



# ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHARLES TOWN MAROON

**Conference & Festival**

THEME

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**JUNE 20-23, 2026**

CHARLES TOWN, PORTLAND - JAMAICA

A group of people, including women in yellow and purple patterned dresses and men in purple shirts, are performing on a stage. Some are playing drums. The background shows a large banner with the number 188 and a Maroon warrior silhouette.

**PROGRAMME**



# ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHARLES TOWN MAROON Conference & Festival

THEME - RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

## Chairman's Message

Welcome to the 18th Annual International Charles Town Maroon Conference & Festival, taking place from June 20–23, 2026, under the theme “Resilience: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” It is both an honour and a privilege to welcome participants, presenters, partners, supporters, and visitors from Jamaica and around the world as we gather in Charles Town to celebrate, reflect upon, and share the rich legacy of the Maroon people.

The Charles Town Maroon Conference & Festival has grown into one of Jamaica's most significant cultural observances, providing a space where history, heritage, scholarship, creativity, and community engagement come together. Each year, the festival serves not only as a celebration of our past but also as a reaffirmation of our responsibility to preserve and promote the values that have sustained the Maroon people for generations.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also pay tribute to the late Colonel Frank Lumsden, whose vision and leadership gave birth to what has become the International Charles Town Maroon Conference & Festival, and to the late Colonel Marcia “Kim” Douglas, who continued that work with dedication and pride. Their commitment to preserving, promoting, and sharing Maroon history and culture helped lay the foundation upon which we continue to build today.

Over the course of four days, attendees will experience a diverse programme of activities that reflects the depth and breadth of Maroon heritage. From community engagement and cultural presentations to Drum Fest, academic discussions, exhibitions, performances, storytelling, and traditional ceremonies, the festival offers opportunities for learning, reflection, and celebration. Together, these activities create a unique space where culture, scholarship, community, and heritage converge in celebration of resilience.

The festival will culminate on June 23 with Ancestor Quao Victory Day, the centrepiece of our annual observance. The day begins at the historic Spanish River, where

Captain Quao and the Windward Maroons defeated the British, a victory that ultimately led to the signing of the treaty and the recognition of Maroon freedom and self-determination. Through ceremony, drumming, storytelling, cultural presentations, and community celebration, we honour the courage, leadership, and vision of Captain Quao and the generations of Maroons who safeguarded the values of freedom, dignity, and self-determination.

The theme for this year's conference, “Resilience: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” speaks directly to the enduring spirit of the Maroon people. It recognises the struggles and achievements of those who came before us, acknowledges the challenges and opportunities of the present, and encourages us to strengthen the foundations upon which future generations will build. Resilience is not merely a reflection on survival; it is a commitment to growth, adaptation, and continued cultural pride.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our partners, sponsors, presenters, volunteers, community members, and supporters whose dedication makes this event possible. Your continued commitment helps preserve and promote one of Jamaica's most significant cultural and historical legacies.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning as a long-standing friend of the festival, we warmly welcome you to Charles Town.

Together, let us celebrate our history, embrace our present, and strengthen our commitment to a future built on resilience.

Michael Lumsden  
Chairman  
18th Annual International Charles Town Maroon  
Conference & Festival



**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL  
CHARLES TOWN MAROON  
Conference & Festival**



**RESILIENCE:  
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**TAÍNO DAY**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Saturday, June 20, 2026

**Yucahuna Kachi Areito (YAMAYE TAINO SOLSTICE CELEBRATION)**

**By the River, Charles Town**

June 20th is the Solstice this year (Summer in the north, Winter in the south). Following our ancestors' guidance, June 20th is recognized as **Yucahuna Kachi Areito**, (*Great Spirit of Yuca - Sun Celebration*). **Yucahuna** is also a recorded term from our island for how Yucahu was identified. This is a celebration of the life force energy of the sun which nourishes our plants and our food, celebration of divine masculine energy. As a member of an elders Ritual circle with responsibility for the Caribbean our ceremonies will be done at dawn to greet the sun and at midday (noon) our offerings when the sun is at its highest point. The essence of this ceremony is offerings, songs, medicine to celebrate this cycle and for guidance as we are still in the season of the hurricane. We desire to be as strong as the spirit of the **yuca** (*cassava*) which is our ancestral plant that survives the strong hurricanes to nourish our people. This strong sun force (recorded as **weyuma**) will do wonders for us, our medicines we plant, and our food.

Based on time zones our ceremonies specifically in the Caribbean will be synchronized with our relatives in Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and

Colombia that will also be doing ceremonies. We will share our photos with the council of Indigenous Healers of the Americas and the Spiritual Leaders responsible for the Eagle, Condor, and Red Tail Hawk regions.

