

**DEVELOPING A NATIONAL
HAITIAN-AMERICAN AGENDA:
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER
APRIL 12-14, 2002**

**HILTON MIAMI AIRPORT HOTEL
MIAMI, FL**

NATIONAL CO-CHAIRS:

**THE HONORABLE PHILLIP J. BRUTUS
*FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES***

**THE HONORABLE MARIE ST. FLEUR
*MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES***

HOSTED BY:

**THE HONORABLE JOSAPHAT CELESTIN
*MAYOR, NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA***

REGISTER NOW!!!

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL HAITIAN-AMERICAN AGENDA: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Over the past several years, the transformation of the U.S. Haitian community from one of exiles-in-waiting to one of long-term immigrants establishing roots in an adopted country has become more and more apparent. The signs -- from a heightened interest in American civic participation to an explosion of "mainstream" Haitian-owned and operated media outlets -- are everywhere. But while there have been a number of well-publicized *individual* successes of Haitian-Americans, our community overall remains fractured, isolated and marginalized. The National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR) believes that now is the time for *collective* action to advance the community as a whole. As the first national gathering of its kind, ***Developing a National Haitian-American Agenda: Moving Forward Together***, is intended to jumpstart that process.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together Haitian-American community members and leaders from across the United States to engage them in meaningful dialogue about issues of relevance to the Haitian-American population, begin developing a shared vision of the future and lay the groundwork for unified, concrete action. The end goal is to create a strategic framework that will serve as a guide for Haitian-American community development, a reference that will help us gauge our progress over the next five to 10 years and beyond. We believe this requires a well-informed community that not only talks to and trusts each other but is also stewarded by competent and effective leadership.

To that end, workshops at the conference will address four areas we believe are of vital importance to our community: *Economic Development and Community Wealth; Public and Higher Education; Building Strong Haitian-American Organizations and Haitians, American Democracy and Civic Participation.*

Come discuss these issues critical to the growth of our community and what we must do together to ensure its success. We welcome your participation!

PLENARY SESSION I: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WEALTH

What is community wealth, and why is it important? What are our assets? What are the best avenues to economic empowerment for our community? What resources, opportunities, etc. are available to us?

- ❖ Alix Cantave, *Economic Development Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Boston, MA*
- ❖ Lavinia Limon, *Executive Director, Immigrant Refugee Service of America (IRSA) and Immediate Past Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Washington, DC*
- ❖ Rene Bryce-Laporte, *Senior Program Manager, Corporation for Enterprise Development, Washington, DC*

Concurrent Sessions

[Beyond Social Services: The Need for Community Development](#)

This session will discuss the importance of community development corporations (CDCs) in addressing a host of social issues – poverty, crime, housing, etc. – that affect many Haitian neighborhoods and the most efficient methods for bringing about systemic change.

- ❖ Alix Cantave, *Economic Development Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Boston, MA*
- ❖ Jacques Jiha, *Deputy Comptroller, City of New York*

[From Home Ownership to Estate Planning: The Importance of Asset Building and Wealth Transfer](#)

This session will provide guidance on growing, managing and leveraging personal assets.

- ❖ Marc Villain, *President and CEO, Metro-Broward Group, Ft. Lauderdale, FL*

Women and Economic Development

This session will explore the implications of applying a gender analysis in exploring community economic empowerment.

- ❖ Yma Gordon, *Program Officer, Ms. Foundation for Women, New York, NY*
- ❖ Zelma Khadar, *Business Development Specialist, Acre Family Daycare Center, Lowell, MA*

Entrepreneurship: Avenues, Risks and Rewards

This session will provide guidance on the various elements involved -- including resources available -- in owning a business, alone or with partners.

- ❖ Rudy Moise, *General Practitioner & D.O., Comprehensive Health Center Clinic and Founder, Radio Carnaval, Miami, FL*
- ❖ Althea Harris, *Marketing Executive, Small Business Administration, Miami, FL*
- ❖ Dr. Lynn Allison, *Executive Director, Florida Association for Microenterprise (FLAME), Miami, FL*
- ❖ Rene Bryce-Laporte, *Senior Program Manager, Corporation for Enterprise Development, Washington, DC*

PLENARY SESSION II: PUBLIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION

How is our community faring in the US educational system? What is the role of the culture/generation gap in educational achievement? What are the critical issues/dynamics/trends affecting public and higher education today and in the years to come?

- ❖ Fabienne Doucet, *National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow, Harvard School of Education, Cambridge, MA*
- ❖ Flore Zephir, *Associate Professor of Roman Languages and Literature, University of Missouri at Columbia*
- ❖ Eddy Bayardelle, *Ph. D., First Vice President -- Global Philanthropy, Merrill Lynch and Board Chair, NCHR, New York, NY*
- ❖ Marc Prou, *Director, Caribbean Studies, Africana Studies Dept, , University of Massachusetts, Boston*

Concurrent Sessions

Taking Charge: The Family's Role in Education

This session will address the importance of a family's involvement in a child's education and the challenges associated with language/culture barriers.

