

Press Release For Immediate Release Date: Saturday, July 10, 2010 For More Information Contact: Katie Gray Supervisor, Public Relations (416) 392-5941

VIBRANT AFRICAN ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL OPEN FOR SEASON



Saturday, July 10, 2010, Toronto, Ontario: African arts and culture are again officially flourishing in the Zoo's African Savanna section following today's opening ceremonies at 11:00am. The colourful event was attended by Councillor Raymond Cho, Chair, Toronto Zoo Board of Management, John Tracogna, Toronto Zoo CEO, Tselane Mokuena, Consul General for South Africa, and other dignitaries. Guests at this colourful occasion enjoyed African Mask Dance Groups, an African Drummers Group, an African traditional Storyteller, and a Batik/Gara/Tie-Dye Art Workshop.

The 2nd Annual African Arts and Cultural Festival, which runs on weekends from July 3 to September 6, 2010, will enhance the Zoo visitors' experience of the native culture associated with this area of the Zoo. The Festival is located at three sites in the Zoo's African Savanna: the Market Bazaar, Kesho Park Ranger Station, and the picnic area west of the Simba Restaurant. Visitors will have the opportunity to admire and purchase the stunning, detailed work of African visual artists and vendors, attend demonstrations, and talk to the artists. Festival times are from 9:00am to Zoo closing at 7:30pm.

Along with the visual arts, the weekends of July 10 & 11, and 24 & 25 will feature dance performances, music, crafts, traditional storytelling and more.

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Current Zoo Hours to Sept. 6: 9:00am to 7:30pm. Last admission one hour before closing. General Admission 13-64 incl. is \$23.00. Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 are \$13.00 and Seniors 65 + are \$17.00. Parking is \$10. Prices include applicable taxes and are subject to change without notice. Events are subject to change without notice. The Zoo is located at Meadowvale Road and Hwy. 401, Exit 389 east and west bound. For general information, call (416) 392-5929.

The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except December 25th).

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