



**July 7, 2012**  
**Free and open to the public.**

Ashé Cultural Arts Center, in partnership with Tulane University, Kids' Play NOLA, and Xavier University's Institute for Black Catholic Studies, presents the 12th Annual Maafa. The observance takes place on Saturday, July 7, 2012 in New Orleans.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*Maafa* is a Kiswahili word that means "great tragedy". This annual community-wide commemoration honors the memory of the millions of African people and their descendents who suffered or perished during the period of African capture and enslavement in America

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

The commemorative activities begin with greetings at 6:30 a.m. in Congo Square at Armstrong Park, 835 N. Rampart Street. A drum procession leads participants to the Tomb of the Unknown Slave at St. Augustine Church and then weaves through the French Quarter, passing the slave exchange and other related historical points of interest. The procession continues on to the Canal Street Ferry which includes a ceremony on the Mississippi River in honor of the ancestors. The procession ends at The Village at Algiers Point, 200 Patterson Avenue, where we'll be met by a Mardi Gras Indian gang.

At noon, participants gather at Ashé Cultural Arts Center, 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. for food and entertainment.

For more information, call (504) 569-9070.