



Final Report on
MARTINI Project

(MARTINI – Making and remaking Things That Inspire the imagination)

For the Community Initiatives Program -Projects



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Executive Director, Caribbean Women Network
August, 2020

About a dozen or so of us came together on a cold day in February 2019 for CWN's book Club discussion on "To Kill A Mockingbird", and to also receive then Minister of Education (AB Gov't.), the Honourable Marlin Scmidt. The Minister presented us a cheque for a Grant of \$20,000.00 to help us with the MARTINI Project. He spent some time with us as we all introduced ourselves and the Association and of course he asked, "What is the MARTINI Project?" After a light-hearted moment of chatter about cocktails in glasses, we explained elements of the up-cycling project and that MARTINI stood for **Making and Remaking Things that Inspire the Imagination.**



This was the start of a special journey of learning and doing things together that helped those of us who participated, and importantly, the organization and our community at large. MARTINI was CWN's first step investing in the creation of new products from "old" or used items of fabric, wood, beads, wire, jewellery, and other types of materials. A major component of the project was also the design and creation of imaginative costumes for participation in CARIWEST –Edmonton's annual Caribbean festival. The entire project had as its aims, a level of learning for participants; of advancing leadership within the project to build individual and organizational capacities; of sharing and connecting with others in hearts and minds while encouraging up-cycling habits that would help in the ecological challenges the world faces today. **Gail Rambaran**, who took time from her very busy schedule of doctors' appointments with her ailing husband, and other household workload said this:

The MARTINI PROJECT could not have come at a better time! I was under a lot of stress with my husband who had to go to the U of A daily for treatment. My sister brought me to be part of the project and the fellowship and the camaraderie we shared during that time was enough to support me and keep me going!

The MARTINI Project as with other CWN's activities - with its participatory approach to community development, provided space and time for this participant to experience an immediate "healing" benefit from the social connections and supports she received.

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Getting It started, getting it done

CWN operates out of a small community room tucked away at the back of an office complex in Edmonton's south-east (not far from Capilano Mall). From projects and activities done, we knew it would be an appropriate space for effective social networking, to manage and execute most parts of the project. Starting in March, meetings were called via e mail, telephone, word of mouth, and postings of flyers etc. to recruit participants and let the community know about the project. Staff was hired and Board members took on lead roles for different components. Although there were 3 noticeable parts to the project, some activities overlapped with each other during the course of the year.

Introductory Meetings, Preparation for and Orientation to Project:

Carried out in March and organized by Project staff. This involved speaking of the nature and objectives of project to potential participants; promoting the project; collecting used saris; purchasing equipment and supplies; and other tasks.

Sari Up-cycling: April- June- this component was led by **Lydia Boodram** with staff help and 12 participants. Created schedule for: learning sewing machines; cutting workshops; designing pieces, stitching and finishing seams etc. Also ensured all in place for special event , training the models etc.

CARIWEST Participation - May- August – This component was led by **Cheryl Sheridan** with staff help and a contracted costume designer. Work in this component included selection of fabric; recruiting mas players; measuring all participants for costume fitting; stitching, gluing, bending wire, encouraging volunteers; and so much more.

MARTINI Mondays – focussed on re- purposing old frames & flowers; repairing jewelry; creating a rag rug with scraps of saris re-furbishing old tables; embroidering tea towels; and repainting and decorating used diyas (earthen lamps). **Ten Mondays** were held through the year and ended in the early 2020 when participants from the Worker Bs project joined in some of its activities.CWN staff led this segment.

Who got Involved: Women, children and men of different generations, ages and decades - from their first decade to their 9th they all learnt from and enjoyed in MARTINI. The **Sari-up-cycling sessions** and **MARTINI Mondays** were all female participants while CARIWEST was a mixed gender program.

Right: 5-year old **Caliana Sheridan** ready tfor the Parade in her costume. Cali is one of our regulars and one of our youngest too!



Jay Negi at MARTINI Mondays. **At 84**, Jay is still active in CWN's book club and Parang Christmas events, our summer Garden Visits, and picnics. Jay gave much of her old jewellery to MARTINI Mondays



Left: Peter Sheridan and Seeley Samaroo, work on the "Queen of the Band" costume off-site in Peter's back yard.

