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AFRICANANCESTRY.COM EXPLORES NEW 'ROUTES' TO CELEBRATE AFRICAN 'ROOTS' WITH THE KICK-OFF OF ITS 2011 WE ARE AFRICA ROAD TOUR IN CHICAGO

Chicago Selected As First Tour Stop in Partnership with The DuSable Museum of African American History; Former Chicago Bears' Richard Dent's and Award-Winning Actress Regina Taylor's Ancestral Roots Unveiled during Two-Day Visit

WASHINGTON, DC (June 27) -- With **Chicago-based** powerhouses like **Common (Cameroon), Oprah Winfrey (Liberia)** and **Rev. Jesse Jackson (Sierra Leone)** discovering their African roots, it's safe to say that "**Chi-Town**" celebrities have DNA-based roots tracing on lock! Now, **African Ancestry (AfricanAncestry.com)**, the pioneers of DNA-based ancestry tracing for people of African descent in America, and its *2011 We Are Africa Road Tour* are headed to communities across the nation to take the transforming experience to everyday citizens and **Chicago** is first on the list. In partnership with The **DuSable Museum of African American History**, AfricanAncestry.com stops in **Chicago** on **July 9-10 from Noon to 8 p.m.** (each day) as part of the **37th Annual DuSable Museum Arts & Crafts Festival**. The two-day event will be hosted at The **DuSable** and admission is **FREE** to the public.

"We are so excited and honored to bring the tour to Chicago this year and team up with The DuSable Museum during its 50th Anniversary milestone," said Dr. Rick Kittles, co-founder and Scientific Director of AfricanAncestry.com and Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "While the tour remains true to its mission of educating and celebrating about genetic connections to Africa, we've embellished our Chicago stop a little to amplify the role that the arts play in our rich cultural heritage," said Kittles.

CHICAGO ... We Are Africa!

The *We Are Africa Road Tour* is specifically created to take genetic ancestry tracing to grassroots African-American communities to celebrate historical, cultural and genetic connections to Africa. "It's so easy these days to hide behind a computer screen and be one-click away from everything you need," said Gina Paige, co-founder and president of AfricanAncestry.com. "We want to give families a compelling reason to get out together. People need to see, touch and feel this experience. No computer program or social network can satisfy this real-world sense of knowing and belonging," added Paige. The multi-day affair combines education, dance, music and new spin on the traditional family reunion experience. Hitting **Atlanta (July 14-17), Detroit (August 20-21), Washington, DC (September 24)** and **Wichita (September 3-5)**, the tour is comprised of a mix of activities including (visit www.africanancestry.com/RoadTour for schedules):

- **'Using DNA to Find Your Roots' Family Workshops:** A one-hour workshop hosted by African Ancestry tracing expert Gina Paige. The workshop explores the importance and uniqueness of DNA-based ancestry tracing for people of African descent in America, how it works and the individual, family and community impact of knowing one's roots.
- **We Are Africa Ancestry Reveals:** The entire community will witness **former Chicago Bears' Richard Dent, Golden Globe and NAACP Image Award-Winning Actress Regina Taylor, Fatin Dantzler of Kindred the Family Soul and Congressman Bobby L. Rush** learn their roots for the first time in a special reveal ceremony. **Chicago's** African community will be on hand to welcome the newest African Ancestry Family members and local performers will take part in the powerful, life-changing sessions.
- **Sankofa Jam Sessions:** Hosted by renowned African-inspired spin doctor **DJ EZ Street**, the Sankofa Jam Session is an interactive musical journey through the African influence on popular music and dance.
- **We Are Africa Diaspora Family Reunions:** A new family reunion experience created by AfricanAncestry.com to inspire tangible family connections between Africa and America. Participants will have the chance to meet native Africans from their countries of origin living in Chicago and bond with these long-lost relatives.

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The DuSable Museum Goes ‘Back to Its Roots’ with AfricanAncestry.com; Special Book-Signing with Isaiah Washington

The DuSable Museum of African American History continues the celebration of its 50th Anniversary with the 37th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival, which will take place at the Museum located at 740 East 56th Place (57th Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue). The Festival is themed ‘*Back to Our Roots*,’ featuring original works of art from local artists who work in traditional, ethnic and experimental fine arts and crafts and embrace African-American themes of identity, history and culture. No retail or marketplace vendors are participating.

To culminate the festivities on Sunday, award-winning actor and activist Isaiah Washington will make a special appearance to sign copies of his new book [A Man From Another Land: How Finding My Roots Changed My Life](#). The Houston-born actor who starred in the ABC-TV drama *Grey’s Anatomy* traced his maternal roots with AfricanAncestry.com to the Mende people of Sierra Leone and became the first African American to be granted citizenship based solely on their DNA ancestry. Washington also shares paternal ancestry with the Mbundu people of Angola.

Join the 2011 We Are Africa Road Tour

The 2011 We Are Africa Road Tour is sponsored by The Africa Channel, Heart & Soul Magazine, mobileMEDIAtv, Globaleyes Productions and Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and hosted in partnership by The DuSable Museum of African American History, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the National Black Arts Festival.

For more information on the 2011 We Are Africa Road Tour, visit us at www.AfricanAncestry/RoadTour and www.Facebook/AfricanAncestry, and follow us on Twitter at @AfricanAncestry.

ABOUT AFRICAN ANCESTRY

Founded in 2003, African Ancestry Inc. (AfricanAncestry.com) pioneered African lineage matching in the United States utilizing its proprietary DNA-database to more accurately assess present-day country of origin for people of African descent. Since its inception, African Ancestry’s reveals have impacted the lives of more than 100,000 African Americans including global leaders such as Oprah Winfrey, Isaiah Washington, Common and Spike Lee. In 2010, African Ancestry marked an historic milestone by uncovering the ancestral roots of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Marcus Garvey post-humously using the DNA of their descendants. AfricanAncestry.com has been featured on CNN’s Black in America series, NBC’s Who Do You Think You Are?, Essence Magazine and the ground-breaking PBS special “African American Lives 1 & 2” with Henry Louis Gates. African Ancestry is African American owned and operated and headquartered in Washington, DC. Visit us at www.africanancestry.com and join us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AfricanAncestry. For general press inquiries, contact ntaylor@africanancestry.com.

ABOUT THE DUSABLE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The DuSable Museum of African American History is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the country. Our mission is to collect, preserve and display artifacts and objects that promote understanding and inspire appreciation of the achievements, contributions and experiences of African Americans through exhibits, programs and activities that illustrate African and African American history, culture and art. For more information on the Museum and its programs, please call (773) 947-0600 or visit us at www.dusablemuseum.org.

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