



MAS: Costumes from Hartford's West Indian Community

DATE: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

TIME: 5-7 PM

LOCATION: The Institute for Community Research; 2 Hartford Square West, Suite 100; 146 Wyllys St. (corner of Charter Oak Ave. and Columbus Blvd.); Hartford CT 06106

This event is free and open to the public.

DETAILS: This exhibit displays Trinidad-style carnival costumes (Mas) made by Hartford teens during a summer 2012 Mas Camp. These colorful and elaborate costumes are similar to those worn in West Indian celebrations around the world, and have been displayed in Hartford's Taste of the Caribbean Festival and the West Indian Parade this summer.

The event will mark the graduation of the teens who spent six weeks learning how to design and make the costumes under the guidance of master costume maker Keimai "Q" Delpeche, along with experienced assistant Larry Cooper and several volunteer parents. Artistic director Harold Springer, dance teacher Coryse Villarouel, and dance assistant Uniqua Jones trained the students in "displaying" their costumes in a parade. Each teen has designed and built a complete costume, including headpiece, arm and foot bands, girdles, collars, backpacks, and all frames and attachments needed for wearing the elaborate structures. The teens have formed a Carnival "Band" called the *Exotic One's Part II*, with seven sections of masqueraders in different color schemes. Some of the teens will be "masquerading" their costumes in person, accompanied by the Hartford Steel Symphony led by master steel pan maker and player Kelvin Griffith. Visitors to the exhibit will be able to try on a costume!

The project is supported by a City of Hartford Jobs Grant for 2012, as managed by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. CHAP's participation is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Connecticut Office of the Arts (DECED), and the Institute for Community Research.

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