**Yayabo Huma**  
(*Great Spirit be with you all*)

- 5:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Ceremonies for Community members :**  
Windward Maroons, Tainos and invited guests
- 5:30 a.m. **Mabrika luni Watuya**  
(*Greeting Spirit of Fire*) – lighting of the sacred fire.
- 9:00 a.m. **Mabrika luni Kasi Alukaliroku**  
(*Greeting the Sun in the Morning*)
- 11:00 a.m. **Wabonito tuni Busikayem**  
(*Offerings to Great Spirit of Waters*) – Honouring the River
- 12:00 – 6:44 p.m. **Ceremonies for Public**
- 12:00 p.m. **Mabrika luni Kasi Weyuma**  
(*Greeting Sun, Sunforce/ midday*) - Honouring Yucahu and the force of the Sun
- 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 3:00 p.m. **Yamay Taino Teachings, workshops, presentations and/or demonstration**
- 6:44 p.m. **Mabrika luni Kasi Soraya**  
(*Greeting Sun, sunset*)  
  
**Areito (Celebration)**  
Drumming and singing circle





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# COMM-UNITY DAY

**RESILIENCE:  
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

June 20 - 23, 2026

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**

**Asafu Yard & Playground, Charles Town**

9:30 a.m.	Asafu Yard	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Asafu Yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yankuku Play Grung</b> – Children’s Ring Games and Educational Activities</li> <li>• <b>One Love Elders’ Treat</b></li> <li>• <b>Petting Zoo</b></li> <li>• <b>Booths &amp; Displays:</b> Ministry of Labour &amp; Social Security Ministry of Health &amp; Wellness Lions Club of Port Antonio Social Development Commission Jamaica National Heritage Trust / African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica</li> <li>• <b>Dominoes</b></li> </ul>
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Playground	<b>Football Competition</b>
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Asafu Yard	<b>Football Watch Party Movie Night</b>





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**CHARLES TOWN MAROON DRUM FEST**

**RESILIENCE:  
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Asafu Yard and River Park, Charles Town

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Rhythm &amp; Sound Therapy</b>	Akinsanyah accompanied by Jamaica Drummers United team
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Dunumba Segment</b>	Jamaica Drummers United team
9:45 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Blowing of the Abeng, Libation</b>	Charles Town Maroon Senior Drummers and Dancers
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	<b>West African Drumming Workshop</b>	Moustafa Reds and Jamaica Drummers United team
11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	<b>West African Dance Workshop</b>	Toian Nkembo
12:20 – 12:35 p.m.	<b>Legendary Learning Centre</b>	
12:35 – 12:55 p.m.	<b>Performance</b>	Charles Town Maroon Junior Drummers and Dancers
1:00 – 1:20 p.m.	<b>Legendary Culture Club</b>	
1:20 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Local Traditional Workshop: Nyah Bingi • Dinki Mini</b>	Calbert Brooks
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Kumina Presentation and Kumina Dance Workshop</b>	Jamaica Drummers United team
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.	<b>Performance</b>	Jamaica Drummers United team





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Sunday, June 21, 2026, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the River Park

# Bun Fyah Night



MUSIC BY:  
**KING TAFARI  
SOUND SYSTEM**

**NOVA  
DUB  
SCHOOL**



- Gaamang Mama G • Portland Nyabinghi Centre • CTMC Drummers and Dancers • Kumina Group
- West African Drummers • Ras Shaddi • Akinsanya • Jqula • Boom Dawn • Crazy Target
- Ryple Bawn Bad • Sashone • Marlon Brown • Isreal Voice • Wata Tam Tam • Boyus the Contortionist
- Abena Mystic • Idus Put Back Boss • Pepita X • Shawowski • One Journey • Icometh
- JungleKing The African Fyah Dancer • Bijean Gayle • Insense • McKada • Yungg Muta • Tasengue
- The Protected One • Goldy Bad Lion • Vania Colors • Ras Padam
- TURBULENCE • SIZZLA KALONJI



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**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE DAY**  
**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

June 20 - 23, 2026

**Monday, June 22, 2026**

**Asafu Yard**

9:30 a.m.

**Opening**

Blowing of the Abeng  
Blowing of the Guamo  
Call to the Sacred Directions  
Drumming Presentation  
Libation

9:50 a.m.

