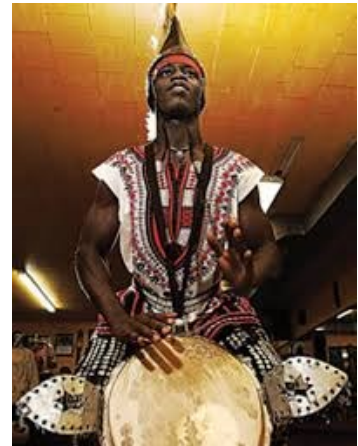




DJEMBEFOLA DETROIT

Formerly The Sun Drummers, Djembefola (jem-bay-fo-lah) Detroit pulls members from a vibrant African drum and dance community, presenting professional performers at their best. From stage productions to world festivals, Djembefola Detroit connects to audiences, bringing a unique energy and excitement!



Djembefola Detroit comes from a large community family tree, with longstanding members of the Detroit African drum and dance community at its roots: King Sundiata Keita, Baba Ali Abdullah, and Mama Lati-fah, just to name a few. By walking in their footsteps, Djembefola Detroit brings African drum and dance into a new age.



Our Dancers

Not only showcasing African drumming, Djembefola Detroit features talented African dancers, adding flair and splendor to any show. Our dancers bring an interactive experience, compelling onlookers to get up and join in on the fun.



Chakaba!



Chakaba (pronounced shah-kah-bah) is the traditional African practice of wearing a sacred spirit mask while dancing on stilts. The practice goes by many names, depending on the African language that is spoken by the people. Traditional stilt dancers must remain nameless, being the conveyance for the masquerade spirits. In the end, Chakaba transforms into a combination of dancer, acrobat and spirit.

African Story Telling



Michelle "Mama Diarra" (pronounced "Mom Jar-ah") McKinney is a multi-talented performing artist working as a singer/lyricist, actor/storyteller, percussionist and educational programs producer in the Detroit community. She is presently working at the Wright Museum as an Education Specialist and Storyteller, with interactive stories filled with song and rhythm. She is a featured singer with McKinfolk, led by her daughter, drummer/composer Gayelynn McKinney.

African Martial Arts



All cultures around the world have a martial art. Africa is no exception.

With many cultures in the one continent of Africa, founder of Ta-Merrian Institute, Kilindi Iyi traveled and studied in Africa amongst masters in different African martial systems.

Ta-Merrian Institute demonstrates its blending of different African martial systems, furthering its goal of bringing African martial arts into the mainstream.

Social Media



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