



Blue Notes



FESTIVAL AT SEA

2023 THEME • PORTS-OF-CALL • HOTELS • CABIN GIVEAWAY

351 CALIFORNIA ST #950, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104



FAS SHIPMATES: PASSENGERS MAKING WAVES

Over thirty years ago, Festival at Sea was created as the 1st African American Cultural Cruise. It grew from 250 people and is the longest running cruise of its kind with almost 3000 people sailing every year. Activities are planned that support all aspects of our culture including religious services, exercise classes, dance lessons, deck parties and many other events. Of course, we have top named entertainment as well which we also call, the frosting on the cake!!

Festival at Sea would like to recognize the many contributions that our passengers have made to its history over the years. SHIPMATES is a feature that we are dedicating to our passengers who have individually contributed in special ways to make Festival at Sea a memorable cruise experience for everyone. Thank you and Congratulations to Cynthia Jordan on being named our first Shipmate and **designing our Festival at Sea 30th Anniversary T-shirt Quilt.**

Patricia Nicholson Yarbrough
President & Founder
Blue World Travel Corp.

Cynthia's Story

FAS 30th Anniversary Quilt Designer

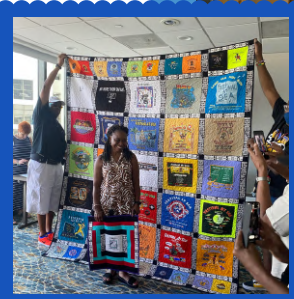
Cynthia, works on our Festival at Sea committee and started quilting 15 years ago after being invited to a quilt show that was organized by a group of African American women. Shortly after learning how to quilt, she started a quilting group at her church who are part of their missionary department. **Their yearly projects have included making quilts for kids in foster care, breast cancer survivors and veterans and this year for hospice patients.** She does not usually take on special requests or make quilts as a business. She gives quilts to family members and friends. Cynthia says **"Quilting is a skill and passion I feel that God has given me and I am so thankful that I can use it to bless someone else."**

After finding out that Patricia was saving her Festival at Sea T-Shirts to eventually have a quilt made for the 30th Anniversary, Cynthia was asked to make the T-Shirt quilt. **"I started the process early February,** and I think I finally finished the piecing sometime in mid-May. I do work full-time but most of my weekends are spent quilting and I work on multiple projects at a time. When I realized how big it was, I knew I was not going to be able to hand quilt it – that would have taken several more months. I also wanted more detailed quilting which is best done with a long arm quilting machine. I located a local lady who does long arm quilting, and she was able to quilt it in about 3 weeks. I then had to take the time to bind the quilt (close everything all around) and also put on the hanging sleeve. **I finally had it all finished in early July!"**

Now everyone knows that the 30th Anniversary Quilt was very special and had a great deal of love and dedication behind it. Thank you, Cynthia, for your amazing contribution to the history of the longest running African American Cultural Cruise in the world!



See the quilt displayed in the Silhouette dining room onboard the Equinox!



Cynthia Jordan

Christmas in July!

2023 Festival at Sea Theme & Costume Contest

Over the last 30 years our Festival at Sea Family has done everything together except celebrate Christmas!! This year we will be decking the halls of the Equinox with balls of holly and Oh What Fun it will be to take part in our own Black Santa Con! So break out your Ugly Christmas Sweaters and Reindeer Antlers and get ready to celebrate. You can also get your inspiration from movies such as Scrooge or How the Grinch stole Christmas. Whatever you do we are sure you are going to Jingle all the Way!

We highly suggest that you be good this year because we will be joined by Atlanta's own The Real Black Santa!!

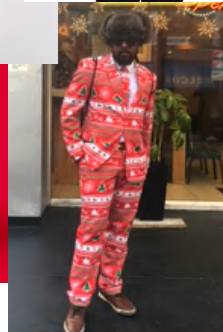
Of course there will be a **contest to pick the winners. Prizes will be given for: Best Male, Best Female, Best Couple, Best Family, Best Group**

As a special gift we will also have an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest — judged by The Real Black Santa and the FAS Staff Workshop!



The Real Black Santa™

Costume Inspiration!



