

BELIZEAN RHYTHMS



MAYA AREA

GULF OF
MÉXICO

BELIZE
CITY

CARIBBEAN
SEA

PACIFIC
OCEAN



BELIZEAN RHYTHMS



Belize City, Belize
Music

The book

Belizean rhythms

Author

Joan Serra Montagut

Cover graphic

Frida Larios (New Mayan Language ©)

Photography

SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. and Proyecto Ja'ab coordination

Black & white photographs

Joan Duran

Graphic design

Luis Antonio Acosta Cruz, Carlos Alberto Aguilar Gaumer, Arbee Farid Antonio Chi, Ana Gerardina Díaz García, Adriana Maritza Jiménez López, Jessica Paola Juárez Mendoza, Óscar Daniel Mijangos Andrade, Bruno Adrián Muñoz Ucán, Manuel Eduardo Peón Ceballos and Eduardo Vivas Mena

Graphic design coordination

Ana Bretón

Editing and English correction

Andrea Slusser

Editing and final revision process

Joan Serra Montagut

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Coordination of the book & the collection and SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. manager

Joan Serra Montagut

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contacto@someditorialcolectiva.org

www.someditorialcolectiva.org

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Made in Belize City, Caye Ambergris, Caye Caulker and Dangriga; Belize

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BELIZEAN RHYTHMS

Is one of the 12 books that form Proyecto Ja'ab, a collective, entrepreneurial and independent initiative coordinated by Joan Serra Montagut through



With our effort and dedication we have won





We thank Programa Iberoamericano de Bibliotecas
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We specially thank all universities in Mérida (Yucatán,
México) that have contributed to the creation of this literary
adventure and have managed the collection in a collective
and collaborative way (see page 105).



On the 21st of December, 2012, a cycle of thousands of years ended with the completion of the 13th Baktun. A New Era began, which, for an important part of the Maya culture, is the beginning of a global and holistic change that will lead humanity on its way to dialogue, coexistence, harmony and wisdom.

Proyecto Ja'ab has been created to provide a genuine seed in this new period through 12 books that have been developed collectively in 12 cities of the Maya area, from San Salvador to San Cristóbal de Las Casas. With these publications, which respect the vernacular aesthetic and original stimuli, Proyecto Ja'ab promotes writing, reading and creativity while offering a wide field for reflection on 12 issues that affect all of us, everywhere and in all the phases of human history.

In the Maya language that is spoken in the Yucatán Peninsula, *ja'ab* means *year*. The goal of this adventure is to involve more than 500 young people, the great protagonists of this initiative, in the construction of this collection that will develop new connections and new creative adventures. The aim is to create this unique network during the first year of this New Era, to show that young people, when connected, can eliminate mountains of hatred and apathy, turn in new directions, dream of new worlds and build them in a collective and egalitarian way.

Enjoy this literary trip with no precedent and walk with us through a *sacbé* made of imagination and light.

Music rocks!

Antonio lays on his bed and tries to forget all the things that he has done during the day. He has been studying hard all day and only has the strength to stand up and turn on the radio. He closes his eyes. Suddenly, his skin reacts. Thousands of colors reach his ears. Music pervades his entire body. This feeling that Antonio has at this moment is shared with every human at some point in our existence. Not everyone loves music in the same way, but all humans, without exception, feel a special frenzy when they hear a chord that, for unknown or obvious reasons, brings a moment of happiness or peacefulness, calm or nostalgia.

All the rhythms that reach us inform our vital landscape and it is important to choose musical places and not noisy areas. Music has proven to be, throughout human history, a faithful friend in the bohemian nights, in the evenings of relaxation and in the early sleepy mornings. Music is, and has always been, an excellent therapy to overcome stress, fear and loneliness.

In the Maya area, where Proyecto Ja'ab has been working during these years, music is an important element for its inhabitants. In the Peninsula of Yucatán *trova* fills the colonial streets of beautiful cities such as Mérida, Izamal and Valladolid. Salsa warms tropical nights and Cuban melodies are very present. In Cancún, where thousands of young people arrive each month to enjoy well-deserved holidays, nightclubs are open all night long. The traditional songs beautify landscapes of the Mayab land and Maya musicality runs through every corner of the jungle. In Chiapas and Guatemala, the *marimba*, a special instrument that comes from Africa, is the most important musical instrument and radio stations and festivals have it as the undisputed queen. In El Salvador and Honduras, Latin rhythms invade the nightclubs of the Caribbean and the Pacific coast.

The musical influence of the north and the center of México, with everlasting *rancheras*, *corridos* and pop ballads, is huge. In Belize, the magic of the Caribbean and African American rhythms descend from places far from human reason and the rational essence. All streets and avenues of the Maya region are touched by the musical elixir. Silence is something that is a secret only felt when the traveler stays in the highest part of a pyramid and spies the Sun of a new day lighting the infinite horizon.

Latin America is a mixture of cultures and rhythms. It is the product of the original and essential rhythms of *Pacha Mama* and the music that arrived from Europe in times of cruel conquests. This music has the memory of victory, domination, slavery and the complex past. The musical heritage of this magnificent territory is enormous and everyone escapes from their realities when they feel *tango*, *samba* or *bachata* nearby. Latin America is music. And the Maya area is a very special rhythmic territory.

Feel free to dance, to consume the zenith, to fly along the universe, to feel the eternity and the blood swimming in your body. Love music and love art! Connect your ancestors, to your relatives, to your friends, to your parents, to your roots. Feel the rhythm of your mother land, the place where you were born, and discover all the secrets that this special ritual will bring to you.

Music is the way to understand the chaotic perfection of the human destiny.

Through this book, the reader will be able to immerse herself or himself in the polyphonic musical Belizean landscape, starting in the streets of Belize City and ending in the coast of Dangriga.

Antonio feels that the night is arriving. He wants to see what is moving and what is breathing on the other side of his window. He opens it and loves the refreshing breeze of this poetic evening, his evening.

The lyrics of a song are arriving in his ear and some rhythms in the center of the city signal the making of a great party. This is his city. This is his night. This is his world. This is his sound. This is Belize City. Music rocks, and he wants to dedicate his life to fill the world with bright sounds.

Proyecto Ja'ab, which is committed to musical diversity and the strength of music as a tool to change the world, publishes BELIZEAN RHYTHMS to promote music in areas where young people want to sing the message of a new generation. It's the rhythm of the future, the melody that is sounding throughout the planet as a shout of democracy, peace, illusions and bright expectations.

This photographic book will show you the music that runs firmly in the veins of Belizean people, the daughters and sons of the Caribbean, the sand, the sea, the Sun, the refreshing breezes and freedom.

