

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, May 18, 2020

> MEDIA CONTACT: April R. Silver for Chief Ayanda Clarke of THE FADARA GROUP april@akilaworksongs.com | @akilaworksongs (Twitter) (718) 756-8501 (office) or (646) 522-4169 (mobile)

## SPIRITUAL HEALTH COUNSELOR **CHIEF AYANDA CLARKE** DISCUSSES HEALTH, WELLNESS, COVID-19, and MORE. IWA, Chief Ayanda's Previously Announced Collective of Healers, Comes Into Focus In Recent Podcasts and for Upcoming Programs.

**Brooklyn, NY** - - - While communities all over the world are attempting to adjust to COVID-19 and its far-reaching impact, **Chief Ayanda Clarke** remains focused on what the divine spiritual wisdom of the universe teaches. Earlier this month, two media outlets featured Chief Ayanda sharing those insights. On BRIC TV & Radio's *Brooklyn, USA* and Diaspora Radio's *Back to Basics with Nayaba Arinde* Chief Ayanda discussed, among other things, Ifa (the spiritual practice from Yorubaland, Nigeria, West Africa). No matter one's religious affiliation, his words of encouragement were a source of healing during a time when people are seeking it most. His discussion of a traditional practice that is often excluded in spirituality-focused conversations was

both refreshing and enlightening for many. Chief Ayanda is a Babalawo (Ifa initiate), an Olorisa (Orisa initiate), and an Egungun initiate. In 2016, sponsored by his mentor Chief Agbongbon Fakayode Faniyi, the council of elders and high priests in Osogbo, Nigeria installed Clarke as a chief. The title is in acknowledgement of his honorable work in uplifting traditional African values and culture. He is now **Chief Ayanda Ifadara Clarke, Ajibilu Awo of Osogbo, Nigeria**.



On the podcasts the Brooklyn-born African traditionalist also gave an overview of the **IWA** program that he launched in 2019

at the International African Arts Festival. IWA (Integrated Wealth Alliance) is a collective of healers, medical doctors, mental health professionals, business leaders, and others who all center traditional African values in their work. As COVID-19 has highlighted the need for IWA, its team of experts is on the front lines during this pandemic. They're providing crisis management, offering reliable guidance regarding the health crisis, and constructing solution-oriented plans— all while tapping into their higher spiritual-selves. The collective's work includes a focus on *self-care and healing; mental health; finance and business,* and *food accessibility*.

- more -

For the BRIC-produced and edited podcast *Brooklyn, USA*, Chief Ayanda can be heard on episode #28 at <u>www.bricartsmedia.org/brooklyn-usa</u> (he starts at 1hr, 13min, 35sec). His segment includes a prayer of well-being for the community-at-large.

The *Back to Basics* podcast includes an enlightening exchange where Chief Ayanda shares things one can do daily to attract more positivity into one's life. Click <u>HERE</u> to listen.

More discussions, media interviews, and community programs will be announced this month.

## CONTACT US

Media inquiries are directed to April R. Silver of AKILA WORKSONGS: <u>pr@akilaworksongs.com</u> or 718.756.8501 (office).



## ABOUT CHIEF AYANDA

**Chief Ayanda Clarke** (aka Chief Ayanda) is an African-American percussionist, arts educator, and lecturer born and raised in Brooklyn. A gifted artist, the GRAMMY® Award-winning musician was also born into a nurturing home environment where traditional African culture was the norm. He is a graduate of The Dalton School and Wesleyan University. As a sanctioned Babalawo (Ifa initiate), Olorisa (Orisa

initiate), and Egungun initiate, he also caters to the spiritual needs of his community. He founded THE FADARA GROUP to do so intertwining music, culture, and spirituality. The work is based on the premise that traditional African philosophies have relevancy and value in today's modern world, and that our African ancestors in the Diaspora have left us with a legacy of excellence and mastery in every human endeavor.

Read the full bio <u>HERE</u>. Learn more at <u>www.THEFADARAGROUP.com</u>.

# # #

Photo Credit: Solwazi Afi Olusola