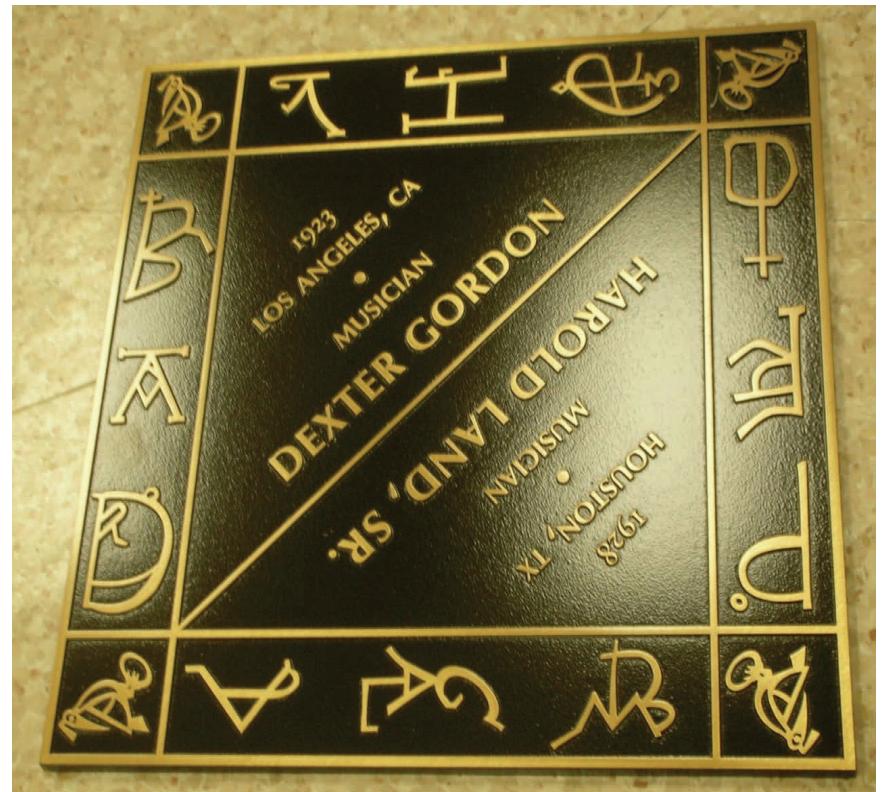


Sankofa Passage is a cultural destination in Los Angeles' African American Village. A testament to the ever-evolving artistic presence rooted in the Leimert Park/Crenshaw District, this community-driven effort documents and honors many past and present creative channels who continue to influence the spirit and cultural fabric of Los Angeles and the global village.

The name Sankofa Passage symbolizes African culture in America. Sankofa is an Afrikan principle from the Akan people of Ghana. Literally meaning, "reach back and fetch it", Sankofa reminds us that we must respect and honor the past as the foundation from which current and future generations must forge a future filled with growth and progress. The term Passage evokes the strength and indomitable spirit of those Africans who were permanently extracted from their families and homelands to survive the "Middle Passage" and the uncertainty of enslavement in the Americas. Passage further denotes a contemporary "Rite of Passage" bridge providing inspiration to aspiring artists.

Each Sankofa Passage honoree will have a pyramid with their name, artistic discipline and place of birth embedded on a diamond shaped bronze plaque along the passage. An image of the mythical Sankofa bird with its head turned back (symbolizing a reverence for the past) and symbols of branding irons used in slavery will border the perimeter of the plaques. These historically accurate symbols (and their like) were once burned into the flesh of all enslaved Africans to identify them as property of their owners. Additional branding was burned into the slaves with each subsequent sale or transfer of ownership.

In spite of the inhumanity of the "Maafa" (African Holocaust), world art and culture continue to be profoundly influenced by the great wealth of spiritual creativity throughout the Diaspora. The artistic spectrum of the Sankofa Passage honorees is a noble example of this community's contribution to a prolific global legacy of dedicated artists committed to artistic excellence.



Sankofa Passage

Councilmember Bernard Parks

*The Greater Leimert Park Village
Crenshaw Corridor
Business Improvement District
and
The Community Redevelopment Agency*

*Cordially request
the honor of your attendance
at the*

*Sankofa Passage
dedication ceremony
on
Friday*

*November 30, 2007
at
2:00 p.m.
in*

*Community Build Park
located at
4305 Degnan Boulevard
Los Angeles, California*

RSVP

Clint Rosemond (323) 290-6565

Honorees

*Richard Fulton, Community Spirit
Billy Higgins, Musician
Horace Tapscott, Musician
Alonzo Davis, Artist
Harold Land, Sr., Musician
Dexter Gordon, Musician
Eric Dolphy, Musician
John Riddle, Artist
Charles White, Artist
John Outterbridge, Artist
Samuel Browne, Musician/Teacher
Cecil Fergerson, Arts Patron/Scholar
Paul Williams, Architect
Marla Gibbs, Actor
Beah Richards, Actor
Frances Williams, Actor
Kamau Daaood, Poet
Hampton Hawes, Musician
Clora Bryant, Musician
Marie Bryant, Dancer/Singer
Melba Liston, Musician
Juno Lewis, Musician
Charles Mingus, Musician
Gerald Wilson, Musician
Buddy Collette, Musician
Elvira Redd, Musician
Ernie Andrews, Singer
Jeni LeGon, Dancer
Willie Covan, Dance Theatre
Alma Hightower, Music Teacher
Roy Porter, Musician
Melvonna Ballenger, Theatrical Production*