PROYECTO JA'AB COORDINATION

POSTOPS



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FEEL LIKE IT JUST

BECAUSE YOU FEEL

JUST BECAUSE YOU

FEEL LIKE IT JUST BECAUSE YOU

BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE IT
BECAUSE

LIKE IT JUST
LIKE IT JUST

BECAUSE

FEEL

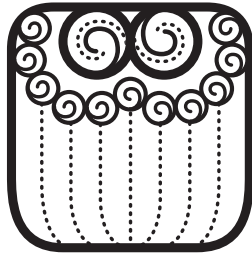
LIKE

IT JUST

BECAUSE

G

AI



Belizean rhythms

Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si, do...
... do, si, la, sol, fa, mi, re, do...

BELIZEAN RHYTHMS dedicates its eight chapters to eight musical moments or cultural manifestations lived in Belize. The first one tells of the experience of some pupils who study music in the Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence, in the Pickstock Child Friendly Space (Lake Independence District, Belize City). The chapter shows the power that music has to change the lives of the young people in this urban space, giving them tools to overcome problems such as unemployment or crime.

The streets of Belize City, the Belizean landscape, the influence of the Caribbean, the immortality of the Maya area, music in the world and music and peace are the next chapters of this special book made with a lot of colorful elements. The last chapter describes the most important day in the calendar of the Garifuna culture, which is found on the coasts of Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Through these pages, you will be able to celebrate National Settlement Day with this UNESCO World Heritage community demonstration.

Each book of Proyecto Ja'ab utilizes one writing style (comic, essay, journalism, poetry, etc.). In this case, our adventure is presented through photography, the main character of this book. Find some Belizean music on the Internet or radio and enjoy this book dancing with the BELIZEAN RHYTHMS.



DO
MUSIC&ME

MUSIC & ME

“I’ve got rhythm in me. This rhythm can give me a lot of benefits.” These were the words of one of the pupils in the music school based in Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence in Belize City. After school, these teenagers, living in a society that sometimes doesn’t provide them with all the things they need to develop their artistic abilities, join the teacher and practice music. This music will be heard at public events, during academic celebrations, at social meetings and in other public spaces. These musicians are young but they know that music is something that belongs in their lives because they believe that music is converting them into better people.

Music brings light, movement and freedom to them. Follow the example of this group of Belizean friends and join them in their class. You will probably learn a lot along with them while you think about the importance of music in your own life.



"Since I was young I dreamed of becoming a musician. In my house I heard always all kinds of songs and my parents transferred to us the love for music. My parents supported me when I wanted to start these classes and they respect and like my dream".

"Music makes me happy and I think that through it I can bring happiness to other people. It's for this reason that I like to play an instrument, because I believe that I can bring good things to the people of my social environment".

"It is often believed that all young people are criminals, that we steal and that we are lost in drugs, but this is not true. I know some young people that have these problems, but most of us have dreams and fight to make them real. We are a good example of this huge exception. Music takes us away from boredom and crime and lets us believe that our dreams can be possible, can be real".



"When I grow up I would like to dedicate myself professionally to music. It must be incredible to be paid for something that you love and brings happiness to other people".

"In the morning, when I wake up, I only think in music. My friends know that I always sing and speak about music, and some of them also join me. The power of music is transferred between minds that want a better world".







RESTORING BELIZE
PICKSTOCK CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE

*Where the community and its children work together to better their lives
in a clean, bright, safe environment!*

**PICKSTOCK COMMUNITY WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH**

unicef

OAS

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND



RE
MUSIC&BELIZE CITY

MUSIC & BELIZE CITY

Belize City, the former capital of Belize (which today is Belmopan) is the urban center of this Caribbean country that gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1981. Belize is the only Central American country where English is the official language, but Spanish and Creole are widely spoken. Belize City shows visitors its British influence in its streets and public buildings. In Belize and Belize City, in common with other formerly British Caribbean countries, are found traces of the British Empire in everyday life. Belize City is an incredible mixture of languages and cultures and is the ideal place to encounter the multicultural profile of this special country. Belize City is also an open door and the first port for immigrants from other cultures, such as Indian or Chinese, who arrive in the Americas. Many of these new arrivals remain in the country and try to find new ways to live far from home. This chapter is dedicated to the streets of this Belizean nuclear city, where music dances along the avenues and people live and die, love and grow up face to face with the Caribbean.