At Right: On-site at CWN, Mike Boodram and Shafeek Ali enjoy doing finishing touches to hats.



"The many hours spent during late evening and late at night, usually after a regular day's work, are done with great joy." Shafeek Ali

Meeting CWN’s strategic goals related to diversity, community, inclusivity, while growing the organization’s capacity

In the Caribbean women Network’s 3-year Strategic Plan-2016-2019, one of its listed goals is to create/develop programs that address social needs, learning interests and enjoyment. It also cites planning members’ thoughts of CWN’s role in maintaining efforts on the issue of social inclusion for newcomers and building on interculturalism as part of the society’s vision.

Pearl Bennett, CWN’s part-time Executive Director is the person entrusted to ensure the goals of CWN are met. As administrator of all CWN’s projects, Pearl was the person responsible for the overall supervision of MARTINI, while also ensuring CWN optimizes its resources and efforts among all its projects. Pearl says of MARTINI:

“...the project (MARTINI) with its focus on the experiential learning of Edmonton’s and the global issue of reducing waste, the Caribbean community’s desire to share its diverse cultural heritages, and the room the project had to provide supports and enjoyment to participants, all help to fulfill the organization’s vision related to diversity, community and inclusivity.”

In all three components of the MARTINI Project, we not only had younger and older, male and female participants, but we ensured participation was open to all who were interested. Drawing from Edmonton’s population mosaic, and other of CWN’s programs, we were able to recruit participants from Indian, Syrian, African, Ukrainian, Latino newcomers, so-called folks from the “mainstream”, and people from the LGBTQ community. MARTINI thus increased CWN’s abilities in project management, and in community and diversity building.



“...we try to share with our children and grandchildren in the hope of passing on some very deeply ingrained caribbean values...” **Antoinette**

Left: Mother and Daughter: Antoinette does just that with daughter Jo.



And Here : **Grandmother & Grandson** - Christopher Phillips & Frances Small do the same as they enjoy each other and the show

Group Photo Below: At a final Celebration –Caribbean women practise inclusivity as they join Syrian women in hijabs



Getting ready for the road and some fun- Just a small section of CWN’s mas costumes featuring young, older, younger, men, women, and other diverse

Tackling waste while honouring a cultural heritage, and helping newcomers

Saris in the Caribbean are cultural attire, worn- for special occasions like weddings, *matikors* (night before wedding celebrations), or at *Diwali* – the Hindu Festival of a Thousand Lights. It used to be that only “Indian” women wore them, but in the last few decades, since *Diwali* became a national holiday in Trinidad and Tobago, women of African descent as well as from other cultural groups also wear them. It was therefore natural for the Caribbean Women Network to undertake the conversion of saris into *stylish items of beauty* that maintains the Indian aesthetic. Sourced from women in Edmonton’s Indo-Canadian community – friends of CWN, members and staff, we were able to get donated, enough saris and *chunnis* (long scarves)-silks, chiffons, cottons, polyester, rayon and other blends. The project not only served to tackle the problem of waste (and participants ensured there was practically zero wastage of the beautiful textiles we worked with), MARTINI’s up-cycling saris module had the added value of carrying

The special event – modelling show was a thrill for “first-time *older models*” as they learnt from an experienced model how to walk the runway to music. Everyone loved it and even our reticent Syrian participant (**Basma**) was encouraged to join in as long as “*Pearl comes with me.*” So Pearl did, and Basma’s verdict? “**it was amazing!**” Basma had learnt to use that word from her young daughter Noor who was not at all shy to do the modelling herself-see below. Basma’s and Pearl’s pieces were cut from the same sari and a cutting demonstration from an expert in the room helped them ensure the borders worked for both outfits. Community experiences like this make newcomers to Canada become comfortable and more self-confident as they build their new lives here, and as a newcomer to Canada, Basma grew a little, and learnt some from the MARTINI experience.

Basma and Pearl –in their polyester blended chiffon pieces. It is often necessary to hold a newcomer’s hand so she/ begins to feel at ease.



