

Umoja Village: A Place to Remember, Heal and Celebrate!

This celebration gives us an opportunity to gather, to remember those who came before us, our ancestors. They bring us together to love, share, listen, educate, and celebrate our humanity, history, culture and the people of this land and beyond. We come together to serve humanity and build unity with ourselves, community, city and nation.

-The Umoja Committee

Our ancestors gave their lives so that we could live our dreams,
And now, we honor of all they worked for then
And all we are today
We give thanks
We rejoice

We dance and shout and pull together,
And we remember

That like the Kinara stands on the firm foundation of the mkeka
We are standing on a legacy
So rich in power and beauty
That nothing can stop us from shining!
Anonymous



Giving acknowledgment and thanks to:

Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dr. Nana Anoa Nantambu and Reginald Diop Green for blessing of the gravesite and Congo Square
Black Men of Labor Social Aid and Pleasure Club

Congo Square Foundation

Culu Children's Traditional African Dance Company

D. Ryan Gray, and the UNO Departments of Anthropology and of History
Earth Search, Inc.

Guardians of the Flame Mardi Gras Indians

Greer Goff-Mendy, Tekrema Center

Hannibal Lokumbe, Composer

Kumbuka African Dance and Drum Collective

LSU FACES Forensics Laboratory

Mardi Gras Indians Stilt Walkers

Minister Willie Muhammad, Mosque # 46

N'Kafu Traditional African Dance Company

New Orleans Museum of Art

New Orleans Community

New Orleans Police Department First District

Peace Keepers

Reverend Dwight Webster, Ph.D, Pastor, Christian Unity Baptist Church

Reverend Emmanuel Mulenga, O.M.I. Saint Augustine Church

Reverend Lois DeJean

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

Ron Bechet, Professor of Art, Xavier University of Louisiana

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Scott Hutcheson and Asante Salaam, Office of Cultural Economy

Total Community Action

Office of Mayor Mitch Landrieu | City of New Orleans

Dr. Shannon Dawdy, University of Chicago

Sula Evans, Zion Trinity

Treme Brass Band

Umoja Committee Members

Walter Umrani

MEMORIAL MASS of REMEMBRANCE and HEALING



"Devotion" 58x60" Charcoal on paper 2007

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015
10:00 A.M.**

SAINT AUGUSTINE CHURCH

In 2011, Dr. Ryan Gray from UNO's Department of Anthropology, archaeologists from Earth Search, Inc., and forensic anthropologists from the FACES lab of LSU's Department of Geography and Anthropology investigated the St. Peter Street Cemetery in advance of planned construction. The St. Peter Street Cemetery, located in the Vieux Carré within the block bounded by St. Peter Street, Burgundy, Toulouse, and N. Rampart Streets, is currently unmarked, despite being the primary burial place for New Orleans' Colonial-era population between 1724 and 1789, including free and enslaved people of African, European, and Native American descent.

Remains of at least 15 individuals were recovered, most of whom appear to be of African ancestry, and were likely enslaved during their lives. All of those interred in the St. Peter Street Cemetery would have been baptized as Catholic, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans has graciously allowed us to re-inter the remains in a donated vault in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. There, they will join human remains recovered in salvage excavations in 1984, when construction impacted graves on the same block. The majority of these individuals also appeared to be of African origin.

These people interred at the St. Peter Street Cemetery played a crucial role in the creation of the City of New Orleans. Africans and African-Americans, both free and enslaved, provided the labor that built much of the Colonial city, and their intellectual and cultural contributions to its unique heritage—and to America's entire heritage—is still being recognized. The New Orleans Museum of Art, who is hosting *Kongo across the Waters*, an exhibition exploring the connections between Central Africa and America, has partnered with UNO to present public program and related exhibition materials, as have the curators of the *Kongo across the Waters* exhibition.

This is a public event, but all entities and performers involved in it retain rights to any commercial use and/or dissemination of their images and/or music. All commercial use should be negotiated with the appropriate parties.

FRONT COVER IMAGE *Devotion*, 2007, Ron Bechet, charcoal on paper, 50 x 60 in, image courtesy of the artist

Saint Augustine Church
1210 Gov. Nicholls Street New Orleans, Louisiana
Reverend Emmanuel Mulenga, O.M.I., Pastor

Memorial Mass of Remembrance and Healing
Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Entrance Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Treme Brass Band

Opening Prayers

First Reading: Wisdom 4:7-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

Prayers of the Faithful

Eucharistic Prayers

Sign of Peace

Communion

Meditative Hymn

Closing Prayer

A Message from Archbishop Gregory Aymond

Speakers:

Dr. Emilie G. Leumas, Archdiocese of New Orleans office of Archives and Records

Dr. D. Ryan Gray, University of New Orleans, Department of Anthropology

Dr. Kimberley Richards, Umoja Committee

Kumbuka African Dance and Drum Collective performing AJaJa – Nigerian ceremonial dance performed for the Egun (sacred dead)

Procession to St. Louis Cemetery #1 with Treme Brass Band