



BACK TO ITS BIRTHPLACE AFTER 36 YEARS

Carifesta X

GUYANA 2008

CELEBRATING THE CARIBBEAN - GUYANA STYLE

CARIFESTA-

The Caribbean Festival of Arts has been afforded a venue and warm welcome by Guyana.

The tenth edition of this extravaganza of an exposition of Caribbean history, culture and arts, tradition and legacy, will be staged for ten days in the English-speaking South American Republic between August 22 -31, 2008.

The festival's programme of activities by themselves - the performing arts, exhibitions, concerts, folkloric explorations - are enticing enough for the Caribbean and the world's peoples being invited. But Guyana's geography, the tropical rainforests, the hills, mountains and rivers, waterfalls and eco-tourism packages offer the adventurous and the curious endless possibilities. Carifesta in Guyana will be truly a vacation to savour - discovering or re-living the Region's arts and culture, but within the context of the Festival's mainland birthplace.

The Festival's Home-coming 2008

CARIFESTA X IN GUYANA

The new CARIFESTA, according to a CARICOM 2004 Strategic Plan "re-inventing the Festival, would produce not merely a festival of Caribbean excellence that would now reach out far beyond the boundaries of CARICOM, but would now have "ownership, standards, regularity and financial viability."

During CARIFESTA 8 in Suriname in 2003, it was recommended that "if CARIFESTA is to be sustained as a viable enterprise, it should be completely re-organised and re-developed based on the lessons learned over the past year."

So how will Guyana fare as a consequence of its bold 2008 offer?



Mission Statement

To stage a mega multidisciplinary roving festival that develops Caribbean Arts and Culture.

Vision Statement

To position CARIFESTA as a world-renowned mega festival of Caribbean cultural and artistic excellence, that brings economic benefits, unites the Region and excites all peoples.

CARIFESTA X was formally launched towards the end of COSHOD meeting again held in Georgetown. At the Friday 10th October 2007 session the Caribbean representatives of arts and culture were all fulsome in their praise and commendations with respect to the significant amount of planning Guyana had already completed in just two months. Along with the congratulations were commitments by all delegates that their territories would be participating in CARIFESTA X scheduled for August 22-31, 2008 in its original "home".

CARIFESTA X GUYANA

Exciting opportunities to be different.

But what is the Festival's birthplace offering in 2008? What is to bring the Caribbean and the world to the Caribbean's South American mainland venue?

Sure, there is to be the now traditional or "usual" fare over the ten days - the Performing Arts, the Fine Arts, Exhibitions - literary, craft, culinary, philatelic - the Grand MARKET, Community Festivals, Fashion Focus, Signal Events, Indigenous and Youth "Villages", Calypso and Chutney Competitions and Super Concerts. But Guyana is not your typical sea-and-sand Caribbean island. It is located on the north-eastern shoulder of the South American continent. Is a part of tropical Amazonia. Besides, the usual Festival activities therefore, participants and other visitors can explore and enjoy the exotic haunts of the country's rainforests, its hills and mountains, creeks and rivers - whether for hunting, fishing or birding.

Land-bridges, river craft and air craft can nip the visitors to Suriname, to Venezuela, or to vast Brazil - all Guyana's continental neighbours. They will all be represented by their delegations in Guyana but the more adventurous tourists only need to cross Guyana's borders to experience the actual original lands of Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, African Native Indian and other ethnic influences and cultures.

Visitors will enjoy the opportunities to meet the Guyanese and Caribbean ICONS of the Arts and Culture. Strangers can avail themselves to sample Guyana's cultural tourism when they visit certain sites and communities to experience folk rituals, celebrations and traditional life-styles.

The first '72 Festival Village in Georgetown and CARIFESTA memorabilia and merchandise will all contribute to the CARIFESTA X experience and lasting memories after the Festival.