**Welcome**

Mr. Michael Lumsden  
Chairman, Charles Town Maroon Council

10:15 – 11: 45 a.m

**PANEL 1: YESTERDAY – HISTORICAL RESILIENCE**

***Moderator:***

Dr. Coleen Douglas  
Cultural Communications Specialist

***Panel Chair:***

Ms. Mia McMorris  
Junior Research Fellow  
Centre for Reparation Research, UWI

**• Formidable Rebel Negroes: Black Resilience During the First Maroon Way**

Mr. Lucayo Casillas  
Graduate Student  
Department of History, UC Berkeley

**• Experiences of Afro-diasporic communities in Bahia: research and perspectives**

Professor Geri Augusto  
Director, Undergraduate Development Studies  
State University of Bahia

Professor Neivalda Freitas de Oliveira  
Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice  
Brown University

**• Student Presentations**

**Q&A**

**Cultural Presentation**

“Nothing’s Mat” Written by Dr. Erna Brodber  
Directed by Ms. Carolyn Allen, Off the Page



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**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE DAY**  
**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Monday, June 22, 2026

12:00 Noon

**LUNCH**

1:00 – 3:45 p.m.

**PANEL 2: TODAY – LIVING RESILIENCE**

*Panel Chair*

Ms. Tashika Taylor, Project Officer  
Indigenous and Maroon Studies Institute, UWI

• **Returning to the Waters Through Embodied Resilience**

Dr. Melissa E. Buckley, PhD, MSW, LMSW  
Associate Professor  
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Work, Coppin State University

• **Women as Living Human Model and Culture of Resilience:  
From an Indigenous Grandmother’s perspective**

Gaa Mang Gloria “MaMa G” Simms  
Maroon Indigenous Women Circle  
Charles Town Maroon Community

• **The Journey of Indigenous Seed Sovereignty  
Jamaican Indigenous Ethnographers**

Ms. Jacqueline Phillips  
Secretary, Scotts Hall Maroons

Kasikeiani Ronalda Pairman  
Chieftainess, Yamame Gunia Taíno Peoples

Ms. Lois Tenn  
Administrative Officer, Charles Town Maroons

• **Wakia Yaka: Indigenous Storytelling as Infrastructure and Resistance in Jamaica**

Ms. Tameka A. Coley (Ke’tani / Tami Tsansai)  
Yamaye Guani Taíno Peoples Writes and Culture

• **Navigation Power and Positionality in Ethnographic Spaces: Jamaican Maroon,  
Music, and Negotiating Belonging**

Tracey Mia Stewart, Ph.D.  
Swarthmore College

• **Ancestral Mediascapes: Broadcast Radio as Sites of Memory and Archive**

Ms. Coleen Douglas  
Lecturer, Integrated Marketing Communications  
University of Technology, Jamaica



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**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE DAY**  
**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Monday, June 22, 2026

1:00 – 3:45 p.m.

**PANEL 2: Today – Living Resilience cont’d**

- **The Bushy Kunde Tori: Maroonage and the Inter-continental symbiosis of resilience - Indigenous Sovereignty dubbing from the jungle to the global stage**

Mr. Lloyd ‘Akinsanyah’ Palmer  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Q&A**

**Cultural Presentation**

Charles Town Maroon Drummers & Dancers

3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**PANEL 3: TOMORROW – IMAGINING FUTURES OF RESILIENCE**

**Panel Chair:**

Dr. Marcus Goffe  
Attorney-at-Law

- **Resilience Beyond Resistance: Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Inner Governance as Foundations for Regenerative Justice and Living Systems Transformation**

Mr. Tinashe Elvis Chikodzi  
Founder and CEO  
Chartered Institute of Organic Health Trust  
Director of the CIOOH Green Solutions Hub

- **Plantation Tourism and the Lack of Beach Rights as Barriers to the Liberation of the Land and People**

Dr. Devon Taylor  
Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement  
(JaBBEM)

- **Global Calls for Reparations for the afterlives of slavery and colonialism**

Dr. Sarah Riley-Case  
Assistant Professor  
Faculty of Law, McGill University

Professor Kamari Clarke  
Distinguished Professor  
University of Toronto

**Q&A**

5:45 p.m.

**Vote of Thanks**

Mr. Michael Lumsden  
Chairman, Charles Town Maroon Council

**Closing Presentation**

Charles Town Maroon Drummers & Dancers



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**Ancestor Quao Victory Day Celebration**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

Spanish River Cove, Spring Garden Road, Spring Garden

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Blowing of the Abeng**

Capt. Rodney Rose  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Drumming, Dancing & Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

**Yamaye Indigenous Flute and  
Drumming**

**Taíno Call to the Sacred Directions**

Kasike Nibonrix Kaiman  
Yukayeke Yamaye Guani

**Greeting the Ancestors**

All Abeng/Guamo Blowers

**Setting of the Ancestral Altar**

Participatory

**Drumming, Dancing & Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

Maroon Communities of Moore Town,  
Scotts Hall, Accompong, Trelawny Town

**Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Michael Lumsden  
Chairman, Charles Town Maroon Council  
Amanee/Mission