- ❖ Debby Saintil, *7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, Roxbury, MA*
- ❖ Flore Zephir, *Associate Professor of Roman Languages and Literature, University of Missouri at Columbia*

Vouchers, Charter Schools and Private Education: The Continuing Debate

This session will explore the pros & cons of these topics and the quality of education Haitian-American children are receiving.

- ❖ Gerald Bernadel, *Founding Director, Toussaint L'Ouverture School of Arts and Social Justice, Delray Beach, FL*
- ❖ Marina Bernard-Damiba, *Founding Principal, Bronx Preparatory School, Bronx, NY*

Educational Enhancement Resources: Scholarships, Enrichment Programs, Educational Camps

This session will provide information about various avenues that can be used to enhance educational achievement.

- ❖ Jose Filpo, *Director of Administration, The Oliver Program, New York, NY*
- ❖ Ed Johnson, *Associate Director, The Wight Foundation, Newark NJ*

Debunking Myths: Accessing and Financing Higher Education

This session will address the challenges and benefits associated with securing higher education and provide guidance on the search and application process.

- ❖ Angela Romans, *Associate Dean of Admission, Brown University*
- ❖ Nellie Chapman, *Assistant Principal, Emerson High School, Union City, NJ*

PLENARY SESSION III: BUILDING STRONG HAITIAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

What are the elements of a successful nonprofit organization in the United States? What role does culture play in the effectiveness of Haitian organizations? What types of leaders are needed to take our community to the next level?

- ❖ Jocelyn McCalla, *NCHR, New York, NY*
- ❖ Mark Handelman, *Executive Vice President, New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) and Board Member, NCHR, New York, NY*
- ❖ Alexandria Douglass, *Executive Director, Alliance for Human Services, Miami, FL*

Concurrent Sessions

Working in Collaboration

This session will address the challenges and benefits of true collaboration in the Haitian context and provide guidance on creating effective collaborative efforts.

- ❖ Gina Cheron, *Bridges Project Director, NCHR, New York, NY*
- ❖ Alexandria Douglass, *Executive Director, Alliance for Human Services, Miami, FL*

Organizational Transitions and Strategic Planning

This session will provide an overview of organizational “life cycles,” as well as advice on embarking on a planning process appropriate for the size, age and sophistication level of your organization.

- ❖ Nancy Allen, *Executive Director, Women’s Business Development Center, Miami, FL*
- ❖ Mark Handelman, *Executive Vice President, New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) and Board Member, NCHR, New York, NY*

Board Development and Function

This session will discuss the most appropriate role for a value-added Board of Directors and what is required to identify and retain effective board members.

- ❖ Nancy Barshter, *Special Counsel, Office of State Attorney General, Miami, FL*
- ❖ Dina Paul Parks, *NCHR, New York, NY*

Elements of a Successful Fundraising Operation

This session will provide specific information about how to build an effective development operation appropriate for the size and sophistication level of your organization.

- ❖ Elizabeth Coit, *VP, Membership and Development, The Wilderness Society, Washington, DC*
- ❖ Juliet Gumbs*, *Independent Fundraising Consultant, New York, NY*

PLENARY SESSION IV: HAITIANS, AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

What is behind the dramatic and sudden increase in citizenship numbers, voter registration and Haitian-American elected officials? What is the context for this trend? How can we build on and use our emerging political voice to meet the needs of the community?

- ❖ The Honorable Marie St. Fleur, *Massachusetts House of Representatives*
- ❖ Rick Swartz, *President, Swartz and Associates and Founder, National Immigration Forum, Washington, DC*
- ❖ Suman Raghunathan, *Immigrant Voter Mobilization Coordinator, New York Immigration Coalition, New York, NY*

Concurrent Sessions

Elements of a Successful Political Campaign

This session will provide specific information about how to build a successful political campaign in seeking public office.

- ❖ Gepsie Metellus, *Executive Director, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Miami, FL*

- ❖ William Dorcena, *Former Campaign Manager for Rep. Marie St. Fleur and Publisher, Boston Haitian Reporter, Boston, MA*

The Role of the Media

This session will examine the influence and power of the press in building and leveraging political power.

- ❖ Marjorie Valbrun, *Staff Reporter, Wall Street Journal, Washington, DC*
- ❖ Edvige Jean-Francois, *Producer, MBC Network, Atlanta, GA*
- ❖ Joel Dreyfuss, *Senior Editor, Bloomberg News, New York, NY*
- ❖ Caleb DesRosiers, *Columnist, Boston Haitian Reporter, Boston, MA*

Mastering the Game: Lessons from Other Ethnic Communities

This session will discuss the challenges and successes of other immigrant populations and models that can be adapted for the Haitian-American community.

