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Dayton Metro Library Joins Urban Nights Festivities With Burundian Drummers

(August 26, 2014) – The Dayton Metro Library joins the festivities of Urban Nights on September 12 with lively, colorful performances by the Royal Court Burundian Drummers. The drummers, popular at World A’Fair, Cityfolk and the African-American Festival, will perform at 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in Cooper Park at the Main Library, 215 E. Third Street. In case of rain, they will perform inside the Library.

The Burundian Drummers follow centuries of tradition, playing drums made of hollowed tree trunks covered with animal skins, each with different sacred meaning. Members of the ensemble take turns playing the various drums, rotating throughout the performance without interruption.

“The drum remains an instrument that is both popular and revered,” said Dieudonne Nsabimana, Founder and President of the Burundian Cultural and Educational Association (BCEA). Performances by the drummers help the BCEA carry out its mission to preserve cultural heritage among Dayton’s Burundian community and facilitate cultural exchange.

Also during Urban Nights, an exhibit, “Under Our Noses: Modern Day Slavery and What You Can Do About It,” will be on display in the Main Library Auditorium. A reception with refreshments takes place at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit, coordinated by the University of Dayton Women’s Center and the Dayton International Peace Museum, sheds light on the issue of human trafficking through student artwork and local photography. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Urban Nights is a free celebration of arts, dining, nightlife, music and urban living in downtown Dayton, sponsored by the Downtown Dayton Partnership.

For more information about the Dayton Metro Library’s participation in Urban Nights, call the External Relations Department at 937-496-8901.

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ABOUT DAYTON METRO LIBRARY

The Dayton Metro Library is one of the oldest and largest public library systems in Ohio, consistently ranking among the best in the nation. The DML consists of 20 branch locations in Montgomery County, Outreach Services and the Main Library in downtown Dayton. In order to fulfill its mission to inform, inspire and enrich the community, the DML offers programs, materials and services for all ages and stages of life. It is funded in part by a portion of the state income tax and local levy support.

Specialized services and resources are available for schools, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, literacy providers and job seekers. The library houses a unique collection of local history materials. Computers are available free of charge for public use and computer instruction is available at many library locations.

In November, 2012, Montgomery County voters passed a \$187 million bond issue to fund new construction and renovations for the DML. Highlights of the multi-phase, multi-year project include consolidating branches from 20 to 16, establishing an offsite operations center and completely renovating the Main Library. When the project is complete in 2017, library users will enjoy modern, efficient facilities providing superior services and technology for the 21st century. Progress on the project is posted regularly on the DML website at DaytonMetroLibrary.org.