



NIA CENTRE COSTUME FOR PEEKS TORONTO CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL NOW ON SALE AS FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Carnival Costume on display at Nia Centre for the Arts, 524 Oakwood Avenue

TORONTO, ONT (June 2017) – The first fundraising project of Nia Centre for the Arts’ new Carnival Arts program—the development of a Caribbean carnival costume named “**Bombax**”—is now on display at the Nia Centre, located at 524 Oakwood Avenue (at Vaughan Road) in Councillor Josh Colle’s Ward 15 in Toronto.

Nia Centre’s gallery is currently highlighting the Bombax costume, designed by SugaCayne Designs, for the Peeks Toronto Caribbean Carnival season leading up to the Simcoe Day long weekend in August when the parade (Saturday, August 5) and other festivities take place. The costume is a part of a unique fundraising initiative, with partial proceeds from the sale of Bombax going towards youth arts and culture programming at the Centre. Those interested in participating in the carnival in the Bombax costume are welcome to make appointments to view and/or register for the costume weekdays from 11am to 4pm, or by special arrangement during evenings and weekends.

The **Bombax** costume is based on the *Bombax ceiba* tropical tree, with cup-shaped red flowers and white capsules that contain cotton-like fibres when ripe. Created through partnerships with *SugaCayne Designs* and *Venom Carnival* (the Toronto Carnival masquerade band), the costume contains an intricate combination of beading, feathers, fabrics, and textures in red, lime green, white, and lilac, available in four styles: Ultra Frontline, Frontline, Backline, and Male.

For an up close look at Nia Centre’s Bombax costume, to make an appointment for a personalized costume consultation, or to learn more about the not-for-profit organization’s mandate as related to Caribbean carnival, connect with Nia Centre online at <http://www.niacentre.org/carnival-shop>.

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Contact

Stacey Marie Robinson
Office & Communications Manager
Nia Centre for the Arts
smrobinson@niacentre.org
416-535-2727