

Mas-Piece / Body-Architecture

Collaboration between Tropical Isles Canrival Group and UEL BSc Architecture, Unit A

Principle Researchers

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UEL Students

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Partnership Organization

Tropical Isles Carnival Group
(120 members 13-25 years old)

Duration of collaboration

January 2019 - December 2019

Events

Notting Hill Carnival, August 2019
Hackney Carnival , September 2019
Hackney Festive Light switch-on, December 2019

Project summary

Tropical Isles is a carnival youth group that provides activities all year round and works with approximately 120 active members aged 13 to 25. The charity's aims to assist local young people to build life skills, confidence and healthy wellbeing. It delivers a range of art-lead and performing arts projects as well as it makes the headquarter space available for young people to meet, work, study and create, encouraging youths to work together in a safe space. At the centre of their activities is the year-round production and planning for Notting Hill Carnival, Hackney Carnival and Bielefeld Carnival (Germany) as well as other carnival related events and performances. As a registered mas-band Tropical Isles takes part in the carnival parade and competition in Notting Hill which has become the second biggest carnival in the world just after Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Tropical Isles was one of the stakeholders that participated in a Public Engagement project we developed in 2018 in collaboration with London Borough of Hackney's planning department (Information about this public engagement project can be found on a separate UEL PE Awards Partnerships Category Application Form 2019). Shortly after this engagement Tropical isles invited us to collaborate in the production of a Mas-Piece for the Carnival 2019. Mas-piece is a piece of bespoke body-architecture that is worn as the signature costume leading the carnival group in the parade / performance.

Between January and September 2019, four UEL architecture students engaged with the art producer and young people of Tropical Isles and assisted by us tutors, worked to collectively co-design and prototype a 5x5 meter large Mas-Piece for the Carnival 2019.

Working methodology:

We held a number of collaborative design workshops at Tropical Isles in Hackney and at UEL Docklands Campus. We experimented with various materials and constructed full size prototypes to develop a lightweight hybrid structure. Students worked on a life project and had to consider the constraints and potential of different materials and understand how to put them together. The Mas-Piece had to follow that year's theme, it had to be light enough to be carried by a young women for several hours as well as be as big and tall as possible, it had to perform equally well under rainy or windy conditions and it had to be taken apart for transportation. In addition, there was a special effect requirement, during the Carnival parade the Mas-Piece had to open and somehow release numerous helium balloons into the air at judging point. This was a real architecture project.

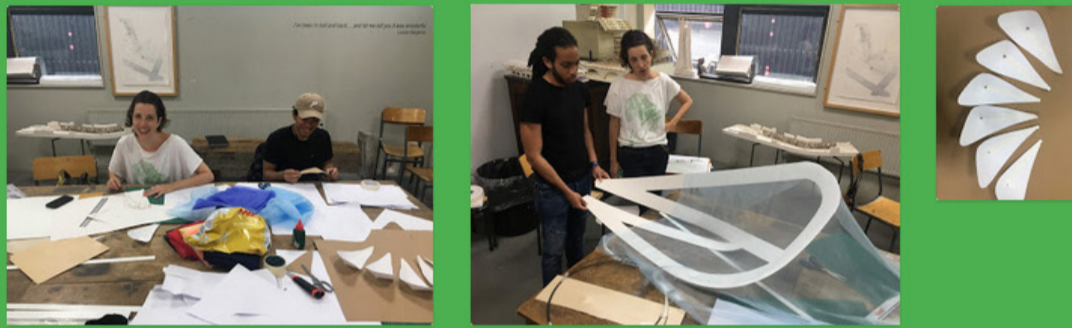
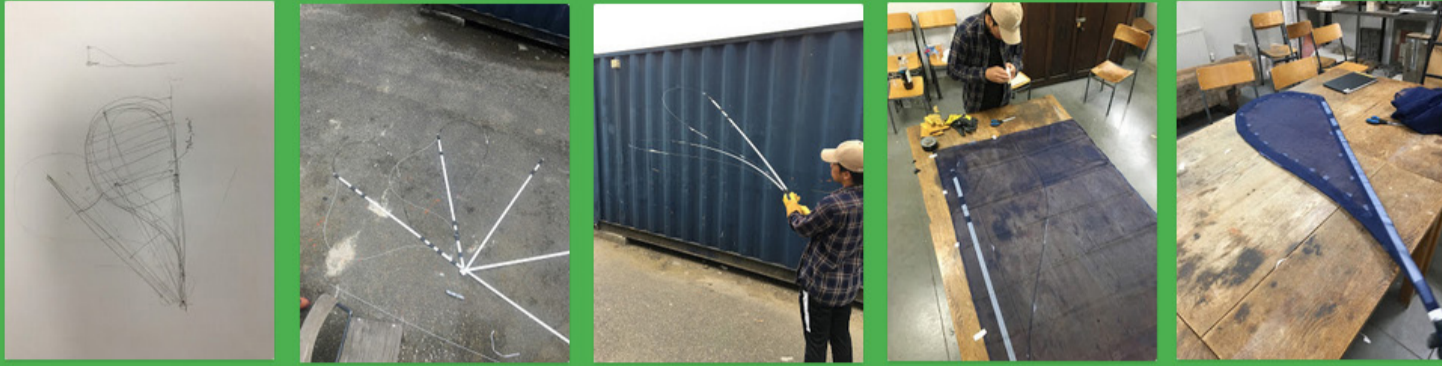
Collaborative Design Process



