

Memo: MAAFA Trip September 19th – 25th

To: Undergraduate Student Government Allocations Committee

From: Black Student Union

Date: August 14, 2006

The Black Student Union is launching a campaign to united students leaders and charge them to work together on the challenges affecting the diverse student populations at IUPUI. BSU is sponsoring a trip to the 12th Annual National MAAFA Commemoration in Brooklyn, New York. We are proposing to take 15 students from across campus to participate in the workshops, seminars, and activities that will explore the status of African Americans today.

MAAFA is Kiswahili for great catastrophe, tragedy, or disaster. 'The MAAFA Suite...A Healing Journey' is the centerpiece of the conference, and it an re-enactment of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Passage. "The MAAFA SUITE...A Healing Journey, a powerful psychodrama, is the beginning of a healing and educational process regarding an overlooked chapter of history that has affected people of all races and cultures, and a meaning of furthering our awareness of and efforts to undo institutional racism," Clay Fielding, executive coordinator of the MAAFA. BSU is excited about the opportunity to sponsor such an event. There is no event, of this magnitude, in Indianapolis or Indiana which is why it is critical that we attend. Dr. Turner, professor in University College and chaperone, has attended the event several times had this statement to share,

" One of the most important expectations of an enlightened/liberally educated person is to provide Leadership in solving the critical issues that negatively impact the quality of life. This conference is designed to provide the experts, programming and experiences that will enable students to not only understand the importance of this responsibility, but obtain the information, resources, and short-term exposure to persons and insights that will show them how. In light of recent events in our city, it is critically important that we train a new cadre of young leaders to help solve some of these challenges. This event at St. Paul's combines the spiritual, artistic, psychological and intellectual forces in a unique way that is specifically designed to address the history African Americans, with a special emphasis on including and capitalizing on the strengths of Black males, "
(personal correspondence, August 12, 2006).

The Black Student Union at IUPUI has designed a strategic plan to recruit participants and to ensure an experience will be beneficial for all of IUPUI. The 15 students who attend will present their ideas and experience from the MAAFA during a campus wide Black History Month event. To ensure student commitment we are charging students \$75 which will cover MAAFA ticket cost, a cultural excursion, and one group meal.

We are requesting \$6,540 from USG to support travel and accommodations for these students. \$2780 will cover hotel and transportation once in New York. That will be \$185.34 per student for lodging and transportation for 5 days in New York City. The MAAFA coordinators have arranged transportation for attendees throughout the day from hotel. Students will not have to be concerned with transportation. \$3750 would cover roundtrip airfare from Indianapolis to LaGuardia International Airport.

We would be interested in meeting with the committee if possible to discuss this proposal in person, schedule permitting. Attached you will find additional articles about the MAAFA, a copy of our guidelines, application, and trip itinerary. Feel free to contact Dominic Dorsey or Juhanna Rogers for any additional questions or concerns at *****.