

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 25th annual OCEANS OF RHYTHM FESTIVAL

DATE: Wednesday, July 4th **TIME:** 11 am **FREE ADMISSION!**
PLACE: The Great Lawn Stage, on the boardwalk, near 10 Ocean Ave and Pier Village
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ZEYBRAH is proud to announce the 25th annual Oceans of Rhythm Festival. This year we will open *Oceanfest* with the call of the drums!" Starting at 11:00 am at the Great Lawn Stage, with both international and local groups: resounding with spectacular African drumming, dance and music, as well as hip hop and hula hoopers! Our grand finale will be a female African stilt walker who will also lead a musical procession starting at the Great Lawn.

Yakar Roots and Rhythms African Drum and Dance Company from Senegal, West Africa, (via NYC) will perform and also invite the audience to join in to learn traditional African dance movements. They have performed at prestigious venues throughout NYC and the world (Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, United Nations, to name a few.) They each have a lifetime dedication to preserve the culture of their country and share it with the world. Our special guests who will join them are from Lakewood, NJ: *AACE* aka *I Speak Djembe!* "founded in 1987 by Kames Haki, who has a lifetime commitment to training the youth and providing positive role models through African dance and drumming.

The *Oceans of Rhythm Ensemble* will feature guest artist Sekou Balomba, whose roots are in The Republic of Ivory Coast and The Gambia. Sekou has created his own style and sound, blending reggae rhythms with West African beats and melodies. He has released two CDs, "I Love My People" and "Sejou," as well as several music videos. He will perform his hit song "Mandela". Based in NYC where he performs frequently, Sekou also performs in Africa. Other local groups include: *Grooves and HipHop*, featuring Timmy Douglas from Belmar and Vernon Stone from Long Branch, with their original style and homegrown funk. Also, the incredible hula hooper, *Dominique Fruithoopgypsy* will perform and bring extra hoops for those who want to join in.

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 day long activities, music and vendors all along the boardwalk, 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 Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, 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