

# The Garinagus Celebrate!

The drum is the most important instrument in Garifuna music and relies heavily on call and response patterns. Classically, one drummer improvises on the primero or heart drum, a second on the shadow drum (Segundo), and a steady third on the bass-line.



Drums are typically carved out of wood and covered with deer or sheepskin. Turtle shells, bottles, and shakers are also used to add diversity and depth to the sound. These men and the occasionally curious boys have skills as they make a tune out of beating the drums.



**Awareness Day** showcased many of the items and food utilized by the Garifuna. A lot of curious students came out and enjoyed the display of the typical Garifuna items. Some even tried their hand at the turtle shell music!



As dancers twirl in brightly decorated dresses, as singers tell their stories through song and musicians shake gourds in harmony with drums, you can almost feel how this act has brought the Garifuna people of Belize together for centuries.



Each year on November 19th, the Garifuna reenact their arrival to the shores of Belize. They ride the surf to shore in their dugout canoes waving palm fronds and banana leaves to symbolize the cassava that sustained their ancestors. This ritual, rich in music and dance, helps sustain Garifuna culture.

**Below:**  
Coconuts Resort had an incredible party on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> featuring the amazing PAUL NABOR and his band.



The singing and drumming had all those in attendance on their feet dancing and enjoying the most colorful Garifuna culture.