

Open Dialogues

focused on

the Quilombos of Brazil and Palenques of Venezuela

Organized by the Global Afro Latino & Caribbean Initiative and the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in conjunction with the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the Schomburg Research Center for Black Culture, and support from the Inter American Foundation and Ford Foundation to provide insight into the global land issues facing African descendant communities in the Americas.

Friday, September 22, 2006

4 – 6 pm with Jesus Garcia and Gilberto Leal
Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies
The Graduate Center, City University of New York
LOBBY FLOOR: Elebash Recital Hall (*photo ID required*)
365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5209
New York, NY 10016
*By Subway: 1, 2, 3, 9, A, C, E, B, D, F, Q, N, R to 34th St
or 6 to 33rd St.*

Sunday, September 24, 2006

1:30 – 3:30 pm with Jesus Garcia and Gilberto Leal
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
388 Atlantic Avenue (between Hoyt and Bond Streets)
Brooklyn NY
*By Subway: A, C, or G train to Hoyt Schermerhorn;
2, 3 train to Hoyt*

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

6 – 8 pm with Gilberto Leal, Ney Dos Santos Oliveira
and William Camacaro
Schomburg Research Center for Black Culture
15 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, NY 10037-1801
Enter at 103 West 135th Street
By Subway: 2 or 3 train to 135th Street

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

6 – 8 pm with Gilberto Leal, Ney Dos Santos Oliveira
and William Camacaro
Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute
408 West 58th Street
New York NY
By Subway: A, C, D train to 59th Street

Thursday, September 28, 2006

6 – 8 pm with Gilberto Leal and William Camacaro
Center for Law and Social Justice
Medgar Evers College, CUNY
President's Conference Room (*photo ID required*)
1650 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225
By Subway: 2, 3, 4 or 5 to Franklin Avenue

The Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative (GALCI) in collaboration with the Franklin H. Williams Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) present a series of events that focus on the challenges facing African descendant communities and their historical liberated lands. Throughout the Americas runaway enslaved Africans insisted on their humanity and right to maintain their racial and cultural legacies connected to their historical memories. Cimarrons/maroons claimed lands in hard to reach isolated locations recreating their sacred and cultural practices against colonial oppression. Overtime these isolated communities have open their communities to outsiders while at the same time trying to assure their protection.

Today these communities face challenges that place in danger the survival of historically African descendant lands and the cultural sacred and popular traditions that they have maintained as vibrant practices vital to their racial and cultural identities. The gentrification occurring in historical rural African descendant lands in Latin America, Central and the Caribbean often referred to an "underdeveloped countries" resonates in African descendant communities in the so called "developed countries" in the North. The barrios of New York City, the South Sea Islands of the South, communities of African descent continue to be displaced from their lands as they have gathered considerable value over time.

Bio:

William Camacaro is a specialist on rural communities descendant from runaway slaves (Cimarrones) in Venezuela.

Jesus "Chucho" Garcia is the founder and director of the Afro-Venezuela Network (Fundación Afroamerica), and a world expert on the impacts globalization and militarism on Latin America. He is the author of numerous books and the subject of several films about the history and present culture of people of African descent in Venezuela. He is an official advisor on the potential impacts of the FTAA to the Andean Parliament. He is organizing a major conference in Caracas to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Venezuela.

Mr. Gilberto Leal is Bahian Geologist and Founder of the Non-Governmental Organization NIGEROKAN. A long-time graduate of the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Mr. Leal works closely with the Palmares Cultural Foundation in Brasilia and also with H.E. Minister Mathilde Ribeiro of SEPPIR in his income-generation work in the Quilombos of the State of Bahia.

Ney Dos Santos Oliveira is currently a Visiting Professor in Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College. Prof. Oliveira is Professor Emeritus from the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Department of Urban Affairs, School of Architecture and Urban Affairs. He has researched and written many articles on race, class and political mobilization of the poor in Brazil.

**venues and speakers subject to change*