Right: **Lisa Zhu** models a cotton skirt while young **Noor Al Zouabe** practices her moves for the red carpet runway



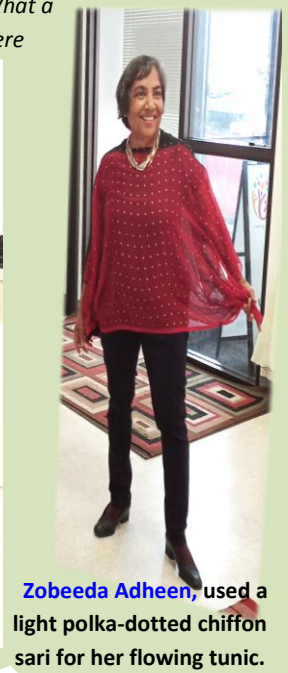
Left: **Cheryl Sheridan** stylish in the piece she made from a large piece of batiked silk.

Below: **Gail Ramabara** used a sequined cream/mustard polyester/rayon blend sari for her tunic

Right: **Asma Burney**- stunning in the 2-piece cotton outfit from a curry- stained sari. Her scarf was made from a fragment of silken batik



Antoinette Alleyne-in black silk with gold threads interwoven for the border. What a job it was aligning the gold to be where she needed them,



Zobeeda Adheen, used a light polka-dotted chiffon sari for her flowing tunic.

Lydia Boodram- Expert at collaborating, smiling, chatting, stitching.... but also very importantly –successful at learning!

The **MARTINI's Sari-Up-Cycling** appears to have been “tailor-made” for Lydia. From her early life in Trinidad, Lydia became interested in sewing. She started learning to sew at the Archibald Institute - a kind of finishing school for girls at the time. Later on, in Canada took a short course on *Sewing with Patterns* and from there Lydia became more self-taught than “trained”, while staying at home creating a warm and comfortable home for her son, family and friends.

Although a fairly “new active member” of CWN, Lydia accepted the role of leading the Up-cycling Sari module because, she said **“I love sewing and I love doing things with people.”** Her skill with the sewing machine was clear to all of us and she understood that working as a team was key to the project's success. Lydia has no problems sharing what she knows, and helped us all succeed at our individual learning levels.



Above: Lydia models a two piece outfit she made for herself. She used a paisley patterned cotton sari. She chose a cotton fabric because she found it easier to work with the cottons than with the “fine materials.”

When asked, what she learnt above all else, Lydia replied: **“We must all learn to really make use of what we have.**



“The MARTINI project really allowed me to show what I and what everybody could do. I was very proud to be able to help and be part of the time together and to learn more about re-cycling. I wouldn't have thought of using my saris this way, but now I will.”

Lydia

Purposeful activity; Team building; Marketing the products

Everyone enjoyed this project from feed-back received. Part of it was because of the fact that the activity was purposeful and the collaborative leadership that evolved during the process- many people taking on parts of lead roles. For **Antoinette Alleyne,** *“the regular weekly scheduling provided opportunity for her, now retired from employment, to keep involved in a meaningful activity, while learning skills we can all use in our personal lives.”*

Cheryl Sheridan, marveled at *“the commitment of the participants coming together week after week to complete the projects they started. We all made a huge effort to work as a team ”.* This meant not just for the more complicated dress-making to the smaller gift pouches a few of us worked on as well.



These pouches, made from old *chunnis* or scarves, were meant to be gifted to mothers at our annual **Mother's Day Tea.** However due to cancellations, we were unable to do so. We did manage to sell some of them along with a few other items made and donated at a **Farmer' Market Day.** The Downtown Farmers Market gave us a spot without fee, and we thank them for that.



