

TriniBas Project **(Carnivals in Trinidad and Basle)**

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Project Idea

The goal of this cross-cultural project is to explore the obvious and more hidden similarities as well as the differences between the carnivals of Trinidad and Basle. The objective is to shed light on the historical and contemporary artistic and social expressions of carnival in both places and show how its cultural artefacts have evolved over time and influenced both societies across the old and new world.

The project idea was first formulated by Raymond Saner and subsequently discussed with Dr Patricia Alleyne-Dettmers, a carnival anthropologist originally from Trinidad now living in Constance, Germany. A later version of the project was proposed to lic. Phil Dominik Wunderlin, Head of the Europe Department of the Museum of Cultures in Basle. After further elaborations, the Museum of Cultures accepted to undertake the project and delegated Mr. Wunderlin as project leader.

Project Update

As a first step, Mr. Wunderlin and Mr. Saner and Mrs Alleyne participated in the Trinidad Carnival in Trinidad in February 2007 and made contacts with relevant parties and actors involved in shaping the artistic features and programme of the Trinidadian carnival. The experiences and exchanges with representatives of pan yards, mas camps, calypsonians, organisers, designers of costumes, arrangers of steel bands and leaders of moko jumbie players were very instructive, enjoyable and useful for the elaboration of the next steps to be undertaken over the coming months.

Project Implementation

The plans are to produce a big urban festival with exhibitions, music, dance, theatre, film and other performances in which Trinidad Carnival will be presented to the citizens of Basle to demonstrate the common and the different elements between both forms of carnival. Implementation will depend on ensuring financing of events and availability of resources and spatial possibilities to put project idea into concrete performances.