics of a New Town," at the luncheon session.

An array of consultants, urbanologists, governmental experts, lawyers, educational leaders and community planners will participate in the day-long workshops and panel discussions.

Howard T. Robinson, Festival general chairman, will be among the panel discussants. He is a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State and formerly executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

ORGANIZED IN 1969

The Festival is sponsored by the Reston Black Focus, a non-profit community service organization of black residents of Reston, a city of 30,000 nestled in the Virginia suburbs of Washington.

Heading the informal Black Focus, which initiated the Reston Black Arts Festival in 1969, is Beverly D. Sharp, an information computer systems consultant, who is chairperson of the governing steering committee.

The Festival is designed to be a showcase for black arts and to call attention to the contributions and concerns of black people.

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