Bridge in Belize City



Saint John's Cathedral



Supreme Courthouse



House in Belize City



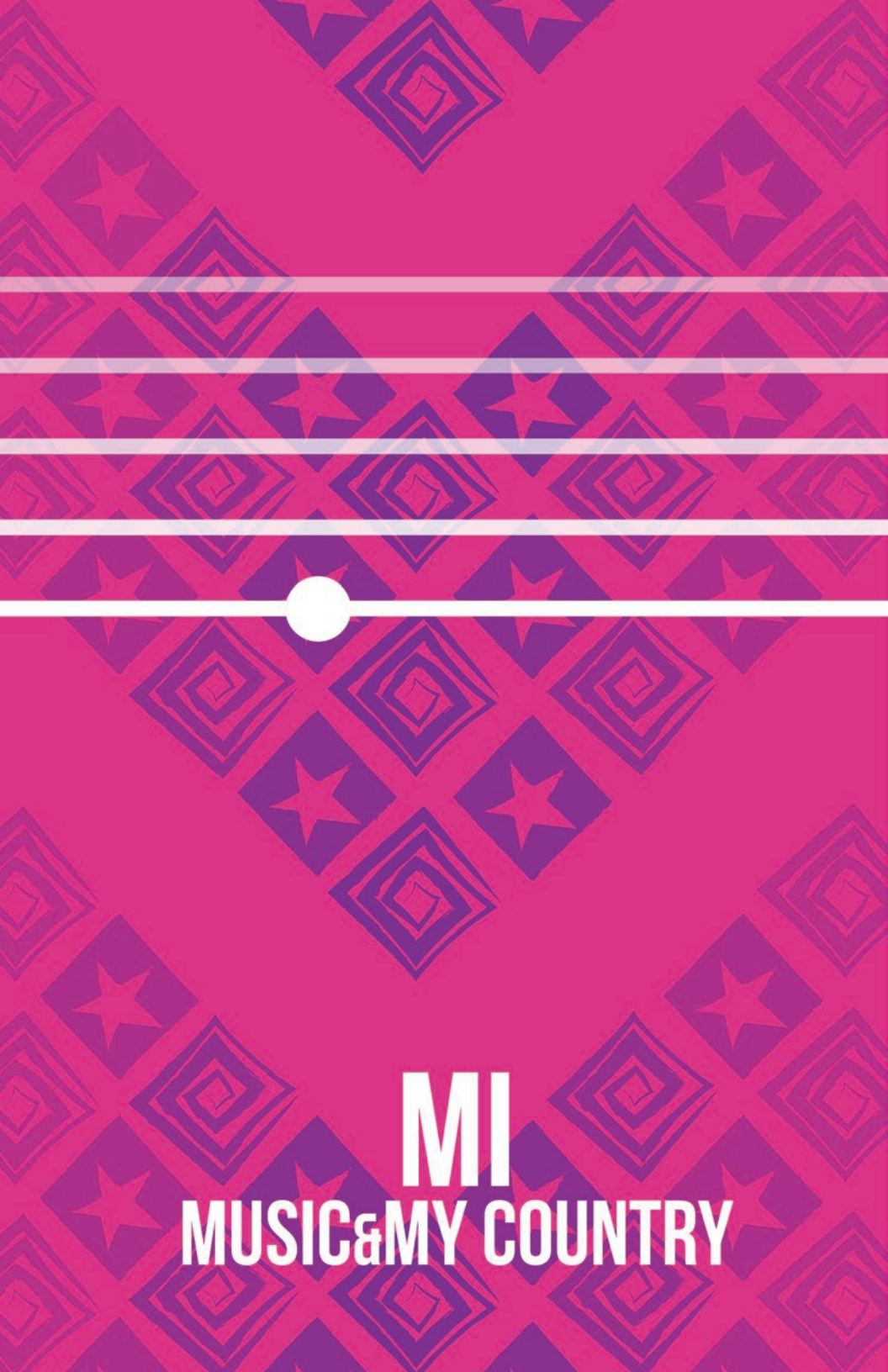
Government House, House of Culture



Dreams in Belize City



Future in Belize City



MI
MUSIC&MY COUNTRY

MUSIC & MY COUNTRY

Belizean music is a mix of Kriol, Mestizo, Garifuna and Maya influences. Maya culture was the first to take root in this magnificent land. The British arrived in the 17th century and converted Belize into the only British colony in Spanish-dominated Central America. One of the most important influences in Belizean rhythms and, indeed, in Belizean daily life, is rooted in the African slavery history and culture. The legendary Africa, in Belize and all the Caribbean islands, is not far away.

The mixture of cultures created a unique music made up of European, African and American styles, rhythms and instruments like the *marimba* from all over three continents. America, Africa and Europe have a special meeting in this part of the world. Belizean people like *marimba*, *punta*, brukdown, *buru*, dances, drums, *mento*, Kriol melodies, bass guitar, *congas*, etc. One of the most important Belizean rhythms is Garinagu, from the Garifuna culture. In the last chapter of this book, Proyecto Ja'ab brings photos of an important annual celebration of this ethnic group, which has a genuine charisma. The Garifuna descend from escaped Island Caribs who were deported from Saint Vincent to Central America (especially Honduras and also Belize) in 1802 by the British when they conquered Saint Vincent.

The Garinagu maintained and developed their own culture apart from the dominant social system, conserving the main elements of their cosmology. *Punta* and *Punta* rock are the most popular forms of dance music in the Garifuna culture. Drums play an important role in Garifuna music.

Nowadays, in the urban areas, Belizean young people listen to local reggae, reggaeton, dancehall reggae, hip hop, rock... although the musical influence of the United States and Jamaica is considerable.







FA
MUSIC&THE CARIBBEAN

MUSIC & THE CARIBBEAN

Life in the cayes is an amazing and relaxing experience. Caye Caulker and Caye Ambergris (Madonna's Isla Bonita) are two islands situated not too far from Belize City. As the boat escapes from the urban port, the Caribbean opens its infinite domains. The Sun warms the air as a blessing from the sky. The second most important coral reef in the world is here. Anchored by the Blue Hole, a perfect circle in the middle of the ocean, it's the principal tourist attraction for the thousands of tourists that arrive here every year. The reef is full of animals and colors. In the islands, Caribbean life is bright and calm. People meet each other. Music is the best friend with whom to enjoy the days and the nights in this paradise. Every day the natural cycle realizes its magnificent show, repeated since the origin of the world, converting the sky from the darkness of the stars to the funny daily moments. Enjoy these photos and discover why the Caribbean is considered around the world as one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



