

MALIKA KAMBE UMFAZI SORORITY, INC.



Membership Expansion Information Packet

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.



Greetings!

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. would like to thank you for taking the time to learn about our progressive and dynamic sisterhood. The information in this packet will provide you with general information about our national organization and our vision for national/international growth.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any inquiries you might have about Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. You are welcome to contact us at the information listed below.

Sincerely,

Chewa Niara Bashira

La Oficina Nacional de Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

What Is Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. (MKU)?

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. is the nation's premiere non-Greek lettered, Afrikan/Latino based sisterhood that is comprised of women throughout the diaspora. MKU is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Our Herstory:

The Conception and Founding of Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

While the concept of **MKU** was initially conceived by six women, three women, continued the work to birth and promote what is MKU today. **Chetachi Egwu, Adelechi Egwu** and **Edna Shaw** are revered as the conceptualizers of the organization. In the summer of 1995 these three women took Buffalo, New York by storm, by tirelessly promoting the need for MKU through presenting public speaking platforms, open houses and interest meetings at local colleges, universities and in various communities in the Buffalo, New York area.

Nsini Udo, Nedra Williams, Tamiko Bell, Jessica Lynch, Wendy Guzman, Yolanda Beaton, Tanya Belgrave, Shirelle Duncan and Julie Ortiz were the first women to apply and successfully gain initiation into the sisterhood after a rigorous application and interview process with the conceptualizers. The conceptualizers and founders are comprised of eleven undergraduate women and one graduate woman who attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo State College and Canisius College. The organization further flourished, and actualized after all twelve women, both the conceptualizers and founders underwent and completed a challenging Rites of Passage process. **Collectively, these twelve women are recognized as the renowned founders and QUEEN MOTHERS of MKU Sorority Inc.** Our founders worked to create an organization where women could unite in knowing themselves, embracing their culture and giving back to their communities through support and services. Our sisterhood is a living reflection of the Queen Mothers' ideals and initial intentions

Today members of MKU Sorority, Inc. (known as "Malikas") are collegiate, graduate/alumnae and professional members, working towards educational, professional, spiritual, social and economic growth and development. As a driving force on campuses of educational institutions and throughout communities, MKU Sorority, Inc. boasts amongst its membership educators, mothers, artists, business owners, entrepreneurs, writers, health care professionals, law professionals and most profoundly, **women dedicated to uplifting our communities.**

Chewa Niara Bashira:

La Oficina Nacional de Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

Chewa Niara Bashira (CNB) La Oficina Nacional De Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority Inc., the National Board of MKU, was established on January 1, 1999. The translation of the title of the national board is “**strong tribe with a high purpose who are [the] predictor of good news**”. It is the duty of CNB to keep MKU Sorority, Inc. collectively focused on organizational business in direct relation to serving the needs of our brothers and sisters in local communities and the Afrikan Diaspora.

Did You Know...

- The name of our sisterhood is derived from two languages—Swahili and Zulu. “Malika” comes from the Swahili language and means “queen”. “Kambe” and “Umfazi” both come from the Zulu language and mean “naturally” and “woman” respectively. The meaning of our name is interpreted from right to left and is translated to mean, “Woman is Naturally Queen.”
- The official birth date of MKU Sorority, Inc. is June 16th, 1995.
- MKU Sorority, Inc. was incorporated in the state of New York on September 6th, 1996.
- The official colors of MKU Sorority, Inc. are **black, orange and gold.**
- The official flower of MKU Sorority, Inc. is the Bird of Paradise.
- The official jewels of MKU Sorority, Inc. are **obsidian, amber and tiger-eye.**
- The official symbols of MKU Sorority, Inc. are **the Sankofa Bird and the Shield.**

Our Global Vision

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. is committed to fostering academic, philanthropic, social, spiritual and cultural growth amongst our members and throughout the community. We work to educate, empower, and assist women of Afrikan/Latino descent around central issues critical to their quality of life, so that they can reclaim their legacy, restore families and communities, and build a positive future. Our members reinforce the knowledge of the value of women and work to reclaim the “stolen legacy” of Afrika’s contributions to the world.

Our Purpose:

The purpose of **Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.** is to cultivate sisterhood amongst collegiate and alumnae women while advocating academic and personal achievement, fostering cultural pride and encouraging spiritual growth. Moreover, we aim to encourage our members towards social awareness, and economic efficiency for the betterment of our sorority and community at large.

Our Mission:

It is the mission of **Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.** to provide diligent service in the areas of our programmatic foci to the Afrikan and Latino communities while upholding our principles, achieving our objectives and sustaining our bond of sisterhood as set forth by our **Queen Mothers**.

Our Vision:

Our vision as members of **Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.** is to build on the foundation of the legacy of our **Queen Mothers**. It is our aim to continue to exist as a sisterhood of leaders and workers dedicated to leaving a positive and visible impact on the communities we service. We strive to make conscientious, progressive and lasting contributions and to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

Our Principles:

- **Mahatma**- A person revered for high-mindedness
- **Kinship**-Relationships existing because of cultural and background likeness
- **Utilitarianism**-Emphasizing usefulness above beauty and materialism; doing the highest amount of good for the greatest amount of people.

