

FAQs about CARIFESTA

1.	<p><i>What does the acronym CARIFESTA mean?</i> CARIFESTA stands for the Caribbean Festival of Arts.</p>
2.	<p><i>What is CARIFESTA?</i> CARIFESTA is the region's roving, multidisciplinary, mega arts festival which attracts a wide range of creative artists from various Caribbean and Latin American countries.</p>
3.	<p><i>When and where was the first CARIFESTA?</i> The first CARIFESTA was held in Guyana in 1972.</p>
4.	<p><i>What was the idea behind CARIFESTA?</i> CARIFESTA was the culmination of the idea that started in 1970 when participants at an Artists and Writers Convention in Guyana complained about the absence of an appropriate vehicle to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Region and at the same time give recognition to its outstanding artists and art forms. They voiced their disappointment to the then Prime Minister of Guyana, Hon. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, who decided that Guyana would initiate the process by organizing the first CARIFESTA.</p>
5.	<p><i>Who organises CARIFESTA?</i> Each CARIFESTA Host country establishes a Management Committee which, along with the CARICOM Secretariat and representatives of the Regional Cultural Committee (RCC), is responsible for the organisation of the Festival in its territory.</p>
6.	<p><i>How many CARIFESTAs have been held, when and where?</i> To date, eight CARIFESTAs were hosted by seven countries: Guyana (1972) Jamaica (1976), Cuba (1979), Barbados (1981), Trinidad and Tobago (1992 and 1995), St. Kitts and Nevis (2000) and Suriname (2003).</p>
7.	<p><i>Who owns CARIFESTA?</i> No one person or persons own CARIFESTA. It is a project of the RCC and can be considered "owned" by the people of the Region and in particular the artistic community.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p><i>Does CARIFESTA have a theme?</i> Each CARIFESTA had its own theme. These were for the past CARIFESTAS as follows:</p> <p><i>CARIFESTA I - 1972 - GUYANA:</i> <i>The Artist in Society with Special reference to the Third World</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA II - 1976 - JAMAICA:</i> <i>A Hallmark of Cultural Extravaganza</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA III - 1979 - CUBA:</i> <i>A rainbow of Peoples Under One Caribbean Sun</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA IV - 1981 - BARBADOS:</i> <i>Living Images of the Sun</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA V- 1992 - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:</i> <i>Together is Strength</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA VI - 1995 - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:</i> <i>The World's Best Cultural Mix</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA VII - 2000 - ST.KITTS AND NEVIS:</i> <i>Caribbean Arts and culture...Reflecting, Consolidating, Moving On</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA VIII - 2003 - SURINAME:</i> <i>Many Cultures: The Essence of Togetherness of Togetherness- The Spirit of the Caribbean</i></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><i>Does CARIFESTA have a logo?</i> Each CARIFESTA so far has developed its own logo.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><i>How often is CARIFESTA organised?</i> Since its inception, CARIFESTA has been held at 2-4 year intervals. However, there was a long break of eleven years (1981-1992) when the Festival was not held.</p>

<p>11.</p>	<p><i>What does CARIFESTA mean for the region?</i></p> <p><i>From its inception in 1972, the Caribbean Festival of Arts also known as CARIFESTA, has reinforced the common social and historical bonds of the Region's peoples. CARIFESTA is considered a manifestation of Caribbean Culture and Caribbean identity and a tool to strengthen our Caribbean-ness.</i></p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><i>Mention is made of a New CARIFESTA since 2004. What is the reason for this and what would make the New CARIFESTA different from the previous ones?</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA has had great success in terms of its entertainment value and in exposing the artists of the Caribbean to the creative activities of other regional artistes. Despite its success in the region, the staging of CARIFESTA has demonstrated deficiencies in various areas, event planning and management, funding and marketing, among others.</i></p> <p><i>Following recommendations from the Symposium "Cultural Connection: Linking the Past with the Future through the Creative Arts, during CARIFESTA VIII in Suriname, August 2003, Ministers at the Tenth Meeting of COHSOD, in Guyana in October 2003, took the decision to establish a CARICOM Task Force on CARIFESTA to formulate a strategy for the restructuring of CARIFESTA.</i></p> <p><i>The Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government which was convened in Grenada on 4 - 8 July, 2004, endorsed the Council for Human and Social Development's (COHSOD) new vision of CARIFESTA: "To position CARIFESTA as a world-renowned, hallmark festival of Caribbean cultural and artistic excellence, that generates economic benefits, unites the Region and excites all peoples."</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA's new mission statement is: "To stage a mega multidisciplinary roving festival that develops Caribbean Arts and Culture."</i></p> <p><i>The Strategic Plan describes the long-term mission and vision for CARIFESTA and outlines key objectives, critical success factors, and broad strategies for reinventing CARIFESTA. It also articulates the current position of CARIFESTA, then outlines a future desired position and the methods needed to achieve it. The strategic plan sets the stage for the development of a business plan which would outline specific operational and action steps needed to implement strategies, and establish quantifiable revenue and expenditure budgets.</i></p>

<p>13.</p>	<p><i>When and where is the next CARIFESTA being held?</i></p> <p><i>The next CARIFESTA is CARIFESTA IX and will be hosted by Trinidad and Tobago from 22 September to 1 October 2006.</i></p> <p><i>The theme of this ninth edition of the festival is: Celebrating Our People, Contesting the World Stage.</i></p> <p><i>More information can be found at www.carifesta.net</i></p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><i>What are the objectives of CARIFESTA?</i></p> <p><i>The main objectives of CARIFESTA are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To establish and celebrate the arts</i> • <i>To maximize people participation in the arts</i> • <i>To deepen the awareness and knowledge of the diverse aspirations within the Caribbean community</i> • <i>To positively advance our culture at home, throughout the diaspora, and the world</i> • <i>To foster a vision of Caribbean unit</i> • <i>To expose children and Caribbean youth to the arts</i> • <i>To encourage excellence, and</i> • <i>To promote the development of cultural industries and merchandising</i>
<p>15.</p>	<p><i>Who can participate in CARIFESTA?</i></p> <p><i>Every artist and/or cultural worker in the Caribbean region can participate in CARIFESTA. Invitations are also sent to Latin American countries. Visitors and investors from the region as well as from abroad, are most welcome.</i></p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><i>What are some of the main elements of CARIFESTA?</i></p> <p><i>CARIFESTA will highlight several aspects of the performing, literary, visual and other arts including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Grand Market</i> • <i>Cultural Industries Trade Fair</i> • <i>Book Fair</i> • <i>Film Festival</i> • <i>Youth Component</i> • <i>Fashion Component</i> • <i>Visual Arts Festival and Exhibition</i> • <i>Symposia</i> • <i>Super Concerts</i> • <i>Community Festivals</i> • <i>Signal Events</i>