



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

CARIBBEAN ESSENCE AWARDS & SHOWCASE

ON

SUNDAY JUNE 30TH, 2024

AT

EL CARIBE
5945 STRICKLAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



Love a Kid... Today and Everyday
Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

EVENING PROGRAM

Cocktail Hour & Steel Pan
Introduction Of The Host

Host Welcome

Board Chairman & Executive Director Address

Calypso Melody featuring Doctor Whitty

SESAME FLYERS CLARKSON COMPASS DANCERS

Choreographed By Danecya Clarke
Song: Queenspace By: Ari Lennox

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Tristan Anthony: Chairman's Award
Jahniya Nelson: Chad Magloire Award
Genibel Jimenez Hernandez: Melissa Hunte Award
Chekevia Joseph: Elenora Bernard Award

SESAME FLYERS CLARKSON COMPASS DANCERS

Choreographed By Danecya Clarke
Song: Big Truck (Soca 2024 Mashup) By: Machel Montano

STAFF AWARDS

Shyann Raj-Singh: Winthrop Staff of the Year Award
Kenya Alleyne: Bildersee Beacon Staff of the Year Award
Kwame Hinds: Clarkson Compass Staff of the Year Award

STEEL PAN PERFORMANCE

COMMUNNITY AWARDS

Ann Marie Adamson-Serieux: Community Bridge Builder Award
Curtis Noel: Cultural Ambassador Award
Patricia Dorothy Chin: Cultural Ambassador Award
Yvette Rennie: Cultural Ambassador Award
Richard Davis: Economic Empowerment Champion Award
Gilman Figaro: Community Champion Award
Ann-Marie Grant: Community Pillar Award
Camille Hastick: Economic Champion Award
Catherina Francis-Grey: Membership Trailblazer of the year

FUNDRAISING APPEAL / CLOSING

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



Love a Kid... Today and Everyday
Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

OUR MISSION

To provide a range of youth development, cultural, social welfare and supportive services to individuals and families residing in New York.

OUR MOTTO

Love a Kid Today & Every Day

OUR VISION

Sesame Flyers International will define itself as a leader among its peer, its community and its stakeholders for programs that cultivate emerging youth leaders, authentic cultural experiences and innovative economic vitality.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Raymond Luke – BOARD CHAIR

*Dr. Pearl Elie
Ms. Janet Cummings
Mr. Collin John*

*Ms. Nelcol Philip
Mr. Kevin McEwen*

DIRECTORS & ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Curtis Nelson – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Judith Faison – DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Michelle Mathison – Director Of Development
Cierra Hargett – Office Manager
Aisha Carr – Senior Director Of Program Operations
Donnyell Bourgeois, Sr. – Chief Financial Officer
Kenya Alleyne – Asst. Director Bildersee
Simone Warner – Winthrop Beacon Director
Leslyn Rahaman – CFS Director
Kesha Shortt – SYEP Program Director*

*Keisha Sydney – Outreach Coordinator
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Danielle McBride – Bildersee Beacon Director
Nia Wilson – Asst. Director Compass
Dayna Capron – Asst Director Winthrop
Jewdyer Osborne – CFS Supervisor*

JOSEPH CHARLES

The Founder's Message

How the Seed was planted

By Joe Charles



During my many trips to Trinidad more than 31 years ago I would get together with my friends including two famous cooks 'Speck' and 'Crix' who would dishup my specialty, saltfish stew with provision, lots of dumplings, blue dasheen, young green figs etc., prepared on a wood fire in the yard of an old abandoned house at the corner of Sesame Street Place and Irving Street. I even invited some of my New York 'posse' to enjoy the food and the 'ole talk' all day until the sun went down. Sesame Street was our 'hangout' that invigorated our friendships and a togetherness that we looked forward to every year.

In 1983 I got permission from my mother-in-law, Mrs. Violet Munroe, to have the lime in her famous backyard, so we left the abandoned house on Sesame Street, but we did not abandon the idea of Sesame Street. That year we formalize the lime with t-shirts from my job in New York. Everybody wearing the same t-shirt having fun. It was a big party, a day to remember.

On my return to New York we were at the Munroe's house in Long Island, reminiscing about the wonderful experience we had in Trinidad at my mother-in-law's house. We knew then that it must not die. The Sesame idea lived on. We had our first Sesame Flyers' meeting in my kitchen.



Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



Love a Kid... Today and Everyday
Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.



RAYMOND LUKE

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SESAME FLYERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Dear Sesame Family,

As we step into our 41st year at Sesame Flyers, I find myself reflecting on the genuine connections and enduring impact we've created together. It's a privilege to lead an organization that stands at the heart of promoting our rich Caribbean heritage and nurturing the potential of our youth.

This year has been a remarkable one, filled with both challenges and triumphs. Through it all, your support has been the highlight of our success. It's your commitment that empowers us to keep our traditions alive and provide meaningful opportunities for our young people.

As I look forward, I am excited about the innovations we are bringing to our programs and events, especially here at the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase. This event is a celebration and a crucial part of our effort to fund and expand our reach. Your participation makes a direct difference in the lives of countless young people and their families.

I encourage everyone to remain involved this year, whether by attending the events, donating, or simply sharing our mission with others. Each effort you make extends our reach and deepens our impact.

I am personally grateful for the opportunity to continue this journey with you along side my beautiful wife Urla. The future is bright for Sesame Flyers, and with your continued support, I am confident that our best days are still ahead.

Thank you for believing in our cause and standing with us. Let's make this year one to remember for all the right reasons.

Warm regards,
Raymond Luke
Chairman of the Board, Sesame Flyers

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



Love a Kid... Today and Everyday
Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.



CURTIS NELSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SESAME FLYERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization as colorful and essential as ours. As we gather for the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase, I am reminded of the incredible journey we continue to share in fostering family unity and cultural celebration.

This year, we introduce the theme of Carnival Renaissance, which embodies our commitment to both honor our roots and innovate for future generations. This theme will guide our endeavors for the next 3 years as we strive to engage every member of our community from the youngest to the eldest in the traditions of Caribbean culture.

The Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase is a perfect reflection of this mission. It is here that we not only honor the outstanding achievements within our community but also reignite our collective passion for the cultural heritage that defines us. As we celebrate this renaissance of carnival spirit, we are also laying the groundwork for new ways to connect, share, and grow.

Leading Sesame Flyers in this era is a privilege that I hold dear. I am excited to explore new possibilities and to continue building upon the strong foundations laid by those who came before us. Your support and participation make all the difference as we move forward together, embracing both our traditions and the new paths they lead us to.

Thank you for your faith in our journey, your commitment to our cause, and your enthusiasm for what lies ahead. Here's to our ongoing renaissance, filled with joy, creativity, and community spirit.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Curtis Nelson
Executive Director, Sesame Flyers

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CLARKE.HOUSE.GOV



Yvette D. Clarke
Congress of the United States
9th District of New York

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
MANUFACTURING, AND CRITICAL MINERALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA,
AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT,
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To the Dedicated Advocates of Sesame Flyers International,

As we commemorate this Caribbean Heritage Month, on behalf of myself, the Clarke Family, and the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I wish to both extend our sincere congratulations to Sesame Flyers International and the passionate individuals it comprises on this special celebration of your organization's 41st year, as well as express our community's deep appreciation for your more than four decades of boundless contributions to countless Brooklyn families.

As a bastion of the Caribbean community's resilient spirit within Brooklyn, your organization's ever present commitment towards the ability of all our diaspora's members to thrive and succeed in New York, this nation, and our world serves as an inspiration to those of us who are so fortunate as to be familiar with the work of Sesame Flyers International. Your Caribbean Essence Awards are not only a cherished annual celebration to honor and celebrate the hard work, determination, and leadership of college-bound graduating high school seniors and college students, but a special opportunity to uplift the next generation with the love and support our youth deserve – a noble cause worthy of the unwavering gratitude of myself and the community we hold dear.

It has long been my belief that it is imperative we continue to celebrate the organizations and individuals who are committed to raising up Brooklyn and blessing its people with the appreciation and recognition they have earned. Thus, it is my privilege and pride to name Sesame Flyers International as one of our most tireless champions and advocates. Thank you for your work, your leadership, and your passion, and congratulations, once again, on 41 impeccable years of service.

Respectfully,

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
SPEAKER

June 30, 2024

Dear Friends:

As the Speaker of the New York City Council, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone gathered here tonight for Sesame Flyers International's Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase!

From providing childcare and combating homelessness to addressing food insecurity and improving mental health, our city's non-profit sector has been a vital partner in our efforts to lift up and empower the lives of all New Yorkers.

As they celebrate Caribbean Heritage Month and their 41 years of service, I would like to thank Sesame Flyers International and its dedicated team for the important work they are doing to help make a positive difference in the lives of children and families in and beyond Brooklyn. Organizations like yours remind us of our shared responsibility and the role that every New Yorker can play in building a stronger, more equitable city.

Congratulations as well to this year's honorees.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time tonight!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrienne Adams'.

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
SPEAKER



BRIAN A. CUNNINGHAM
Assemblymember 43rd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Economic Development, Job Creation,
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Transportation
Veterans' Affairs
MEMBER
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic
and Asian Legislative Caucus



June 30, 2024

Sesame Flyers International, Inc.
3510 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Dear Friends:

Please accept my congratulations as Sesame Flyers International, Inc. celebrates its *Caribbean Essence Award and Showcase*, highlighting 41 years of service and commitment to the Caribbean community in Central Brooklyn. It is an honor to recognize 41 years of dedication on this auspicious occasion.

As the center of Caribbean culture in New York City, Brooklyn was the perfect place to establish Sesame Flyers. For over four decades, Sesame Flyers International has been a beacon of Caribbean culture, highlighting the rich diversity of Caribbean and spotlighting the artistry of steel pan bands and mas culture. As we acknowledge Sesame Flyers International as a cultural ambassador, it is equally important to shine a light on its philanthropic endeavors as it recognizes the achievements of outstanding college-bound high school seniors and college students this evening.

This year, Sesame Flyers International will honor college and college-bound scholars as well as community honorees who have left an indelible mark on the community. Among this year's esteemed honorees are Ann Marie Adamson, Curtis Joel, Patricia Dorothy Chin, Ria Persaud, Yvette Rennie, Richard Davis, Gilman Figaro, Ann Marie Grant, and Camille Hastick. It's a privilege to recognize our young scholars Jahniya Nelson, recipient of the *Chad Magloire Award*; Genibel Jimenez Hernandez, recipient of the *Melissa Hunte Award*; Chekevia Joseph, recipient of the *Elenora Bernard Award*, and Tristan Anthony, recipient of the *Chairman's Award*.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to recognize this keystone community base organization. I look forward to next year's celebration and Sesame Flyers International's continued work to preserve Caribbean culture.


Sincerely,


Brian A. Cunningham
New York State Assembly
Brooklyn, District 43




Council Member Nantasha Williams
27th Council District

COUNCIL MEMBER NANTASHA WILLIAMS 

718-776-3700 

172-12 Linden Blvd, St. Albans, Queens 

district27@council.nyc.gov 

June 30, 2024

Dear Sesame Flyers International Team,

I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sesame Flyers International on the occasion of your 41st Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase. This milestone marks over four decades of unwavering dedication to providing vital educational, cultural, and recreational programs to our community.

Sesame Flyers International has been a beacon of hope and inspiration, fostering a sense of unity and pride through its commitment to youth and community development. Your programs have empowered countless individuals, nurturing their talents and instilling values that will guide them throughout their lives. The impact of your work resonates far beyond the boundaries of our community, enriching the lives of all who participate and engage with your mission.

The Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase is a testament to the vibrant and diverse heritage of Caribbean culture. It is a celebration of the beauty, elegance, and richness that this culture brings to our lives. This event not only honors the achievements and contributions of individuals and organizations but also provides a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for community development and youth empowerment.

