



**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL** - "If you have a dream, never give up on your dream. No matter how long it takes, never give up on your dream," says Nigerian-born fashion couture designer Patricia Hollande. Hollande promotes awareness for domestic violence, child abuse and empowerment of women through her creation and development of her couture wear.

She moved to the US in 1982 at the age of 16. She attended Saint-Thomas University where she studied Biology. However, her passion for design and fashion led her to selling African print clothing that she buys from back home. When she visits the Motherland, she also started selling contemporary western clothing in her neighborhood. Shortly after, she started her company "Pattys Place: African Fashion Couture."

Her designs are created with fabrics from her homeland. The fashions are made with a wide variety of brocade, prints, laces and linens. The fashions are handmade and couture with an edgy design. She creates fashions for men, women and children. Plus sizes are commonplace among her couture line up to size 4X.

Today she works with a variety of tailors and seamstresses from Nigeria to provide a variety of edgy and fashionable African clothing, which she often mixes with some traditional-style African clothing.

All her designs are made from various factories, tailors, and seamstresses in Nigeria. Nothing is mass produced so her designs are tailored for specific events and clients.

It takes several months in advance for a runway show to come together. She loves to always have headpieces worn with the fashions. "I love putting the gele [head-wrap] on almost all my sets because it gives the attire a new layer of appeal," she says.

Hollande is intending on going back to school to obtain a business degree to further her couture line. She aspires to be able to create economic and job opportunities here in South Florida as a part of her future endeavors.

Jaury Jean-Enard, the director of the African Wardrobe Festival, stated that when he originally met Hollande it was for her to possibly be a vendor for the festival.

## AFRICAN WARDROBE FESTIVAL

"My festival is about promoting African History starting with the clothing. Her fashion show encompasses both ideas - where we are today with clothes with the edgy, at the same time she does some pieces that are traditional. The clothing is so rich in history."

The African Wardrobe Festival is a fashion festival where the attendees are the models and everywhere they go is the runway. It features the finest African clothes, arts & craft and literature. The purpose of the festival is to promote African attires and wardrobes. Its mission is to bring together the African Diaspora with African-Americans; to educate, promulgate African history, traditions, and culture by organizing cultural events, festivals, workshops, and talks.

As part of this partnership, the AMAC Trust will raffle a gala ticket - worth \$75 - at the African Wardrobe Festival to a lucky attendee. The gala will be attended by local and international educators, journalists, and artists, including Nigerian singer-songwriter Flavour N'abania.

"I believe both organizations have very similar objectives and we can work together to create a win-win situation," said Dr Tella, one of the promoters of the AMAC Trust.

### 2015 Agenda

12 -1:55 pm Red carpet reception and African Art Exhibit, Prince Adelele from the royal lineage of HRM Oba (King) Rufus, Danny Dobbins, and Shernett Muhammad + Meet & Greet with the artists, designers and vendors in lobby.

2:05 - 2:15 pm MC/Host Suzette Speaks opening remarks in auditorium + Libation with Queen Mother Nana Boatenmaa.

2:20 - 2:50 pm Special documentary screening of *Africa Straight Up*.

2:55 - 3:35 pm Panel discussion with special guests: Derrick N. Ashong, Vernet Pegues, Dr. Yinka Tella, and Dr Agbeko-Kwasi Tosu + Q&A.fashion with Nigerian designer Patricia Hollande.

3:40 - 3:55 pm Traditional and contemporary African fashion with Nigerian designer Patricia Hollande.

4 - 4:35 pm Conversation with designers and models.



4:40 - 4:45 pm Ticket giveaway for official after-party gala with African Museum of Arts & Culture (AMAC) at Nine O One Event Center.

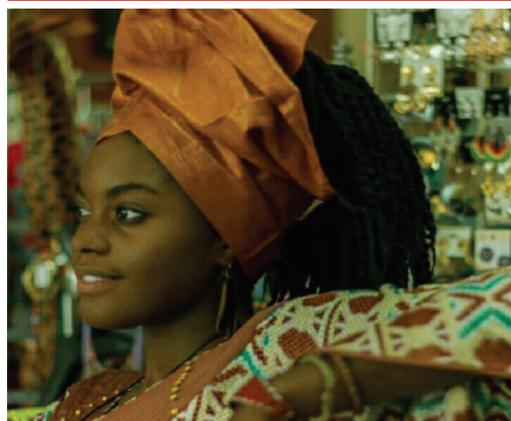
4:50 - 6 pm Red carpet networking mixer + vendors + workshops

African Wardrobe Festival, Inc. in collaboration with the Friends of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) are sponsoring the first annual African Wardrobe Festival on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2105 from 12 noon to 8 p.m. The festival's purpose is to promote African attire, and its mission is to unite African-Americans with their African Diaspora roots. This event will feature a red carpet welcome, African art expo, documentary screenings, panel discussions and networking mixers.

"South Florida has never had an event like this before and I feel a lot of people will gravitate towards it," said AARLCC's Desmond Hannibal, program and exhibit coordinator, "We are really glad the Friends of AARLCC are sponsoring the festival," Festival Director Jaury Jean-Enard says.

The African Wardrobe Festival will be held at the AARLCC, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

The African Museum of Arts and Culture Gala will be held at the Nine O One Event Center, 901 NW 183rd St., Miami Gardens, FL 33163 from 8 pm to 2:00 am.



Photography Credits: Stock Photography & Photography provided by The African Wardrobe Festival & The Westside Gazette

## AUG Arts Beat Calendar Highlights

Inclusion to Arts Beat Calendar Call for advertising opportunities at 954-525-1489

**25** 6:30 pm Every 4th Tuesday of the month musicians, singers, poets, and performers take the stage at ArtServe for **Open Mic Tuesdays**. Sign up or come out and enjoy some awesome talent. Hosted by SOSOS' Chris Monteleone. Doors open at 6:30 for sign-up. Performances begin at 7:30. <http://www.artserve.org>

**29** 6:00 pm Every last Saturday of the month. Art Walk at FAT Village, Mass District & special this month on Sistrunk. Musicians, singers, poets, and visual arts. Check trolley routes for pick up and drop off times to see all three.



Jean Rene Lacoste was born on July 2, 1904, in Paris, France. Lacoste came to the sport of tennis relatively late in life. He was already 15 years old and visiting England with his father, a wealthy businessman, when he first started playing. He was nicknamed "the Crocodile" by fans because of his tenacity on the court. He was a member of the legendary Four Musketeers of French tennis, Renee Lacoste also invented the metal tennis racket and was founder of the Lacoste line of sportswear. SOURCE: Bio.com



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THIS SUPPORTS



The Florida Arts License Plate Program was created by the Legislature in 1994. Funds collected through the sale of these specialty plates are distributed to the counties where the plates are sold and are used to support arts organizations, programs, and activities within that county.

**South Florida has Highest AIDS Rates in USA. Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping this epidemic that is affecting our community.**

"Heels to Heaven" is a unique art project of the World AIDS Museum in partnership with Care Resource. Decorate and create High Heels using your wildest & artistic imagination. Create your own or one at our heel craft parties. These original pieces of art will be on display in a gallery and some will go on sale at a silent auction fundraiser.

Shoes for women and ties for men can be picked up at the museum. For further information and deadlines contact the museum at (954)390-0550



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