

# CALL FOR PAPERS



## PANAFEST

PAN AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS & CULTURE

**THE NATIONAL PANAFEST PLANNING  
COMMITTEE  
AND UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST  
PROUDLY ANNOUNCE:  
PANAFEST INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM 2023**

The COVID 19 pandemic provided the context for discussing the health, wealth and security of the Global African Family in PANAFEST 2021. As we prepare for PANAFEST 2023 it seems important to track the threatening cracks and empowering strengths which are accompanying the quest for robust African communities across the world. There is a resurgence of powerful African voices and action focused on concentrating African energies on Africans and their collective wellbeing. Spearheaded from within CARICOM, there is strong advocacy for reparations for chattel slavery, and a revival of multiple suppressed truths such as the fact that at emancipation, slave owners were compensated for the loss of slaves with the impact being felt to this day. The people are fighting back more visibly as the continent of Africa promotes the agenda for unity and calling its people home. Policies such as the Homeland Return Act and the Diaspora Engagement Policy in Ghana or Diaspora Citizenship in Sierra Leone

In the same breath, more and more revelations of complicity between the ruling, religious and business elite in the centres of power in Europe and America have led to public concessions of historical injustice with apologies and gestures such as a limited return of plundered goods. What is the real value of this trend and who will control this historical moment?

### EVENT DATE

*PANAFEST INTERNATIONAL  
COLLOQUIUM 2023*

*DATE: Tuesday July 25th -Wednesday July  
27th 2023*

*VENUE: University of Cape Coast, Ghana.*

*This is a Hybrid Event*

### THEME:

*“Re-Claiming the African Family:  
Confronting the Past to face the  
Challenges of the 21st century”*

### EXPERTISE HIGHLIGHTS

- [info@panafestghana.org](mailto:info@panafestghana.org)
- Length of Abstract – Not more than 300 words
- Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font and double spaced
- Deadline for abstracts: **July 10th, 2023**
- We plan to publish peer-reviewed full papers after the colloquium. Therefore, we recommend the use of the latest MLA and APA styles.
- Please note that for planning purposes, early submissions will be appreciated.
- PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION
- [www.panafestghana.org](http://www.panafestghana.org)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

PANAFEST SECRETARIAT

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email: [info@panafestghana.org](mailto:info@panafestghana.org)

There appears to be a profound irony that cannot be ignored: the very existence of a true record of the historical experience of persons of African descent i.e. Black History, is being questioned today in the United States of America. Moreover, it is a fact that in many school systems on the African continent, the history of the continent and particularly of enslavement and colonisation has been taught for many years in a detached, purportedly scientific manner that marginalises the African. How many young Africans retain the sense of hope and dignity which is their right? One aspect of this state of affairs is the extent to which Africans on the continent and those in the Diaspora have become so alienated that the sacredness of family empathies has been broken. In the meantime systemic racism seems to have abandoned any camouflage as exemplified by the vetting of Her honor Ketanji Brown Jackson . Through it all, she appeared to symbolise the centuries of dignified resistance which has been shown by our ancestors.

Africans around the world must take a hold of remembering and presenting their lived experience. 2023 heralds the 700th anniversary of an age of African ascendancy when Mansa Kankan Musa of Mali made his famous journey to the Middle East . What are its implications? This year also heralds the end of the International Decade of People of African Descent. Notwithstanding the formation of the Permanent Commission , a powerful gathering of African descendants , the Decade must be evaluated. What did it achieve? The challenges of the 21st Century must be confronted to make way for transformational opportunities. The African Family must take its fate into its own hands. It may be awkward and difficult but who better to inspire a self examination and an inspiration to stay the course but the thinkers and creatives of African ancestry.

Participants in the PANAFEST 2023 Colloquium are invited to fearlessly point out the challenges to re-uniting the African Family and very importantly illuminate new paths towards transformational unity in our time through critical thought.

### THE CALL FOR PAPERS (CFP)

Proposals are invited for paper presentations, panels, poster presentations, exhibitions and short performances that speak to the theme of this year's PANAFEST, and particularly focus on the overarching objective of bringing the larger African family together for progress. Sub-themes include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Afro-Latinx community and Pan Africanism
- Apologies and Remonstrations by Transgenerational Beneficiaries of Enslavement and Colonial Exploitation?
- Black Tech -Harnessing technology for Pan Africa
- Celebrating African Spirituality and Resilience
- Creative Africa: What's New?
- Harambe: Working Together for the African Renaissance
- Inviting Africans in the Diaspora Back Home to Visit, to Connect and to Live: Keeping it Real.
- Mansa Kankan Musa in his Time and Beyond
- Our Historical Narrative: Unearthing Tangible and Intangible Cultures of African Communities
- Reparations and Reparatory Engagement: The Journey So Far, and the Way Forward
- Securing Africa's Wealth: Potentials of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA)
- The International Decade for People of African Descent: Time for an Assessment
- To be a Man of African Descent in the 21st Century
- Understanding the Impact of Structural Racism
- United Africa: Global African Spiritual, Cultural, and Economic Interconnections
- Please send abstracts of your proposed paper, panel, exhibition, or performance as MSWord attachments to The PANAFEST Colloquium Committee.