

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-  
DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE AFRICANDO ARTS &  
CULTURE FESTIVAL ON MAY 5, 2001**

AfriCANDO Arts & Culture Festival (AACF), a collaboration between the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) and Miami-Dade County, is a one-day extravaganza that will showcase the links that bind the African diaspora and contemporary African, Afro-American, Afro-Latino and Caribbean cultures. The festival is the culminating event for the 4th Annual Trade and Investment Symposium, "U.S. Caribbean Trade in the Global Era." A trade delegation from Miami and Washington, D.C., visited Nigeria, Mali, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania, winding up with a May 2-4 symposium in Terminal 12 at the Port of Miami.

An educational component will feature lectures by speakers from Howard University, the Historical Museum of South Florida and the Black Heritage Museum. Topics will include the African diaspora throughout the globe, DNA testing to determine the ancestry of those of African origin, and the history of African musical instruments and puppets. Participation in the symposium by students from the district's academies of finance will be coordinated by Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Department of Cultural Diversity and Intergroup Relations.

On Saturday, May 5, 2001, the rich artistic traditions of Africa will transform the Port of Miami into a festival of music and dance around a village marketplace designed by students and instructors from the New World School of the Arts. AfriCANDO will throb to the sounds of "juju," a cross-cultural music from the heart of Africa, performed by the synthesizers and talking drums of the internationally renowned King Sunny Ade and his African Beats, a large Nigerian ensemble of musicians and dancers. Local musical groups with roots in the Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad will blend merengue, reggae, funk, jazz and the Latin beat with traditional African dance rhythm in a fusion of musical diversity.

Miami-Dade Community College and the Black Heritage Museum will display masks, sculpture and murals from the Caribbean and Latin American cultures. In the children's village, storytellers and puppeteers will recount African and Caribbean folk tales. Artisans will demonstrate textile weaving, along with mask- and instrument-making. Contributing to the village ambiance will be African animals from Metrozoo. No additional funding is required.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the request for the Board to support the AfriCANDO Arts & Culture Festival on May 5, 2001.

RBI:bd