



NIA CENTRE “CHRYSALIS” EXHIBIT FEATURES INNOVATIVE CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL COSTUME DESIGNS

Through Partnerships with SugaCayne Designs & Ryerson University Students

TORONTO, ONT (June 2017) – Nia Centre for the Arts’ “Chrysalis” project has been revealed, and is currently on display at the Design Exchange (234 Bay Street, Toronto) until July 3. After months of design collaboration, cultural research, and technological teachings, partnerships with SugaCayne Designs and the Ryerson University Design Fabrication Zone (DFZ) have resulted in two innovative Caribbean carnival costume designs just in time for Toronto’s Caribbean Carnival season.

Design experts and students collaborated on the creation of this exquisite collection depicting the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, while studying organicism in costume design. Leveraging advanced digital design and fabrication methods, the team created an innovative carnival costume that will be showcased in Toronto throughout the carnival season, and year-round at Nia Centre’s office.

The costume will be available for viewing at *The Design Exchange* from June 19 through July 3, and will continue on to the *BAND Gallery and Cultural Centre* (19 Brock Avenue, Toronto) until July 31. From August 1 until August 7, the exhibit will be on display at the *Toronto Centre for the Arts* (5040 Yonge Street, Toronto), before returning to *Nia Centre for the Arts*.

The development of Chrysalis marked the launch of Nia Centre’s “Carnival Arts” programming stream. Through conceptualizing and creating carnival costumes, introducing the rituals, historical significance, and of course the intricate aesthetic elements of design, Nia Centre is formally celebrating the tradition of carnival, and also helping to ensure its aesthetic elements are sustained into the future by welcoming the student influence of new technologies, processes, and ideals. Nia Centre looks forward to continuing to study fashion and arts technology through our *Carnival Arts* program, year round (www.niacentre.org/carnival-arts).

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