Wakanda @ Sea

Our Formal African Attire Evening

In 2022, our Festival at Sea African Attire evening was renamed "Wakanda @ Sea" in honor of the life and work of Black Panther star, Chadwick Bozeman. We will continue on with this tradition going forward as we here at Blue World Travel feel deeply that, thanks to our beautiful passengers, our charter is our own version of Wakanda!

All guests are encouraged to dress in your best African Attire.



FESTIVAL AT SEA

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Below is a day-to-day *recommended* onboard attire schedule

8-NIGHT CARIBBEAN

NOTE: We leave on a **Saturday** and return on **Sunday!**

DATE	DAY	PORT	EVENING ATTIRE
July 22	SAT	Ft Lauderdale	Resort Casual
July 23	SUN	Nassau	Cocktail Attire
July 24	MON	At Sea	Christmas in July Costume Contest and Deck Party
July 25	TUE	Cozumel	Resort Casual
July 26	WED	Grand Cayman	Resort Casual
July 27	THU	Falmouth	White Night Deck Party
July 28	FRI	Montego Bay	Wakanda@Sea - Cultural Expression T-Shirt (day) African Attire (night)
July 29	SAT	At Sea	Sports Team T-Shirt (day) Resort Casual (night)
July 30	SUN	Ft Lauderdale	Debarkation

PORTS OF CALL



Nassau, Bahamas

Nassau's new cruise terminal area is waiting for you with new shops on and a new straw market on Bay Street. To get around, take the local jitneys, the buses making the rounds to Nassau and Cable Beach. Visit the Bahamas and hop on the ferry to get to Paradise Island, the home of the Atlantis resort.

There is so much to see and do in Nassau. From beautiful white sands and crystal clear waters to tasting the delicious Bahamian food. This is a stop you are sure to enjoy!



Cozumel, Mexico

Cozumel's town center reminds you that it isn't just a beach . — It's every bit as "real Mexico" as cities in the country's interior. In Cozumel, check out the understated, elegant San Miguel Cathedral, or learn about the local ecosystem at the Museum of Cozumel Island.

Enjoy diving, snorkeling or jeep tours and beach lounging, it is really easy to make the day in Cozumel a special experience.



Grand Cayman

Locally caught fish is the main attraction in Grand Cayman cuisine. And you'll find plenty of shellfish served marinated, in fritters, or in hearty chowders. Rum is the drink of choice, so make sure you try the "Cayman Mama," a local signature cocktail made with light and coconut rums, banana liqueur, Triple Sec, pineapple juice, and a dash of Grenadine or strawberry syrup. Cheers!



Falmouth & Montego Bay

You'll find the best duty-free shopping in Jamaica at The Shoppes at Rose Hall, which offers everything from luxury goods and designer jewelry to island crafts and souvenirs.

Jamaica's culinary claim to fame is its jerk cooking. Try some dry-rubbed jerk chicken or pork, or order some signature Jamaican patties for a spicy afternoon snack. If you need a pick-me-up, try a cup of Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee. A bit of locally distilled rum from the Appleton Estate never hurts either.

SPRING BLUE NOTES COMING IN APRIL!



Entertainment Release



Beverage Packages



Tours & Excursions



UNCF Bachelor Auction



Fashion Week at Sea



Renewal of Wedding Vows



FAS Celebration Choir



Basketball Tournament



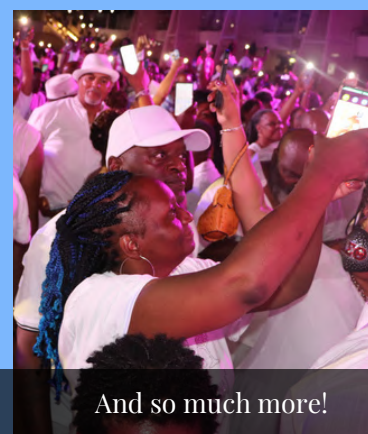
Games & Activities Signups



Children's Book Drive



Gospel Brunch



And so much more!

Festival at Sea is about you! In our Spring Blue Notes you'll find out about all of the activities that you'll be able to participate in. There is so much to do....

