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Emperor Hailie Selassie Visits Detroit: 59th year Anniversary Celebration, Special Viewing and Discussion

Detroit—Raga Carlos, and Link Cultural (Re) sourcing are joining together to commemorate the 59th year Anniversary of Ethiopian Emperor Hailie Selassie’s visit to Detroit. On June 7, 2013, in an effort to bring awareness to Selassie’s 1954 tour through Detroit, Raga Carlos will host a commemorative ceremony that starts at the site of the Ambassador Bridge and Fort Street at 8:00 am. The event proceeds to Historic Fort Wayne to ring the bell of the old City hall in honor of both the 21-gun salute that Selassie received upon his arrival in town and his reception of a key to Detroit at City Hall while he was here. The morning’s activities conclude at C.A.N. Art Handworks where participants will sample the 1954 menu from Selassie’s visit, preview rare footage of his Michigan tour, discuss ways to prepare for the 60th anniversary in 2014 and suggest additional accounts, footage and artifacts related to the Emperor’s time in Michigan.

Known best for his resistance to fascism, his direct place in the lineage leading to King Solomon and Queen of Sheba and his influential 1936 at the League of Nations. Selassie toured through Michigan and Chicago investigating the great lakes region and its industry, Selassie visited Windsor, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing and Chicago on June 7. Amongst his many activities that day, Selassie received and honorary doctorate from University of Michigan in Civil Law. The days’ events will create the first forum to consider a wide range of interpretations of critical world leader. “Like today, Selassie’s visit punctuates yet another historical moment when the world looks to Detroit for models of industry and culture,” says Michelle S. Johnson, Link co-founder and historian. “Selassie's visit further illuminates Detroit as a world class city worthy of an international leader’s investigation,” says project director Raga Carlos aka Carlos Nielbock. “His powerful leadership served as a unifying force in the world and deeply influences Rastafarian cultures with a message of eternal peace, lovingness and prosperity.” Nielbock adds. After a motorcade through downtown Selassie made his way through a crowd of 3,000 to meet with Mayor Albert Cobo and industry leaders at City Hall.

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