Contribution and Culture: The production of a Mas

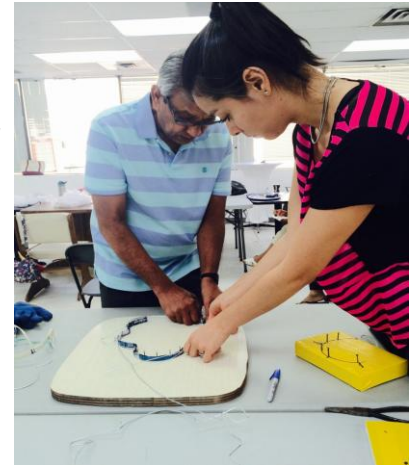
A 2010 UN Resolution says, that culture is “an essential component of human development, a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community”. For people who come from the Caribbean, CARIWEST is such a cultural vehicle for the community in Edmonton, Alberta. It is why participation in this festival, rooted historically in the emancipation of the slaves, and with its emphasis on the imagination and the creativity of individuals, was included as an integral part of the MARTINI Project. Speaking to the impact of the project, and what he and other male members think, **Shaffeeq Ali provided this comment:**

“ CWN participation with Cariwest brings together its members to learn and share their knowledge while building Mas' costumes and showcasing the production in the street parade. Costume building is one of the many activities where the members share their talents with each other and at the same time learn new Mas' making skills. In addition, the Mas' camp provides an environment where the members share food, music and a time to reminisce.”



Newcomer from Mexico Cindy Stemo finds work and a place at CWN as she learns the tricks of the trade building CARIWEST costumes from a practised mas maker- Desmond Edwards in a one-on one workshop.

Building the costumes for Cariwest took months. The captivating costumes worn by the **King and Queen of the Band** and seen in the parade was very complicated to make and took not only design and construction skills and materials but artistic flourishes and finishing touches. For these touches we needed beads, rhinestones, jewels feathers of different shapes, sizes and colours. **And lots of hot glue, Lots of it!**



Here Cindy and Mike team up to figure out the shape of head pieces



Gail and Simon Rambaran do some detailing work on the Queen's costume. Gail said: “my husband got so involved, it was a great distraction from the pain he was experiencing!

Materials were sourced from a discarded bin outside a warehouse and of course from members' garages where wire, wood, car board screws and other supplies were swiped for use. Fabric and other new materials were purchased from local stores but some was purchased in Trinidad and brought over for CWN by members who had gone to visit family there- **Cheryl and Peter Sheridan**. They took on lead roles to construct the large pieces and they and with their volunteer team, spent many long hours into the nights “finishing the job” as **Cheryl** said.

*“But how satisfied we all felt though, when it was done,” Cheryl continued, “because we were sharing a part of our rich culture with the larger community. **Our culture is in our blood.** Being so far away from home makes us want to hold on to our memories and share with community, a bit of what makes us such ‘colourful’ people.”*



Robert Gopaul gets ready to start his day on the queen's costume

From the Mas Camp to Joy on Road: – the cultural experience of Playing Mas



Dylan Mohammed plays The Admiral -King of the Band which took 2nd prize, and be low, Molly Khan adjusts her piece- A Sailor's Delight



Playing Mas has been described by some as an “emotional and spiritual experience.” What we know is, it is a **whole lot of fun** and it’s infectious. **MARTINI got CWN as a new Band on the road –being on the road is important to the feeling of freedom (as those slaves would have felt when freed)** - with many first-time mas players! One such newbie had this to say:

I played mas for the first time with CWN's MARTINI Project as I was embedded in the band as official photographer. This way, I got to really observe and be a participant in the delightful carnival called the Cariwest. The music, the dancing while parading the streets of Edmonton and most of all the collective joy of all the players was nothing short of exhilarating. Being shy of nature myself, participating with hundreds of other people who came together in costumes and makeup was a totally new for me. However, it didn't take long for me to join in the dancing while photographing our band, and I too felt the elation! If I get the chance I will certainly play mas again! Asma Burney

At left: Asma poses with one of the Queens.



Happy times playing mas Below: Michael Phair and Reina Granados look beautiful together!



Here: A group of players “do their thing”

Brian Alleyne, after hard work in the cutting and gluing gang, enjoys his time



Cheryl, Peter and Pearl have a moment



A couple of VIPs in costume- Councillor Jon Dziadyk and then Federal Minister Amarjeet Sohi discuss the politics of mas?