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FESTIVAL AT SEA

CABIN GIVEAWAY

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE CABIN!

CABIN GIVEAWAY

Launch Date:

Friday, February 24th, 2023

Today we will be launching our annual **cabin giveaway**! Input your email to automatically enter the cabin giveaway contest. **Refer your friends to get more chances to win.** The more friends you refer, the higher your chances of winning the cabin giveaway. The winner will receive a **complimentary balcony cabin** on-board **Festival at Sea 2023!** (See terms and conditions on the giveaway page.)

[CLICK HERE](#)





Celebrate **African American** culture with American Airlines and Festival at Sea

American Airlines is proud to partner with Blue World Travel, an African American Woman-owned travel agency celebrating 45 years in business.

A week of enriching cultural experiences



Filled with prizes exclusively for Festival at Sea

Enter for a
chance to win

American Airlines
AAdvantage 

50,000
bonus miles

American Airlines 50K
AAdvantage® Miles Sweepstakes
Exclusively for Festival at Sea



<https://forms.office.com/r/1N7u9KeE5V>

2-NIGHT PRE CRUISE HOTEL PACKAGES

We still have availability for our 2-night Pre Cruise at **The Diplomat** and a few rooms left at the **Hilton Doubletree**. Each offer unique attributes!

All hotels include hotel room rate, taxes, housekeeping, bellman luggage pull, pier portorage, and your transportation to the ship.

Our Pre-Cruise Party will be at Le Meridien on Friday Night.



Le Meridien

Le Meridien is currently **SOLD OUT**. It is a short 15-minute Uber, Lyft or taxi ride from either the Diplomat or the Hilton Doubletree.

Le Meridien Dania Beach is located in the city of Dania Beach but is not on the beach. It is located in the Ft. Lauderdale airport area. There is a complimentary shuttle from the Ft. Lauderdale airport to the hotel.

Everyone who is booked on one of our hotel packages is invited to come and join us at our Bon Voyage party on Friday night at Le Meridien!



Hilton Doubletree

The Diplomat is located on the beach. It includes free WIFI for up to 5 devices, 1-hour non-motorized water sports rental, 1 hour bicycle rental and daily fitness classes.

The Hilton Doubletree is a great value hotel and is also located on the beach!



The Diplomat

VISIT FT. LAUDERDALE



With 300+ miles of navigable inland waterways within Greater Fort Lauderdale, it has earned the nickname “Venice of America.”

With an average year-round temperature of 76 degrees Fahrenheit and 3,000 hours of sunshine, this is the perfect place to vacation, no matter the season.

Upon arriving at FLL Airport, you’re within 5 miles of downtown, the beach and cruise port.

Enjoy Las Olas Boulevard which connects downtown to the beach. On this “style mile” you can find local boutiques, vibrant restaurants, cafes, national retailers, bars, and art galleries. The world class NSU Art Museum is also located at the west end of Las Olas. Stroll the Riverwalk and hop on the Water Taxi to head to the beach or take it directly to a restaurant to experience the dock and dine culture.

For drinks with a view, check out Rooftop @1WLO or Sparrow at The Dalmar and The Easton.

If finding secret entrances and cracking codes are more your speed, find speakeasies like 901, Unit B and The Apothecary. Greater Fort Lauderdale features all kinds of nightlife and entertainment for everyone under the sun to enjoy.

For even more ways to make the most of your trip, check out [**VisitLauderdale.com**](https://www.VisitLauderdale.com)

ASK IKE!

What clothes should I bring!?

No worries, mon I got your starter list right here!



- ☐ Outfits:
 - ☐ Christmas In July
 - ☐ White Night
 - ☐ African Attire
 - ☐ Cocktail Attire
- ☐ Black Culture T-Shirt Day
- ☐ Sports T- Shirt Day
- ☐ Books for Book Drive
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Sunglasses

Hey Ike, why do I need trip Insurance?

Listen close and let me ya so...



