

# GARIFUNA COALITION USA, INC.

## Garifunas will Participate in the Bronx Week Parade

*The aim is to create awareness and appreciation of the Garifuna culture*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 15, 2009**

**Contacts: José Francisco Ávila (718) 402-7700**

**New York** – The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization announces that it will participate along with fourteen community based organizations in The 2009 Bronx Week Parade, on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> which will be led by the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and the 2009 Bronx Walk of Fame inductees.

The fourteen participating organizations are part of The Garifuna Roundtable which started meeting on January 31, 2009 at the Garifuna Advocacy Center in the Bronx, as a coalition of New York City's Garifuna community leaders that represent the diverse Garifuna organizations in the City and was a result of the advent of the Obama administration. The Roundtable's central purpose is to pursue the development of a common Garifuna agenda that will improve the social, economic, civic and cultural conditions of the Garifuna Immigrant Community in New York City and provide a high quality of life for the city's citizens. The Roundtable plans to achieve this purpose by defining strategic goals and objectives, and communicating these objectives to the Garifuna Community, government officials and the public at large. The goal will be to harness the internal productive capacities, both in terms of money and people that already exist in our community.

One of the strategic goals is that the community development initiative will be based on creating awareness and appreciation of the Garifuna culture and its contribution to the culture and society of New York City. The strategy will be to plan, organize and execute a series of activities during summer 2009, to promote the Garifuna Community in New York City and participation in the Bronx Week Parade is part of that strategy. Among the participating organizations are the following: AfriGarifuna Youth Ensemble, Garifuna New Movement Magazine, Labuga.com, New Age Consulting, New Horizon Investment Club, Organización de Damas Limoneñas en NY, Organización de la Familia Miranda, Organización de Jóvenes de Funda, Inc. Phipps Community Development Corp., The Solis Mejia Family Foundation, Inc., Women Generating Change, Un Angelito.org, and United Garifuna Association, Inc.

On May 18th, 2001 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the first time awarded the title of "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangibles Heritage of Humanity," to 19 outstanding cultural spaces of forms of expression from different regions of the world. The Garifuna Language, Dance and Music were among those declared "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangibles Heritage of Humanity."

### **About the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.**

The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization headquartered in New York City. It was founded on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1998 and was incorporated as a Domestic not for Profit Corporation on May 28, 1999. The purpose of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. is to serve as a resource, a forum, and advocate for Garifuna issues and a united voice for the Garifuna community. It seeks to find solutions to social problems such as, poverty, immigration and housing affecting the Garifuna people, through grassroots organizing and community development.

**Garifuna Pride - Our Voice - Our Vision**

[www.garifunacoalition.org](http://www.garifunacoalition.org)