

# Arts & Culture



**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL** - First fruits, the gift from Dr. Maulana Karenga is entering its 50th year of celebration known as Kwanzaa. The holiday was originally created to bring a sense of culture and history to the BLACK community in the United States. The African Diaspora left so many questions unanswered about identity, a sense of belonging, and the history before the trade. The first-fruits celebrations are noted by Dr. Karenga and recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations Kwanzaa, then, is:

- a time of ingathering of the people to reaffirm the bonds between them;
- a time of special reverence for the creator and creation in thanks and respect for the blessings, bountifulness and beauty of creation;
- a time for commemoration of the past in pursuit of its lessons and in honor of its models of human excellence, our ancestors;
- a time of recommitment to our highest cultural ideals in our ongoing effort to always bring forth the best of African cultural thought and practice;
- a time for celebration of the Good, the good of life and of existence itself, the good of family, community and culture, the good of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word the good of the divine, natural and social.

## DAY 1 - 1st Principle

**26** **unity - umoja** (oo-MOH-ja)  
Action: building a community that holds together

## DAY 2 - 2nd Principle

**27** **self-determination - kujichagulia** (koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-yah)  
Action: speaking for yourself and making choices that benefit the community

## DAY 3 - 3rd Principle

**28** **collective work and responsibility - ujima** (oo-JEE-mah)  
Action: helping others within the community

## DAY 4 - 4th Principle

**29** **cooperative economics -ujamaa** (oo-JAH-ma)  
Action: supporting businesses that care about the community

The name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase matunda ya kwanza, meaning "first fruits of the harvest". The seven day celebration begins every December 26th and concludes on January 1st. The official website for Kwanzaa <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org> shares the root to why seven days were selected.

## DAY 5 - 5th Principle

**30** **a sense of purpose - nia** (nee-AH)  
Action: setting goals that benefit the community

"Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African American people as well as Africans throughout the world. These values are called the Nguzo Saba which in Swahili means the Seven Principles. Developed by Dr. Karenga, the Nguzo Saba stand at the heart of the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa, for it is these values which are not only the building blocks for community but also serve to reinforce and enhance them."

## DAY 6 - 6th Principle

**31** **creativity - kuumba** (koo- OOM-bah)  
Action: making the community better and more beautiful

So who is celebrating Kwanzaa and why is it important to the community?



During Kwanzaa, celebrants greet each other with "Habari gani," or "What's the news?" The principles of Kwanzaa form the answers. To learn more about Kwanzaa and its origins visit the official website at <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org>.

## DAY 7 - 7th Principle

**01** **faith - imani** (ee-MAH-nee)  
Action: believing that a better world can be created for communities now and in the future

# ART ON AIDS/HIV

South Florida has the highest AIDS Rates in the USA!

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping this epidemic that is affecting our community.

