

# ESPOIR

## CENTER for CARIBBEAN ARTS AND CULTURE

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### VISION STATEMENT

Over one hundred and fifty thousand people of Caribbean extraction live in the greater Detroit Metropolitan area; this segment of the population represents a rich pool of cultural expression that is unique and very diverse. Unfortunately, this pool of cultural heritage is very fragmented and poorly recognized outside the immediate bounds of its small individual clusters; it is threatened to diminish or even disappear with the future generations unless it is encouraged and preserved.

Famous African-Caribbean people such as Marcus Garvey and writer Claude McKay have long been strong voices in Worldwide Pan-African cultural and social movement. It is increasingly important to connect the rich source of the Caribbean cultural heritage of the area with this forum of African-American entities, and other institutions and programs in the Detroit area..

For over 15 years, the Center for Caribbean Arts and Culture (C.C.A.C) has provided innovative arts, cultural and educational programming in the Detroit Metropolitan area, with a primary goal of connecting the Caribbean culture with those of African and African-American entities. These programs have been implemented in cooperation with a variety of organizations of the area, such as: The Museum of African American History, the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (Wilberforce, Ohio), the University Cultural Center Association, The Detroit International Institute, Your Heritage House, Marygrove College, Wayne County Community College, Cranbrook Peace Foundation, Wendy's School of Dance, and Pemajju School of Dance and Related Arts.

Our current vision is to provide a strong and innovative forum for the expression and exchange of arts, culture and education, with emphasis on Caribbean and African influences. We plan to fulfill this vision by an aggressive development of activities and programs that fall within three broad categories: Culture, Business and Community Awareness.