I commend Sesame Flyers International for creating a platform where we can all come together to support and celebrate the mission of fostering community growth and cultural appreciation. Your dedication to service and your unwavering commitment to our youth are truly commendable.

As we gather to celebrate this significant milestone, let us be reminded of the power of community, the importance of cultural heritage, and the endless possibilities that arise when we work together towards a common goal. I am confident that Sesame Flyers International will continue to inspire, uplift, and transform lives for many more years to come.

Congratulations once again on your 41st Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase. I look forward to witnessing the continued success and positive impact of Sesame Flyers International.

Warm regards,

Nantasha Williams



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**THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**
FARAH N. LOUIS
COUNCIL MEMBER · 45TH DISTRICT · BROOKLYN

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AND ADDICTION
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
CO-CHAIR
BROOKLYN DELEGATION

June 30, 2024

Curtis Nelson
Sesame Flyers International
3510 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203



Dear Curtis Nelson and the Sesame Flyers International Board of Directors,

Congratulations on the remarkable achievement of hosting the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase, and for reaching an incredible milestone of 41 years of unwavering service to the community. This event, which coincides with the celebration of Caribbean Heritage Month, is a testament to the profound impact Sesame Flyers has had on the lives of countless individuals and families.

For over four decades, Sesame Flyers International has been an unwavering beacon of hope, empowerment, and support for the Brooklyn community and beyond. Your commitment to putting children first has been the driving force behind your growth and success, transforming the lives of young people and instilling in them a sense of pride, purpose, and ambition.

As Council Member of the 45th District of the City of New York, representing communities in Flatbush, East Flatbush, Midwood, Flatlands, Marine Park, and Canarsie, Sesame Flyers International has been a guiding light for the diverse Caribbean communities within our district, offering a wide array of services encompassing education, youth development, health, and wellness. This event serves as a testament to our decades of impactful service and our commitment to continued progress.

Sesame Flyers International remains a steadfast advocate for the progress and success of all children. Your unwavering mission to provide a comprehensive range of youth development, cultural preservation, social welfare, and supportive services is truly admirable and I am certain that your dedication to our neighbors and youth will serve to create a better tomorrow for generations to come.

In the spirit of Caribbean Heritage Month, congratulations again on commemorating 41 years of exceptional service. May the years ahead be filled with continued growth, strength, unity, and an even greater impact on the lives of the individuals and families we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Farah N. Louis".

Farah N. Louis
New York City Council Member, District 45



**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**

June 30th, 2024

To Sesame Flyers International Inc.,

On behalf of the City of New York, I would like to offer you my congratulations and well-wishes as you celebrate 41 years of exceptional and important programming at the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase today. Your dedication has been absolute, recognized, and appreciated. Throughout your time serving the Brooklyn community, you have demonstrated resolve toward ensuring that every child has a nurturing, safe, and joyful environment in which to grow, and I thank you for your efforts.

Sesame Flyers has dedicated decades to supporting our city and helping others, prioritizing youth empowerment, economic development, and cultural celebration. Throughout these 41 years, you have tirelessly served the community by providing educational, recreational, and cultural programs to the youth and families of Brooklyn. You consistently adapt to changing circumstances – such as a global pandemic – to meet the needs of the community and the surrounding diaspora. I offer you my commendation for your tireless effort and commitment to positively impacting Brooklyn. I know that the work you do helps to provide New Yorkers with hope and encouragement for the future by improving and enriching the lives of residents.

I have always been grateful for the partnership of Sesame Flyers in advancing Caribbean culture and supporting our young people. During my time in the City Council, I had the privilege of frequently working closely with you on a wide range of initiatives. As Public Advocate, I know the importance of dedication and hard work that produces results and brings people and communities together. Thank you for your commitment to your work in the city we share and love. Congratulations on today's celebration, and on the legacy you have built on behalf of Brooklyn and the whole of New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Williams", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jumaane D. Williams
Public Advocate for the City of New York

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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MERCEDES NARCISSE
COUNCIL MEMBER
46TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

BLACK, LATINO AND ASIAN CAUCUS & WOMEN'S CAUCUS

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EDUCATION

HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PARKS AND RECREATION

SUB-COMMITTEE
COVID RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY



A Message from Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse

Dear Friends and Community Members,

I am honored and delighted to celebrate with you at the Sesame Flyers Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase. As we mark this remarkable milestone of 41 years of dedicated service to our community, I am filled with immense cultural pride and gratitude.

For over four decades, Sesame Flyers has provided invaluable education, cultural, and recreational programs to our youth and broader community. Your unwavering commitment has touched countless lives, fostering growth, unity, and the preservation of our rich Caribbean heritage. Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate these 41 years of impactful service, allow me to salute the exceptional honorees whose contributions and achievements continue to shape our future. Their dedication and spirit inspire us all, and it is a privilege to recognize their significant impact. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the honorees and scholarship recipients. Your achievements illuminate the path forward, and I am confident that your future endeavors will bring even greater pride to our community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event, and Sesame Flyers' 41 years of service, a resounding success. May tonight leave you feeling uplifted and inspired, and may we continue to celebrate and support each other in the spirit of unity and excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mercedes Narcisse'.

Mercedes Narcisse
Member of the NYC Council



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



**Monique Chandler-
Waterman**

Member of Assembly
58th Assembly District

June 30, 2024

Curtis Nelson, President
Sesame Flyers International Inc
3510 Church Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Sesame Flyers International, Inc. and all honorees on their annual Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase as we close out Caribbean American Heritage Month.

For the past 41 years Sesame Flyers International, Inc. has truly been an exemplary organization and cultural ambassador uniquely positioned to represent and provide support for our Caribbean diaspora.

On behalf of the Assembly District 58 residents, I particularly want to acknowledge all the members of the Caribbean Diaspora who have made significant contributions to our great city and state.

Congratulations again, and may we have a joyous, memorable, and successful time as we continue to serve our communities together. Remember "It's not an I thing, but a WE Ting!"

