



Carnival Arts Programme at the ClementJames Centre

In summer 2011, TSF provided funding for over 60 young people, aged 8-18, to attend a programme of Carnival-themed workshops at the Clement James Centre in Kensington. This was an engaging and educational way to experience the Notting Hill Carnival through music workshops and costume design. The aim was to offer the students a means of creative expression and provide a deeper understanding of the local history of the Carnival and its impact on their local area and its residents.

The project included music and dance workshops on Steel Pan, Samba drumming, Calypso song writing and Soca dancing, contributing to the students' artistic knowledge, performance skills and self-confidence. The students also participated in museum field trips to research design processes.

Each student had the opportunity to work with professional costume designers to design and create his or her own colourful carnival costume. They all collaborated to make eye-catching banners for the family day parade when they had the opportunity to show off their amazing creations.

The success in providing a platform for creative expression was endorsed by one participant's comment: *"I enjoyed that we were free to express ourselves in any way."*

The project was also a great way to engage young people with the wider community, enabling them to contribute to and participate in a huge community event. The local community reported less crime and disturbance during the period, and everyone agreed it was fantastic to see people of all ages working and celebrating together.

"TSF has supported The ClementJames Centre for over 10 years, one of our longest standing funders," says the Deputy Chief Executive. *"They are incredibly supportive of our projects which enable local people aspire to achieve their potential."*