

250215 BRA ANNUAL COLLARD GREENS FESTIVAL ST PETE FL ORGANIC FUN



Head to the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum of Florida for a fun-filled day at the Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival on February 15th, 2025. With a block party atmosphere, the festival features delicious soul food with an emphasis on collards. Wind your way through a farmers market, food trucks, wine and beer vendors, local artisans and live musical performances. You can even enter the collard green cook-off contest for prize money and bragging rights. The festival will take place from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free.

This is an annual festival and one that I don't think you should miss. Is authentic, organic Family fun. It has an atmosphere all its own. We came early and left early but people were streaming in by the hundreds and possibly thousands. I think this is a festival that has a lot of traction and will be in Saint Petersburg for the foreseeable future.



This is a celebration of local African American and black culture. There's a wide assortment of arts and crafts, fashion, jewelry, makeup accessories and food available.

It's fantastic to see this level of entrepreneurship and family involvement. Well attended and organized.





Very creative . This entrepreneur prints black history T-shirts. You expect the front of the T-shirt which has images of prominent black historical figures, but the back of the T-shirt is what's unique. Each has long text history of each of the leaders, what they contributed to society and their role in American black history. This is really well done and the the prices of the T-shirt are reasonable.



Highly recommend this website. Take a look at the different T-shirts that are available and order some.

Footprints possibilities Inc, my nonprofit charity, donates to the Tuskegee Airmen. And there was a T-shirt available for that organization. Shop and get your own.

Just walk around and get a idea of the culture, the family unity and celebratory environment that is apparent everywhere. What a beautiful day to be outside as well.

There were over 200 vendors of every type and variety. I don't think you can help but find something that you would like to eat or buy.





The colored green festival has a organizational structure which one would expect. And of course there's the T-shirt which you have to get. I spoke with them at length they were friendly and courteous and I was more than happy to pick up a couple of their T-shirts to wear.

Since 2018, The **Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival Inc.** (TBCGF), has been committed to advancing health equity, disease prevention, and economic empowerment for underserved

Unfortunately we could not stay but it looked like they were going to have a concert with live music. Surrounding the stage where food trucks of all varieties.

But intermixed in with the vendors, local business kiosks and other participants are additional food, beverage and dessert vendors. Don't settle on the first one you see. Wander around, take a good look and then plan on enjoying a good snack or meal.





When I saw this I had to approach. I asked the vendor if he sold collard greens and ice cream or was selling collard green ice cream. He assured me that both were true and that his mother had made ice cream with collard greens. So, I had to try.

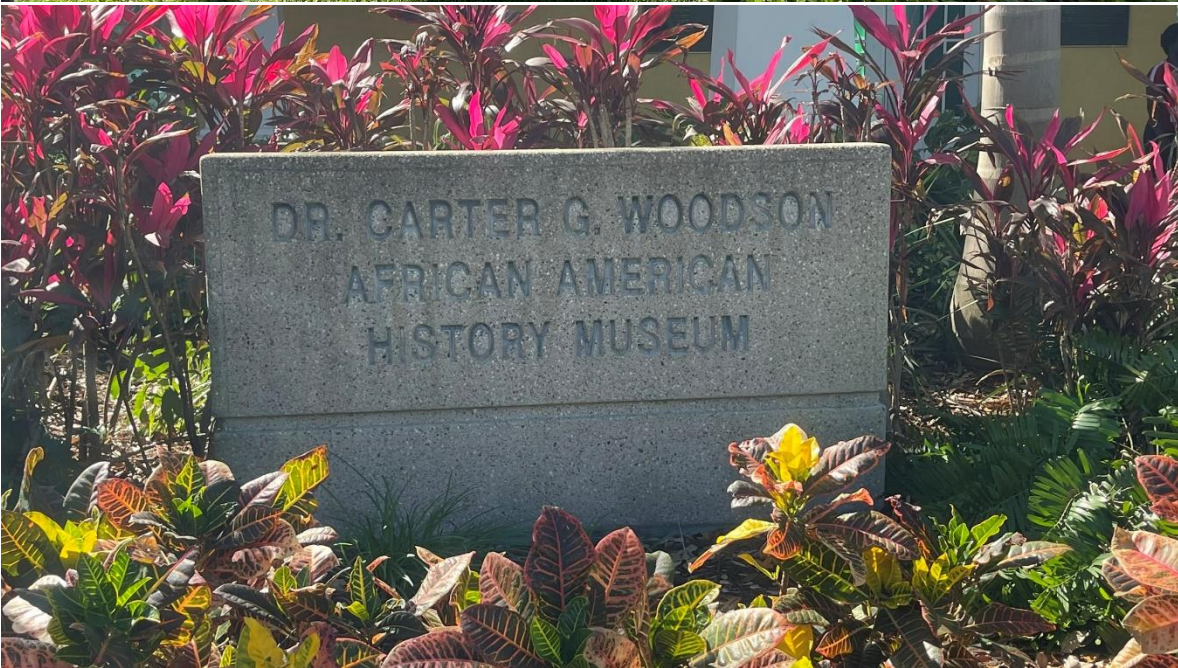
The Ice cream is made out of collard greens, sweeteners and coconut cream. It was delicious and you could taste both the coconut and the collard greens in the dessert. I was the first one to walk up to the kiosk but once I was standing there for even a few moments I turned around to notice that 15 other patrons were ready to buy the dessert. Try it you would be surprised how good it is.