Sincerely,

Monique Chandler-Waterman
NYS Assemblywoman, Assembly District 58

CHAIR
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CITIES I
CODES
DISABILITIES
TRANSPORTATION
WOMEN'S ISSUES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

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PERSAUD@NYSENATE.GOV



June 30, 2024

Greetings:

Congratulations Sesame Flyers International, Inc. on celebrating your 41st Anniversary during the Caribbean Essence Awards & Showcase, with over four decades of empowering and strengthening the community, while preserving and celebrating your Caribbean heritage is noteworthy.

Congratulations to the honorees and awardees for the recognition of your outstanding leadership and dedication to empowering humanity, breaking culture barriers and achieving results: Ann Marie Adamson, Curtis Joel, Patricia Dorothy Chin, Ria Persad, Yvette Rennie, Richard Davis, Gilman Figaro, Ann-Marie Grant, Camile Hastick, Catherina Franis-Grey, Shyann Raj-Singh, Kenya Alleyne, Kwame Hinds and the scholarship awardees Jahniya Nelson, Genibel Jimenez Hernandez, Chekevia Joseph and Tristan Anthony.

Sesame Flyers International, Inc. commitment to being a guiding light for the Caribbean community in New York City offers a wide array of services encompassing education, youth development, health and wellness. It is through your services that over 7,000 Brooklyn residents benefits annually. Your transformational demonstration of love for children has presented them with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, technology, and equipment that will prepare them for the challenges yet to come.

It is my sincere desire that this year's celebration exceeds your high expectations, and it is enjoyable for all. Continue to address the needs of our children, their families, and the community. Once again, congratulations and very best wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roxanne J. Persaud".

Roxanne J. Persaud

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



Love a Kid... Today and Everyday
Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

SESAME FLYERS INTERNATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP

Jerry Alexander
Jocelyn Alexander
Nyanibah Anokye
Vera Brown
Winston Bushell
Cheryl Celestine
Brenda Charles
Janet Cummings
Neal Diamond
Dr. Pearl Elie
Surenete Foster
Nigel Goodluck
Catherina Francis-Grey
Vilma Griffith
Matthew Griffith
Anne Michelle Young -Holder
Brenda Hutchinson
Antoinette Innocent
Clynette Jordan
Raymond Luke
Reginald Marques
Ron Mentore
Susan Mills -Denner
Ria Moye
Gloria Owens
Maleyah Peterson
Makayla Peterson
Frank Pilgrim
Ginette Rousseau Peterson
Candace Skeete
Renee Skeete
Gloria Thomas-Thompson

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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INTERNATIONAL, INC.



JAHNIYA NELSON

CHAD MAGLOIRE AWARDS

Inspiring Leadership & Community Development

We take a moment to commend Jahniya Nelson, the recipient of the Chad Magloire Award. From Trinidadian and Jamaican heritage, Jahniya is an undergraduate student recognized by the National Society of High School Scholars and has received awards such as Most Improved Cheerleader, Principal Awards, and Dean's List honors. Passionate about therapy for students and adults, she aims to positively impact mental health and well-being.

Talented in singing and dancing, Jahniya has participated in a step team and is currently a cheerleader. In her personal time, she enjoys cooking and exploring different cuisines, showcasing her creativity and love for bringing people together through food.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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GENIBEL JIMENEZ HERNANDEZ

MELISSA HUNTE AWARD

Crafting Dreams, Inspiring Youth, & Pursuing Purpose

It is with great admiration that we highlight Genibel Jimenez Hernandez as she receives the Melissa Hunte Award. Genibel, a proud Dominican and Puerto Rican, is a recent high school graduate who has made a remarkable impact on youth development in her community over the past four years. Her dedication and hard work have inspired many around her. This fall, she will embark on a new journey at City College, where she will pursue her passion for psychology.

Genibel's appreciation for crocheting blossomed in Ms. Carter's class at Bildersee, where she developed her skills and discovered a profound joy in the craft. A quote that resonates deeply with Genibel is, "God walks with me through every milestone."

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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INTERNATIONAL, INC.



CHEKEVIA JOSEPH

ELENORA BERNARD 2024 SCHOLARSHIP

Embracing Roots, Crafting Paths

We are excited to present Chekevia Joseph with the Elenora Bernard Award. Originally from New York but deeply rooted in St. Lucia, Chekevia Joseph loves Creole culture and cuisine, especially green fig and saltfish. As the eldest on her mom's side and youngest on her dad's, family is everything to her.

Starting at Alfred State College, Chekevia aims to become a travel nurse. Beyond academics, she's active in community service, from painting schools to volunteering at food pantries.

A passionate traveler, Chekevia plans to explore all 198 countries, immersing herself in diverse cultures. She stands by the motto "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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INTERNATIONAL, INC.



TRISTAN ANTHONY **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

Engineering My Present Building My Future

With sincere appreciation, we present Tristan Anthony with the Chairman's Award. Tristan '24 hails from "Little Caribbean" in Brooklyn, New York, with a family history of migration from Antigua. He is the first grandchild to graduate from Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School.

At UCC, Tristan earned a place on the honor roll and co-founded the first Robotics Club. He also participated in band, played multiple sports, and was awarded the 2024 Cyclone Most Valuable Player.

Tristan showed leadership as a mentor in the UCC Peer Mentoring program and through his volunteer work. After graduation, he plans to spend time with family and friends before starting his journey as an Electrical Engineer at Syracuse University's SummerStart program.



Sesame Flyers
INTERNATIONAL, INC.



BILDERSEE BEACON

Sesame Flyers' Beacon Programs provide safe and supportive environments for children, youth, and families to learn and grow outside of school hours. Beacon programs are after-school programs that operate in public schools and provide a wide range of services to the community. With over 20 years of experience, our programs offer a wide range of activities, from sports and recreation to academic support and family engagement opportunities. By operating in public schools, we are able to use the full facilities to provide a comprehensive range of services that meet the diverse needs of the community. Children can receive homework help, participate in sports activities, and enjoy a nutritious meal, while parents can take part in fitness classes or attend workshops. Our Beacon Programs strive to empower individuals and build a stronger community through education, personal development, and social interaction.

