Africatown One Diaspora Gala Brings Global African Culture to Philadelphia

The Sept. 19 gala at Penn Museum unites the Global African Diaspora for an evening of fashion, culture, heritage, civic diplomacy and celebration.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, September 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Africatown One Diaspora Gala to Transform Penn Museum into Celebration of African Culture, Excellence and Global Influence

Philadelphia Africatown and ACANA join Atelier: Africa for an elevated cultural and philanthropic experience culminating the 2026 Africatown Summer Series on September 19.

On Saturday, September 19, 2026, the Penn Museum will become the setting for an evening celebrating African and Diasporic culture, achievement and global influence as the Africatown One Diaspora Gala convenes diplomats, business and civic leaders, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, creatives and cultural figures from Philadelphia and across the global African Diaspora.

Presented through a collaboration between Philadelphia Africatown, the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA) and Atelier: Africa, the Gala will culminate the 2026 Africatown Summer Series, bringing together Africatown's community and cultural vision with Atelier: Africa's distinctive approach to fashion, art, culture and philanthropy.

Founded by Dr. Archima Major, Atelier: Africa is a cultural platform celebrating the creativity, innovation and global influence of Africa and its Diaspora through fashion, art, design, music, commerce and philanthropy. Its vision brings an elevated cultural lens to the Gala—creating an experience designed not only to celebrate Diasporic excellence, but to cultivate meaningful connections across communities, industries and borders.

The evening will feature live performances, fashion and cultural experiences, and the formal recognition of trailblazing leaders and honorees whose work reflects extraordinary impact across business, government, healthcare, philanthropy, entrepreneurship, arts and culture, and community leadership. Guests are invited to “Dress to Express and Arrive to Impress!”, making fashion and personal style part of the evening's celebration of cultural identity and expression.

For our initial PR wave and rollout announcements, we’re excited to lead with trailblazing

honorees and special guests including Charisse Higgins, Melody Henderson, & Simone Mair (Curly Girl Collective / CURLFEST), Ebun Olaloye (Live Breathe Futbol), Kadidja Dosso (Dosso Beauty), Lisa Francoeur, Set Free, and The Honorable Jannie L. Blackwell, longtime Philadelphia political leader and dedicated community advocate, alongside our co-hosts Sonia 'Barbie' Tucker, fashion model and social influencer, and Jamila Mustafa, multimedia producer.

At the heart of the Gala is One Diaspora, the recognition that while the African Diaspora spans nations, cultures and generations, geography does not erase shared heritage or connection. The evening celebrates the distinct contributions of continental African, African American, Caribbean, Afro-Latin and broader Black Diaspora communities while creating space for greater cultural, civic and economic connection.

"I wanted to walk into a room that felt elevated, beautiful, culturally rich, and unmistakably ours—a space where African and Diasporic excellence was not simply included, but centered," said Dr. Archima Major, Founder of Atelier: Africa and Co-Convener of the Gala. "African culture is living, evolving, influencing and shaping the world around us. This Gala is our invitation to experience that power together." The evening will also mark the launch of Atelier: Africa's Healthy Leaders, Healthy Cities, Healthy Communities initiative, a movement designed to turn celebration into action by inspiring healthier people, stronger leadership and more vibrant communities across Philadelphia.

More than a closing celebration, the Africatown One Diaspora Gala reflects a shared vision of strengthening relationships across the global African Diaspora while positioning Philadelphia and Africatown as an important destination for culture, commerce, creativity and community.

EVENT DETAILS
• What: Africatown One Diaspora Gala
• Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026
• Red Carpet & VIP Reception: 6:00 p.m.
• Main Program: 7:00 p.m.
• Location: Penn Museum, 3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
• Website: https://www.africatownonediasporagala.com/
• Tickets: Africatown One Africa Diaspora Gala

MEDIA INQUIRIES
Members of the media interested in covering the Africatown One Diaspora Gala or scheduling interviews with event organizers, partners or honorees should contact:

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ABOUT PHILADELPHIA AFRICATOWN Philadelphia Africatown is a community-driven initiative working to establish Southwest Philadelphia as a destination celebrating African diaspora culture, commerce, arts and community. Led by the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA), the Africatown vision builds upon decades of work supporting immigrant communities, businesses and families while creating opportunities for economic development and cultural tourism.

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