

KOINDU



KOINDU [a place of exchange]

KOINDU will be the place to be when attending this year's New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

KOINDU (a place of exchange) will feature traditional African and contemporary African-American crafts and performances plus interchange with craftspeople and performers from both Africa and New Orleans.

KOINDU offers an exciting and unparalleled opportunity to understand African inspired crafts and arts via communication with the creators. To see a dance or hear a work of music performed is good, but it is infinitely better to be able to talk with and touch the performers, to listen as they explain the origins and meanings of their work. In short, KOINDU offers an opportunity to exchange.

The Origins of KOINDU

KOINDU is a word of West African derivation. It's meaning celebrates the communal give and take which are characteristic of traditional African societies.

KOINDU is more than a marketplace. It should not be confused with a "Black" scheme to sell "exotic trinkets." People are encouraged to come to learn, to teach, to share. Each person has something to offer, some talent, some skill, some knowledge. If nothing else, people can share their own experiences, their joys and triumphs.

KOINDU's purpose is to facilitate communication and interaction between people by educating the Festival community in the different modes of African culture and its influences in the western hemisphere that is reflected by peoples of African descent who brought different elements of their culture with them to the Caribbean, South and North America.

KOINDU, the word, was shared with us by professor Ali Sisay, a member of the African-American Jazz Festival Coalition. Professor Sisay was born and raised in Sierre Leone, West Africa and presently resides in New Orleans.