(BY ORDER OF)
THE CAYE CAULKER VILLAGE
COUNCIL AND
THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

**NO SPEAR FISHING OR
CLEANING OF FISH
IS ALLOWED IN THIS
AREA**















SOL
MUSIC&THE MAYA AREA

MUSIC & THE MAYA AREA

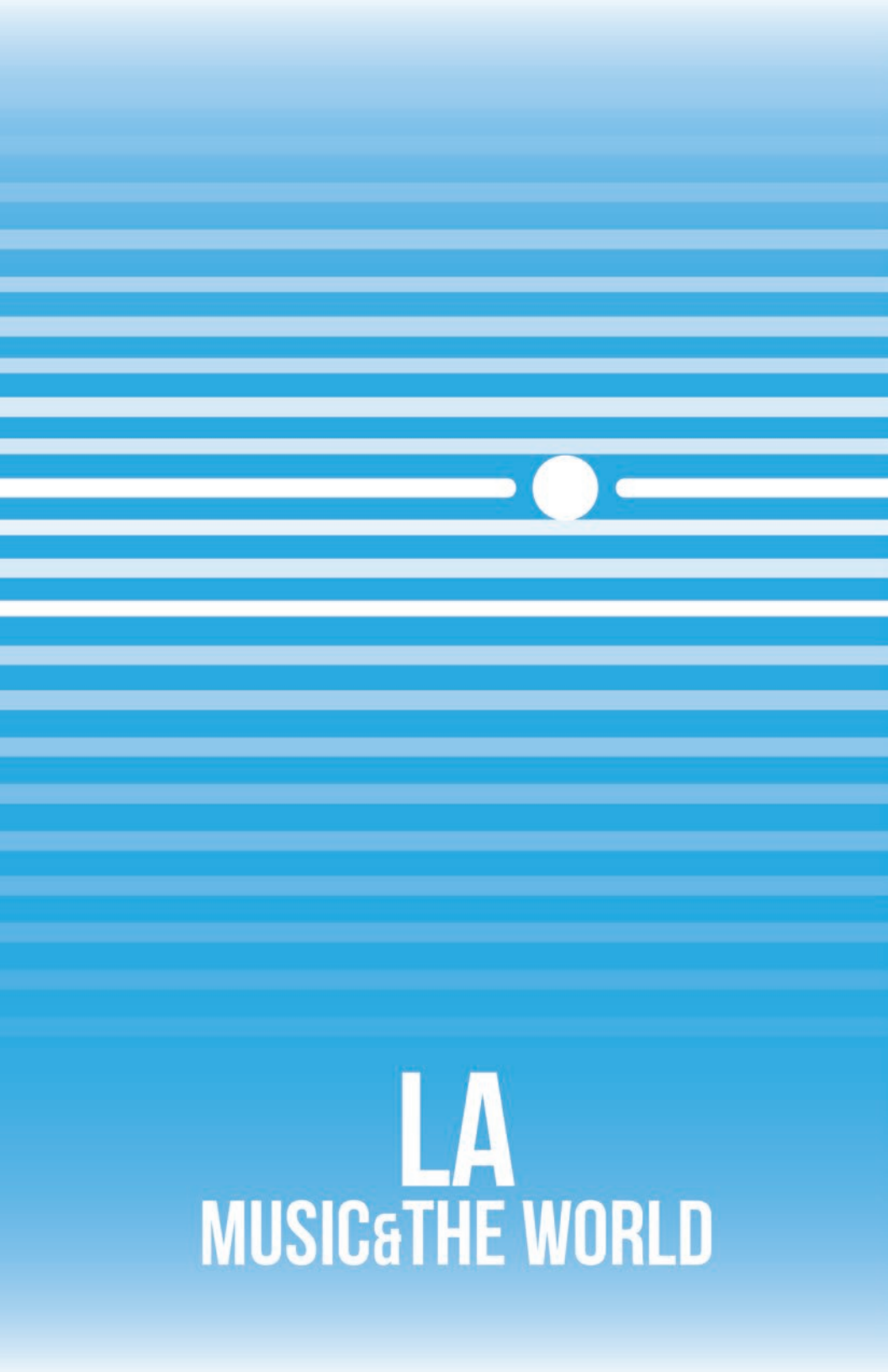
The symbol on the cover page of this book is made by artist and designer Frida Larios and interprets rain, the water that brings life to the Earth. The Maya area is a unique landscape with an enormous human and natural diversity. This region, which is found in parts of México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize, is a spectacular place to discover. In this territory, the ancient inhabitants, constructors of the brilliant Maya culture, built a civilization that read the stars and described time. The ancient Maya shared their political and economic life with nature as part of it, respecting the divinities everywhere. The old rituals used music to invoke the gods, to call them to join the humans in their prayers. Shells, natural drums made of animal skins... all sorts of instruments were used to create this sacred communion. Today, in many parts of the modern Maya area, the sons and the daughters of this civilization that was never extinguished (as a lot of people believe) repeat these ancestral traditions to connect themselves to their roots using the music of their ancestors.



The Maya Temple of Caana (Sky Palace) in Caracol, Belize







LA
MUSIC&THE WORLD

MUSIC & THE WORLD

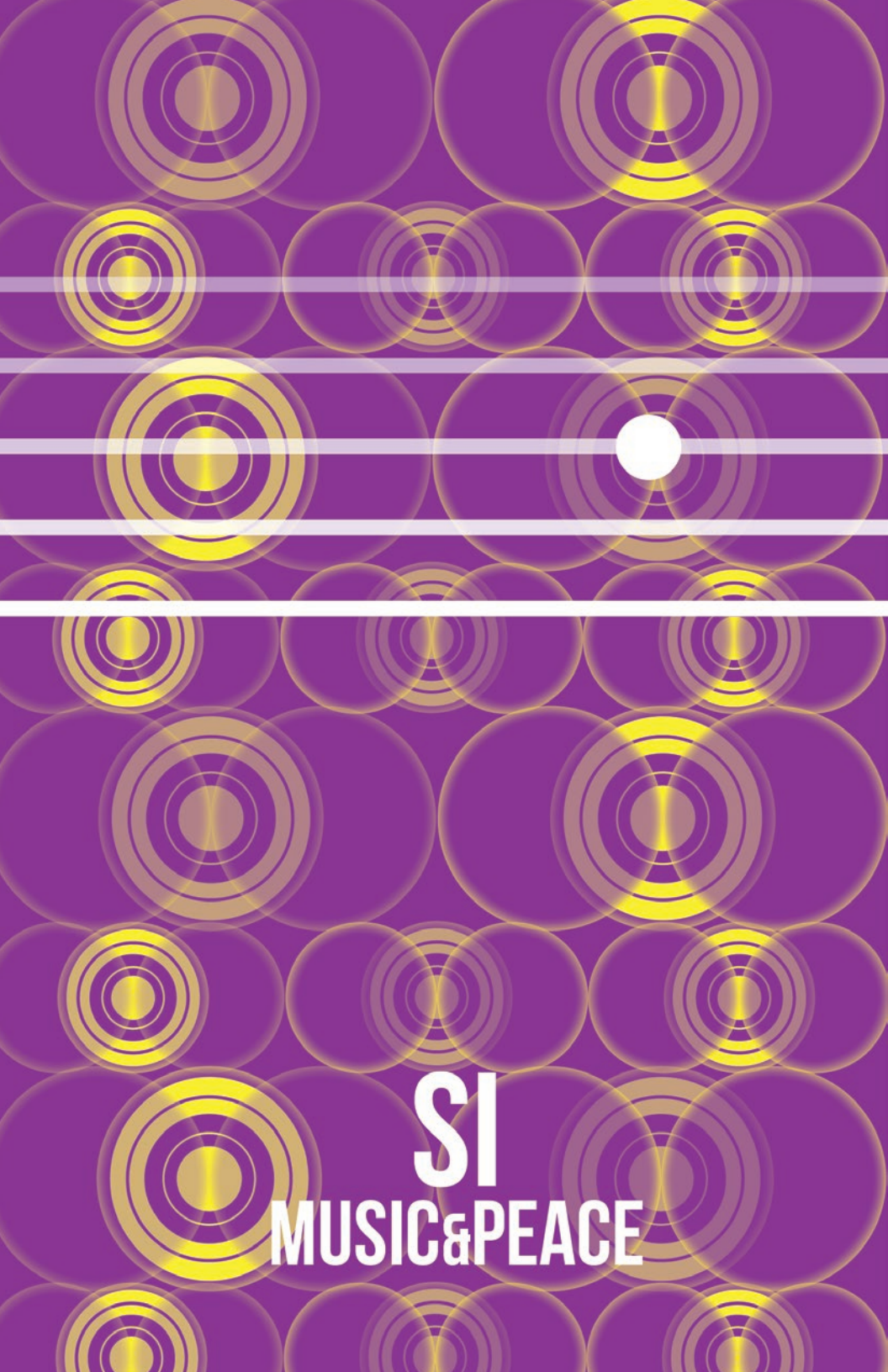
Our world is a vibrant planet where thousands of cultures live together in harmony and peace. But, sometimes, hatred and bad people try to rupture this stability with dark thoughts and strange enmities. Close your eyes. Then imagine one huge scenario in front of you, with musicians that have arrived from all over the world. Try to visualize it and mix yourself in this beautiful crowd. Talk to African people, to Asiatic ones, to Europeans, to everyone. Each culture has a deep and old spirit and wants to share it with others. This concert is unique because, through all the music that will be played, the Earth will strengthen ties between countries and you will be a great witness of this worldwide event. Close your eyes and imagine that peace is possible through all the musical styles of our planet.



