



MANIFESTO JA

FESTIVAL OF ART'ICAL
EMPOWERMENT



St. Alban's
Boys & Girls Club
A good place to be



Reflections on Manifesto Jamaica | October 13-20 2010

From October 13th-20th a group of youth called Vibrant Voices represented the media arts program at St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club in travelling to Kingston, to document a grass roots arts festival called Manifesto Jamaica. This festival, a sister organization to Manifesto Toronto, is a venue to empower Jamaica's youth through Arts and Culture. Artists from Toronto and Kingston worked together to provide a truly inspirational experience to participants, and called out for social change through love and positive actions. Vibrant Voices is a youth media arts program, focused on giving youth a voice, encouraging them to think independently, express themselves artistically and gain technical skills. This group of young leaders had a life changing opportunity to learn about community building and empowerment through the arts. They used their media skills to provide documentary coverage of the festival, enlightening the use of art to bring people together, inspiring positive growth and change. The documentary that they are presently working on, will be screened at the Manifesto Toronto Festival in September 2011.

"Jamaica was the experience of a lifetime. Being from Toronto and coming to JA was a very different feeling. This feeling was comprised of Love, happiness and positive feelings. I learned to appreciate everything that I have in life, because others don't have the same opportunities. I also felt relaxed, even with all of the work we were doing, I still had a sense of relaxation because of the vibe I was getting from everybody.



This trip inspired me not only as an artist, but as a whole. It taught me morals and values one should have as a person and pass on to other people to create positive change. Being in Tuff Gong, Bob Marley's studio made me want to give everything to my music. Being around the Manifesto people inspired me to become a confident artist, speak up, be all I can be when I'm on stage and when I am with people."

Robby Mohammed

"Jamaica has inspired me, taught me, loved me and become me. It is amazing how much has come out of one week. On this trip I experienced immense amounts about the culture, and arts in Jamaica that I don't think you can learn anywhere else. This trip was one of the best experiences of my life and I believe it has made me a better person"

Kimberlee Joubert

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KINGSTON, JAMAICA
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Photography by Rashid Sobers

For video of the journey by Rashid Sobers youtube.com/watch?v=vsjrcJSHcdo

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