

February 2, 2003

## Call For Support

Dear Friends:

Since Sovereign Arts Society (SAS), was founded in December 1996, we have successfully produced over two hundred performances and educational workshops throughout the Tucson metropolitan community serving 3,000 to 4,000 unduplicated individuals annually. We would like to thank all of you for your continued interest and support that has made all this possible.

Given the current economic climate we, like most non-profit organizations, are feeling the pinch. We are reaching out to you, our most important partners, for contributions to sustain our efforts. If you appreciate the work we have done over the past seven years and would like to see more, we are appealing to you for participation in our fundraising drive.

Remember all monetary contributions are 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) organization. For those on tight budgets we also offer volunteer and in-kind contribution programs

If this plea resonates with you, go directly to **CONTRIBUTING** (below). To learn more read on.

In our continuing efforts to manifest a greater sense of unity and enrichment in the community, we have produced a wide range of presentations and educational outreach programs combining local artists with internationally re-nowned ensembles like Grupo Ban RaRa, Grupo AfroCuba, Los Van Van, Bamboleo, Ravi Coltrane and Oliver Lake. No minor task for the far reaches of the southwest!

Our educational outreach activities, which specifically target underserved elementary, middle and high schools in Tucson, have produced assembly presentations, introducing students to rich cultural traditions; sequential workshops in music and dance; and opportunities for direct interaction between students and professional artists. This programming constitutes many students' sole exposure to the performing arts.

The amount of energy, time and sacrifice involved in our work is repaid with the satisfaction and knowledge that we are serving our community with critical social services. But, in order to actualize these visions, there is one critical element that has become increasing scarce . . . funding.

We are in the planning stages of our most ambitious production titled *Bred-In-The-Bone*, a full stage production exploring rich cultural elements of the African Diaspora thriving in contemporary cultural traditions of two diverse and distant geographic locations, Cuba and the USA. (For more on Bred-In-The-Bone see the project description below)

### **\*CONTRIBUTING:**

In support of this endeavor we ask that you become a contributing friend of SAS. We gratefully accept contributions in any amount and your generosity will be repaid tenfold in benefits gained by the community. For those of you who are in a position to support our efforts in generous increments, we offer the following:

A contribution of \$100.00 or more entitles you to two free tickets to any upcoming show and one free workshop with participating artists.

A contribution of \$50.00 entitles you to one free ticket to one upcoming show.

A contribution of \$25.00 entitles you to one free workshop.

Contributions can be mailed to SAS, Inc., P.O. Box 13106, Tucson, AZ 85732-3106.

Please contact us at 520-324-0321, or [margo@sovereignarts.org](mailto:margo@sovereignarts.org) with any questions or to sign up as a volunteer, in-kind contributor.

For those of you who cannot contribute monetarily, but would like to help, we are looking for:

**VOLUNTEERS AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS**

to assist in the production in the following capacity:

Hosting artists: Providing room and board. We can assist with groceries

Transportation: Driving artist to rehearsals, presentations, workshops, shows, etc.

Back Stage Manager: Organizing, prompting entries, exits etc. for the various acts

Assistant to the Director:

Set construction assistants

Food service

Make-up artists

Costumers

Production assistants: gophers

Prop Masters: moving equipment, instruments, props on and off stage

Building materials, paint

Fabric

Printing

Vehicles for local transportation

***BRED-IN-THE-BONE* PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

We are projecting September 24, 2004, as the launch date for this monumental presentation. Through performances and workshops by local artists with visiting artists, the project is designed to explore common African elements, which have survived in contemporary Afro-Cuban and African-American urban art forms. The presentation parallels evolutionary progressions from rural ritual to contemporary urban community music and dance. Focusing on cultural identity and how this is handed down and preserved through artistic expression, the show is infused with messages of respect, community, passing on knowledge, communication, and compassion.

The presentation includes live percussion, DJ, rap, dance, spoken word, video, and more. We have joined legendary Cuban masters , Hip-Hop artists, singers, choirs and dancers in a truly inspirational collective of joint artistic expression.

As an added feature the entire project will be filmed by local filmmakers at New Pueblo Entertainment Group and Yuma Productions, for release as a documentary for submission to numerous film festivals and for our educational outreach programs.

If you value preservation of the arts and cultural identity let your voice be heard by showing support. Looking forward to many more years.

Peace,

Margo Itule  
Executive Director, Sovereign Arts Society