Our Programmatic Foci:

Through our programs and service projects, Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. works to bring about positive change for the betterment of our communities. Our annual programs reflect issues related to the following-

- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Career Development**
- **Economic Empowerment**

We foster progress through our many collaborative efforts with colleges, universities and community based organizations and through our national initiatives.

What We Believe: Our Ideology

Our ideology reflects the fundamental ideas that inform the basis of our sorority. These concepts support and guide the educational programming and community service efforts of **Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.**

AFRIKAN SORORALISM:

“Afrikan Sororalism” conceptually embodies (a) the practices and rites developed throughout antiquity in Afrika, for the purpose of initiating young women into adulthood and (b) the knowledge and full understanding of those practices and their purposes. Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. incorporates and employs this understanding of “Afrikan Sororalism” in the membership procedures of the organization through its rites of passage process.

SANKOFA:

The word SANKOFA is derived from the Akan people of modern-day Ghana and the Ivory Coast and is one of the many Adinkra symbols that were widely used at the beginning of the 19th century. Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority Inc. motto is SANKOFA. It is translated from the Akan language, “se wo were fi na wo SANKOFA ayenkyi” which means “it is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot.” This idea encourages us to learn from, and reclaim our past in order to have a prosperous future. SANKOFA teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. Additionally, this philosophy teaches that whatever we have lost or forgotten can be reclaimed and restored for the betterment of our people and the community.

THE AFRIKAN-LATINO CONNECTION:

We believe that all people are of "Afrikan descent" because the origin of human life and civilization emanated from the continent of Afrika. Throughout history “Black” and “Latino” people in particular have endured the same struggles for freedom as people of color in a biased society and suffered highly similar indignities and disenfranchisement. It is a well-documented historical fact that some “Hispanic”, "Latino “ and “Chicano” people have Afrikan ancestry specifically due to (a) relations formed by Afrikans and Indigenous People of the "Americas" hundreds of years before Columbus' voyages and (b) the tragedies of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade which included Black and Latino peoples. Additionally, the Afrikan influence on pre- and post-colonial Spain cannot be ignored. We embrace our "Latino" sisters and affirm that we must work together to restore the knowledge of our bond for the benefit of our people and our communities.

STOLEN LEGACY:

Stolen Legacy is a concept brought to the forefront by historian George G.M. James. It articulates that ancient Greek philosophy, upon which all European (western) societies base their culture, is stolen Afrikan intellectual property. Afrika as a continent, Kemet and Nubia (the original names of Egypt and Ethiopia respectively) in particular, are where the first language, religion, sciences, schools of thought, and agriculture were originated. Throughout time, with the manipulation and destruction of historic relics, books of knowledge, etc. by European invasion and usurpation, Afrika was exploited for its resources, intellectual materials, rituals and educational and spiritual practices. As a result, many people are ignorant of or deny that Afrika is the mother of civilization. Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. perpetuates the re-discovery and reclamation of Afrikan contributions to the world. We accept the task of exposing and reclaiming the Stolen Legacy-the wisdom of our ancestors. Mere acknowledgements to date in some literature of the injustices that Afrika has encountered due to so called conquerors propelled by greed and envy, does not erase the FACT that our legacy was stolen.

Educational Programming, Community Service and Philanthropy

Educational Programming

Annually, our undergraduate, graduate/alumnae Queendoms and independent alumnae members serve the community by hosting educational events and forums related to our ideology and programmatic foci.

MKU Sorority, Inc. can also be found hosting study groups and film showings on relevant topics throughout the community in addition to participating in and supporting local Kwanzaa, Juneteenth, Black Love Day, Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month, and Black History Month events. Malikas can also be found attending and participating in various conferences and educational events hosted by other community organizations.

Community Service

As community service is at the core of our sisterhood, MKU Sorority, Inc. participates in many service initiatives. Past community service includes:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteerism at various soup kitchens and shelters
- American Diabetes Association 5K Walk
- Clothing drives and distribution
- Annual New York AIDS Walk
- A-B-C Diabetes
- Volunteerism at various community and school clean-up events
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Talibah Scholarship Program
- Lupus Foundation fundraisers
- Health Fairs and Market Place

Philanthropy

In the year 2000, Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. adopted the American Diabetes Association as its first official national philanthropy in loving memory of the father of one of our members. In the year 2004, we adopted The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. as our second official philanthropy in memory of one of our members who died due to complications with Lupus. Malikas host various Diabetes and Lupus Awareness programs/events throughout the year in our communities to encourage knowledge about these serious diseases. In 2007, MKU adopted its third and final national philanthropy, MADRE, an international women's human rights organization. MADRE works in partnership with community-based women's organizations worldwide and was chosen for their international connection and affinity with MKU's programmatic foci.

Membership:
Joining Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

Rites of Passage (R.O.P.)

