



*“Know thyself, Own thyself “*

**SPONSORSHIP/IN-KIND DONATION REQUEST**

Dear COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

Free-Dem Foundations invites your organization/company to become a sponsor of our 2<sup>nd</sup> trip of its kind, the 2020 “ Free-Dem Angola Tour: Arts & Culture Education “ for our youth. This exciting event will be held on the grounds of Angola Prison, aka Louisiana State Penitentiary, doing Angola’s spring Rodeo, Arts and Craft event, happening the first Sunday after Easter, on April 19, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

We are taking 35 youth between the ages of 12-24 on a chartered bus. Our youth will be accompanied by 10 volunteers and formerly incarcerated mentors as their chaperones.

On this year’s “Free-Dem Angola Tour: Arts & Culture Education.” Our youth will work as teams to gather information using mobile journalism to study the similarities between chattel slavery, mass incarceration and the dehumanization of black males in mainstream media.

Our youth will learn that Angola, Louisiana State Penitentiary is the largest of its kind in the United States and was named after the African country where African people were kidnapped and forced into slavery in Louisiana. It contained a building called the Old Slave Quarters. Under

**Free-Dem Foundations, Inc., 1216 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana 70116**

**Phone: 504-609-9264 / Email: [info@freedemfoundations.org](mailto:info@freedemfoundations.org) / Website: [www.freedemfoundations.org](http://www.freedemfoundations.org)**

the convict lease system, Major James ran this vast plantation using convicts leased from the State of Louisiana as free labor.

We will conduct interviews with men that have used arts and crafts as a means to survive on the plantation, and as methods to express liberation through art and culture.

Our students will then partner with the Black Studies Union at the University of California Santa Barbara to compare historical data of convict leasing and the evidence of modern day slavery at Angola, as it relates to the dehumanization of the black male in mainstream media.

From this tour, we will also invest in arts and crafts created by men imprisoned at Angola and further develop it into a piece that humanizes the findings of our youth and the university students' research. We will utilize this piece to begin to change the narratives about young black male children in mainstream media. At the same time, these efforts will humanize the men incarcerated at Angola through their creative works.

The main objective of this tour with the youth is to teach them from our writing and discussion-based pedagogy of what we call "Critical Improvisation." This method allows them to make better informed decisions in their lives and become leaders in their prospective communities.

Our organization has been using this writing and discussion-based pedagogy for the past three years serving our youth in the New Orleans area.

Your sponsorship and/or in-kind donation will really help us assure the success of this special event. All donated funds will be used for this event. In return, or out of mere appreciation, we will include your organization name on our flyers, social media outlets and let our youth know that your group helped sponsor this event. We are a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization and will provide you with your receipt for your tax credit.

Below, please find a more detailed information sheet about this event. Nevertheless, please contact me if you have any questions or need more information about this event or our organization.

Thanks for your help,

Robert Jones/Executive Director

Free-Dem Foundations

**Free-Dem Foundations, Inc., 1216 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana 70116**

**Phone: 504-609-9264 / Email: [info@freedemfoundations.org](mailto:info@freedemfoundations.org) / Website: [www.freedemfoundations.org](http://www.freedemfoundations.org)**

## **FREE-DEM ANGOLA TOUR: Arts and Culture Education**

### **COST OF EVENT**

1. 50 passenger Charter Bus: \$2,000.00
2. Tickets for the event (\$20.00 each) \$1,000.00
3. Breakfast and Lunch for all \$525.00
4. T-shirts for all \$500.00
5. Arts and craft items expenses \$1,000.00

Total cost: \$5,000.00

### **AGENDA**

SESSION 1: Intro: This will be brief introductions and check ins to prepare for the long ride to Angola. (Conducted on bus by mentor).

SESSION 2: Program Instructions, rules, and agenda explained. Where the youth will be informed to work together as teams to gather information through mobile journalism to study the similarities between chattel slavery, mass incarceration and the dehumanization of black males in mainstream media. (Conducted on bus by mentor).

SESSION 3: The history of Angola Pentitentiary and Simarailles of chattel slavery: Our youth will learn how Louisiana State Pentitentiary is the largest of its kind in the United States and was named after the African country where African people were kidnapped and forced into slavery in Louisiana. It contained a building called the Old Slave Quarters. Under the convict lease system, Major James ran this vast plantation using convicts leased from the State of Louisiana as free labor. (Conducted on the bus by mentor).

SESSION 4: Interviewing and interactions with incarcerated men: Where our youth under guidance of their mentor will conduct interviews with men that have used arts and crafts as a means to survive on the plantation, and as methods to express liberation through art and culture. (On Angola grounds).

SESSION 5: Arts and Crafts: Our youth will choose the most creative arts and crafts for our organization to purchase. These arts and crafts created by men imprisoned at Angola will be developed into discussion and Writing pieces that humanizes the findings of the research by our mentees in collaboration with students of the Black Studies Union at the University of California Santa Barbara to compare historical data of convict leasing and the evidence of modern day slavery at Angola, as it relates to the dehumanization of the black male in mainstream media.

CONCLUSION: We all will board the bus and leave the grounds. We all will have 5 minute reflection and wellness check in.

**Free-Dem Foundations, Inc., 1216 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana 70116**

**Phone: 504-609-9264 / Email: [info@freedemfoundations.org](mailto:info@freedemfoundations.org) / Website: [www.freedemfoundations.org](http://www.freedemfoundations.org)**

**Free-Dem Foundations, Inc., 1216 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana 70116**

**Phone: 504-609-9264 / Email: [info@freedemfoundations.org](mailto:info@freedemfoundations.org) / Website: [www.freedemfoundations.org](http://www.freedemfoundations.org)**