



## The Legacy Circle formally Launches September, 2006!

Welcome to our very first issue of *Lambi*, a newsletter of The Legacy Circle. We named the newsletter Lambi, a Kicongo word for conchshell, because of the important role the Lambi played in communication between enslaved and maroon people. In September of 2006 **Manuela Arciniegas** along with 6 other New York City activists and organizers were selected to receive the prestigious New York City Social Justice Fellowship from the Wagner School of Public Leadership. The award allows Manuela to work fulltime on her passion, cultural arts and social justice education! Joining her is the gifted **Rocio Silverio**, a Hunter College student and fierce proponent of African descendants. The Legacy Circle is dedicated to empowering African Diaspora youth and adults in New York City through cultural arts education. Our Training Institute will prepare African Diaspora teaching artists to initiate young people into grassroots action. It will impart tools for cultural arts educators such as leadership development and youth community organizing using arts and culture as the vehicle. Teaching artists will engage in residencies where youth will create cultural art pieces that affirm who they are and what they envision for their education and their communities. Youth will then use their art to organize for power in their villages. We thank the *NYU School of Public Leadership for the Social Justice Fellowship* granted to Manuela Arciniegas which has allowed us to launch this project. We also welcome all donations to fund our institute, support our teaching artists, support our youth in learning about cultural arts and social justice, and to keep our work going. Visit our website to learn more: [www.thelegacycircle.org](http://www.thelegacycircle.org)

## Get Involved!

- Apply for the Teaching Artist Training Institute! This stipend institute will train teaching artists of the African Diaspora in cultural arts education and social justice. Applications are due January 15, 2006. Visit our website: [www.thelegacycircle.org](http://www.thelegacycircle.org) for more info.
- Join one of our youth, teacher, teaching artist, community or donor circles and help make culturally relevant curriculum and arts education a part of every New York City child's education! email [manuela@thelegacycircle.org](mailto:manuela@thelegacycircle.org)
- Make a donation! Email [manuela@thelegacycircle.org](mailto:manuela@thelegacycircle.org) for more info. Volunteer! Email [mamatingo@hotmail.com](mailto:mamatingo@hotmail.com) to learn more.

## Upcoming Events:

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 6:30-8:30 pm

### Living up To the Maroon Legacy: Social Justice in Cultural Arts by Youth & Teaching Artists

for teaching artists, youth, teachers, arts in education organizations, and cultural workers. Speakers include youth from The Reel X Project, C. Daniel Dawson, Nicole Burrowes, and Rachel Castillo. at The Caribbean Cultural Center, 408 West 58 St. NY NY 10019, A/B/C/D/1 train to W. 59<sup>th</sup> St.

Columbus Circle. *Lemba, maroon warrior and leader from Dominican Republic*



Advisors Daniel Dawson, Omar Freilla, Wanda Salaman, Cynthia Carrion, among others

## Teachers Circle on Cultural Arts & Social Justice to Launch

Beginning January 2007, The Legacy Circle will partner with New York Collective of Radical Educators to facilitate *teacher circles, or ITags, focusing on cultural arts and social justice*. Teachers will share information, read about best approaches, and share strategies for teachers and teaching artists to use cultural arts and social justice education in the classroom. Teacher

*-continued:* Diana Quinones and Manuela Arciniegas will facilitate the teacher circles/ITag's.

## News!

### Welcome Circle of Advisors & Mentors!

Thank you to our circle of Advisors, who recently joined us and have already begun to provide guidance and support! This circle is comprised of diverse cultural arts educators, executive directors, arts administrators, scholars, community organizers, youth developers dedicated to empowering youth and people of the Diaspora. The advisory circle includes Loira Limbal, Wanda Salaman, Cynthia Carrion, C. Daniel Dawson, Melody Capote, Oneza C. Lafontant, Juan Usera, Jesus Gonzalez, and Omar Freilla. Welcome family! Our circle represents diverse organizations like: Make the Road By Walking, the Reel X Project, Greenworker Cooperatives, Kongo, NYU, Caribbean Cultural Center, Youth Channel, Mothers/Youth on the Move, La Tribu, and others!

### Youth Demand Culturally Relevant Curriculum in NYC

The Urban Youth Collaborative recently announced their New York City Student Bill of Rights! #2 out of 10 rights was: *All students have the right to a challenging and engaging curriculum that includes the histories and diverse cultures of people of color*. Considering that close to 75% of NYC youth are African American and Latino, the Legacy Circle's work is crucial in supporting youth's vision for the education they want and need! For more information about the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, See [www.urbanyouthcollaborative.org](http://www.urbanyouthcollaborative.org). Advisors Wanda (Mothers on the Move) and Jesus (Make the Road by walking) are advisors whose organizations are members of the collaborative.