

Mende Film, Cultural & Arts Festival (MFF) with Low Country Black Network (LCBN) Public Update

TENTATIVE **SCHEDULE 10 – 8 - 23** 1-5 pm
OCTOBER is Gullah Geechee Heritage Month!

sas 9-8-23

1:00 pm-1:15 pm ARRIVAL/Networking

1:15 pm - 1:30 pm Welcome

Sherry A. Suttles, President, GGG, Inc., LCBN Executive Committee
Marcus McDonald, Black Lives Matter, LCBN Executive Committee
Ty Collins, Event Manager, MFF/BTG Septima P. Clark Academy

1:30 pm-2:30 pm **LBCN PUBLIC UPDATE:** Presentations/Discussion

Pleshette Grant, Settlement Communities
Marcus McDonald, Education
Sherry A. Suttles, GG Heirs Property; Bridge the Gap; MFF
OTHER Low Country Black Network Presenters

2:30 to 3:00 pm **“The Language You Cry In”** MFF, FILM INTRO– Sierra Leone Zoom?

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm FILM SCREENING

4:00 pm - 4:15 FILM DISCUSSION and MFF Relationship to LCBN work

4:15 pm- 4:45 pm WRAP UP – NEXT STEPS; Media, Special Guests

5:00 pm DEPARTURE/Joey Morant Fundraiser: Forte Jazz Lounge, 477 King Chas'ton; 6-9p

FILM DESCRIPTION

“The Language You Cry In is a documentary film that traces the linguistic and cultural connections between African Americans and their Ancestral past. The film follows the research of scholars (led by Joseph A. Opala) who discover a song (dirge) called “Tears of a Woman” that was passed down from generations to generations among the Gullah people of Georgia. The song originated from the Mende people of Sierra Leone who were enslaved and brought to America in the 18th Century.” (Princeton University)

Sherry A. Suttles, visited *Sierra Leone, in August 2021 and April 2022
To meet, see Mrs. Baindu Jabati (Mama Baindu) and arrange for her to come to America and reunite with her Georgia song counterpart, Mary Ella Moran. Unfortunately, the trip had not happened before Mrs. Moran passed away May 31, 2022, at the age of 100. Her son, Wilson Moran, Harris Neck, GA., carries on the connection between the two women, our two countries, and the two cultures. GGG, Inc., meanwhile, is working to bring to the U.S. the members of the Sierra Leone Gullah Kinship Association SLGKA - formed in 1994, three years before this 1997 film - and our connection to the Jabati family in their *Sennehun-Ngola Village and Capital City of Freetown.

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