The music of the oceans connects all the territories of our planet







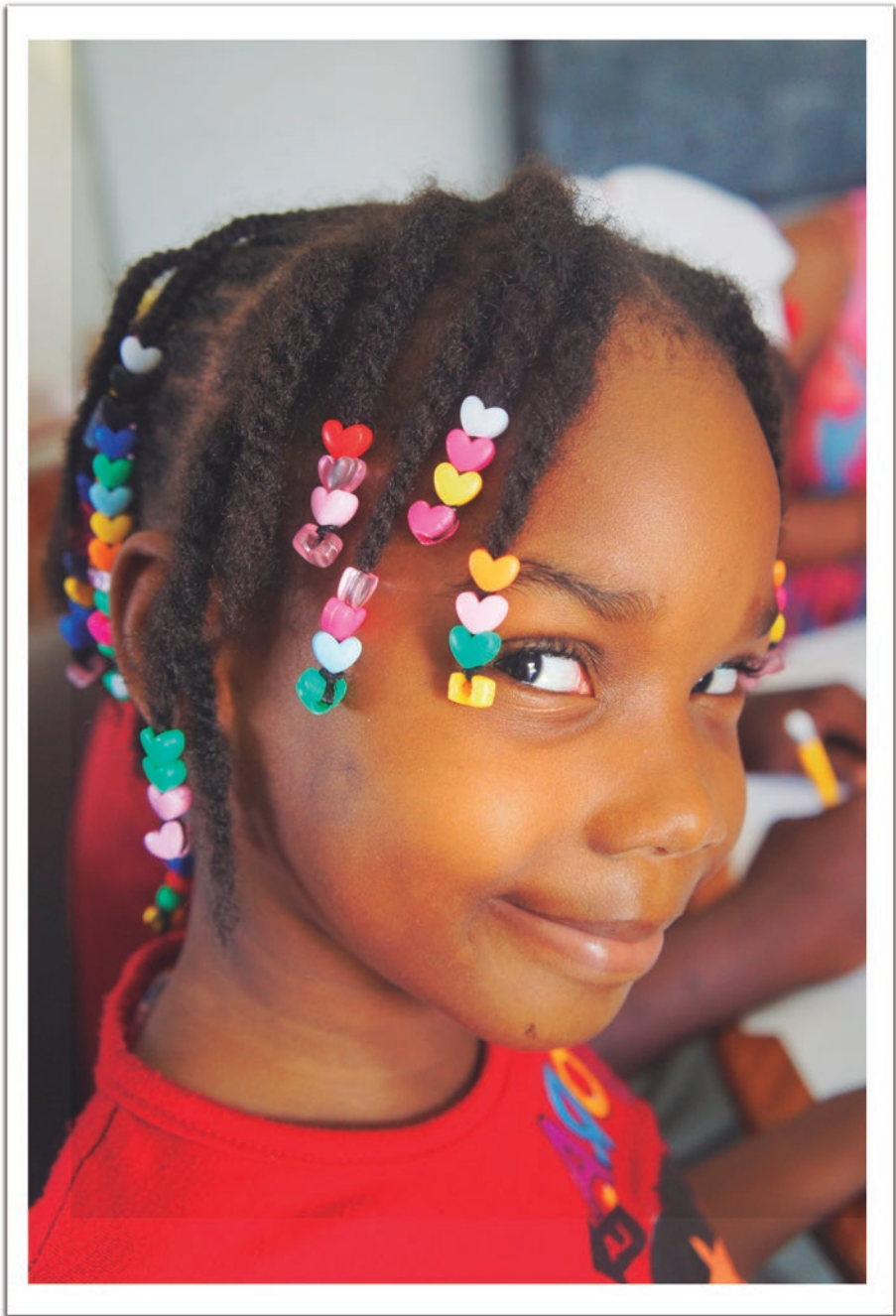
SI
MUSIC&PEACE

MUSIC & PEACE

Reading is the best way to be free and to be a mature person able to build your own ideas and behaviors, free from the influence of others (governments, bosses, etc.). The public library is the space where all people, with no distinctions, are able to read and enjoy books. SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. and Proyecto Ja'ab believe in the power of these spaces in the communities where they exist. For this reason, our adventure organized an activity in the Lake Independence Public Library of Belize City, situated next to the Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence, in the Pickstock community. The protagonists of this activity were some kids who, during a morning, prepared an artistic mural relating music to peace. Through their artistic vision you will learn what the meaning of peace is for them and, probably, understand what peace means for you. Because peace is not only the absence of war. Peace involves more positive attitudes and music is a nice way to promote them!



Lake Independence Public Library











Peace

LOVE

music

Love each

Love



other













DO MUSIC&CULTURAL IDENTITY

MUSIC & CULTURAL IDENTITY

Garifuna people and Garifuna music

Music has a deep relationship with the roots of every culture in the world. Music is the sound of the origins, of the ancestors, of Humanity. In the Caribbean area, music is one of the most important aspects of the collective identity. *Son cubano, salsa, bachata...* A lot of musical styles were born in this magnificent part of the Earth. One of the most important Caribbean musical manifestations is the Garifuna rhythm that comes from the Garifuna culture, a culture that has its own language and particular dances and visions of life and death.

To know a culture we have to know its music.

The Garifuna culture is one of the most important cultural expressions in Belize and in other Central American countries, such as Honduras, Guatemala (Livingston) and Nicaragua. In 2001, UNESCO proclaimed the language, dance and music of the Garifuna people as a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in Nicaragua, Honduras and, obviously, in Belize. The Garifuna culture is a rich hybrid of West African, Amerindian and European traditions. The African name for Garifuna is *Garinagu*, as they use to call themselves. The Garifuna people maintain a deep ethnic unity and are matriarchal. The Garifuna culture is very strong with great emphasis on music, dance and storytelling. Storytellers are called *urugas*.

Garifuna is an Arawakan language derived primarily from Arawak and Carib mixed with English, French and Spanish. One interesting feature of this language is that some terms are used only by men and others only by women. The terms used by men generally come from Carib and those used by women come from Arawak.

