



# 2026 Festival Program



## 9:30 am - 10:30 am — The Riverwalk Procession

Convening amid the ruins of the old St. Philips Church at Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson (BTFA), this procession gathers early-bird Festival attendees for a ceremonial walk to the river to honor the legacy of those ancestors who endured the Middle Passage and to pay tribute to the enduring Gullah Geechee community.

### The Gullah Geechee Corridor Stage (Speakers & Presentations)

- 10:45am** **Jim McKee, BTFA Site Manager**  
*"Gullah Labor in the Cape Fear Rice and Naval Stores Industries"*
- 11:45am** **Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation,**  
*"Gullah/Geechee Land & Legacy: Golden Grains een Black Gold Hands"*
- 12:45pm** **Daniel Jones, Historian & Curator,**  
*"The Wilmington Campaign"*
- 1:45pm** **Earl Ijames, Farmer & Historian,**  
*"From Africa to America to Your Plate: The Middle Passage and Origins of Gullah Cuisine"*
- 3:15pm** **Interim Exec. Director Djuana Brockington & the North Carolina Commissioners of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor,** *"Report on the March 6th North Carolina Summit"*

### The "Come Hear NC" Stage (Live Music Performances)

- 10:30 am** **Opening Words/Sponsor Recognitions, Kamili Anderson,** Chair, NC Rice Festival Inc.
- 10:45am** **Sister Shabu,** Opening Music
- 11:00am** **Adrienne Nirde,** NC Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources
- 11:15am** **SolTree Reign,** Spoken Word
- 12:15pm** **Shea-Ra Nichi & SolFlo,** Dance & Drumming
- 2:00pm** **Heart & Soul Line Dancing,** "Boots on the Ground"
- 3:15pm** **Africa Unplugged,** Music

### The BTFA Museum Auditorium (Lectures & Demonstrations)

- 11:00am** **Tracey Weldon,** Gullah Language & Linguistics
- 12:30pm** **Donni Joyner,** Local Gullah History
- 1:30pm** **Nora Reber,** Brunswick Town Slavery-Era Archeological Findings
- 2:30pm** **Adrienne Arrington-Kenion,** Gullah Herbalism Traditions

### The Brunswick & NC Arts Councils' Children's Pavilion

#### (Storytelling & Crafts)

- 10:00am** **Ezekial Nelson,** Solo Drum Song
- 11:00am** **Marva Moss,** Storytelling
- 11:30pm** **Tiffany Williams,** Narrator
- 12:00pm** **Julian Williams Sr.,** Blacksmithing  
**Julian Williams Jr.,** Blacksmithing  
**Mason Hawes,** Blacksmithing
- 2:15pm** **Jennifaye Singleton,** Basketweaving, Quilting, & Dollmaking

### The Stage at Old St. Philips (Live Performances)

- 12:45pm** **MMBC Worship Leader Tyree Hines & Guest,** Praise and Worship
- 1:15pm** **Drumming Class with Teli Shabu**
- 2:15pm** **Jim Fish, "55 Years Teaching"**— a one-man, one-act play about Southport NC's longtime African American educator, Frank Gordon

#### PROGRAM UPDATES & MORE



*See You Next Year!!*

March 3-6, 2027

[www.northcarolinaricefestival.org](http://www.northcarolinaricefestival.org)

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