

**INAUGURAL 'ARTS IN THE PLAZA FESTIVAL' IN ST MAARTEN DRAWS OVER 600 ATTENDEES
FOR VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF LOCAL ARTS**



More than 600 locals and visitors of St. Maarten/St. Martin gathered in Porto Cupecoy Plaza for a celebration of the arts.

ST. MAARTEN (December 29, 2010) – St. Maarten was bustling last week with the vibrancy of local talent, art and culture, as more than 600 locals and visitors to the island gathered for the inaugural Arts in the Plaza Festival, at Porto Cupecoy on December 22. Attendees were greeted by stilt walkers and dazzled by the beautiful and intricate movements of the three-step polka and gumbboot dance. Throughout the plaza, musical serenades celebrated the traditions and ethnicity of St. Maarten's thriving arts community, while visual artists displayed paintings, sculptures and other pieces of their collections for public viewing. Notable attendees included: Ida Zin-Fa Leu, President of Tourism Department on French side; Rhonda Arrindell, Minister of Sports, Culture and Education on the Dutch side; and Thierry Gombs, Director of Sports, Culture and Education French side.

The monthly arts festival is the first of its kind to combine visual, performing and musical arts from St Martin/St Maarten's avant-garde arts scene and it will continue into 2011 with new performances and exhibits each month.

Images seen below are available for download in high-resolution at the following link:

www.stmaartenlife.com



Pictured Left to Right: Laura Richardson; famed artist Roland Richardson; and Ida Zin-Fa Leu, President of Tourism Department on French side.



Pictured Left to Right: Rapper/Singer Lo Gomez; Thierry Gombs, Director of Sports, Culture and Education French side; Rhoda Arrindell, Minister of Sports, Culture and Education on the Dutch side; and Singer/Musician Dion Gumbs.



A stilt walker hands out roses at the Plaza entrance.



Young imbali dancers dance the three-step polka.



African drum dancer performs.



A Capoeira dancer wows the crowd.

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