Today, the majority of Garifuna are Catholic although many people retain their traditional beliefs as well (syncretism). A shaman (*buyei*) is the head of all Garifuna traditional practices. The traditional religion practiced by Garifuna is similar to voodoo rituals.

Music is an important element in the Garifuna culture and we find it in all the celebrations and rituals. One of the most important days in the annual calendar of Garifuna culture is the *Achuluruni*, the *Arrival*. It is the annual re-enactment of the historical arrival of Garinagu to Belize in 1823 from Honduras.

Every year on the 19th of November, the Garifuna people celebrate National Settlement Day. In Dangriga, not so far from Belize City, this day is celebrated with all the traditional liturgies and many women and men come from all over the country on that day to visit this city near the sea.

Proyecto Ja'ab also visited Dangriga on November 19th and presents photos to all our readers in order to involve all of you in this magnificent expression of joy, life and respect for one's own roots.

Garifuna music is quite different from the rest of Central American music. The most famous musical style is *Punta*. When people dance *Punta* they move their hips in a circular motion. *Punta* suffered a modernization and electrification process in the 1970's and now is known as *Punta rock*. *Punta* is the most popular dance in Garifuna culture. *Punta* lyrics are usually composed by women. Drums play a very important role in Garifuna music. In contemporary Belize there has been a resurgence of Garifuna music thanks to musicians like Andy Palacio, Mohobub Flores and Adrian Martinez.

Today, the Garifuna live primarily in Central America, but there are a lot of diaspora communities, mostly in the United States. In recent history, Garifuna have thrown off their British appellation and encourage others to refer to them as Garifuna or *Garinagu*.