INSURANCE :

We all want to have a trip without any “surprises” however, as we have seen over the past 30 years, **situations do occur that are unexpected.** A cruise vacation is also an investment and it is wise to protect this investment with insurance. **Here are some of the reasons why you should be insured:**
Cancelled Flights & Flight Delays & Missed Flights: If you miss your flight or your flight is cancelled, you could possibly miss the ship. That is also a reason for you to book the pre-cruise!

Unexpected Sickness and Injuries: If you, or your roommate cannot travel you will be not be reimbursed unless you are insured. Our charter sailing is non-refundable.

Sickness that occurs onboard the ship. – If you must leave the ship because of illness, those expenses will not be covered unless you are insured.

Sickness onboard which requires quarantine: Although testing is currently not required to sail, Celebrity reserves the right to re-instate any rules that support the health of the guests. For example, if you become ill with Covid or any other contagious virus, **Celebrity has the right to quarantine you in your cabin** or in a cabin specified for illness. Unfortunately, no refunds will be given if this occurs. Your only reimbursement would be from insurance. Feel free to research insurance policies of your choice and what the specific policy includes. Blue World Travel has worked with Travelex Insurance and you may want to compare their rates. To get a quote you may call 800-228-9792. They will ask for your Location number. It is 05-1094 . Or you can go-online at www.festivalatsea.com/insurance You can then hit the “Click Here for a Quote” button and get a quote and purchase insurance immediately.

Get Ready for our 15th Annual UNCF Bachelor Auction

Over the past 30 years our **Festival at Sea** passengers have **donated over \$500,000** in support of our young people and their quest for higher education. We are grateful to all of you who continue to support the United Negro College Fund.

Sign-ups will be in our Spring Blue Notes in April.

Ladies, no need to sign up in advance.
Just come and bid for your Bachelor!

This year, we would like to raise \$50,000.00 between our Raffle Ticket Sales and Bachelor Auction. **Gentlemen, this will be our 15th Annual UNCF Scholarship Bachelor Auction and we are looking for 16 Good Men to participate in this year’s auction. It is open to all ages 21 and up.**

In April you’ll have a chance to sign up for this fun and worthy cause to support students wanting to attend UNCF Colleges.



Welcome Back *Friends*

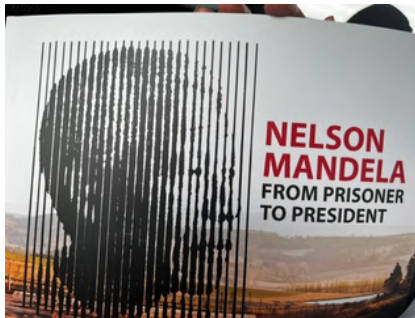
Our *Friends* of Festival at Sea cruisers just returned from an amazing cruise out of Cape Town, South Africa. Almost 25 years ago, our *Friends* program was created for people who wanted to explore the world but did not want to sacrifice our selected signature activities or dancing with our own DJ. We also wanted a more luxurious and intimate feel onboard the ships.

That was the beginning of Friends of Festival at Sea. In 1988 we said "Goodbye Caribbean" and "Hello World". 25 years later our company is still offering African Americans opportunities to travel the world together and create fulfilling "friend-ships".

From December 1st to 22nd, we cruised South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique. We spent 3 days in Cape Town where we wine tasted and went on a Safari. We cruised for 15 nights visiting great ports where we visited historical sites such as the Nelson Mandela Capture Site and were treated to a wonder day of history at the Zulu Village in ... Our next adventure will be announced very soon... Don't miss the opportunity to explore the world with your FAS *Friends*.



Friends wine tasting in Cape Town, South Africa



Friends Visit Nelson Mandela Capture Site

Blue Notes Cover Winners

Our Winter Blue Notes Cover Photo Contest winner is Evelyn Ray Cowan from Milwaukee. The picture is of her niece Nannette Ray and her friend Tammie Walker in Labadee, Haiti. The photo was selected from the many photos we received. We asked you to submit photos that capture the essence of Cruising with an African American Twist. If you did submit a photo, stay tuned... you may see your photos in future Blue Notes to come. If you haven't submitted a photo, you can still participate. Email your photos to

fas@blueworldtravel.com
Christmas Bag Contest Winner

Congratulations to our Christmas Carry-On Bag Winner, Cynthia D from Renton, WA.



