



## MUGAMA, Inc. to Receive Garifuna Coalition Award

*Promoting Garifuna Harmony and Unity*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 3, 2009**

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**New York** – The Board of Directors of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization is pleased to announce that Mujeres Garinagu en Marcha Pro-Education (MUGAMA), Inc. will be recognized with a Garifuna Coalition Award during its Annual Yellow White and Black 2009 Fundraising Gala, scheduled for Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at The Eastwood Manor located at 3371 Eastchester Rd Bronx,

NY 10469.

MUGAMA was founded in 1989 by Lydia Sacasa-Hill (R.I.P.), Mirtha Sabio and Dionisia Amaya, to showcase Garinagu during International Woman's day. It was incorporated under the nonprofit organization laws of the state of New York on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1990 (a) To preserve and advance the history and culture of the Garifuna people through cultural and educational activities; (b) encourage and support the education of the Garifuna community in academic pursuits, leadership and personal growth.

MUGAMA was the first organization to promote the Garifuna Culture in New York City, as well as the first to celebrate April 12<sup>th</sup>, as the Arrival of the Garifunas to Central America. It was also the first Garifuna nonprofit organization in New York City to receive 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In 1996 it also became the first to receive an operating grant from the New York Foundation, therefore, representing the modern era of Garifuna nonprofit organizations.

In February of this year, it celebrated its 20th anniversary and was presented a proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz during its annual fundraising gala. Since its beginning it has been offering various adult classes, as well as sponsoring various social fundraising activities in Brooklyn.

The Board of Directors of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. is proud to recognize Mujeres Garinagu en Marcha Pro-Education (MUGAMA), Inc. for their outstanding achievements and sustained service, contribution and dedication to the Garifuna cause and invites the community to join us in recognizing them.

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

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



## Mujeres Garinagu en Marcha Pro-Education, Inc.



MUGAMA members at 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Gala



President Lorraine Bedit, with proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz



Former members: L-R Clara Rankin, Luz Arzu, Manuela Sabio, Eloina Thomas, Mirtha Sabio, Yolanda Blanco, Ana Carlota Castro



Tomas Alberto Avila presenting the proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz to Lorraine Bedit



# *Mujeres Garinagu en Marcha Pro-Education, Inc.*

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<b>Officer - Puesto</b>	<b>Name</b>
President - Presidenta	Lorraine Bedit
Vice President - Vicepresidenta	Erica Miguel
Treasurer - Tesorera	Mariana Suazo
Secretary - Secretaria	Norma Guerrero

**Founding Members—Miembros Fundadoras**  
 Certificate of Incorporation of  
 Mujeres Garifuna en Marcha Pro-Education Formal, Inc.  
 June 28, 1990

Lydia Hill	Mirtha Sabio
Dionisia Amaya-Bonilla	Luz Guity
Yolanda Solis	Yolanda Blanco
Blanca Arzu	Carlota Castro
Isabel Guerrero	Manuela Sabio

**Other Former Members – Otras Miembras**

Isidora Bedit	Eloina Thomas
Mary Castillo	Vilma Guity
Luz F. Solis	Martha Valverde
Yolanda Solis	Clara Rankin
Cheryl Guity	Mary Gotay
Maria Vilma Sabio	Sarah Onofre