

PRESS RELEASE

ZEYBRAH in conjunction with The Long Branch Office of Community and Economic Development & The Long Branch Department of Recreation, as part of Oceanfest present:

The 24th annual OCEANS OF RHYTHM FESTIVAL

DATE: Tuesday, July 4th **TIME:** 4 pm **FREE ADMISSION!**

PLACE: Oceanfest Stage, Ocean Place Hotel at the Garfield Statue on the boardwalk

CONTACT: Basha Alperin: (732) 513-4041 or ZEYBRAH@aol.com

ZEYBRAH's 24th annual *Oceans of Rhythm Festival* will be part of the city of Long Branch's *Oceanfest*, the annual July 4th extravaganza. After a long set of pulsating African and Caribbean music and dance, there will be a musical procession along the boardwalk where all can join in. This year it will be led by a type of African stiltwalker called Moko Jumbe, from Trinidad and Tobago. The performances will begin at the stage in front of the Garfield statue, behind the Ocean Place Resort, located at 1 Ocean Boulevard, between Madison and Laird Streets. There will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation throughout!

Spearheading the African dance and drumming will be the electrifying drum and dance group *Yakar Roots and Rhythms*, a West African drum and dance ensemble led by Ousmane Sall, along with his sister, master dancer, Aida Faty and other members from Senegal: Lamine Thiam, Ngor Jallow, Mar Gueye and more. *Yakar's* artists are each master drummers/dancers representing histories of traditional cultural expressions. ZEYBRAH has featured them in their NYC cultural extravaganzas for many years at such places as The Schaumburg Center for Black History and Culture and Lincoln Center. Members have performed at prestigious venues throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Kicking off the program will be the local group *Grooves and Hiphop*, featuring Timmy "Basekid" Douglas from Neptune and Vernon Stone from Long Branch and. They have released a music video this year, shot in Asbury Park (that can be accessed at YouTube at Basekid420). They will be passing out 100 free downloads for their new release, "Beautiful Distraction." They recently appeared on the NYC based TV show "Madhouse TV hosted by Evan Ginsburg.

ZEYBRAH is thrilled that *Oceans of Rhythm* is now a part of *Oceanfest* -- where people from all walks of life, and of all ages can celebrate together: the beauties of the community, the music and the ocean environment! There will be activities, music and a sea of vendors throughout the day, culminating in a grand fireworks display at the beach.

ZEYBRAH is a nonprofit cultural organization that creates community arts projects and festivals, and trains artists. This year's *Oceans of Rhythm Festival* is supported by funds from the Long Branch Community Development Block Grant (Long Branch Office of Community and Economic Development, the Long Branch Department of Recreation), the Monmouth County Arts Council and generous friends of the festival. For further information contact the Long Branch Department of Recreation at 732-571-6545 or visit www.ZEYBRAH.org.

ZEST FOR EDUCATION OF YOUTH BRINGS RHYTHM, ART AND HUMANITIES