"I love it and the color. I cannot wait to use it. I will be taking it on any flight I take. I will be retiring my old bag. Thank you so much!"

- Cynthia D

FAS SHOUT OUTS

Anniversaries

1 Year – La Donna Clark & Katon Clark–February 14
2 Years–Marquette Armour & Bryan Armour–March 3
7 Years–Nicole Diaz & Tony Diaz–July 3
9 Years–Eddicia Elijah & Samuel Elijah–August 14
9 Years–Garland Taylor & Linda Carter Taylor–July 20
9 Years–Nicole Reed & James Reed–February 8
10 Years–Marshall Elijah & Gloria Tucker–Elijah–June 15
12 Years–Reginald Carr & Sharon Carr–July 22
13 Years–Robert Johnson & Barbara Johnson–July 3
16 Years–Leslie Cooper & Kelly Cooper–June 16
18 Years–Tanyika Travis & Tracy E. Travis–August 20
19 Years–Joseph Kelley Jr & Joni Kelley–August 28
20 Years–Dean Roberts & Karen Roberts–February 15
20 Years– Toronto Cunningham & Sandra Cunningham–August 31
22 Years–Edith Ellis & Elias Ellis–February 24
23 Years–Annette Hill & Frank Hill–June 24
23 Years–Darryl Toraim & Tamera Toles Torain–July 22
24 Years–Jason Lee & Melinda Lee–February 19
25 Years–Al Bauman & Michele Bauman–February 14
27 Years–James Lee & Marsha Lee–June 17
30 Years–Dennis Berry Sr & Lonetta Berry–June 19
30 Years–Gary Bass & Cheryl Ray–Bass–October 9
30 Years–Hugh Hobbs Sr. & Dorissa Hobbs–March 20
30 Years–Jonathan Payne & Raushanah Payne–July 3
30 Years–Roger Brown & Braille Brown–August 28
33 Years–Frances Ellingberg & Charles Ellingberg–July 7
33 Years–Leonard Watkins & Lorinda Watkins–August 4
33 Years–Vernon Washington & Michelle Washington–February 4
34 Years–Damion Edmonds & Lisa Edmonds–August 18
39 Years–Donald McDowell & Eugenia Toca–McDowell–May 19
40 Years–Cynthia Joseph & Brent Joseph–August 9
43 Years–Jonathan Pitmon & Dotty Pitmon–May 24
45 Years–Henry Smith & Thea Smith–July 15
45 Years–Vaunasha Mosley-Boyd & Eugene Boyd–August 1
45 Years–Victor Brazil & Nancye Brazil–July 1
47 Years–Donald Cole & Rosalind Cole–July 17
50 Years–Melvin Hicks & Annie Hicks–September 27

Honeymoons

Andre Johnson and CJ Johnson were married on November 5th. Also, Gerald Mack and Paris Mack will marry on June 15th. These lovely couples will be celebrating their honeymoon onboard Festival at Sea 2023! Congratulations!

Graduations

Congratulations to Jaylen Lee who graduated from the University of Memphis.

Congratulations to Meliah Donnell who graduated from NCA&T in Greensboro, N.C. majoring in Accounting.

Congratulations to Piper Johnson who graduated from Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh with a BS in Psychology and Clinical Psychology.

Congratulations to Trechal Bowman who graduated from Southern University at New Orleans with a Master of Arts in Museum Studies.

Congratulations to Makayla Carroll who graduated from Mountain Pointe High School in Phoenix.

Congratulations to LaDonna Clark who graduated from the University of Houston Downtown in Interdisciplinary Studies-minor in Sociology.

