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Ya Maka My Weekend – A 20-Year Reggae Celebration!

The District proudly presents the 20th Annual Ya Maka My Weekend Festival on Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13, 2011. The festival starts at 5 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday. Ya Maka My Weekend features two days of reggae, steel drums, and tropical music on two stages. Enjoy authentic Caribbean food and visit the open air merchants. The addition of palm trees, tiki torches, sand and some cold Red Stripe, and you will feel like you are on a tropical island! Ya Maka My Weekend – It's Reggae in The District!

Ya Maka My Weekend will be held on the Great River Plaza, 2nd Avenue between 17th & 19th Streets, in downtown Rock Island, IL. Admission is \$8 for a one-day pass, \$12 for a two-day pass and children 12 and under are free. For more information visit www.ridistrict.com and www.yamakamyweekend.com or call 309.788.6311.

Reggae, Steel Drums, and Tropical Music

Jamaica is in the heart of the Caribbean and is known as a country of relaxation and individuality, and innovative music has always been the norm. Reggae grew out of several musical styles, including traditional Jamaican music, Ska and R&B and is characterized by a heavy back-beat that reflects the beating of the heart.

11 bands will perform on two stages at this year's festival, and will feature a variety of musical styles with influences from around the world. Three of the bands represent the future of Reggae music in the Quad Cities. Each are locally based with most members being under the age of 21. FireSale and The Steel Panthers will be making their debut appearance at Ya Maka My Weekend. Returning after their debut at last year's Ya Maka My Weekend is The Fiyah. In addition, members of The Fiyah were involved in creating the 2011 Ya Maka My Weekend poster and commemorative t-shirts.

Expect a memorable performance from Pato Banton & The Now Generation, who will return to finish what they started last year. Due to threatening weather and a spectacular display of lightning, their set was cut short just as it started. We are delighted that they will be back to take the stage again on Friday night!

New this year are Inner Visions, Niabinge and Kenyatta Hill - son of the late Joseph Hill, singer and songwriter for the Jamaican vocal trio, Culture.

Returning favorites include DeHurricane, Zion Lion, Universal Xpression, Yard Squad, and Ifficial Reggae Band. Each has a unique style and positive vibration that will be sure to entertain.

For more information on each of the bands, visit www.yamakamyweekend.com/bands .

More...

Friday, August 12

Jumer's Casino & Hotel Stage

6:00 - 7:30	Yard Squad
8:15 - 9:45	Kenyatta Hill with Yard Squad
10:30 – 12:30	Pato Banton and the Now Generation Band

Plaza Stage

5:00 - 6:30	De Hurricane
7:15 - 8:45	Zion Lion
9:30 - 12:30	Universal Xpression

Saturday, August 13

Jumer's Casino & Hotel Stage

1:15 – 3:45	The Fiyah
4:30 – 7:00	Universal Xpression
7:45 – 10:15	Zion Lion
11:00 – 12:30	Inner Visions

Plaza Stage

12:30 – 3:00	FireSale
3:45 - 6:15	DeHurricane
7:00 – 9:30	Ifficial
10:15 – 12:30	Niabinge

The Steel Panthers – in Arts Alley from 5:30pm – 6pm - Saturday only

Caribbean Food and Culture

Live palm trees, The Pirates of The District, island décor and the return of the sand volleyball tournament will help turn downtown Rock Island into a Caribbean island getaway.

Caribbean cuisine is a fusion of African, French, Indian, Spanish, and other cuisines. A typical dish is “jerk” seasoned meats, which originally referred to the process of rubbing spices and acidic hot peppers onto strips of meat in order to tenderize and preserve them. Rice is a staple food eaten with various sauces and beans.

Four Caribbean-style food vendors will be at the event. Jamaican Jerk Hut , Caribbean Kitchen, and Hot Spot Island Cuisine, and will return with specialty Caribbean dishes, including jerk chicken, jerk pork, jerk wings, Jamaican meat pies, fish tacos, crab cakes, coconut shrimp, red beans & rice, rasta lemonade, and Jamaican sodas. Many other styles of food will be offered as well, to appeal to those with less adventurous tastes.

Shopping at the various merchandise vendors you will find a variety of unique items including tie dye clothing, sarongs and other apparel, cowry shell and hand-crafted jewelry, incense & oils, wood carvings, drums, African wares, and sunglasses. Official Ya Maka My Weekend commemorative t-shirts will be available in black or white and sold for \$15.

More...

Sand Volleyball Tournament Returns

Sand volleyball makes its return as a featured activity of Ya Maka My Weekend! Court Ratz Volleyball will be organizing the professional competition with over 200 players from across the country. The players, with various levels of expertise, will compete for over \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Any groups still interested in playing can register online at <http://www.courtratzvolleyball.com> , before August 8, 2011. Adults and children can compete in non-volleyball related games such as bags, ladder golf, an Xbox Kinect sand volleyball tournament, and more. Come play at "the beach" in The District! For more information contact Dawn Steinhauser at 562.572.9140 or email at dawn@courtratzvolleyball.com .

Ya Maka My Weekend is sponsored by Jumer's Casino & Hotel, Euclid Beverage, Red Stripe Beer, Valley Construction, Earth Works, Builders Sand & Cement Co., Guitar Center, County Waste, Holiday Inn Rock Island, CBS4, Dispatch - Argus, B100, 97X, Rock 104.9, Star 93.5, dphilms Imaging, Quad City International Airport, River Cities Reader, and Rexroat Sound.

The Downtown Rock Island Arts & Entertainment District (The District) is a 501(c)6 not-for-profit organization established in 1992 by local downtown merchants. The District's mission is to establish and manage downtown Rock Island as a creative and innovative experience by focusing on the development of the arts and quality special event management. It features retail shops, excellent restaurants, live entertainment, dinner theater, art galleries and several entertainment venues. Rock Island is located on the Mississippi River, three hours west of Chicago in the Quad-Cities, along the Illinois/Iowa border. It is at the intersection of Interstate highways 74, 88 and 80 and is served by Quad City International Airport in Moline, IL.

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