

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR AKWABA AFRICAN DIASPORA FESTIVAL (AADF) 2026

Theme: The 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States: an opportunity to mobilize national champions and the Ivorian diaspora of the United States to build a stronger economy.

Day 1: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Morning: Opening Ceremony

- Allocations
- Inaugural Conference

Theme: *National champions and Ivorian diaspora in the United States and around the world: catalysts for investment and development.*

Afternoon

Panel 1: Economy and Investment

(Mobilizing the diaspora and national champions to stimulate economic growth)

Topics covered: cross-border investments, diaspora entrepreneurship, financing of African startups, public-private and private-private partnerships.

Objective: show how the diaspora can become a catalyst for sustainable growth.

Panel 2: Sustainable Tourism and Diaspora: Connecting Origins and Stimulating the Economy

- Topics: community tourism, business travel, heritage circuits, event tourism..
- Objective: attract the diaspora and international tourists to Africa to create local revenue.

Day 2: Thursday, July 16, 2026

Morning

Official Presentation of American Companies (UNIFAN— FEERE— The Garden International— MTM— XCBG International Development Group— Mali Invest— Djigui Corporation)

Afternoon

“Diaspora & Champions of Innovation” Contest

Objective of the Contest

- Identify and support **10 innovative projects** carried by local entrepreneurs and diaspora members.
- Provide **Accompaniment, Mentorship, and Financing** to bring high-impact economic, cultural, or tourist projects to fruition.
- Promote **partnerships between national champions and diaspora** to stimulate investment and job creation.

Day 3: Friday, July 17, 2026

Morning

Private Networking and Signing of Partnership Agreements

- Objective
- Facilitate **targeted meetings** between entrepreneurs, investors, national champions, and diaspora members.
- Promote **concrete agreements** in investment, trade, tourism, and cultural projects.
- Create a **privileged space for strategic dialogue** and the development of sustainable collaborations.

Afternoon

Official Launch of FEERE

Objective

- Officially present **FEERE**, the platform dedicated to African merchants, artisans, and entrepreneurs.
- Allow **interested users to register** and explain the features and benefits.
- Create **immediate engagement from the community** and stimulate platform adoption.

Official Launch of UNIFAN & Launch Football Tournament

Objective

- Present **UNIFAN**, the innovative sports management and tracking platform.
- Offer **participants a hands-on experience** through a **football tournament** organized to officially launch the platform.
- Encourage **adoption by clubs, coaches, players, and fans** through live demonstration of features.

Day 4: Saturday, July 18, 2026

Morning

UNIFAN TOURNAMENT: Tournament Format

- **Type:** Mini-friendly/competitive tournament depending on the number of participating teams.
- **Duration:** 2 days according to the festival schedule.
- **Participants:**
 - Local clubs, university teams, football academies.
 - Possibly, teams composed of diaspora members or festival partners.
- **Structure:** Group stage → semi-finals → final.

Grand Abidjan Tourist Visit

Objective

- **Showcase the cultural, historical, and economic riches of Grand Abidjan** to festival participants.
- Highlight the city's **tourist, artisanal, and culinary assets**.
- Create an **immersive and memorable experience** for the diaspora and international guests.

Sample Program

1—Morning: Culture and Heritage

- **Plateau's technical plateau:** economic heart and administrative center of Abidjan..
- **Saint-Paul Cathedral, Plateau mosque, and Museum of Civilizations:** discovery of iconic religious and cultural sites.
- **Treichville Market (Canva):** immersion in local crafts and souvenirs.

2—Lunch

- Local restaurant with **tasting of traditional Ivorian dishes**.
- Option for a culinary workshop or gastronomic demonstration.

Evening

Gala Dinner—Akwaba African Diaspora Festival 2026

Objective

- Celebrate **the festival and the African diaspora** through awards in an elegant and festive atmosphere.
- Offer a **high-end networking platform** for entrepreneurs, investors, artists, and dignitaries.
- Highlight **African culture, gastronomy, and talents** before an international audience.

Day 5: Sunday, July 19, 2026

Relaxation in Assinie—Akwaba African Diaspora Festival 2026

Objective

- Offer participants a **relaxation and leisure break** after the festival's cultural and professional activities.
- Highlight **Assinie's beaches, lagoons, and landscapes**, Côte d'Ivoire's flagship destination.
- Promote **cohesion among participants**, informal networking, and cultural exchanges in a natural setting.

Day 6: Monday, July 20, 2026

Fashion Show & Cultural Show—Akwaba African Diaspora Festival 2026

Objective

- Showcase **contemporary and traditional African fashion** as well as **the continent's cultural diversity**.
- Offer an **artistic and festive moment** to celebrate the creativity of designers, artists, and diaspora members.
- Create an **exhibition platform for emerging talents** and foster **networking with investors and cultural partners**.

Day 7: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Departure of Participants