Dance | Cooking | Chess | Physical Education
STEAM | Martial Arts | Arts and Craft | Basketball
and much more - **REGISTER TODAY**

 info@bilderseebeacon.org

WHY BILDERSEE BEACON?

-  After-school programs give students opportunities to learn skills, explore their interests, and discover new things.
-  The Bildersee Beacon Summer Program is all about creating fun memories that will last a lifetime. **JOIN US TODAY!**
-  This program offers educational, recreational & cultural activities on weekday evenings and weekends.
-  956 E 82nd Street,
Brooklyn, New York 11203



GET IN TOUCH
+718-693-0500



Sesame Flyers

INTERNATIONAL, INC.



QUALITY PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

CLARKSON COMPASS



QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

strive to empower individuals and build a stronger community



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

giving students opportunities to learn skills, explore their interests, and discover new things.



SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

is all about creating fun memories that will last a lifetime. JOIN US TODAY!



QUALITY PROGRAMS

provide a comprehensive range of services that meet the diverse needs of the community- each age group

Our Benefits:

We provide safe and supportive environments for children, youth, and families to learn and grow outside of school hours.



Cultural Dance



Basketball Program



Arts & Craft



Aerobics



Physical Education



Engineering



Martial Arts



Cheerleading

1060 Clarkson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11212



info@sesameflyers.org
(347) 382-6781



SESAME FLYERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

WINTHROP BEACON

Sesame Flyers' Beacon Programs provide safe and supportive environments for children, youth, and families to learn and grow outside of school hours. Beacon programs are after-school programs that operate in public schools and provide a wide range of services to the community.

- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Marching Band
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Chess
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ STEAM
- ✓ Martial Arts
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Soccer
- ✓ Volleyball
- ✓ Table Tennis
- ✓ Netball



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After-school programs give students opportunities to learn skills, explore their interests, and discover new things.



SUMMER PROGRAM

The Winthrop Beacon Summer Program is all about creating fun memories that will last a lifetime.
JOIN US TODAY!



EVENING PROGRAMS

This program offers educational, recreational & cultural activities on weekday evenings and weekends.



PHONE NUMBER

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Sesame Flyers
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CENTER FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

**QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE
CASEWORK INTERVENTION**



The Center for Family Support is one of Sesame Flyers' best-kept secrets, although it's not so much of a secret as we have been providing this service to the community for over 20 years. Our mission is to provide quality and comprehensive casework intervention to strengthen families and prevent foster care placement/replacement. As part of the Clarkson Compass Program, our free comprehensive family counseling center provides a nurturing, supportive, and caring environment where families can work together to improve their relationships and lives.



LAMAD ACADEMY
1060 CLARKSON AVENUE . THIRD FLOOR
BROOKLYN . NEW YORK 11212

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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ANN MARIE ADAMSON-SERIEUX **COMMUNITY BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD**

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AT EMBLEM HEALTH

Bridging Cultures, Leading With Vision

It is our privilege to bestow this recognition upon Ann Marie Adamson-Serieux as we present her with the Community Bridge Builder Award. Ann Marie, born in Georgetown, Guyana, and raised in St. Lucia, proudly represents both cultures. A devoted mother to her daughter, Serieux Summer Lee, she embodies resilience, dedication, and community commitment.

With over 30 years of experience in marketing strategies and community programming, Ann Marie is a visionary leader. She graduated from the University of Cambridge with a degree in English Language. Co-founding The Event LAB, she led major product launches, concerts, and fashion events. At Brooklyn Borough Hall, she worked on policy and intergovernmental relations.

In healthcare, Ann Marie excelled in managing special projects and partner engagement, becoming AVP of Community Affairs at EmblemHealth. Her current role focuses on community engagement, advocating for the Caribbean diaspora, and promoting health education.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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CURTIS NOEL **CULTURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD**

KING JAB / BRUISER

Footprint Of Tradition

In recognition of their zest for culture and community we proudly present Curtis Noel with the Cultural Ambassador Award. Born in San Fernando, Trinidad & Tobago, Curtis's fascination with the traditional mas' of "Jab molassi" began at a young age. His journey from playing "ole mas" in Port of Spain to becoming a key figure in the U.S. Labor Day Carnival is nothing short of inspiring. Since migrating to the U.S. in 1984, Curtis has been a vibrant force in the Carnival community, from his time with "Burrokeets" to creating the iconic "King Jab" character.

Curtis's incredible portrayal of "King Jab" with oil mas and dramatic characterizations has won him numerous accolades, including Male Individual of the Year in 2016. His talent has taken him across the globe, performing with Something Positive Inc. and touring countries like Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, and Senegal with Jouvay Fest.

Curtis's work has also caught the attention of pop culture, earning him a cameo in Jay Z's "Big Pimpin" video and a feature on the cover of Skinny Fabulous' "Lava Man."

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PATRICIA DOROTHY CHIN

CULTURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD

FOUNDER, VP RECORDS

Rhythms Of Excellence, Growing Our Cultural Influence

Awarded for her role in cultural enrichment, Patricia Dorothy Chin is honored as our Cultural Ambassador Award recipient. Born on September 20, 1937, in Kingston, Jamaica, “Miss Pat” has left an indelible mark on the world of music as the co-founder of the world’s largest independent reggae label and distributor of Caribbean music. Her entrepreneurial journey began in her adolescence, selling rubber bands and marbles at Alpha Girls School, which set the foundation for her extraordinary business acumen.

Together with her late husband Vincent, Miss Pat built VP Records from a small used-record shop in Kingston to a New York City-based multinational company. For over 50 years, she has been a driving force behind the spread of reggae music and culture worldwide, educating audiences and developing new artists with unwavering passion and dedication.

Miss Pat’s contributions have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the prestigious Order of Distinction from the Jamaican Honors System and being the first female to receive the American Association of Independent Music Award.

