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2018 TASTE OF BLACK CHARLESTON RETURNS TO THE LOWCOUNTRY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA— The Taste of Black Charleston, known for its ability to catapult participants new and seasoned onto a notoriously competitive food and beverage scene, is back for its seventh season at the South Carolina Aquarium.

The event, on Friday, March 9th at 7:30 pm, will feature appearances from Chef Monica Smith of Food Lion, Chef Alexander Smalls of Spartanburg, SC and co-author of *Between Harlem and Heaven: Afro-Asian-American Cooking for Big Nights, Weeknights, and Every Day*, and by local bloggers and spirit connoisseurs, the Cocktail Bandits. Local jazz band, Da'rrell Ravenell & Peace of Mind will perform throughout the evening.

While some participants pay homage to traditional southern stylings of food, they often bring their own artistic flair to old-style favorites. Others focus on introducing contemporary flavors to Charlestonians hungry for something different. One thing is certain—the Taste of Black Charleston presents a diverse sampling of food and beverage by a variety of restaurants and vendors in the community. The Taste of Black Charleston actively supports African-American and minority chefs by introducing them to potential clientele throughout an elegant, social evening. President Darrin Thomas says, "There is nothing like being at the aquarium; surrounded by views of the harbor and the vivacity of local talent."

The Taste of Black Charleston is held in conjunction with the Charleston Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. for the benefit of local charities, including the Teachers' Supply Closet and the Jack and Jill Foundation. It is part of a larger event, the 19th Annual Black Expo, relaunching this year as the Economic Empowerment Summit Weekend.

"We're delighted to produce premiere events in Charleston that showcase the breadth of talent and passion here in the area, with a focus on assisting the community," says Charleston Market Manager, Courtland Sutton.

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