

Mas-Piece / Body-Architecture

Collaboration between Tropical Isles Carnival 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 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.

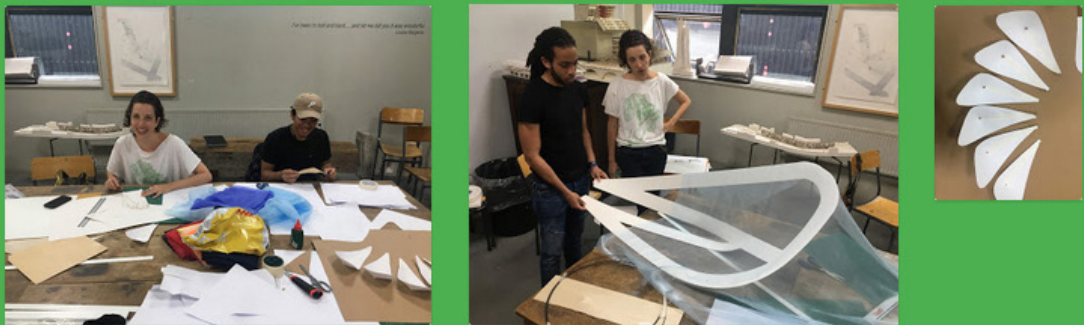
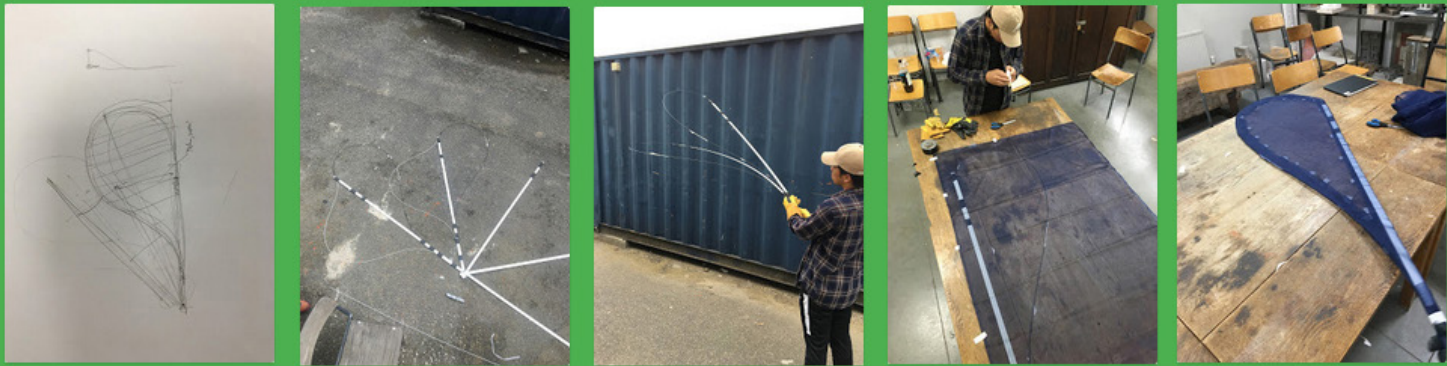
Collaborative Design Process



Co-Design Workshops



Testing and Prototyping




Mas-Piece Rehearsal



Notting Hill Carnival


August 2019






nccarnival

Notting Hill Carnival



CamF

COMMUNITY APP







2019 Sunday Mas Band Results cont.

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Classy Reddies A's	Rastaman	223	1st
Heritage central unit and Advent group	Rastaman	389	2nd
People's World Carnival Band	Rastaman	100	3rd

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Inspirations A's & Tropique Carnival Clubs	Tropicalist	218	1st
Notting Central Club	Tropicalist	156	2nd
Tropical Vibes	Tropicalist	106	3rd

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
United Colours of Mas & Renaissance [1]	DUTTY MAS	140	1st
Technical Mas Band	DUTTY MAS	122	2nd
Notting Waves [2]	DUTTY MAS	109	3rd

1,003 views

nccarnival They're here! Notting Hill Carnival Ltd., and CamF (The Carnival Arts & Mas Foundation) are proud to announce more

CAMF
CARNIVAL ARTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Supreme Gold Category

2019 Winter Mas Band Results cont.

Band Name	Category	Points	Place
Ellis-Paddington Arts	Musical	224 1st	
Herrings social arts and dance group	Musical	177 2nd	
Concorse	Musical	175 3rd	


Band Name	Category	Points	Place
DJKA Max-Daniels UK Carnival Band	Traditional	224 1st	
Horneas Central Group	Traditional	213 2nd	
Tropical Vibe	Traditional	197 3rd	

♥️ 👁️ 🏆

17 likes


tropicalisalecarnaval Results are in We came 3rd on both days 🍌🥥🍰💖 for Nottingham Carnival 🔥

We went 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

THE  TIMES


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In pictures: Notting Hill Carnival 2019



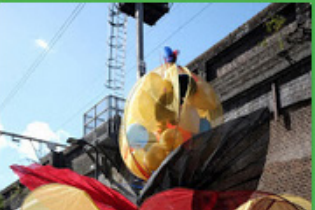
There was no limit to the inventiveness of some of the more eye-catching carnival entrants

AMEER GHAZALJALARY



Hackney Carnival

September 2019



HACKNEY CARNIVAL 2019 RESULTS

Best Newcomers
Awarded to
MORNINGSIDE SCHOOL

Traditional Masquerade
Awarded to
YARAM ARTS

Best Mass Participation
Awarded to
SOCA MASSIVE

Best Movement (Choreography)
Awarded to
DIMENSIONS ENTERTAINMENT

Best Movement Runners Up
Awarded to
TARU ARTS

Best Theme Interpretation
Jointly awarded to
TROPICAL ISLES

Carnival Band of the Year 1st Prize
Awarded to
TROPICAL ISLES

Carnival Band of the Year 2nd Prize
Awarded to
GAHU DRAMATIC ARTS

Highly Commended Visiting Group
Awarded to
PARAISO SCHOOL OF SAMBA

Best Music On The Road
Awarded to
GAHU DRAMATIC ARTS

Best Music Runners Up
Awarded to
URBAN TOUCH

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