PS He told me that his mother was the one that started the collard green festival in 2018. A little bit of inside history.



The festival just goes on and on and on. I'm not sure but there was at least 200 vendors possibly close to 300 total across the entire site. Of course they had collard greens for sale and just about everybody was walking around with a shopping bag full of them.

But this festival has a real family feel to it. Lots of kids and lots of things for kids to do. Do not fail to bring your entire family as there is something there for everybody.



The doctor Carter what's an African American History Museum is located along the path of the festival. This is a great resource for the community. I have attended some activities here hosted by the American stage. While at the festival wander in and look.



OK if I was a kid and I saw this I would go bananas. This is the Pathfinder organization that teaches kids knots, ropes and climbing. I mean is this cool or is this cool?

This was early in the day but I'm sure as it progressed that you probably couldn't get close to this if you had children. They were having such a good time pulling themselves up and climbing straight up a rope. This really teaches them confidence and uses muscles. Anything you can do today to have kids use their limbs is a plus.

But this just was one of many activities that were aimed at children and families. There was a lot here you just have to walk around and at every corner you'll find something for someone no matter what age.



At the far end of the festival was a kiosk that was selling oxtails. And of course it's Jamaican which is synonymous with good oxtail recipes. I commented to the cook that I saw recently that the price of oxtails per pound in the United States has shot through the roof. Americans have finally discovered what the rest of the world has known for a long time, that oxtails are an exquisite delicate and delicious meat. Who knew? Big dinner platter with a good portion of oxtails vegetables and rice would cost you \$27.00. This easily feeds three people if not four and is well worth the money.



There is so much to see that is organic and unique. I think the creativity of the vendors here is really marvelous. In a world where everything is made by machine it's nice to see things that are handcrafted. It's hot



No, I could not come to the collard festival without paying my respects to His Majesty, the Collard King. All joking aside he looked wonderful in his Cape and I just couldn't stand it. Plus I wasn't unique just about everybody that walked down the sidewalk had to have a picture taken. We apologize for not buying any collards because my wife is a collard nut. She actually has steamed and cooked collards in the refrigerator and eats them regularly. If you haven't tried it don't knock it they are really delicious.



And uh the collard festival means business. In the gallery of greens there is a competition of sorts. There are different vats with different recipes of collards that you can purchase and try. That way you can make up your own mind which of the recipes you like best

They also have takeaways so if you haven't eaten collards before grab some to go and try some at home. I think once you try collards you won't go back. It's really a delicious vegetable and very nutritious.





In a day when everything is cookie cutter and the souvenirs seem to all be the same, this is really a breath of fresh air. Don't miss this festival when it comes around during the spring. Come hungry and early. Shop and get some unique gifts for the family. Everything here is organic, unique and locally made. You can't go wrong.



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