

Annual Garifuna Exhibition Programme

First Garifuna Exhibition-2009 “ From the Orinoco to Exile”

The Vincy Homecoming 2009 Celebrations of Thirth Years of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Independence from Britain was an event that had very far reaching impact as it brought to St.Vincent and the Grenadines many persons and organizations from many parts of the world seeking their roots, looking to establish business enterprises or simply returning to their native land to enjoy some of what they had been missing out on for many years. It also had the effect of making Vincentians at home dig deep into their creative resources to find ideas that would satisfy the interest and curiosity of those visitors and returning nationals.

TGHF planned a number of other activities to coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of Independence and the climax of the Homecoming activities. One of these activities included the staging of an Exhibition of Artefacts covering a particular period of Caribbean history.

The theme “From the Orinoco to exile” was chosen to reflect that period in which the Garifuna nation of St.Vincent and the Grenadines prevailed. The Exhibition reflected reflect the journey of the Garifuna people's existence through to the eventual exile to Roatan off the coast of Honduras in 1797. It included artefacts, Literature and other media which spread awareness among the Vincentian population of the existence of this nation and the fact that they have survived in substantial numbers in several other corners of this modern world with the culture very much intact.

The main objective was to explore/ discover what artefacts of Garifuna heritage still existed in St.Vincent and the Grenadines, who are the holders of these artefacts and where they are located.

The Exhibition, which was held in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise, took place under the theme “From the Orinoco to Exile”. It displayed a slice of our rich Garifuna Cultural Heritage featuring artefacts from the early migratory pattern of the Caribs through the Carib wars and to the subsequent exile of the Garifuna ancestors in the latter half of the 18th century. The Exhibitions consisted of a montage of static exhibits and multi-media presentations.

The exhibition resoundingly met the expectation of both organizers, and contributors and satisfied not only their curiosity but also brought out expression of surprise and amazement from those who visited over the three days. It seem to have served as an educational/ informational forum for the over 250 primary school and secondary school students who viewed it as many of them were seen writing notes, taking information and asking question in order to clarify things that they did not know or understand about what they were seeing and/or reading on the displays.

Second Annual Garifuna Exhibition- 2010: “ From the Orinoco to Exile: and Beyond”

In 2010 we organized a second National Exhibition in March under the theme :”From the Orinoco to exile...and beyond.” This was again very successful and we collaborated with the Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Culture to ensure that all school children were able to view the exhibits.

Third Annual Garifuna Exhibition- 2011: “ Indigenous people, African Descendants : the Garifuna Culture - a world heritage masterpiece ”.

This Exhibition ran from March 8th – 10th, 2011 in Kingstown and highlighted the contribution made to the Garifuna Culture by our African ancestors. This theme recalled the Historic Declaration by UNESCO of the Garifuna Heritage and Culture as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Mankind and also celebrated the Declaration by the United Nations of 2011 as the year of Afro- Descendants. We invited organizations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines who promote African Heritage and Culture to participate in this activity and there were exhibits from the Afrikan Heritage Foundation and the International Year of People of African Descent Committee.

Fourth Annual Garifuna Exhibition- 2012: “Living the Garifuna Heritage and Culture After 215 Years- Strengthening links, Forging networks, Claiming Ancestral space”

This Exhibition will be held as part of the First International Garifuna Conference to be held in March 2012. The Event will feature film screenings, Art and Culture Exhibits and a Garifuna Marketplace.

Films: Participants interested in screening films/documentaries/videos with a Garifuna related content are also invited to do so. Kindly email a brief summary of the film/documentary/content to the email address below by January 31st, 2011. **(Submissions are now closed).**

Exhibits: Exhibits of Paintings, sculpture and other Visual Arts with a Garifuna theme are also invited Interested persons should email the above address describing space requirements and numbers of paintings.

Display Booths (Garifuna Marketplace): Garifuna Organizations, community groups , institutions and individuals worldwide who wish to showcase their work can apply to host a booth for such purpose. Individuals may also apply . Booths are limited and will be rented on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information , call 784-45-62124 or send an email to Lucinna Poyer, IGRC Conference Secretariat, at yurumeiconference@gmail.com.