



Date: August 8, 2006, 2006

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Editor's Note: Photographs attached

Broward County Commission Libraries Division Presents
Carnival at the Main Library

BROWARD COUNTY, FL – Over 300 people celebrated Caribbean heritage on Saturday, August 5 at Broward County's Main Library viewing an exhibit of spectacular custom-made Carnival costumes.

The exhibit of colorful Carnival costumes, which is co-organized by the Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago as well as the Broward Caribbean Carnival Inc., are on display at Main Library's gallery 6 through August 31. The opening reception featured entertainment, refreshments and a host of notables and community leaders.

The Lauderhill Steel Ensemble provided live music, and speakers included Her Excellency Maria Valere, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Broward County Schools Superintendent Frank Till; City of Lauderhill Commissioner Hayward J. Benson; Broward Caribbean Carnival President Andy Ansola; and master of ceremonies Cleve Osborne of WVCG-1080. Elementary school students, dressed in their own Carnival costumes, mingled with guests throughout the evening.

"The reception was such a success – it's really wonderful to see so many people at the library for an event like this," says Broward County Library Director Robert E. Cannon. "It was a wonderful celebration of Caribbean culture, and we're so grateful to have the opportunity to display these fantastic costumes."

The authentic costumes on display portray some of the Carnival of Trinidad and Tobago's most traditional and beloved characters including the Midnight Robber, the Bat, the Bookman as well as many others. These characters have been passed down from generation to generation, and are a reflection of the social customs, beliefs and mores of Trinidad and Tobago's varied cultural past.

Also held that day was the Caribbean Emancipation Annual Lecture – *From Marcus Garvey to Eric Williams: The Role of Ideas in Caribbean Development*. Presented by Selwyn R. Cudjoe, Professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, the lecture explored many of the ideas and philosophies set out by historian and former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Eric Williams and Marcus Garvey, a publisher and journalist. Professor Cudjoe, world-renowned Caribbean scholar, teaches courses on African-American Literary Tradition, African Literature and Caribbean literature. A much-published author, Professor Cudjoe has led numerous symposiums, panels and workshops on the topic of Caribbean emancipation.

Founded in 1974, the award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, www.broward.org/library, provides essential quality of life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The library consists of 37 branches, more than three million items for public use, 970 permanent staff, 114 part-time staff and \$4.6 million in grants with 41 grant-supported positions. Broward County Library is the ninth largest library system in the United States serving 10 million customers annually.

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