



## **NIA CENTRE HONOURS 50 YEARS OF TORONTO CARNIVAL WITH NEW “CARNIVAL ARTS” PROGRAM**

*Bringing Arts & Enterprise to Youth through Caribbean Carnival*

TORONTO, ONT (April 2017) – As Caribbean carnival season commences in the city of Toronto, Nia Centre for the Arts has launched a new *Carnival Arts* program that will operate year-round. The program was created with a focus on: (1) developing technological design innovation in carnival arts, (2) promoting youth empowerment and education through unique creative opportunities, and (3) encouraging a creative entrepreneurial space for artists and their crafts.

“Nia” is a Kiswahili word meaning “purpose”—founded in 2009, Nia Centre for the Arts is a Toronto-based not-for-profit organization focused on the development of young people through culturally relevant arts experiences, showcasing and promoting arts from an African-Diasporic perspective in a way that engages inter-generational artists and the general population. Nia’s new *Carnival Arts* program will run workshops and educational sessions at the Centre and within the city, both before and after carnival season.

“We are excited about this opportunity to participate in carnival,” said Dwayne Dixon, the executive director of Nia Centre. “Particularly for the fiftieth anniversary of the Caribbean Carnival in Toronto, we want to honour and celebrate the artists who created this unique gift for our city. We also want to ensure that we do our part to keep this cultural tradition—the design, the music, the social aspects, and the performance piece—alive and thriving. We look forward to providing an opportunity for new community partnerships, and using the carnival arts as a tool to educate young people about Caribbean culture.”

For an up close look at Nia Centre’s *Carnival Arts* program, as they engage and prepare for this year’s carnival festivities in August, connect with @NiaMasToronto on social media, or visit the *Carnival Arts* section of Nia Centre’s website and Facebook page.

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