



## Blanca Arzu to Receive a Garifuna Heritage Award

*Celebrating and Promoting the Garifuna Heritage and Culture in New York*

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**New York** – The Board of Directors of the Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc. a, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization is pleased to announce that Blanca Arzu will be presented a Garifuna Heritage Award, during the First Annual Garifuna Heritage Awards and Cultural Night on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7 PM at the [Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture](#), 450 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10451.

Blanca Arzu immigrated to the United States in 1980 in search of a better future and education for the family. In 1982, She started working as a teller with Ponce de León Federal Bank. Six months later she was promoted to Customer Service, a year later she was promoted to assistant branch manager and later to branch Manager She was promoted to Assistant Vice President in 1992.

Her greatest wish is to see the Garifuna youth excel in this great city, and to take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

“I love to serve my Garifuna community and to share with them the knowledge I have acquired over the years” said Mrs. Arzu.

The Garifuna Coalition is proud to recognize Mrs. Blanca Arzu for her outstanding contributions to US society and promoting the Garifuna culture and interests in New York City.

The first Garifuna Heritage Awards will honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and promotion of the Garifuna Culture. The annual event, which is a flagship event of the Garifuna Coalition, celebrates the contributions, legacies and future of those of Garifuna heritage.

A dynamic cultural stage production will feature the Garifuna Folkloric Ballet of Honduras James Lovell and the AfriGarifuna Youth Ensemble, Hamalali Wayunagu Garifuna Dance Company, Chief Joseph Chatoyer Garifuna Folkloric Ballet of NY, Paula Castillo and Hechu Garinagu and a grand finale directed by Mr. Crisanto Armando Meléndez.

The Garifuna Heritage Awards and Cultural Night is an integral part of the Garifuna Heritage Month 2010. The proclamation will be presented by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr and New York State Governor David A. Paterson’s office during a press conference in the Rotunda of the Bronx Borough President’s Office on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 11:00 AM. 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.