

UNESCO Proclamation of the Garifuna Language as a "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity"

www.unesco.org/bpi/intangible_heritage/belize.htm



Proclamation of Masterpieces of the
Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity
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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 of Belize were among those declared "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangibles Heritage of Humanity."⁵

The oral and intangible heritage has gained international recognition as in cultural identity, promotion of creativity and the preservation of culture. It plays an essential role in national and international development, to promote harmonious interaction between cultures.

In an era of globalization, many forms of this culture are disappearing, threatened by cultural standardization, armed conflict, industrialization, rural exodus, migration and environmental deterioration.

This initiative to help preserve traditional and popular culture is intended to complement UNESCO's World Heritage List of natural and cultural sites.

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