Masqueraders from Montserrat at CARIFESTA 1972

ADVENTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Memories are fashioned by events and perhaps by imagination. Guyana still a lush tropical, relatively unspoilt location, can conjure up many varied exciting activities which can produce pleasantly eventful opportunities not found in a typical Caribbean island.

And back at the more central venues where the usual events will take place, there will still be shows with a difference - a Guyanese difference. Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues, is tasked with creating an entire Amerindian Forest Community at a location in the city. Indigenous life styles will captivate even the locals.

Older Guyanese, especially, will be thrilled with the nostalgia and reminiscences of excellent theatre when they attend Caribbean dramatic performances at the refurbished now spanking new Theatre Guild in the north of the capital Georgetown. Guyanese international fashion designer Sonia Noel has promised a Fashion Week-type of Fashion Focus never before attempted in such grandeur.

As Guyana plans to welcome African and Asian guest artistes from Morocco, Bombay and China to match the Latin Invasions from neighbouring Venezuela and Brazil - as well as Suriname, and many other South American countries, it is proposed to introduce the Guyana National Steelband to herald the real resurgence of Pan Music in Guyana.

Fantastic Caribbean-oriented fireworks are planned for the Opening and Closing ceremonies at the country's new stadium. Add to that a planned Brazil-Guyana Air Show and Parachute Jump and you are bound to conclude that CARIFESTA in Guyana will be one with a difference.

African/Indian - inspired folk rituals, Caribbean Drama, Amerindian life-styles, Steelpan, Tassa and every other drum imaginable, Calypso, Soca and Chutney, Food, Drink, Forests, Rivers, the World's Mix of Peoples.

Come join the Caribbean in Guyana.
Experience their aspiration:
**ONE CARIBBEAN, ONE PURPOSE,
OUR CULTURE, OUR LIFE.**

Main events and their venues slated for CARIFESTA X:



Guyana National Stadium

Guyana National Stadium, Providence

Opening Ceremony on August 22nd, 2008

Closing Ceremony on August 31st, 2008

4 Super Concerts - August 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th, 2008

Performances by top Caribbean artists of various music forms and styles are planned for these super concerts.

Member States contingents would be required to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies.

Guyana National Exhibition Site, Sophia

Grand Market - Craft Show and Trade Fair

This feature in CARIFESTA VII in St. Kitts and Nevis in 2000, is reported to have been a "wildly popular feature of CARIFESTA and was extremely well attended at all times"

Culinary Festival - Here participating countries will showcase their cuisine.

National Park, Georgetown

Country Night Festivals - This is where countries will show off their specific celebrations.

Youth Village - Workshop performances along with exhibitions of the Arts by and for youths are slated. Getting children more involved is also on the agenda of CARIFESTA X. Competitions to help research and hence learn more of Caribbean Arts are planned. At CARIFESTA IX in Trinidad & Tobago, children were also very much highlighted. The programme for children of different age groups had been dynamic, interactive and educational. Workshops, displays, dance, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts and more had all formed part of the activities for the young ones. The intention was to provide opportunities for children from the Caribbean to learn about each other, their own traditions and open a way for them to meet and interact with our tradition bearers.

Calypso and Chutney competition

Exciting clashes between chutney and calypso champions.

Art Village at Burrowes School of Art.

The Burrowes School of Art is one of the lasting legacies derived from CARIFESTA I. The very first CARIFESTA held in



National Convention Centre

Guyana in 1972. As well as the founding of the National School of Dance.

National Convention Centre

Symposia - Discussions and interaction on different aspects of culture and art.

Food and Drink Stalls

Film Festivals in the Evening

Multimedia exhibition



Cliff Anderson Sports Hall

Cliff Anderson Sports Hall, Homestretch Avenue

Visual Art Exhibition

* Photographic Exhibition

* Foreign Art Exhibition and

sale.



