



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Carmen Sierra
Public Information Office
908-820-4020

BOMBA IMMERSION COMES TO ELIZABETH

*City of Elizabeth and Puerto Rican Society Celebrate
Hispanic Heritage Month with Afro-Puerto Rican Rhythm*

Elizabeth, NJ – September 16, 2008 – Mayor Chris Bollwage and the Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth are proud to introduce a new workshop entitled “Bomba Immersion”. Classes are hosted by Nelson Beaux, a member of the “Bomba” and “Plena” group “Segunda Quimbamba” from Jersey City. Classes will consist of teaching students the fundamental style of the Afro-Puerto Rican influence of “Bomba”. Throughout the next twelve weeks, Mr. Beaux will teach students “Bomba” dance, songs, and how to play special percussion instruments. They will also teach “Paseo” and Piquete which are derived from the former oppression of slavery in the sugar cane fields of Puerto Rico.

“I commend the Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth, for teaching a new generation of children the history and culture of Puerto Rico through music and dance,” said Mayor Chris Bollwage. “It is important for children to connect with the birth place of their parents and grandparents. Learning different elements of history and culture will help them appreciate their heritage and be more tolerant of different ethnicities.”

Workshops will take place every Monday from September 15th to December 8th, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Peterstown Community Center located at 408 Palmer Street, Elizabeth. Students from the Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth ages 5-16 will have the opportunity to attend one session per week for a total of 12 workshops. They will learn the language, instruments, dance, and artistry of “Bomba”.

“To be able to bring one’s culture to the City is a great opportunity,” said Jose Cuevas, President of Puerto Rican Society of Elizabeth. “Many of our children are not knowledgeable about Puerto Rican History, what better way to introduce it to them then by Music and Dance.”

As a special treat, on October 5th well known Puerto Rican dancer Margaita “TaTa” Cepeda, of the famous Cepeda Family of Santurce, will teach different versions of “Bomba” dance to students. The Cepeda Family of Santurce is known throughout Puerto Rico as icons of the “Bomba” movement.

For more information please contact Jose Cuevas at 908-354-0722.