

# Carifesta X – A positive and exhilarating contribution

by Janet Jagan

Just about everything that can be said about Carifesta X has been said and now we all await the outcome of the many, many events that are now taking place in our beloved Guyana.

Just a look at the massive schedules of plays being performed, books being launched, dance performances, steel bands playing, community festivals, art exhibitions, craft displays, workshops exhibitions and so on, it's truly overwhelming.

The various countries contributing and participating in these events is an encouraging element and will give a broader perspective to the display and enrichment of the cultural events.

Culture is an essential aspect of any society in

this broad world in which we live. If a country or a nation ignores its culture, it is ignoring its own future. Unfortunately, in some countries

to grow and become part and parcel of people's lives.

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culture has been so commercialized that it has destroyed and inhibited its normal course through society. This we have to consciously avoid and provide the means and support for our cultures

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politics. It's about the splendid new forms of culture arising in our region of the world, of which many aspects will influence our own artists who will find fresh incentives, new ideas and encouragement in improving their own areas of culture.

Art, literature, music, dance, drama and crafts and even the culinary arts from artists who will be here in person, will be a great stimulant.

We cannot deny that

the new freedoms which Guyana now enjoys after the restoration of democracy in 1992 have brought significant changes in our cultural life. More dance groups have developed, more writers are publishing their books, more artists are exhibiting their paintings and sculptures, our steel bands have been revived from a zero state and now, with the re-opening of Theatre Guild, drama will once again arise to new heights.

An event like Carifesta X invigorates the cultural scene, brings attention to our artists who, at times, are severely neglected, inspires our youths and those who want to make their contributions to the nation's culture.

Only positive gains can come from Carifesta. Let the naysayers shrivel in their shame! All success to Carifesta X!