

## Storytelling Festival

It's a festival within a festival with legions of devoted fans of its own.

The Storytelling Festival offers as much drama, intrigue and laughs as any full-fledged play or musical. Members of the N.C. Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. are the stars of the Storytelling Festival, and from their mouths, a story is not just a story.

Intonation, facial expressions, hand gestures and, sometimes, musical instruments are their tools, and with them, they hold young audiences captive. Many of their stories are parables that teach life lessons; others share cultural and history lessons. The Storytelling Festival is one of those NBTF classics. It is offered every two years and was the first NBTF experience that many had.

The mission of the North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers (NCABS) is to promote and perpetuate the art of black storytelling, an art form that members say "embodies the history and cultures of Africans and African-Americans." NCABS members hail from across the state. They derive many of their stories from family and community histories, tall tales, folktales, African-American Literature and the Bible.

The group was founded in 1995 and is one of the 15 affiliates of the National Association of Black Storytellers, which was founded in 1982 by Linda Goss and the late Mary Carter Smith. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF NCABS

Some of the members of the N.C. Association of Black Storytellers Inc.

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