



THE BATTLE OF THE DRUMS

CALENDAR

2025



Calendar of Activities October - November

 **OCTOBER 31, 2025**

13TH Annual High Schools Battle of the Drums (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Belize City Centre, Belize City.

This year the High Schools Battle of the Drums is being hosted jointly by Wesley College, Sadie Vernon High School and Maud Williams High School. Participating high schools will come from Belize City, Dangriga Town, Independence Village, Georgetown Village and Punta Gorda Town. It is our expectation that 10 high Schools will participate. The current champion is Georgetown Technical High School.



 **NOVEMBER 7, 2025**

2nd Annual Primary Schools Battle of the Drums (9AM – 2:00PM) Russel Chiste Auditorium, Dangriga Town

This is the 2nd Annual Battle of the Drums will held at the primary school level. Participating primary schools will come from St. Joseph R.C. School in Barranco, St. Peter Claver School in Punta Gorda, St. Alphonsus R.C. School in Seine Bight, Richard Quinn R.C. School on Georgetown Village, Holy Family R.C. School in Hopkins Village, Gulisi Community Primary School, Sacred Heart R.C. School and Holy Ghost R.C. School in Dangriga Town. environmental harmony.



Nathaniel Castillo



 **NOVEMBER 9, 2025**
Battle of the Drums Mass of Thanksgiving and Service Day

This day will commence at 8:00 a.m. with a Garifuna Mass of Thanksgiving at the St. Peter Claver Church and will be followed by activities which include providing community service to a deserving sector of our Punta Gorda Garifuna community.

**“ LAU LIDISE
WÉIBUGU
WARANSERAGUEI ”**



The Biggest Cultural Weekend in Belize!

 **NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

16th Annual Primary Schools Garifuna Translation Contest

(9AM – 12PM) Punta Gorda Sporting Auditorium, Punta Gorda Town

The contest tests the participants' ability to translate words, phrases, sentences and proverbs from standard English to Garifuna. In this Contest, 10 primary schools will participate as follows: from Toledo District: St. Joseph R.C. School from Barranco; St. Peter Claver Primary School, P.G. Methodist School, and St. Benedict R.C. School from Punta Gorda Town; St. Alphonsus R.C. School from Seine Bight Village; Richard Quinn Primary School from Georgetown Village, Holy Family R.C. School from Hopkins Village, and Gulisi Primary School, Sacred Heart R.C. School and Holy Ghost R.C. School from Dangriga Town.



 **NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

Battle of the Drums Food & Fete (7PM – 2AM)

Punta Gorda Sporting Auditorium, Punta Gorda Town.

This is the term used to describe the opening night of the Battle of the Drums weekend festivities. It will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. This event brings people together from all walks of life to socialize, network and enjoy an evening of good food and great Garifuna music. It showcases Garifuna cuisine fused with contemporary cooking styles, dishes and menus prepared by executive chefs from luxury resorts located in Southern Belize as well as local cooks. This year's event will feature many prizes and surprises. Stay tuned for more updates.



 **NOVEMBER 15, 2025**
20th Annual BATTLE OF THE DRUMS 2025 and Belize Garifuna Musical Festival

(Commences at 7:30PM)

The night commences with the 20th Annual Battle of the Drums Competition and Show. This is a Competition and Show that allows groups to compete and display their musical artistry in playing five (5) different categories of Garifuna drumming. The first Battle of the Drums was held in Punta Gorda Town on November 17, 2006, and has been well received by spectators from home and abroad. This competition and show has become a major local and tourist attraction and a catalyst for significant economic activity in the Punta Gorda Area during the period when it is hosted. The Battle of the Drums Competition and Show is held every year on the Saturday immediately preceding the 19th day of November. The proceeds from the Battle of the Drums Initiative are strictly used to pursue various Garifuna cultural retrieval projects in Punta Gorda Town and other Garifuna communities as the funds allow. The cultural retrieval projects include the Garifuna Language in Schools Program, annual Battle of the Drums summer camps for children and youths, High Schools Battle of the Drums, Primary Schools Battle of the Drums, Annual Primary Schools Garifuna Translation contest, among others.

The Belize Garifuna Musical Festival takes place immediately after the Battle of the Drums Competition and Show and will continue until 6:00 a.m. on the morning of November 16, 2025. The Belize Garifuna Musical Festival features performances of various genre of Garifuna Music by local and internationally renowned artists. The winners of the Garifuna Song Competition will also be in attendance. The performances will showcase the following music forms: Hüngü Hüngü, Paranda, Gunjei, Punta, and Punta Rock.



 **NOVEMBER 16, 2025**
Love FM Paranda Show
(2PM – 10PM) Garbutt's Marine,
Punta Gorda Town

This event is a live radio broadcast that focuses on Paranda Music. This event is a collaboration between Battle of the Drums Secretariat and Love FM. During the broadcast on Love FM, Paranda music will be played live by various Paranderos in Punta Gorda Town. The event commences at 2:00 p.m.

 **NOVEMBER 19, 2025**
Yurumein & Garifuna Mass

Yurumein – This refers to the Re-enactment Ceremony. The Ceremony takes place at 6:30AM at the Punta Gorda Cooperative wharf area and presents a dramatization that depicts the first arrival of the Garinagu to the shores of Belize. After the Re-enactment Ceremony there is a parade through the principal streets of Punta Gorda Town and thereafter a mass of thanksgiving is held at the St. Peter Claver Church. The Yurumein, parade and church service are financed and organized by the Battle of the Drums Secretariat in collaboration with the National Garifuna Council – Peini Branch.





RAJU'S VARIETY STORE
AUDREY MATURA