Martini Mondays- smaller inclusive approaches result in efficiencies, effectiveness & conservation



One of the first workshops was facilitated by an artist experienced in various mediums –and she demonstrated the **art of patina** on wood frames to give them that *chic antique* look.

Left: Molly Collier intent on her finishing touches.

Below: Molly comments on the workshops she attended:

*“ Both the **Frame Restoration** and the **Jewellery Repair Workshops** very useful to me. I really enjoyed visiting with “old” friends and “new old friends” I met up. While working and visiting with them I learned a lot and was able to complete the repairs on a few pieces of my personal jewellery and frames. I enjoyed learning how to do frames in antique and modern styles, and I now use the frames for a photograph and an original painting of my own. I must say the workshops were fantastic and I applaud CWN and its staff for organizing them.”*
Molly Collier

In the photo at right, *Molly* shows great interest in the necklace **Nafeesa Mohammed** was repairing while **90-year - old Wendy Davis** enjoys the friendship, the chat and laughter we all shared during the sessions.



Left: Cindy, a contracted artist demonstrates how we can use old floral arrangements. She use one of Pearl’s 25-year old **ivy and rose topiary** to create a new design - *vines on a wrought iron wall.*



Nafeesa (showing the necklace, above) was happy to be a part of the activity. She said she found the workshop to be a *“fun experience and a wonderful way for me to re-make an existing piece of jewellery into something else- to transform one beautiful item into another. I was also able to repair another favourite piece that was broken.”*

The realization that human activities and the waste we produce have led the people across the globe to think of how to save the planet, and how to teach people to change their ways for the well-being of the world. MARTINI was a small start up project when it comes to recycling, and while it may not save the planet, saving the insignificant acts in the larger scheme of things, can make a difference. Participants are better motivated to reuse now, and by recycling the items we did, the amount of waste sent to landfill was reduced. Therefore, precious natural resources somewhere may have been conserved. AT CWN we are encouraged by these thoughts and the impact it had in the moment and its possibilities in the future.

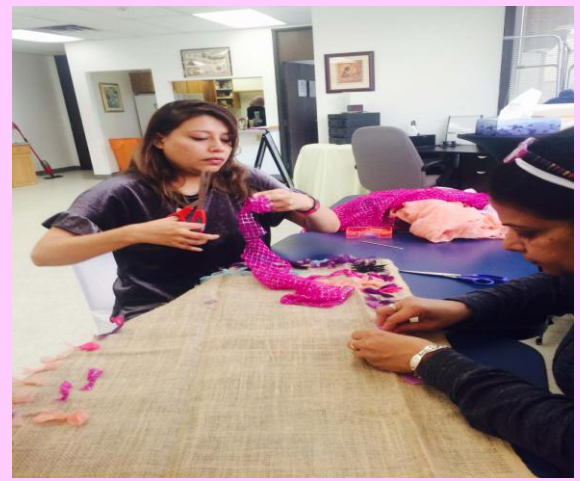
MARTINI Mondays were intentionally organized with a *low-intensity, more casual approach* to allow staff, the time to manage this component over the course of the year-long project. While one Monday afternoon a month was scheduled for workshops and instructions as needed, participants felt free to come in and do a bit of the rug-making, or the embroidering of tea towels, or other parts of their project/s as they wished. This component allowed staff to tap into other projects for both resource people and participants. The **Worker BS** participants were especially eager to use these sessions as part of **their team-building learning**. For example one Ukrainian participant, **Nataliia Ilnytska** was very enthusiastic to teach and share with all, her embroidering knowledge as she was excellent in this **“old art/craft”** form. Also **Sukhpreet Kaur** and Ruftana ____ who were brilliant at free-hand sketching, both worked with others in teams to outline the decorative patterns on the old tables that were being re-painted. In this way, as was the case with the Sari Up-cycling and Cariwest portions, CWN was able to complete the project **at a lower cost** than originally anticipated, while **effectively demonstrating the need for re-using and for minimizing wastage.**

MARTINI- providing a sense of belonging and a safe space to new immigrants and refugee women; preserving the beauty and skill of a traditional craft-making.

