



AUTO-BIOGRAPHY

Professor Anita M. Diop

A woman of many titles and roles in society. Anita Marie Diop was born and raised in Detroit, MI. She is a wife, mother of 2, grandmother of 6 and mentor to 1000's.

Professor Anita M. Diop is a retired Professor of African American and American History from Hopkinsville Community College and served as the Adviser for the Minority Student Union and the History Club. She is also the Founder and Executive Director for the African Roots and Heritage Foundation (ARHF).

ARHF is a non-profit organization with a mission to share African Culture through public programs such as the African Roots and Heritage Festival which drew 19 African Nations together to plan and participate building the bridges between the Diaspora and the African continent. Their Motto is "Celebrating Our Heritage, While Confronting the Challenges of Being Black".

Professor Diop specializes in the Culture and Arts and her scholarly works, include, Katherine Dunham: An African American Cultural Icon and various essays and articles. Professor Diop also is a travel photographer and has exhibited her photographic essay, entitled Eyes of the African Princess, at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and many other government sites, colleges, and universities.

To her credit she is also an award-winning short film Director and Producer of Concrete Roses, taking 2nd place in the Detroit Film Festival.

In 2010 Anita was elected as the Ohio Representative for the Sixth Regional Diaspora Caucus and later became the International Representative to the African Union. She has sat on the 3rd and 4th Pan African Cultural Congress, and the 3rd Minister of Culture (CAMC3) and the Youth, Culture, and Sport (STC-YCS2).

In 2018 she was elected as an Officer of the First African Union Pan African Writers Conference. September 2018, Professor Anita M. Diop as a delegate to the AACC (African Audio Visual & Cinema Commission) participated in writing a Treaty, which was ratified by all member states in 2019. It is responsible for the promotion of rapid development and strengthening of the African Audio-visual and cinema industry.



Another accolade awarded to her in July 2021, Professor Diop became the Ambassador for the Sixth Region to the African Union (ACALAN) African Academy of Languages. In December 2021 she was nominated for a five-year term to serve as the Ambassador to African Languages Week Coordinating Committee.

The year 2022 is the year Professor Diop was elevated to Mafo (Queen) of the Baleng People in Cameroon and also Nkunkuma (Woman King) of the Soa people in Cameroon.

February is known as Black History Month in the USA. Professor Diop made history as the unanimously chosen chairperson to lead the team for the African Languages Week Coordinating Committee (ALWCC) in writing the DAKAR Statement for African Academy of Languages - African Union (ACALAN – AU). Continuing the trend, she performed the reverse of the Triangular Slave Trade by producing the first Black History Month celebration in Cameroon, reuniting the Diaspora to their brother and sisters of Cameroon.

The most recent accomplished and fulfillment of a dream, as the Executive Director and Founder of African Roots and Heritage Foundation (ARHF), she opened ARHF's first international Branch in Yaounde, Cameroon.



Royal Titles of Distinction

2016 –Position: QueenMother, Title: Nkosouhemaa of Odoibrommu

Name : Nana Akosua-Ansaah I, of Aquaprem/ Achem People of Ghana

2022 – Position: Queen, Title: Mafo du Baleng, Cameroon

Name: Mafo Anita Marie

2022 – Position: Honorary Woman King, Title: Nkunkuma du Soa, Cameroon

Name: Nkunkuma Anita Marie

2023 – Position: QueenMother, Title: Mafo du Baham, Cameroon

Name: Mafo Anita Marie

2023 – Position: Honorary President, The Royal African Throne Association

2024 - Position: Honorary Matron, Dotolive News Magazine

2025 - Position: Queen, Title: Obaahema

Name: Adwoa Kandzefo Royal Aboradze Family of Gwira Akyinim- Elmina

She is known as the Spirit of Africa because of her passionate works on bringing cultural awareness and participating in the ongoing Africana Renaissance and uplifting, motivating, and inspiring the Diaspora and African people no matter where they dwell.

Appointments

2021 – pres Ambassador ACALAN AU – ALWCC African Languages Week Coordinating Committee

2018 – pres Ambassador African Union PAWC First Writers Conference

2016 – pres Ambassador African Artists Peace Initiative, Gambia

2015 – pres Founding Elder Teaching Artist Institute, Baltimore, MD

2015 – pres International Consultant Helen Anderson Long Academy, Liberia

2011 – 2012 Ambassador World Language Institute, Columbus, OH

Awards, Scholarships, Honors



AWARDS

- Lifetime Achievement Award - Detroit Impact 2025

- Testimonial Resolution - Detroit City Council 2025
- Agoojie Award - AGOOJIE Festival, Benin West Africa 2025
- Community Impact Award - Yaounde, Cameroon 2023
- Detroit Hustle Award - Honorable Mention 2023
- Arikana Excellence Award 2023 - ADDI Howard University, Washington DC
- Leadership Award - Detroit, MI 2022
- International Leadership Award - Burkina Faso 2021
- Leadership Award – African Roots and Heritage Festival 2007 - 2011
- Honorary Nurses Award – Columbus Black Nurses Association 2006

Honors

- Wall of Tolerance – Name inscribed at the Southern Poverty Law Center National Campaign for Tolerance
- Biography in Who's Who in America 2005 59th edition
- Biography in Who's Who in America 2006 60th edition
- Biography in Who's Who in History
- Biography in Who's Who in Columbus
- Biography in Who's Who in the East

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Recipient of Dudley Randall Scholarship 1997 & 1998
- Recipient of Coleman A. Young Scholarship 1998 & 1999
- Recipient of Michigan National Bank/Detroit Urban League Scholarship 1999
- Recipient of the Wayne State University Board of Governor Scholarship 1998 - 2003
- Member of Golden Key National Honor Society 1998