

# Casita Maria Celebrates Garifuna Culture with Gallery Exhibition and Public Programming

BRONX, N.Y., Nov. 18, 2019 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education and Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. are delighted to announce Garifuna Intangible Heritage, an exhibition celebrating the cultural expression of the Garifuna people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States. The art gallery exhibition and related public programs comprise the Winter season of iCelebrARTE!, Casita Maria’s South Bronx arts and culture series.



Send2Press® Newswire

*IMAGE CAPTION: "Garifuna Village" by Isidra Sabio.*

Through iCelebrARTE! and other public programs, Casita Maria has become a premier location for the arts and culture of the South Bronx. "The Casita Maria Gallery features and promotes local, national, and international artists whose work reflects and honors the vibrant communities of Hunts Point and the South Bronx. Our programming and the artists we showcase are a testament to the transformative power of the arts," says Creative Arts Director Gail Heidel.

**Garifuna Intangible Heritage** will showcase the work of two self-taught Garifuna artists, Pen Cayetano and Isidra Sabio, whose brightly-colored paintings and digital prints highlight Garifuna culture, cultural expressions, and daily life.

**The Garifuna Beat!**, a companion photography exhibition in Casita Maria's Young Artist Gallery, will depict the joyful self-expression of the Garifuna Punta Dance Style.

**Garifuna Intangible Heritage** will honor the 18th anniversary of UNESCO's proclamation of the Garifuna Language, Music, and Dance as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. This Heritage consists of the intangible and tangible aspects of the whole body of cultural practices, resources and knowledge systems developed, nurtured and refined by Garifuna people, and that are transmitted from generation to generation as a crucial component of their sense of identity and continuity.

### **Winter 2019-2020 season of iCelebrARTE! (Celebrate Yourself) series**

On view at the Casita Maria Gallery December 5, 2019 – February 28, 2020

#### **Free Public Events**

Hours: Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- **Exhibition Opening Reception and Artist Talk:** Thursday, December 5, 2019, 5:30 – 8m.
- **Workshop: iExpresARTE! Express Yourself Through Garifuna Dance:** Wednesday evenings beginning December 11, 6:30-8 PM. Workshop series on Garifuna dance styles, led by acclaimed performer Luz F. Soliz.
- **iExpresARTE! Performance:** We will celebrate the end of the workshop with performances by ExpresARTE participants and Soliz's WABAFU Garifuna Dance Theater.
  - February 28, 2020, 4-5:30 p.m.: Casita Maria program performance, open only to participants in Casita Maria's after-school program.
  - February 28, 2020, 7 – 9 p.m.: Community performance— free and open to the public.

Both performances will take place in the auditorium:

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education  
928 Simpson Street  
Bronx, N.Y. 10459

**Book Club:** One Book One Bronx, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 8 PM. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5.

Featured book: Searching for Zion: The Quest for Home in the African Diaspora by Emily Raboteau.

Each week, the group will meet at Casita Maria to discuss a book related to themes reflected in art work featured in the Gallery. Reading selections reflect the Bronx's racial, economic, and gender demographics while

(re)sparking a love of literature. The first 15 attendees to each series will receive a free copy of the book; participants are free to join even if they have missed earlier sessions.

Learn More: <https://www.casitamaria.org/gallery>

**Casita Maria Center For Arts & Education** – a 501(c)(3) non-profit – creates a safe and welcoming community, enriching and uplifting youth and families towards success through shared cultural, art and educational experiences and programs. We are the first and oldest Latino charity in New York, founded in 1934.

**Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.** advocates for issues that affect the Garifuna community by projecting a united voice. The coalition contributes to the improvement of the social, economic, political and cultural conditions of New York's Garifuna Community.

**One Book One Bronx** is presented by the Literary Freedom Project, which is committed to creating spaces that help leverage the power of books, culture, and education. LFP's programs value the variety of histories and cultures found in the Bronx and give residents places to build community and explore social engagement.

Casita Maria's exhibition and public programs are made possible by support from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation.

\*IMAGE link for media:

<https://www.Send2Press.com/300dpi/19-1115s2p-garifuna-sabio-300dpi.jpg>

\*Caption: Garifuna Village by Isidra Sabio.