Military Honors

Joan (LadyJoan) Waithe –Air Force–Master Sergeant–Retired

Tracy E. Travis–Marines–Lance Corporal–Retired

Hugh Hobbs Sr. – Army–Staff Sergeant–Retired

Mildred Ivory–Air Force–SMSgt–Retired

FAS SHOUT OUTS

Birthday Milestones

16 Irie Freeman-July 27th
16 Skylar Webb-February 6th
30 Gary O'Leary-April 14th
30 LaDonna Clark-April 12th
40 DJ H Holla-February 24th
40 Leah Carroll-February 15th
50 Catrese Kilgore-August 17th
50 Cynthia Hockless-July 26th
50 Deputy Chief Damon Covington-Sep 1st
50 Ebony Smith-April 10th
50 Kelly Jones-September 28th
50 LaKisha Carter-May 1st
50 LaShonda Blevins-July 15th
50 Lenarrd Person-July 15th
50 Marcus Dyson-August 26th
50 Marquette Armour-February 19th
50 Melissa Lewis-July 24th
50 Tamia Smith-November 3rd
55 Gina Abrams-July 28th
55 Keir Abrams-June 5th
55 La Rhetta Bradley-April 23rd
55 Lisa Edmonds-November 22nd
55 Roshan Morgan-September 20th
60 Bruce Jenkins-August 11th
60 Cheryl Murray-June 1st
60 Faye Anderson-November 19th
60 Michelle Butler-May 29th
60 Pamela Jones-July 10th
60 Synthia Lewis Nari-July 2nd
60 Tonya Hatcher-December 26th
65 Dean Roberts-October 10th
65 Hugh Hobbs Sr.-August 29th
65 Johnnie Hughes-January 1st
65 Pamela Curry-June 7th
70 Bettie Burrell-October 27th
70 Nikki Jackson-December 14th
70 Shelia Holloway-January 6th
70 Tommie Worthy-July 11th
70 Vershunda Jones-July 16th
70 Victoria Gideon-December 8th
75-Joan (LadyJoan) Waithe-January 1st
75 Julia Sanders-January 11th

July Birthdays

Larry Walton-July 1st
Brandon Jenkins-July 3rd
Edward Bradley-July 3rd
Joni Kelley-July 8th
Carolyn German-July 10th
Erica Williams-July 10th
Jerrod Walker-July 11th
Michelle Wilson-July 12th
Cordell Ray, Sr.-July 13th
LaTwila Andrews Tenga-July 13th
Lulu Striplin-July 13th
Julia Jones-July 16th
Kenneth Finney-July 16th
Orlando Wiggins-July 18th
Theresa Jefferson-July 18th
Vaunasha Mosley-Boyd July 18th
Sharon Keys Kendrick-July 20th
Karen Roberts-July 21st
Uthman Ebrahim-July 21st
Martha Parker-July 21st
Linda Carter Taylor-July 22nd

Barbara Johnson-July 23rd
Erica Stringfellow-July 23rd
James Thomas-July 23rd
Angela Isom-July 23rd
Veola Edge-July 24th
Dr. Tamera Toles Torain-July 24th
Linda Holmes-July 25th
Mavis Harris-July 25th
Robin Reed-July 26th
Brinya Baker-July 27th
Cynthia Scott-July 27th
Lertora Williams-July 27th
Dennis Edwards-July 28th
Jonathan Payne-July 28th
Melanie Jackson-July 28th
Robyn Thompson-July 30th
Sherrika Carter-July 30th

August Birthdays

Crystal Stovall-August 1st
Miriam Wallace-August 2nd
Dmoe Dmoe-August 3rd
Anthony Payne-August 4th
Emmanuel Jackson-August 5th
Marvin Hooks-August 5th
Anthony Payne-August 6th
Seina Robinson-August 8th
RaAdia Cloyd-August 8th
Tammy Crumpton-August 9th
Jason Lee-August 11th

Tabetha Sanders-August 18th
Antwanette Coleman-August 19th
Linda Massey-August 21st
Annie Hicks-August 23rd
Eugenia Toca-McDowell-August 26th
Yvette Sylvester-August 26th
Hugh Hobbs Sr.-August 29th
Donald McDowell-August 31st
Deron Hayes-August 31st
Eddie Elijah-August 31st

