



“Parade of Cultures” Invitation Letter

The 20th Annual CaribFest Festival “Parade of Cultures” will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025 starting at 12:00 pm (Noon).

This is one of the biggest and most colorful parades in Norfolk and all of Virginia.

We cordially invite your group to participate in this festive event. Whether you have been a participant in the past or this is your first invitation, we hope your group will join us in celebrating our 20th Annual Virginia Carnival CaribFest Parade of Cultures.

Please fill out the enclosed application form and return it as soon as possible but **no later than July 31, 2025** to secure your participation spot. **You will be notified of the parade line up in August.**

This year the parade staging is anticipated to be on Water Street (near Harbor Park) in Downtown Norfolk. The parade will start at **12:00pm (Noon)**. You should plan on being in place no later than **9:00am**. We encourage you to build a float highlighting the culture you represent.

As an important member of our community, and an integral part of Norfolk’s growth, the organizers of the festival proclaim that the “Parade of Cultures” is open to any and every one and all forms of cultural expression. It is regarded as a platform for a proud expression of hybrid cultural identities, containing traditional and contemporary elements. It includes and attracts all age and ethnic groups, professional artists, amateurs, and people from all walks of life...it’s a festive “Mardi Gras Style” celebration.

For one glorious day, the CaribFest Festival, takes place at Town Point Park in downtown Norfolk, Virginia. On one big stage, Norfolk’s World Music scene and international bands performing in concert. Over 40 market stalls of culinary temptations, arts, crafts, retail and much more attract visitors from across Virginia and out-of-state.

From the outrageously adorned, to the sassy, satirical and serious, “Parade of Cultures” welcomes the community in a fabulous festivity of love that knows no bounds. Don’t forget your smart phone or camera to capture the great moments of the 2024 Parade, and hashtag us #CaribFest when you’re sharing.

If you are interested in participating in this year’s “Parade of Cultures,” please complete the below application early to ensure you get a spot by mailing/e-mail your application to:

VCACA, Inc.
CaribFest Festival & Parade
22 Henrys Fork Dr.
Hampton, VA 23666
vacaribfest@gmail.com

Be sure to be creative with your unit/float. Judges will award the following categories: Most Entertaining, Most Outrageous, Best Representation of Theme, Best Business Representation, and Judges’ Choice of the year.

Mark your calendar now and return your completed and signed application.

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of your paperwork. A notification will be sent in August with your line-up number. If you have not received your line-up number by August 15th, please contact us. We hope you can join us as we bring the community together for Norfolk “Parade of Cultures.”

Sincerely,

Carl Brathwaite, Parade Director
and the “Parade of Cultures” Committee
(904) 631-4352
vacaribfest@gmail.com



CaribFest “Parade of Cultures” Application

Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

CONTACT PHONE: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

PLEASE NOTE: All correspondence and information including line-up information will be mailed or emailed to the contact person listed above. It is their responsibility to share this information with all members of your unit.

COMPETING UNIT FEES: Registration is due by July 31st. **No applications accepted after 08/31/2025.**

Mail to: VCACA, Inc. 22 Henrys Fork Dr. Hampton, VA 23666

UNIT INFORMATION:

TYPE OF UNIT:

Band/Troupe	Number of Participants _____
Color Guard	Number Marching _____
Drill Team	Number Marching _____
Marching Unit	Number Marching _____
Auxiliary Unit	Number Marching _____
Float/Vehicle	What type and how many? _____
Other	Please Explain _____

LENGTH OF FLOAT IN FEET: _____ Make sure to request enough feet to include the length of the trailer/float and pull vehicle. If you don't specify a length, you will be allotted 26 ft. Other _____

DESCRIPTION OF FLOAT/UNIT: include Unit Theme, type of vehicle, decorations/theme, what you are handing out to the crowd, type of performance and what the performance will be. (Use back of page if needed)



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:

PROOF OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE & VALID DRIVERS LICENSE:

All drivers in the parade are REQUIRED to have insurance and a valid Driver's License. You MUST provide proof of insurance, which MUST be valid during the date(s) of the event, and a copy of a valid driver's license with this application for the person driving a vehicle in the parade. If you are unsure who will be driving, provide copies of all possible drivers' licenses and insurance.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: RETURN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION BY JULY 31st. Units will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. CaribFest Parade Committee MAKES NO PROMISES AS TO THE POSITION OF YOUR UNIT IN THE PARADE AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE POSITIONS AS NECESSARY.

SAFETY: The "Parade of Cultures" Committee and the Norfolk Police Department ask that you PLEASE REFRAIN FROM THROWING CANDY, TRINKETS, ETC. TO ANYONE ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE. This can be very dangerous due to the motor vehicles in the parade. **You may have "walkers"** along the side of the parade route handing out these items.

NOTE: In order to make the parade a success we are asking all participates to follow some simple rules that will be provided later.

We are excited to have you join us in the 2025 CaribFest "Parade of Cultures."

THANK YOU!