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YVETTE RENNIE

CULTURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD

PRESIDENT OF J'OUVERT CITY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A Legacy of Cultural Preservation and Community Empowerment

We are delighted to bestow the prestigious Cultural Ambassador Award upon the marvelous Yvette Rennie, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, Yvette has made the United States her home since 1968. With a rich background in cultural, educational, and political community strategies, Yvette has dedicated her life to shaping policies that impact lives. From her involvement with the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party to earning degrees from New York Community College and Brooklyn College, her journey is truly inspiring.

As the President of J'Ouvert City International, Inc., Yvette has played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Caribbean culture in New York. She has tirelessly worked to maintain the J'Ouvert celebration on Labor Day in Brooklyn, highlighting the economic and cultural significance of Carnival. Her leadership has helped generate millions of dollars for New York's economy, supporting 32 organizations under the J'Ouvert City International umbrella.

Yvette's dedication extends beyond culture into political and social activism. Her efforts have registered over 50,000 new voters, influenced redistricting for better representation, and conducted numerous Get Out the Vote campaigns. Her volunteerism and community involvement have left an indelible mark on New York City.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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RICHARD DAVIS

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CHAMPION AWARD

Bridging Worlds, Building Community Growing The Economy

Under the spotlight of achievement, let us commend Richard Davis with the Economic Empowerment Champion Award. Richard Davis's life story is a remarkable journey that bridges the vibrant landscapes of Guyana and the bustling streets of New York City. In 1982, at the age of 12, Richard moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his father. This move also introduced him to the harsh reality of racism. His early encounters with racism only strengthened Richard's resolve to succeed and become a force for positive change. They instilled in him a deep sense of resilience and a commitment to fighting for justice and equality, which have been the cornerstones of his career and activism.

As the President of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, Richard draws strength from his Guyanese roots and the challenges he has overcome. Under his leadership, TWU Local 100, headquartered in downtown Brooklyn, represents approximately 43,000 men and women who operate and maintain the MTA bus and subway system in NYC—the largest mass transit system in North America. His heritage is a source of immense pride, and it fuels his dedication to building strong organizational structures, training, and educating younger workers, and increasing the representation of women in union leadership positions. His focus on improving safety, quality of life, wages, and benefits for the union's members reflects his lifelong commitment to his community.

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GILMAN FIGARO

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

FOUNDER OF CALYPSO & STEELPAN MUSIC SUNSHINE AWARDS

Heart Of The Community, Spirit Of A Champion

Recognized for his exceptional dedication to cultural advocacy, Gilman Figaro has been honored with the Community Champion Award. Born and raised in San Fernando, Trinidad, Gilman has dedicated his life to promoting and preserving Caribbean culture. His early passion for calypso and steelband music, inspired by his uncle, led him to become a key figure in the arts, founding the SUNSHINE Awards to celebrate Caribbean art, dance, music, and poetry.

Gilman's relentless dedication to uplifting Caribbean culture has earned him global recognition. From producing hit tracks like "Now is the Time" to founding the SUNSHINE Awards Hall of Fame, his contributions have been instrumental in promoting Caribbean music and art worldwide. His work with the United Nations and various educational programs has further solidified his role as a cultural ambassador.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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ANN-MARIE GRANT

COMMUNITY PILLAR AWARD

ED OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Cultivating Connections Through Commitment & Community

Acknowledged for her transformative role leadership Ann-Marie Grant captures the essence of the Community Pillar Award. As the Executive Director of the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI), Ann-Marie has been a driving force in supporting the growth and development of The University of the West Indies. Under her exceptional leadership, the number of scholarships has grown from 8 to 650, with approximately \$8.3M in in-kind donations benefiting deserving students across the Caribbean. Her dedication ensures that access to higher education is available to all who seek it, significantly aiding personal and professional growth.

Ann-Marie's impact goes beyond education. She holds advisory positions within the SUNY-UWI collaborative, focusing on leveraging institutional expertise to tackle pressing issues in the Caribbean and its diaspora. Her diverse experience in commercial and retail banking, business services, and nonprofit leadership highlights her visionary approach and exceptional leadership skills.

With a passion for people development and public relations, Ann-Marie's optimism and faith in humanity's best qualities shine through in all her endeavors. Her contributions have made a significant difference, and we are proud to celebrate her achievements.

Let's
Celebrate!

Congratulations!

To
Ann-Marie Grant
and all the 2024 Honorees

From your Family and Friends

Congratulations
to
Ann Marie Grant
and all the
2024 Honorees

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CAMILLE HASTICK

ECONOMIC CHAMPION

**VP OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AT
THE BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Leading The Way In Economic Progress For Our People

With great admiration, we honor Camille Hastick with the Economic Champion Award. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Camille is an alumna of Catherine McAuley High School and New York University. With a distinguished career that includes roles at Bank of New York Mellon, NYC Department of Small Business Services, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and the NYS Comptroller's office, Camille has dedicated her professional life to supporting small businesses, especially minority-owned ones.

In her newly created role as Vice President at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, she continues to advocate for small businesses and the local economy, representing the Chamber publicly and coordinating effective public policy positions.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Camille is the President of the Drs. Roy and Eda Hastick Family Foundation, honoring her late father, Dr. Roy Hastick Jr., founder of the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce (CACCI). She is also a successful minority woman business owner and entrepreneur, helping other businesses build capacity and scale up.

Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase



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CATHERINA FRANCIS-GREY MEMBERSHIP TRAILBLAZER OF THE YEAR AWARD

A Champion Of Caribbean Culture & Sesame Flyers International

In the spirit of celebration, we award Catherina Francis-Grey with the Membership Trailblazer of the Year Award. Catherina was born in San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies. In the 1970s, she migrated to Brooklyn, New York, where she pursued her education and obtained a bachelor's degree in accounting from Pace University. Shortly thereafter, Catherina married and became the mother of two beautiful children.

A passionate lover of music and the life of the party wherever she goes, Catherina's vibrant personality led her to become an active member of her community. She was introduced to Sesame Flyers International by its founder, Joseph Charles, who encouraged her to channel her enthusiasm into meaningful work for the West Indian community and their children.