Retirements

Melanie Jackson retired from Alameda County Social Services after 25 years

Reverend Cynthia Joseph retired from Fellowship Manor after 21 years

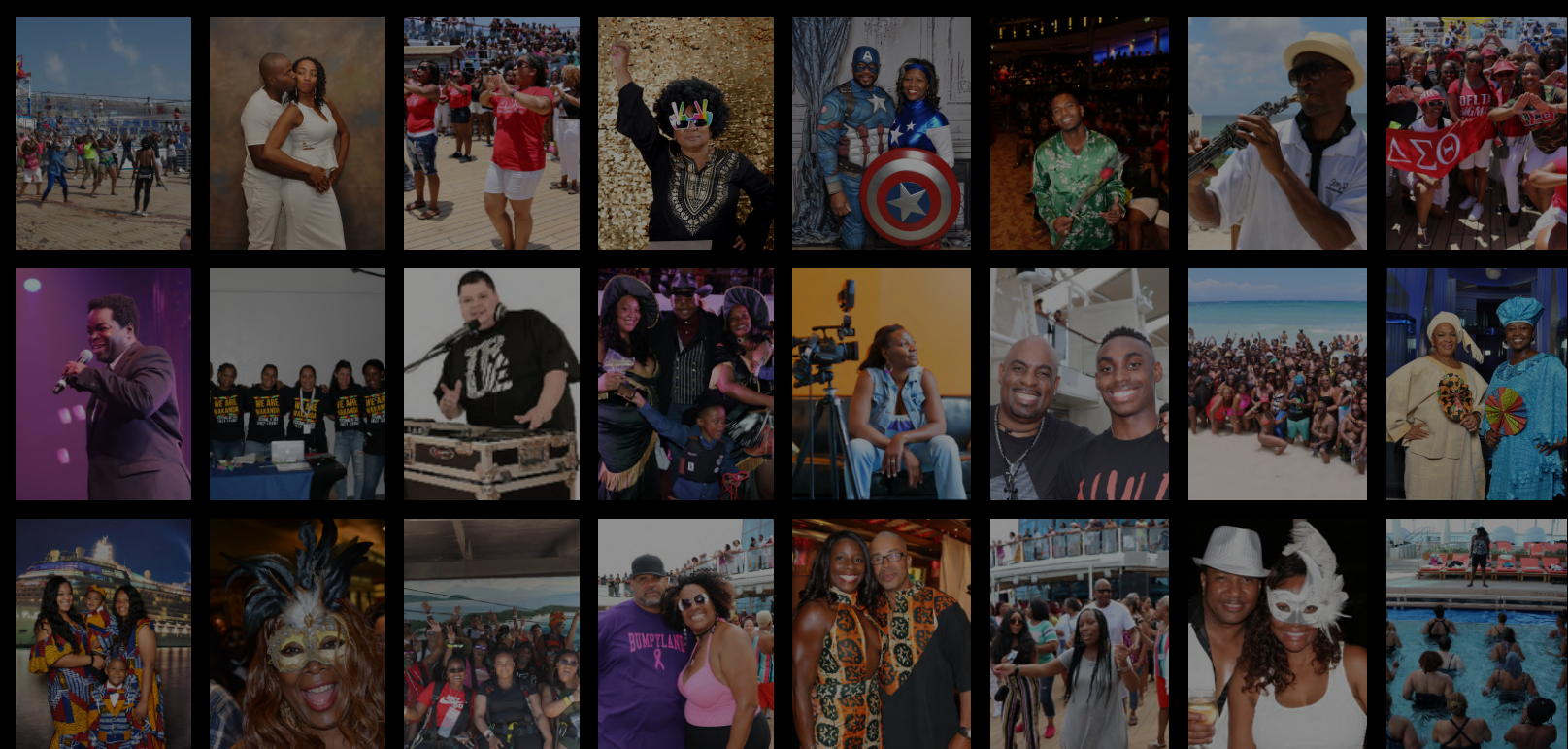
Alicia Thompson retired from Wichita Public Schools after 31 years

Ebony Smith retired from Los Angeles County Juvenile Health Services after 22 years

Hugh Hobbs Sr. retired from the Louisville Water Company after 25 years

Dorissa Hobbs retired from Centerstone after 25 years

Paris Mack retired from the Department of Labor after 11 years



FESTIVAL AT SEA

CRUISING WITH AN AFRICAN AMERICAN TWIST



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