



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday June 15th , 2012

JSIF/UTECH ARTS PROJECT INSPIRES YOUTH

21 students from 10 inner city communities completed a yearlong training programme in the visual and performing arts at the University Of Technology Center of the Arts.

This programme falls under the Alternative Livelihood subcomponent of the Inner City Basic Services Programme (ICBSP) of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) which is geared towards providing livelihoods and skills development opportunities for vulnerable youth from communities covering four parishes.

Speaking at yesterday's ceremony Mona Sue-Ho JSIF's Social Development Manager expressed that many of the students had excelled and in so doing four were invited to perform abroad and have participated in auditions for the World Championships of Performing Arts scheduled for July 6-15, 2012 in California, USA.

Other achievements outlined include two of the drumming students selected to perform in the Olympic Ceremony to be held in Jamaica on June 28, 2012 along with professional groups including Kingston Drummers, and La'Cadco Drummers.

Guest Speaker at the Ceremony Hon. Damion Crawford stated that he could identify with the graduates because he was from a similar background. However he charged that by engaging in this training they were making the effort to advance themselves.

The project has been facilitated under the World Bank funded Inner City Basic Services Project to the tune of Jamaican \$\$1,603,400.00 with the community/ sponsor contributing \$669,000.00 to this endeavor.

Janice Lindsay Director, Center for the Arts UTECH in giving the overview at the ceremony stated that they had created a model with this project.

JSIF's Youth Engagement Programme assists at-risk youth in inner-city communities with short-term employment through legitimate alternatives, skills development, and various income-generating activities. The 12 targeted communities are located in Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. James.

Caption 1: Graduates from the JSIF/ UTECH training programme in the visual and performing arts programme perform an experimental skit "State of Mind" June 14th at the UTECH.

Caption 2: Dwight Guthrie graduate from the JSIF/ UTECH training programme in the visual and performing arts programme presents his painting to Hon. Damion Crawford, MP Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment.

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