There is a developing thought on *the integration of minority newcomer women*, that the type of approaches - smaller scale ones in smaller agencies like CWN- helps to build **social capital of bonding, bridging, and linking** for women. Dr. Yvonne Chiu, Executive Director of the **Multicultural Health Brokers** writes: “Caribbean Women Network’s approach is thoughtfully done- *as the women come together, they create bonds of safety, mutual learning and a sense of belonging.*”

Irene Garcia, a new immigrant from Mexico, (seen in picture at right – above-working with a team member- cutting strips while the other weaves the strips into the burlap to make a rug) was spot on in the statement she wrote in a post activity questionnaire: “**This is a safe environment to share and become part of the community**” she said. Her words validated both what Dr. Chiu indicated above, and the E.D.’s decision to involve the women from Worker Bs in this section of MARTINI.

Raminder Dhindsa of Catholic Social Services- a Settlement Worker herself, echoed the same thought on CWN: “**For immigrant women, the small group sessions in the project provide a learning and supportive place and brought a feeling of belongingness that is hard to find.....**” Both Dr. Chiu and Mrs. Dhindsa, experts in the area of newcomer women’s work, speak of the need for newcomer women to find a place to belong to. MARTINI and CWN’s space itself seemed to have filled that need for the women, even for a short term. Nineteen(19) new immigrant and refugee women participated in this segment.



Mahlet and Ruftana (two Ethiopians) bond in conversation while Nataliia (from the Ukraine) and Kamaljeet (from India) prime the table

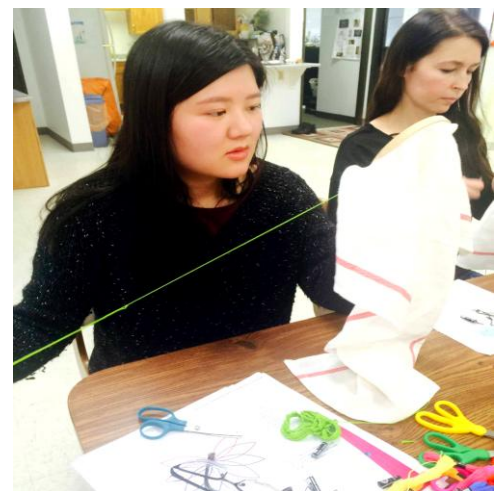
100% of the women surveyed either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the activities helped them learn how to work successfully with other and to build good relationships with each other.



Above: Sukhpreet paints diyas. “I like coming here [CWN] because everyone is nice and helping makes me feel happy and I feel better myself.” – Sukhpreet

“I think finding a place where we can receive support is important and we can share that with others and become friends with each other.” Irene Garcia

Preserving an “old art” with just a needle, a bit of thread and piece of cloth – the embroidered tea towels (see back page) were done as part of the project for CWN to use as gifts to special volunteers. Those of us who worked on this activity, all got to practice something our mothers taught us.



Laura Zhu, Project Staff said this: Participating in different things like painting tables, embroidery workshops, and rug-making allowed us to work together and build a rapport during a relaxed activity, while making or renewing an item. The embroidery workshops in particular allowed a few of us to get to know each other better and share our thoughts, while improving our skills.

Concluding Comment

Bringing people together in beneficial ways – to do and learn while doing – is part of that collaborative process that can lead us to solutions of issues that affect us. MARTINI though small in scope has been successful in getting women (and men) engaged not only to decrease waste as part of the world’s challenge, and learning about the importance of this issue to the planet, but in the process, we connected with seniors, home-makers, newcomers and others. This year-long project kept us at CWN very busy, but happily so. From the report, people really liked working on MARTINI- whether it was on the *Sari Up-cycling* piece, *CARIWEST*, or *MARTINI Mondays*, participants and volunteers used only positive words- *enjoy, joy, stimulating, opportunity to interact, thrilling, exhilarating* etc. in their feed-back to us. While women were the driving force behind the project, men were not sidelined, as they are often needed to provide their own brand of know-how. We serve **women, their families and their friends**. *Men are an integral part of women’s families that nourish and sustain them.* **Shafeek Ali**, an active male member, spoke of his involvement with CWN this way:

CWN (in general) provides excellent educational opportunities for members to learn various aspects of Caribbean arts and culture. Although a women's group, the male members enjoy being part of the CWN membership and at times provide some of the special skills and expertise they may need for their special projects. As a member myself, I have learnt a lot and participate as opportunity arises”

In this report, we have shown how the project benefitted individuals, families and the community at large. Through land-fill reduction and CARIWEST, **we feel the MARTINI Project has contributed in helping Edmonton to live up for what it’s known to be- most sustainable city in Canada, and Festival City!**

We learnt through MARTINI , that as a smaller grassroots women’s organization, CWN can play an essential role in supporting the integration of immigrant and refugee women. During the small group activities- painting tables, diyas, embroidery, etc, insider/outsider differences between participants and staff became blurred and so it was easier to close any distances. The women were at ease in CWN’s setting. **Sherifah Buhari Oke**, a brand new immigrant from Nigeria told us at the end of the Worker Bs project - MARTINI included women from this project for their team work learning:

“it wouldn’t have been this lovely without the efforts and passion displayed by the amiable Executive Director, Pearl and Laura, myself and colleagues say a big thank you for the love, knowledge, guidance and enabling environment which has increased our confidence.”



Sherifah skilled at speaking talks of her learning at CWN

CWN as an organization, also gained knowledge of the importance of social supports to the health and comfort of our members. CWN is about relationship building, and this manner of working , helps to create an atmosphere of supports.

Antoinette Alleyne (seen at left measuring fabric) put in countless volunteer hours as a MARTINI participant. She alluded to the project’s impact on providing social supports in this comment she made:

*“From my personal viewpoint the Costume Creation provided the longest sustained group activity that involved multiple generations. This is something we always desire as a group.... who share a cultural background that we try to share with our children and grandchildren,the deeply ingrained caribbean values of social responsibility for others, community cooperation/support, **spiritual wellbeing and mental health.**”*



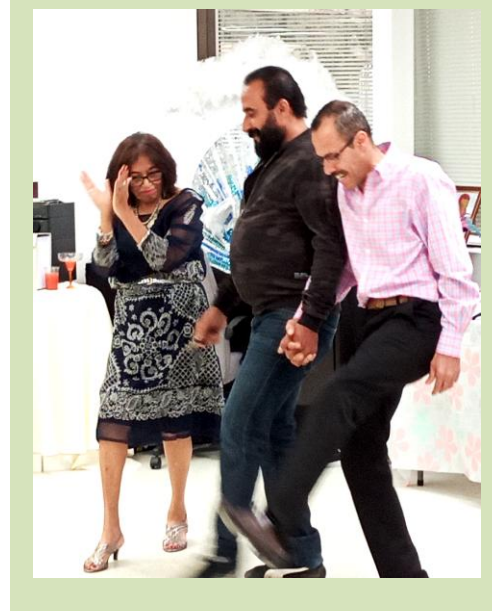
And we celebrated

Successes need to be **celebrated**. It motivates us on to bigger and better things!

and we did – in an inclusive way! *The CARIWEST Parade was in itself a big celebration* but we ensured participants and friends in the other two components were also a part of our **final showcase and celebration**. For project staff **Laura Zhu**, this (the final showcase) was “one of the most memorable part”. She thought “the audience and community members were as excited as the makers turned models”. Like Lydia, both Laura and Cheryl were definitive in how proud they felt: Cheryl said “It **gave us all a sense of pride** in our accomplishments,” and Laura echoed: “It was fun to be a part of that and **share the pride** in our work with the people who came to the event.”

So what did we do? We cooked a syrian meal – well, **Basma Al Zouabe** really but she showed us how, and **we danced – Syrian style!** Because we take to heart the words of the French philosopher, Voltaire, who said: “**let us dance**” as this amusement “**will never do harm to the world**”. Basma also showed us how she ties her hijab, while we also honoured the involvement of the Indian women who could not be with us that day.

Ouda and Ahmad show Pearl the moves



Cheryl is the hijab model here



Geeta Walia and friend Nirmala Garg sew gift pouches



Geeta Walia decides which piece she's going to use.