Castellani House

Castellani House

Display of National Art

Collection

Display of private

collections



National Library

National Library, Georgetown

Book Exhibition and Sale, Foreign Book Exhibition and Sale, Book Launchings, Guyana Prize for Literature Exhibition.

Launching of the Guyana classics series.

Parade Ground, Georgetown

*Recreation of an Amerindian village.
Demonstration of traditional way of life.
Amerindian Cooking
Amerindian art and craft for sale.*

The Indigenous peoples programme was judged to be a major success in the St. Kitts and Nevis CARIFESTA VII in 2000, which has resulted in recommitments for further involvement with this community.



Umana Yana, Georgetown

*Poetry recitals
Story telling
Book Launching
Poetry and creative writing workshops
Comedy*



National Cultural Center and Theatre Guild

The National Cultural Centre is another permanent success story coming out of the 1972 CARIFESTA.

*Theatrical performances
Dances
Music recitals*



Museums

Exhibition at the National Museum, the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology and at the African Heritage Museum.



Community Festivals

*Region 6
Region 5
Region 3
Region 2
Region 10*

Interaction with the various communities by way of workshops, performances, exhibition of art forms of visiting delegations and locals are planned.



Buddy's International Hotel

Caribbean Fashion Weekend

Organisers of CARIFESTA X are keen for events like Fairs, Symposia and Exhibitions - Book, Film; Visual Arts and Performing Arts to be developmental as well as have a commercial component through trade fairs. Shows and performances in this package will allow for experimentation and innovation as well as the usual folk and traditional arts. Emphasis will be given to indigenous, folk, and youth. In the past complaints have been that CARIFESTA programmes have been too repetitive and not abreast with emerging trends.

Workshops and Clinics are to facilitate and encourage artists' networking, learning, collaboration, experimentation, and the sharing of ideas and experience.

The Grand Market focuses on the sale and merchandising of craft, cuisine, music, books and music showcases unlike the super concerts will involve nightly performances open for proposals from countries and cultural entrepreneurs, for example, recording companies. The aim is to attract impressarios and recording companies to view new and upcoming talent.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP



**Minister of Culture,
Youth & Sport
Dr. Frank Anthony**

The Guyana Government will provide support and leadership to assist in making CARIFESTA X a success and will work along with other stakeholders as reflected in the festival's management structure. Included on the CARIFESTA Board of Directors are: representatives from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport; the University of Guyana, (Dr. James Rose is Chairman of CARIFESTA X Symposia Committee) there are also representatives from the Georgetown City Council; Regional Representation; from the Private Sector; from the musicians; from theatre; from literary Arts; the visual Arts; Craft; and a Rep from the Culinary Arts. The Board is also staffed with representatives from the Ministry of Public Works; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Amerindian Affairs; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Education; Representative from GINA; and a Representative from CARICOM. There are also several sub-committees many headed by Ministers.



**Chairman of Carifesta X
Symposia Committee,
Dr. James Rose**

COME TO CARIFESTA - IN GUYANA.

YOU ARE INVITED...

Friendships are bound to be forged and old relationships renewed and reinforced at CARIFESTA X. Some forty (40) countries have been invited officially. But the list of interested territories keeps lengthening – from the Caribbean, South and Central America as well as from Europe, India and Africa.

CARIFESTA X "Chapters" have been established in those societies wherein the Diaspora of Guyana-born and Guyanese-descended people now live. Diaspora Associations have already pledged not only their attendance, but to leave some native community project as their own CARIFESTA X PROJECT-LEGACY to make the Festival a meaningful tribute to Guyanese loyalty and enduring love of country, no matter where they FIND themselves residing currently.

So make your plans to snap up your CARIFESTA X tourist package. Visit for the first time or return to CARIFESTA'S birthplace for a most memorable experience as Guyana and the Caribbean make the "common market" and "community" meaningful manifestations of oneness and unity of purpose.

See you in Georgetown and throughout the Greenland of Guyana in August 2008.

For more information please visit our website at: www.carifesta.net