The Rites of Passage Process is the initiation process of the organization that accepted candidates must undergo and complete in order to become a member of Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. ROP encourages accepted candidates towards cultural awareness and acquaints accepted candidates with the “herstory” and procedures of our sorority. R.O.P. is a rigorous process focused on each initiate learning, understanding and internalizing information about our history in order for her to self-actualize and continue to be a positive influence on her community.

Application Requirements

Undergraduate: must be enrolled as a full-time student in good academic standing at an accredited 4-year college/university. Students who hold credentials from two-year colleges and who can demonstrate proof of enrollment at a 4-year college/university are welcome to apply. Students enrolled in Vocational and Trade Schools cannot apply for membership. Applicants must be at least a second semester student and be able to demonstrate the following:

- Proven service and participation record in college/university and/or community based organizations/initiatives
- A MINIMUM cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 on a 5.0 scale) substantiated by proof of a transcript
- A MINIMUM semester grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 on a 5.0 scale) in the semester immediately prior to submitting an application for membership substantiated by proof of a transcript

Interested undergraduate women must gather a group of **no less than 6 and no more than 12 women who desire membership in Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.** in order to initiate expansion procedures for their campus. Please note that campus minimum requirements for the number of students in an interest group will be used in lieu of this standard. (Note: All students must be at least second-semester freshman and NOT be in their senior year of undergraduate studies at this time. Students in their senior year of undergraduate studies should refer to the application and expansion requirements for Graduate/Alumnae and Professional applicants.)

Undergraduate women interested in pursuing membership should contact the appropriate Fraternity/Sorority official(s) at their school to familiarize themselves with their college/university's expansion policies and procedures. Some campuses may not be accepting new organizations at this time.

Interested undergraduate women should then submit an inquiry form to the CNB. The form may be downloaded or completed online at our national website.

Alumnae, Graduate and Professional Applicant Requirements

Alumnae/Graduate/Professional: must be enrolled at least half-time at an accredited university OR currently have an undergraduate degree AND a MINIMUM of 5 years work experience in a chosen field. Students in vocational and trade schools are not acceptable and cannot apply for membership. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Proven service & participation record in college/university and/or community based organizations/initiatives
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 on a 5.0 scale) substantiated by proof of transcript where applicable
- A minimum semester grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 on a 5.0 scale) in the semester immediately prior to submitting an application for membership substantiated by proof of transcript where applicable

Professional Applicants Without an Academic (Baccalaureate) Degree: must be 25 years of age substantiated by proof of official documentation. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Membership in at least one (1) community and/or professional organization. Documentation of membership (*i.e. Welcome letter, membership card, membership list, etc.*) is required.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to the Afrikan/Latino community through a minimum of ten (10) community service hours completed relative to MKU's programmatic foci and/or official philanthropies. The community service must be completed in the six month period prior to submitting an application for membership. Proof of community service must be submitted with the application.
- Must currently or previously demonstrate leadership and/or entrepreneurship in the public or private sector for a minimum of five (5) years prior to submitting an application for membership substantiated by a resume and submission of professional references.

Interested graduate, alumnae or professional women should submit an inquiry form to the CNB. The form may be downloaded or completed online at our national website.

MKU Sorority, Inc.: Membership Clauses

- All women seeking membership must attend an Interest Meeting and scheduled preliminaries as set forth by M.K.U. Sorority, Inc. Candidacy for membership is contingent on approval of the required materials submitted by the applicant and the satisfactory completion of an application and interview conducted by members of Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. Full membership is extended by invitation only.
- Current members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), and local sororities are not eligible for membership. Persons holding membership in honorary academic societies are eligible for membership.
- Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. upholds a standard of no arbitrary exclusion from membership based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Anti-Hazing Statement

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc. does not sanction any activity that constitutes hazing. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This includes but is not limited to:

- The creation of excessive fatigue
- Exerting physical and psychological shock
- Engaging in physical contact that results physical or mental injury
- Requiring engagement in public acts of buffoonery
- Requiring engagement in morally degrading or humiliating activities
- Requiring participation in vulgar, abusive, or dangerous activities
- Requiring participation in activities that abridge or disrupt a person's religious or dietary beliefs

The Revered Queens Today

Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc is continuing on a path of organizational expansion, and development. MKU has embraced the requests and inquires we have received from interested women across the continental US and internationally. In an effort to continue and strengthen the positive impact we have on the Afrikan and Latino communities we serve, MKU is currently developing a plan for national expansion and both the undergraduate and graduate/alumnae/professional levels. Please direct all expansion inquiries to expansion@malikakambeumfazi.org.

CONTACT THE NATIONAL BOARD

Chewa Niara Bashira

La Oficina Nacional de Malika

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General Inquires: cnb@malikakambeumfazi.org

Expansion Inquiries: expansion@malikakambeumfazi.org

National Queen Executive Officers

2009-2011

Takiyah Nur Amin, National President

Ext. 101

Mothyna James-Brightful, National Vice President

Ext. 102

Kate Spencer, National Treasurer

Ext. 103