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SESAME FLYERS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

JANET CUMMINGS 917-816-1497 | SUE FOSTER 917-887-7612

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: CALYPSOCA TENT OPENS FIRST FRIDAY IN AUGUST 2024



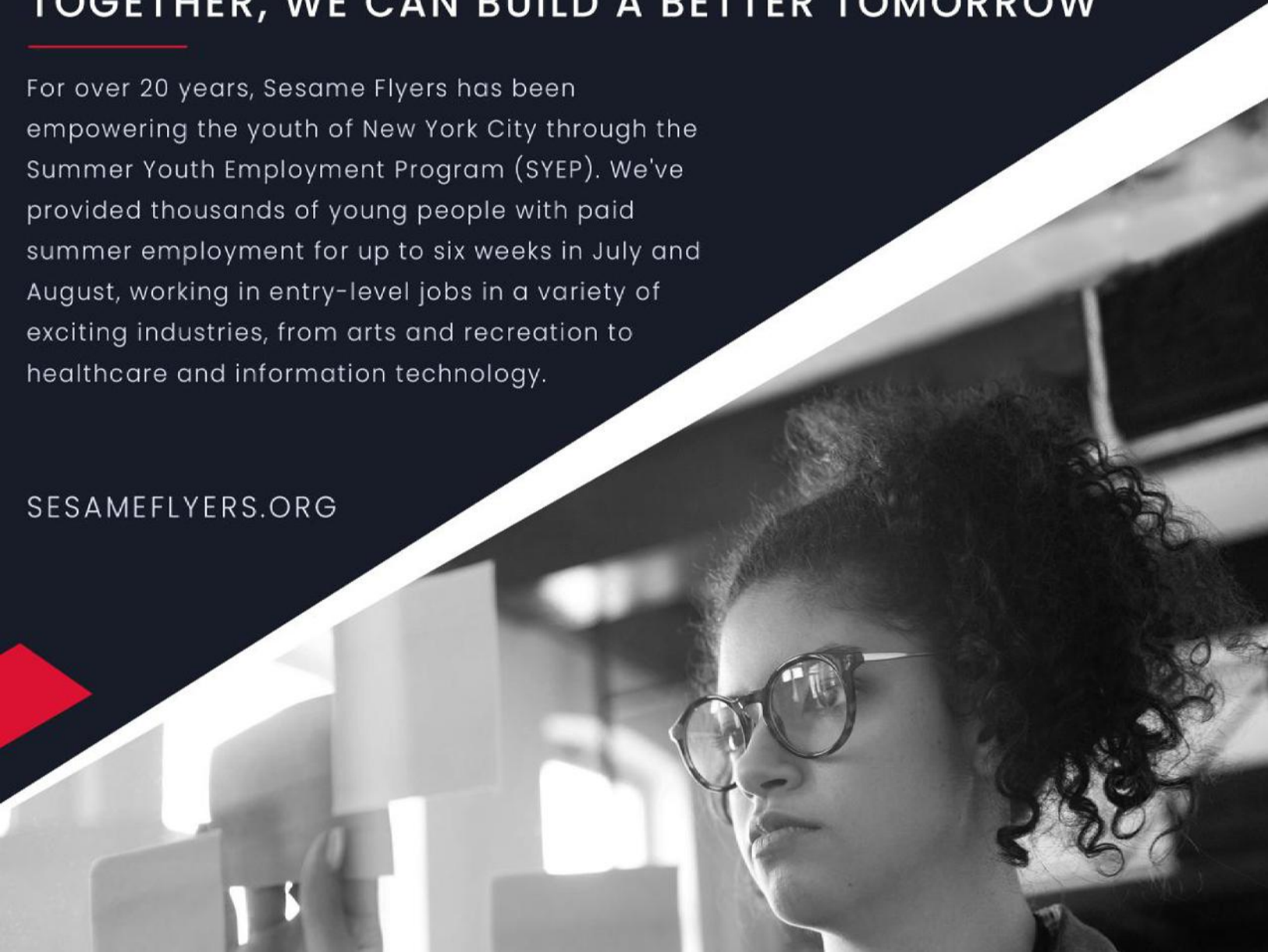
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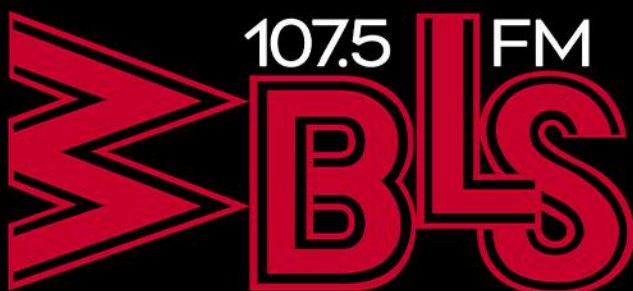
SUMMER YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM

JOURNEY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW

For over 20 years, Sesame Flyers has been empowering the youth of New York City through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). We've provided thousands of young people with paid summer employment for up to six weeks in July and August, working in entry-level jobs in a variety of exciting industries, from arts and recreation to healthcare and information technology.

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NYCTM

Department of
Youth & Community
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NYC[®] Cultural
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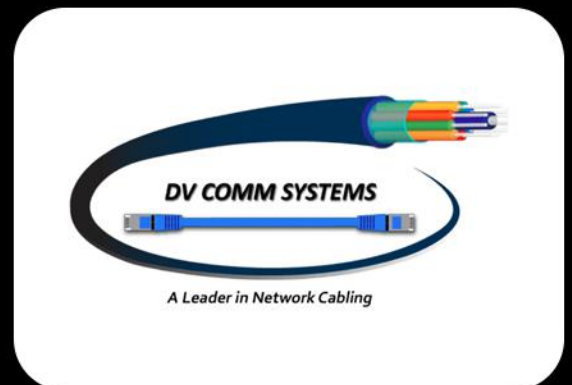
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411 Dumont Avenue
(Powell St. & Mother Gaston Blvd.)
Phone 929-359-8511