And Sharon Samaroo models the pants made by Geeta Walia at left



We join the wives and their husbands in the celebratory dance



Basma shows how to make Fatoush salad.

CWN saus



Project Funder



Project Based Grants



Without your belief in what was proposed, we would not be able to do it. **Thank you again** for supporting communities.

Special mention to **CARIWEST Organizers** for the festival and providing the platform for **playing mas**. Also for, the moral and official supports,

Donors of saris, scarves, other:

Sunita Kumar,
Soma Chowdhury,
Asma Burney, Pearl Bennett
Jayanti Negi
Desmond Edwards
Kamla Pillay
Downtown Farmer's Market

Volunteers and Participants

Cheryl Sheridan
Antoinette Alleyne
Lydia Boodram
Peter Sheridan
Brian Alleyne
Michael Boodram
Zobeeda Adheen
Shaffeek Ali
Gail Rambaran
Simon Rambaran
Milton Zaifdeen
Carol Zaifdeen
Lynn Zaifdeen
Natalie Zaifdeen
Robert Gopaul
Asma Burney
Seeley Samaroo
Sharon Samaroo
Basma Al Zouabe
Noor Al Zouabe
Dylan Mohammed
Nafeesa Mohammed
Wendy Davis
Molly Collier
Reina Granados
Nirmala Garg
Margaret
Helen Baldeo
Mary Mohammed

A very special thanks to board and staff of CWN especially **Pearl Bennett and Laura Zhu** who not only managed & coordinated the project, but who also participated in making and playing mas, stitching and modeling the clothing, embroidered, etc. Thanks for your time taking photos and preparing this report. We mention **Cindy Stemo** - contract designer and **Geeta Walia** who could only be with us for a month or so.

Those who joined us took part in **Carwest Parade** and those who came to our **Celebration/Model Show**

Michael Phair
Wendy Koenig
Pearl Bennett
Occah Seepaul
Jo-anne Alleyne
Nika Alleyne
Guy, Evan,
Joanne and Penny
Frances Small
Christopher Phillips
Cali Sheridan, her brother, cousins, et al
Ruba and Fadwa Kinani
Ouda Ouda and Ahmed
Molly Khan
Councillor Jon Dziadyk
Former Fed.Minister, Amarjeet Sohi
Alyssa Ramabaran
Kim Lister
Jeannie
Mohammed Al Zouabe

And another special mention to **Carlos Sheridan** and his band members of **Scarlet Ibis**. Thanks for decorating the truck and for the soca beats!

The women participants from Worker Bs

Sukhpreet, Sherifah, Mahlet,
Irene, Ruftana, Ahleli,
Amandeep, Ramandeep, Alia,
Sahiba, Cindy, Kamaljit,
Nataliia, Ana, Ruba, Fadwa,
Sarbjee, Carmen & Basma

What a Wonderful Project!

It's what I think personally, and how I think of it as I conclude this report. I am not just the E.D., but a part of the Caribbean and Edmonton community. Through MARTINI we were able to bring so much of what is referred to as social capital together: our network of friends and supporters; volunteers; other CWN participants who may not have normally got involved. Our capacity grew. The funders trust in us would hopefully grow; the trust we placed in each other to get it all done grew!

The Queen's costume took 2nd prize in the Carivest competition., What an achievement for a new Band on the Road. It is a testament to the hard work of all the volunteers who built, decorated, stitched, glued etc. We congratulate Cheryl, Peter and their Team for this striking piece and thank Natalie for playing it so superbly!

I just want to say that as I complete this Report we are still in shut-down mode due to COVID 19. Thank you all who responded to my needs while I prepared it. You know who you are!

In the act of learning and growing, we gave and received much joy!

Pearl Bennett,

Current Volunteer Executive Director



Natalie Zaifdeen plays the Queen of the Band, Her costume is called *Sail Away*

Designed, built and decorated by the Zaifdeen and Sheridan Families & and their team of volunteers.



Preserving the art of another and an older generation

CWN operations is funded in part by:



creating community where everyone belongs