

Thank Goodness for Gullah!

Community Festival

One of the highly anticipated events during the month-long Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration is the annual Taste of Gullah festival, held here on the grounds of the Arts Center. The free community-wide festival takes place from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 9.

Festival goers will have an opportunity to experience the food, music, language and history that makes the Gullah culture so rich and beautiful.

From storytelling to gospel music, dance and more, an afternoon of performances will put the spotlight on Gullah heritage. Entertainment will include the Voices of El Shaddai, and the Voices of St. Helena Island, as well as a lecture with Dr. Eric Crawford, Gullah musicologist from Coastal Carolina University.

The Art League of Hilton Head will again host the exhibition "De Aarts Ob We People" in the Walter Greer Gallery.

Traditional Gullah basketweavers Michael Smalls and Dino Badger will be on hand to sell and craft their intricate hand-woven sweetgrass baskets, "coiled so tightly they can hold water." The basket-making tradition has been passed down through generations to Smalls and Badger who will demonstrate this art form throughout the festival.

Be sure to bring your appetite to sample Lowcountry specialties prepared by Local

Gullah cooks including "original island gumbo" and Geechee conch stew, as well as barbecue ribs, fried fish, shrimp and grits, and shrimp and okra gumbo.

In addition to the Arts Center, other sponsors of the festival include both the South Carolina Arts Commission and Concours d'Elegance: Driving Young America.

For more information, visit artshhi.com or gullahcelebration.com. See you Saturday, February 9th at noon!