**Drumming Dancing Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

**Akom Songs**

Sankofie

**Libation**

**Quao Stories**

Participatory

**Taíno Stories and Songs**

Yukayeke Yamaye Guani

**Drums of Resilience**

House of Seba



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**Ancestor Quao Victory Day Celebration**

June 20 - 23, 2026

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**Ritual**

**Drumming, Dancing & Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

Maroon Communities of Moore Town,  
Scotts Hall, Accompong, Trelawny Town

**Ancestral Prayer**

Participatory

**Drumming, Dancing & Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

**Lunch**

**Asafu Yard**

**2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Asafu Yard, Charles Town**

**Procession into Asafu Yard**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Michael Lumsden  
Chairman, Charles Town Maroon Council

Captain Delano “Padam” Douglas  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Drumming, Dancing & Singing**

Charles Town Maroon  
Drummers and Dancers

**Greetings**

The Honourable Daryl Vaz, MP  
Member of Parliament  
Western Portland

Councillor Rohan “Prono” Vassell,  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor, Balcarres Division

Miguel ‘Sizzla Kalonji’ Collins  
Maroon Crown Prince &  
Cultural Ambassador  
Scotts Hall Maroons

Latoya Aquart-Foster  
Project Manager, CHASE Fund



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***Ancestor Quao* Victory Day Celebration**

**June 20 - 23, 2026**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**Jamaican Folk Song**

Charles Town Basic School  
Charles Town Community

**Greetings**

Mr. Everton Hannam,  
Secretary General  
Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

Mr Desmond Saunders Jr.  
Community Tourism Manager  
Tourism Product Development Company  
(TPDCo)

Mr. Eric Falt, Regional Director  
UNESCO Office for the Caribbean

**Messages and Presentations**

Chief Michael Grizzle,  
Trelawny (Cudjoe) Town Maroons

Chief Richard Currie  
Accompong Maroons

Colonel Wallace Sterling  
Moore Town Maroons

Acting Colonel Jone Williams  
Scotts Hall Maroons

Gaamang Gloria “Mama G” Simms  
Paramount Chief  
Okanisi Maroons of Suriname

Kasike Kalaan Nibonrix Kaiman  
(Robert Pairman)  
Kasike-iani RONALDA KAICO TEKINA PAIRMAN  
Yukayeke Yamaye Guani  
(Jamaica Hummingbird Tribe)



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**Ancestor Quao Victory Day Celebration**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**Messages and Presentations**

Jabali Seba,  
Chief, House of Seba First Man &  
Arlene McKenzie  
Co-Founders/Directors  
Rastafari Indigenous Village

**Message**

The Honourable Olivia Grange, CD, MP  
Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment  
and Sport

**Tribute to Ancestor Quao**

Ms. Shevenese Edwards  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Quao Story**

Zavier Nugent and Deshanhi Waul  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Maroon Warrior/Victory Songs**

Charles Town Maroon, Moore Town,  
Scotts Hall, Accompong, Trelawny Town  
Drummers and Dancers

**Report**

Yamaye Council of Indigenous Leaders  
(YCOIL)

**Presentation: Resilience:  
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**

Dr. Jayaka Campbell  
Senior Lecturer,  
Faculty of Science and Technology  
UWI Mona

**Musical Presentation**

Akinsanyah  
Charles Town Maroon Community

**Presentation**

Charles Town Primary School  
Charles Town Community



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# *Ancestor Quao* Victory Day Celebration

June 20 - 23, 2026

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

**RESILIENCE: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**Presentation: Resilience:  
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**

Mr. Wilbourn Carr  
Eastern Regional Director  
Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental  
Movement, (JaBBEM)  
Ms. Evone Walters &  
Mr. Kweku Jomo Tafari  
Actors, Poets, Storytellers

**Ancestral Memory**

**Musical Presentation**

The Jolly Boys Mento Band

**Video Tribute to Col. Marcia Douglas**

**Quao Q&A Prizes and Surprises**

**Musical Presentation**

Mr. Roy Rayon  
Jamaica Festival Song Competition Winner

**Akom**





MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE, GENDER,  
ENTERTAINMENT & SPORT



Culture • Health • Arts • Sports • Education Fund

Working for you



ENHANCING AND DEVELOPING  
JAMAICA'S FUTURE GENERATION



Tourism  
Enhancement  
Fund



TOURISM  
LINKAGES  
NETWORK



Ministry of Labour  
& Social Security



MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH &  
WELLNESS



Jamaica Social Investment Fund



unesco

Jamaica  
National Commission

The Hon.  
**DARYL VAZ**  
Member of Parliament



KINGSTON HIREAGE  
& WHOLESALE LIQUOR LIMITED



KINGSTON NIGHT MARKET



EXPERIENCE TEACHES WISDOM



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**LIQUOR BOULEVARD**

**ELAN LUMSDEN**