



Garifuna Coalition Will Receive Union Square Award

Community leaders to be honored at upcoming ceremony

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New York – The Board of Directors of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit is pleased to announce that it will be honored at the Union Square Awards celebration on Friday, December 4th, as one of the five organizations to receive the prestigious Union Square Award and \$50,000 each for exceptional efforts addressing critical social and economic issues facing New Yorkers.

The Union Square Awards has granted more than \$15 million to New York City organizations. “With minimal resources, these organizations make extraordinary contributions to local neighborhoods, and their work is vital to New York City. Given the current economic situation, the Award represents an important support to sustain these emerging organizations,” says Executive Director, Iris Morales.

Named after the park on 14th Street where New Yorkers have organized and spoken out about major social issues since the nineteenth century, the Union Square Awards was created to recognize and encourage initiative in serving New York City communities. The Awards realize an anonymous donor’s dream of honoring New Yorkers who take action to improve people’s lives and advocate for social change.

This year’s Awardees receive a total of \$425,000 and join 203 organizations that have received the Award since its founding in 1998. Awardees will be recognized at a special ceremony at the historic Riverside Church in Manhattan.

The Garifuna Coalition USA (GCU) serves as a resource, forum, advocate and united voice for the Garifuna immigrant community. New York City is home to the largest Garifuna population outside of Central America with an estimated 200,000 living in the South Bronx, Brownsville and East New York in Brooklyn, and Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

In March 2009, GCU opened the Garifuna Advocacy Center in the heart of the South Bronx on East 149th Street. The Center’s volunteers open doors six days a week to provide information, educational services, networking opportunities and cultural events for the Garifuna community. In addition, it successfully petitioned the Bronx Borough President to proclaim March 11th through April 12th as Garifuna Heritage Month to recognize the contributions of Garifuna Americans to the fabric of New York and pay tribute to the common culture and friendship bonds that connect the United States and Garifuna countries of origin.

“This Award validates the fact that we are on the right track, making a significant difference for our beloved community,” said Rejil Solis, Chairman of the Board of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc.

The Union Square Awards is a project of the Tides Center whose mission is to actively promote change toward a healthy society – one founded on principles of social justice, equal economic opportunity, a robust democratic process, and environmental sustainability.

Garifuna Pride - Our Voice - Our Vision
www.garifunacoalition.org