Co-Design Workshops



Testing and Prototyping



Mas-Piece Rehearsal



Notting Hill Carnival

August 2019



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Notting Hill Carnival

CAMF
The Carnival Arts & Mas Foundation

2019 Sunday Mas Band Results cont.

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Eliza Padgett's Arts	Musical	223	1st
Heritage social art and dance group	Musical	197	2nd
People's World Carnival Band	Musical	165	3rd

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Inspiration Arts & Heritage Carnival Club	Traditional	218	1st
Musica Carnival Group	Traditional	176	2nd
Tropical Vibes	Traditional	174	3rd

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
United Colours of Mas & (SUTTY MAS)	Traditional	145	1st
Assistance (S)	Traditional	133	2nd
Married Mas (S)	Traditional	129	3rd

1,003 views

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CAMF
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2019 Monday Mas Band Results cont.

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Eliza Padgett's Arts	Musical	224	1st
Heritage social art and dance group	Musical	177	2nd
Compass	Musical	175	3rd

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
DJ&A Mas Dancers UK	Traditional	222	1st
Carnival Band	Traditional	213	2nd
Musica Carnival Group	Traditional	213	2nd
Tropical Vibes	Traditional	167	3rd

17 likes

tropicalislescarnival Results are in We came 3rd on both days 🍌🍌🍌💕💕💕 for Nottinghill Carnival 🍌

Well done to everyone that put in the extra hard work at camp and for those who danced till dawn. We thank all the team members, supporters and helpers who has helped us till

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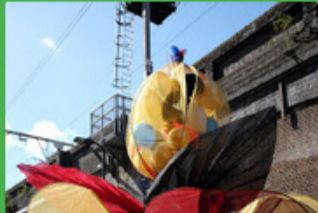
In pictures: Notting Hill Carnival 2019

There was no lack to the inventiveness of some of the more eye-catching carnival entrants

AMEA GHATAJALANY

Hackney Carnival

September 2019



HACKNEY CARNIVAL 2019 RESULTS

Best Newcomers Awarded to MORNINGSIDE SCHOOL	Carnival Band of the Year 1st Prize Awarded to TROPICAL ISLES
Traditional Masquerade Awarded to YARAM ARTS	Carnival Band of the Year 2nd Prize Awarded to GAHU DRAMATIC ARTS
Best Mass Participation Awarded to SOCA MASSIVE	Highly Commended Visiting Group Awarded to PARAISO SCHOOL OF SAMBA
Best Movement (Choreography) Awarded to DIMENSIONS ENTERTAINMENT	Best Music On The Road Awarded to GAHU DRAMATIC ARTS
Best Movement Runners Up Awarded to TARU ARTS	Best Music Runners Up Awarded to URBAN TOUCH
Best Theme Interpretation Jointly awarded to TROPICAL ISLES	Best Band On The Road Awarded to JUN MO GENERATION

81 likes
tropicalislescarnival Hackney Carnival results



Festive Light Switch-on Hackney Town Hall

December 2019

Home News Hackney's Christmas lights switch on 2019

Hackney's Christmas lights switch on 2019

Hackney, 22 November 2019

The countdown to Christmas in Hackney is set to kick off on 1 December, as stars from the Hackney Empire parade switch on the Town Hall Square Christmas lights.

Residents are invited to join in the celebrations on Sunday 1 December from 4pm - 5.30pm.

Stars from Hackney Empire's Dick Whittington And His Cat pantomime will join the parade alongside Hackney's Afrobeat Steel Orchestra, who will use the Town Hall steps as centre stage to perform their own performances of Christmas classics. Tropical Isles - one of the borough's best loved Carnival groups - will bring sparkling performances for all the family.

Adding to the festive cheer will be the New Wave Federation Choir (children from Graebrook, Shacklewell and Woodberry Down Community primary schools), Hackney Empire Community Choir, and Cuban choir Coro de Clave - named after the communal singing proliferated in black communities of western Cuba between 1800s and 1900.

Local artist Emily Tracy has worked with pupils from MorningSide School, St Joseph's Hospice / Compassionate Neighbours and an art class participants, to produce 80 beautiful hand-made lanterns which will form a stunning light parade around the square.

“The children at MorningSide are delighted to be taking part in the Christmas lights event. They have invited their families and friends and are very keen to show off the beautiful lanterns that they created with a local artist. The whole school community has been encouraged to attend and we are proud to be taking part in this special event.”

Janet Taylor, Headteacher at MorningSide Primary School

Event times are as follows:

- 4pm: Pantomime steel band
- 4.15pm: Coro de Clave - Cuban, all female choir
- 4.25pm: Speaker's speech
- 4.30pm: Lantern procession (MorningSide School)
- 4.40pm: New Wave Federation Choir
- 4.50pm: Tropical Isles carnival group performance
- 5pm: Panto characters do countdown to switch on
- 5.05pm: Hackney Empire Community Choir carols singing
- 5.30pm: Event ends

Hackney's Christmas lights switch on 2019



Hackney's Christmas lights switch on 2019
The countdown to Christmas in Hackney is set to ...
hackney's christmas lights switch on 2019