BELIZE



BLAFFERTY 2000



AWANSE WAMÁ
LIDAN ABAN LAU
LAREINI BUNGIU
LUMA
HABAYARAHAN
ÁHARI

Let us progress in
unity with God's
goodness and the
protection of
our ancestors





RUNNING TIDE
SC-04 02

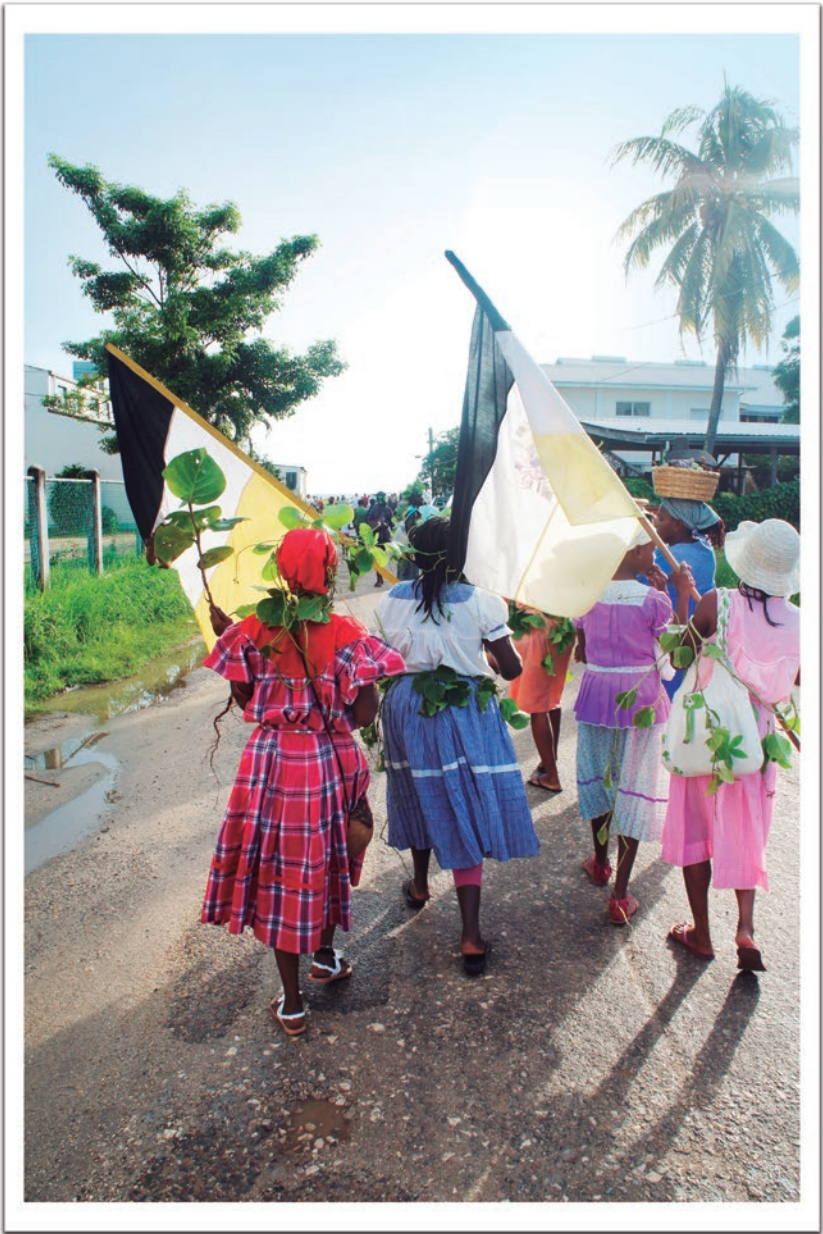








































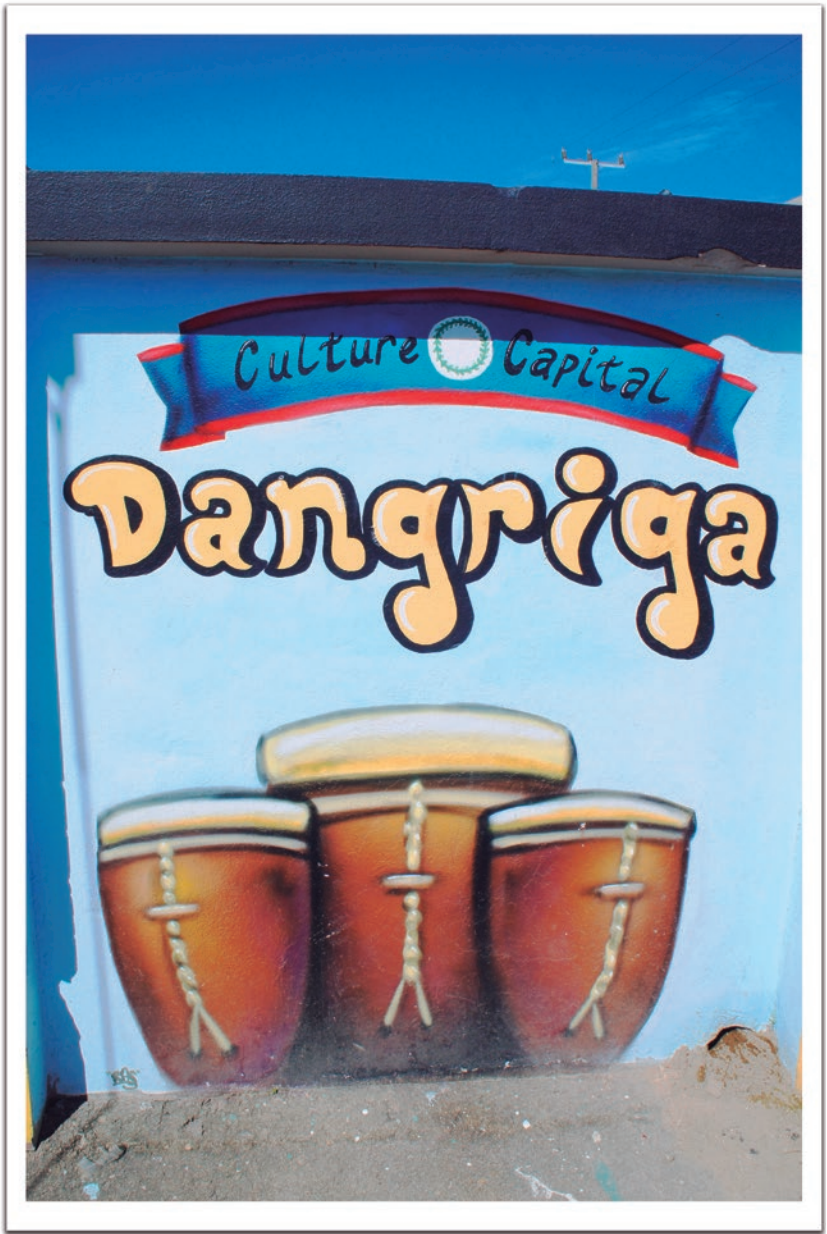




Carifuna Folklor

Sharing & Present









f

p

Belizean rhythms

Young musicians
in the Samuel
Haynes Institute
of Excellence.



The Samuel
Haynes Institute
of Excellence joins
youth with music.





The Caribbean area is famous around the world because of its musical diversity.



Proyecto Ja'ab in the National Settlement Day in Dangriga (19th of November 2013).

The novel *Ja'ab*,
written by Joan
Serra Montagut,
is the base of
this adventure.



Graphic designers
of Proyecto Ja'ab
(Universidad
Modelo) in Mérida
(Yucatán, México).





The aim of Proyecto Ja'ab is to revitalize the public libraries in the five countries that conform the Maya area.



Some of Proyecto Ja'ab participants in FILEY (Yucatán Book Fair).



WALKING TOGETHER

In this section of the route, Proyecto Ja'ab was supported by Programa Iberoamericano de Bibliotecas Públicas (Iberbibliotecas) which aims to consolidate Espacio Cultural Iberoamericano so as to reaffirm the social function of public libraries and promote free and open access to reading and information for all citizens without discrimination. This will be achieved through the creation of an Ibero-American cooperation network among public libraries that will generate synergies and enhance resources for the common benefit of all the countries attached to this Program.

Proyecto Ja'ab's proposal was selected for the first edition of Iberbibliotecas Program from among 143 initial proposals that had been sent from Brazil, Colombia, Chile and México, countries that in 2013 were members of the Iberbibliotecas Committee. The call for proposals was broken down into 7 categories and Proyecto Ja'ab was selected in the fifth one (support to projects of public libraries that facilitate the knowledge and circulation of regional cultural production).

The financing proposal of Proyecto Ja'ab to the Iberbibliotecas Program was made with the Design School of Universidad Modelo (Yucatán, México), which has been very supportive throughout the process of preparation of the collection.

The Technical Secretariat of the Iberbibliotecas Program corresponds to Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe (CERLALC-UNESCO), located in Bogotá (Colombia). Iberbibliotecas is an initiative of Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB).



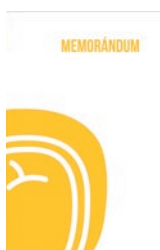
MÉRIDA, AN URBAN EDITING PLATFORM

One of the most important periods of our adventure has been the creation of an urban editing platform in Mérida (Yucatán, México) formed with ten universities from this city through the collaboration of their pupils, as ten fingers in two constructive and firm hands that have converted all the editorial material into a non-precedented collection.

This genuine effort has been led by ten pupils from Graphic Design Studies of Design School in Universidad Modelo. The experience has also counted on the participation of Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana (UTM) through Digital Design and Animation Area pupils and Universidad Marista, which has contributed through the participation of its Reading Club members and students from the Graphic Design Studies.

Other universities that have been part of our editing platform have been Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY, Latin American Literature Studies, Social Communication Studies, Architecture Studies and Mathematics Studies), Centro Peninsular en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales of Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (CEPHCIS-UNAM, Development and Intercultural Management Studies), Escuela Superior de Artes de Yucatán (ESAY, Visual Arts Studies), Universidad del Valle de México (UVM, Architecture Studies), Universidad Mesoamericana de San Agustín (UMSA, Design and Visual Communication), Universidad Interamericana de Desarrollo (UNID, Communication Studies) and Centro Universitario Felipe Carrillo Puerto (Management and Promotion of Culture and Arts).

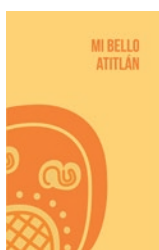




MEMORÁNDUM
San Salvador
(El Salvador)
Historical memory



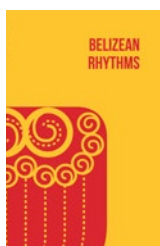
EL RENACIMIENTO
Copán Ruinas
(Honduras)
Heritage



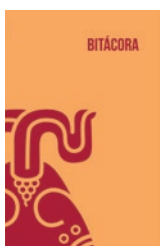
MI BELLO ATITLÁN
Santiago Atitlán
(Guatemala)
Faith and spirituality



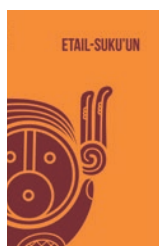
PATOJOS Y PATOJAS
DE JOCOTENANGO
Antigua (Guatemala)
Youth activism



BELIZEAN
RHYTHMS
Belize City (Belize)
Music



BITÁCORA
Tulum
(México)
Art



ETAIL-SUKU'UN
Cancún
(México)
Identity



LA SEMÁNTICA
INTERCULTURAL
Valladolid (México)
Mother tongues



(i) RAÍCES (?)
Maní
(México)
Cultural roots



SOMOS
Mérida
(México)
Women



AHÍ DONDE SE
QUIEBRA LA PIEDRA
Campeche (México)
Literature



RADIOGRAFÍAS
San Cristóbal de Las
Casas (México)
Elderly

mos

SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. is born from the revolutionary power
of literature,
from the community,
from the group and the agreement,
from respect and collaboration,
from diversity and pluralism,
from exchange and dialogue,
from identity reflection,
from freedom,
from illusion;

from the word and the silence,
from the memories,
from democracy and equality,
from creativity and imagination,
from enthusiastic and idealistic participation,
from our humanity,
from the heart of the planet,
from the ground,
from the root;

from collective research to answer eternal questions,
from society and the contact between societies,
from talent and truth,
from constructive commentaries,
from the importance of promoting reading,
from the duty to build a more cultural society,
from the opportunity to design a new world with
a lot of possibilities.

**SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. was born the 21st of May 2014 in Mérida
(Yucatán, México) during the celebration of the World Day for Cultural
Diversity for Dialogue and Development.**

www.someditorialcolectiva.org

EX LIBRIS

VIII

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IX

III

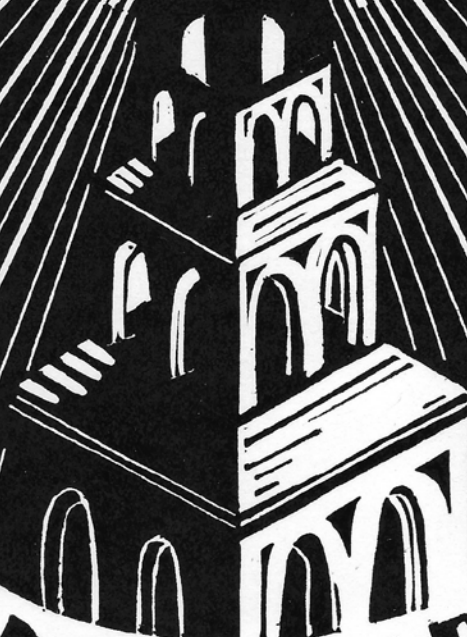
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EDITORIAL
COLECTIVA



SOM Editorial Colectiva is a non-profit association created in Mérida (Yucatán, Mexico) on May 21 (2014), the World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. It was initially founded to publish the 12 books of Proyecto Ja'ab and later promoted other participatory literature projects inspired or activated by the methodology in which we are specialized: collective writing.

In Catalan SOM means *we are* and the name of the institution alludes to the feeling and essence of the literary project based on identity and community and also alludes to the origins of the founder of SOM Editorial Colectiva who is Joan Serra Montagut, a writer and cultural manager born in Barcelona in 1986 and naturalized in México after arriving in his second home in May 2011. In all these years, his work as a literary creator has been indivisible from his social commitment to create platforms permitting other people express themselves and strengthening their literary voices. Through SOM Editorial Colectiva and the coordination of Proyecto Ja'ab Joan Serra Montagut won the National Youth Award in his native country in the category of Intercultural Communication. Proyecto Ja'ab, totally horizontal and independent, has also won several international and regional awards and recognitions in México, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia, among others, and has participated in conferences on peacebuilding and youth activism in India and Colombia, among others. The bookplate of our association that you can see on the left is made by the artist Manolo Taure.

We love what we do. We love hearing stories. We love promoting them, collecting them and disseminating them. We love to reclaim the voice of all the peripheries, to make it heard. We love collective writing, which is our particular piece of sand to transform the world through living memory that is woven in the creation groups that we promote, where the roots, dreams, identities and mirrors of all times that inhabit us intertwine. To consult other titles promoted and published by SOM Editorial Colectiva as well as to find out more information about our association, you only have to consult our website (www.someditorialcolectiva.org).

Proyecto Ja'ab of reading and writing promotion is a collective dream carried out during the first year of the New Era (2013).

Together we opened the cosmic calendar and the cycle that must take humanity to a period of light, equality, social and historical justice, freedom, independence, wisdom and culture.

*Reading will make us free, strong,
firm and leaders.*

SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. is grateful to institutions from all over the world, regional and national ones too, for their support, among them PEN International and PEN México, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO-MGIEP), Build Peace, MiSK Foundation, Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB), Organismo Internacional de Juventud para Iberoamérica (OIJ), Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe (CERLALC-UNESCO), Instituto Iberoamericano del Patrimonio Natural y Cultural de la Organización Convenio Andrés Bello (IPANC-CAB), SM Foundation, IBBY México, the General Directorate of Libraries from the Ministry of Culture of the Mexican Government or Fons Català de Cooperació per al Desenvolupament.

Proyecto Ja'ab, through its creative adventure in Belize City and other Belizean territories, is grateful to the Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence, the staff of the Mexican Consulate in Belize City (especially to Domingo Rodríguez Semerena), to the staff of the library of the Lake Independence District and to cultural institutions that work, in Dangriga and in general in the Garifuna region, to preserve the basis of this culture. Proyecto Ja'ab is also grateful to all the people that, from the islands and from the cayes, have helped Proyecto Ja'ab to produce this book.



BELIZEAN RHYTHMS
was printed in December 2015

The editing and revision of the digital version of the book was finished in three different phases: the first with the support of Arbee Farid Antonio Chi, the second under the care of Alejandrina Garza de León and Adrián Ramos Garza and the third one with the collaboration of Bárbara Angélica Guerrero Palacios (the three phases were coordinated by Joan Serra Montagut).

Grupo Impresor Unicornio S.A. de C.V.
printed 1,000 books

Made in Belize City, Caye Ambergris, Caye Caulker and Dangriga; Belize
Edited in Mérida, México
Printed in Mérida, México

contacto@someditorialcolectiva.org

The printed version was distributed by the General Directorate of Libraries from the Ministry of Culture of the Mexican Government (850 public libraries) and by SOM Editorial Colectiva (150 cultural and educational spaces of reading promotion).

The digital version can be read and downloaded from our website
(www.someditorialcolectiva.org).

With its experience in Belize City (Belize), this collective edition of Proyecto Ja'ab, which promotes reading and writing in the Maya area, thinks about the importance of music in human life. Through BELIZEAN RHYTHMS the reader can travel throughout this Caribbean country and its musical soul. Proyecto Ja'ab is an initiative of SOM Editorial Colectiva A.C. coordinated by Joan Serra Montagut. We hug all the people that have created this dream and make up the Ja'ab family and all the people that will read this book. Join us in our literary journey that has no precedent, which ties twelve cities from five different countries through a unique collection. Together we will build the New Era.



PROYECTO
JA'AB

A book created by



EDITORIAL
COLECTIVA

