

Points of Unity Dialogue

May 28th & 29th, 2004

at

The Franklin H. Williams Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora

Institute

408 West 58th Street

New York, NY 10019

Agenda

The two-day gathering is designed to develop an ongoing dialogue and action agenda at the national and international level that seeks to unify African and African Diaspora communities based on Points of Unity. It is expected that these roundtables will allow the international community leadership of African descent to join efforts around issues that impact our diverse communities.

GALCI has hosted successful meetings and conferences around similar themes that have helped in developing a progressive expanding network. GALCI's original purpose in 1999 was to assist Afro Latino and Caribbean Non-Governmental Organizations have increased and more regular access and contact to multi-lateral, international, and bi-lateral development agencies such as The World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, Inter-American Foundation, and The Ford Foundation, etc. In our considered opinion, GALCI's original purpose has been met -- if not surpassed -- as some of GALCI's founding institutional members presently not only meet regularly with international institutions but also consult and advise these institutions' executive officers.

In the process we have realized that there are gaps of understanding in recognizing the diversity of histories and experiences that have forged particular realities for our varied communities. This lack of historical understanding sometimes serves to create unnecessary borders. We have therefore organized a three part series to continue defining, identifying, and articulating the major issues and our future work agenda. In the process, GALCI seeks to develop a framework and vocabulary that will facilitate work among our leadership, and greater collaboration between our institutions.

The changing demographics and global movements have highlighted the need for a dialogue among African descendant communities. It is imperative that an inclusive African-descendant "Action Agenda" be agreed upon to better address the lingering ravages of racism and discrimination still affecting our communities. GALCI believes that linking the national and international issues confronting African descendants is the major focus of these dialogues, as we continue to work on bridging the concerns of our root countries with those we face here, within the United States.

Friday, May 28, 2004
(8:30 AM – 5 PM)

8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM: Brief Introductions:

9:30 AM: Topic: What You Are Experiencing? Academics to El Barrio

10:00 AM: Open Discussion: Reactions and Comments from Individual Perspectives

11:00 AM: 15 minute Break

11:15 AM: Open Discussion Continues

12:00 PM: Lunch

1: 10 PM: Topic: Points of Unity: Past Experiences and Recent Experiences that have worked - national and international

2:00 PM: Open Discussion: Case Studies from each participant.

3: 00 PM: 15 minute Break

3: 15 PM: Open discussion continues

4:15 PM: Closing remarks

Dinner on your Own

Saturday, May 29, 2004
(8:30 AM – 5 PM)

- 8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM: Check in
- 9:15 AM: Topic: Points of Unity: What is the immediate agenda for national points of unity initiative?
- 10 AM: Part 2: International points of unity?
- 11:00 AM: 15 minute Break
- 11:15 AM: Continue International Points of Unity
- 12:00 PM: Lunch
- 1:00 PM: Topic: Action Agenda: Planned activities by participating members to expand the dialogue. Provide information on what you are doing, can do, plan to do.
- 2:00 PM: 15 minute Break
- 2:15 PM: Continue Action Agenda
- 3:15 PM: Topic: Next Steps: Disseminating the Results of the Gathering (national-international).
- 4:30 PM: Closing remarks

Dinner on your Own