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Phone: 718-638-8686

995 Carroll Street
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Phone: 929-234-5010

1435 Prospect Place
(Rochester & Utica Avenues)
Phone: 718-778-1498

813 Sterling Place
(Nostrand & Rogers Avenues)
Phone: 718-773-7733

36 Ford Street
(Corner of East New York Ave
& Montgomery St.)
Phone: 718-975- 3375

963 Park Place
(New York & Brooklyn Avenues)
718-778-8558

East New York

2505 Pitkin Avenue
(Atkins Avenue & Berriman Street)
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921 Hegeman Avenue
(Essex & Linwood Streets)
Phone: 929-234-2866

851 Liberty Avenue
(Montauk Avenue & Milford Street)
Phone: 929-234-2955

370 New Lots Avenue
(at Pennsylvania Avenue)
Phone: 929-234-2838

668 Logan Street
(New Lots & Dumont Avenues)
Phone: 929-234-2870

374 Pine Street
(Glenmore & Pitkin Avenues)
Phone: 347-435- 0990

Flatbush/East Flatbush

141 East 40th Street
(Church Avenue & Linden Blvd.)
Phone: 718-284-2184

2805/2809 Newkirk Avenue
(E28 and E29 Streets)
Phone: 917-966-4400

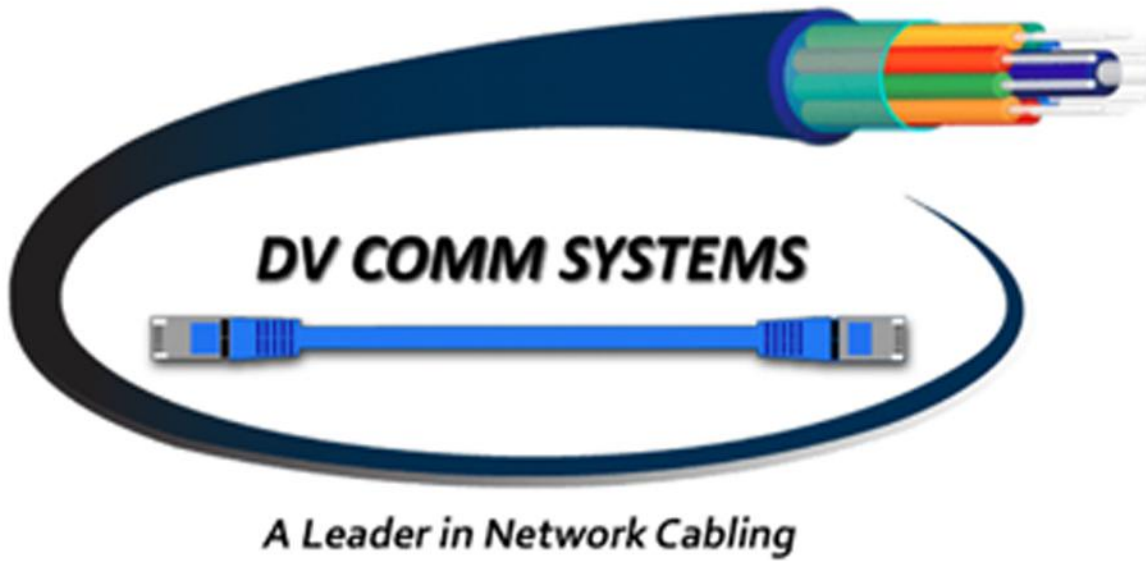
1070 Flatbush Avenue
(Beverley & Cortelyou Roads)
Phone: 929-379-5644

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INSPIRATION, INFLUENCE & IMPACT:

BIRTHING A BILLION DOLLAR BRAND

A BEACON OF HOPE

It was the summer of 2020, and the world was in the aftermath and the future of a new way of living. Many people were dealing with fear, loss and confusion. In the midst of it all, Sesame Flyers International served as a beacon of hope, light and promise for a better tomorrow.

That summer, I was blessed to be invited as a facilitator for the SYEP Project Based Learning Program. It allowed me to learn, teach and guide from a myriad of students, adults, entrepreneurs and community leaders from various parts of New York City. Ms. Judy, Mr. Curtis, Michelle and the entire Sesame Flyers' team gave so much to make it all feel seamless, supportive and special.

I went on to serve as a facilitator for two more summers. From that service, I learned that no matter what life may throw at you, with strong community ties and competent leaders, you can accomplish anything. Sesame Flyers International was and continues to show up as an eternal beacon of light and hope for the people of Brooklyn and New York City at large.



Nikki Brown, The Coochie Coach is...
A Re-birth-HER.
A Dope Doula.
An Advocate.

IMPACT & INFLUENCE

Every journey is unique, and every challenge helps you grow. Trust that as you continue in life, expansion is inevitable. So be brave, keep going, and find amazing things in the everyday steps on your path. Embrace each moment with an open heart and a curious mind. Because every step you take forward is progress on your journey of continuous success. You, Sesame Flyers International are a precious gem among many stones, so keep impacting and influencing the world, one community connection at a time.

Your impact and influence in my life was such that by the end of 2020, I knew I had to take my passion and purpose and transfer them into profits. So, I officially legalized my company entitled The Coochie Coach, LLC and continued my entrepreneurial journey. The Coochie Coach, LLC is a wellness brand designed to empower women over 35 to give birth whether it is a book, a baby or a business. We have candid conversations about all things that support with birthing visions and dreams into reality.

Thank you Sesame Flyers International for your influence and impact in my life and the lives of the women of whom I am blessed to serve.

Trust the process and celebrate small victories that pave the way to your dreams. You've got the strength to turn aspirations into reality; your journey is a canvas awaiting your unique brushstroke. Embrace the adventure, face uncertainties with a fearless heart, and remember: You got this! Believe in the incredible potential within you, and watch your story unfold into a masterpiece of success and self-discovery.

This year, we are hosting our final iteration of The Coochie Con: Birth-ish...PERIODT! 9.27.24 It is a one day conference for women 35 and up to gather and discuss what it takes to bring life to the planet physically, intellectually and emotionally. Email, text or call us for more information.



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