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Cover: The Black Ball, organized by the Weusi artists, mid-1960s. An extravaganza of music, dance, and fashion on Christmas night to provide an alternative to the overcommercialism of the holiday. As an affirmation of black culture it was a precursor to Kwanzaa. Renaissance Ball Room, 138th St. and 7th Ave./Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Courtesy the Weusi artists, photographer unknown

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