- ❖ Clarissa Martinez*, *Director of State/Local Public Policy, National Council of La Raza, Washington, DC*
- ❖ Suman Raghunathan, *Immigrant Voter Mobilization Coordinator, New York Immigration Coalition, New York, NY*

Spotlight on Haiti

Although the focus of this conference is on the Haitian-American Agenda, we felt that we could not ignore the current realities in our native land. During Saturday's luncheon (see "Days-at-a Glance"), there will be special session that will provide overviews of the economic, political and human rights situation in Haiti, as well as offer the policy perspective of key international players.

- ❖ Paul Latortue, *Former Executive Director, Unité Central de Gestion, Gvt. of Haiti and Professor, School of Business, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan*
- ❖ Michèle Montas, *Director, Radio Haiti Inter*
- ❖ Marsha Barnes*, *Director of Caribbean Affairs, US Department of State*
- ❖ Luigi Einaudi*, *Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States (OAS)*

There will also be a breakout session in the afternoon to discuss **Haiti and the Role of the Diaspora**, with particular attention paid to independent development and/or investment opportunities.

- ❖ Max Blanchet, *Founding Member, Bay Area Haitian-American Community Organization (BAHACO), San Francisco, CA*
- ❖ Harry Fouché, *Economist, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Chicago, IL*
- ❖ Jean Alcé, *MD, Chairman, Dept. of Psychiatry, St-John Detroit Riverview Hospital; Clinical Assistant Professor, Wayne State University & Michigan State University; and President, Espoir, Detroit, MI*

Other Special Events

Saturday Evening Awards Dinner/ Dance Party**

Celebrating exceptional Haitian-Americans of Achievement. Honorees include:

- ❖ *Jocelyn McCalla, National Coalition for Haitian Rights*
- ❖ *Dumarsais M. Siméus, Chairman/CEO, Siméus Foods International, Mansfield, TX*

Band Entertainment

Top Vice



* Invited

** Additional Fee

DAYS-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, April 12

8:30 am –	Registration
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Welcome Luncheon Opening Plenary: <i>Economic Development and Community Wealth</i>
2:00 – 2:15	Break
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent sessions
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:30	Plenary Session II: <i>Public and Higher Education</i>
4:30 – 4:45	Break/Snacks
4:45 – 5:45	Concurrent Sessions

Saturday, April 13

8:30 – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00 am	Plenary Session III: <i>Building Strong Haitian-American Organizations</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break/Snacks
10:30 – 11:30	Concurrent Sessions
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Luncheon and Special Plenary Session: <i>Spotlight on Haiti</i>
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Plenary Session IV: <i>Haitians, American Democracy and Civic Participation</i>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Break/Snacks
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Awards Dinner
9:30 pm -	Dance Party

Sunday, April 14

8:30 – 10:30 am	Closing Breakfast and Plenary Session: <i>Strategic Framework Adopted</i>
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Deadline for registration is April 5, 2002. After that date, we will accept only on-site registration during the conference. You can register for the conference in two (2) ways. Please print and fill-out the Registration Form in PDF format, and mail or fax it back to NCHR. **By Mail:** Please send back to NCHR, 275 Seventh Ave., 17th Fl., New York, NY 10001. **By Fax:** Please fax to (212) 741-8749.

Registration fees are as follows:

	Full	Partial*	Student
By March 26	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 35
By April 2	\$ 125	\$ 100	\$ 50
By April 5	\$ 150	\$ 125	\$ 75
On-Site	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 100
	Registered Participants	General Admission	Student
Awards Dinner	\$ 20	\$ 65	\$10

* For participation on *Friday and/or Sunday OR Saturday and/or Sunday only*

- ❖ **Hotel Information:** The **Hilton Miami Airport Hotel** is holding a block of rooms for conference participants at a special rate of \$105/night for a single or double. Normal rates are \$189/night. The hotel can be reached at 305-262-1000, 1-800-HILTONS or www.hilton.com. Please refer to the "Haitian-American Conference" when making your reservations. **Rooms will be held at this special rate through April 2.** *Free complimentary shuttle to/from Airport.*

**Hilton Miami Airport Hotel
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, Florida 33126**

- ❖ **Other nearby hotels:** The Double Tree Hotel: (305) 266-0000 and the Homestead Hotel: (305) 260-0085
- ❖ **Travel Information:** **United Airlines** is the Official Airlines for the conference and is providing special fares from April 9-17, 2002. Please call 1-800-521-4041 to receive up to 10% off round-trip fares purchased 7 days in advance. Refer to **Meeting ID Number: 592XW**
- ❖ **Travelscape.com for discount fares** Call 1-800-397-3342 or go to www.travelscape.com
- ❖ **Vendor Information:** Please see below if you are interested in purchasing either an ad in the Conference Journal or a booth space for the 24 hr "market place". Please contact NCHR at 212-337-0005, x13 for more information.

	Deadline	Full Page	1/2 - page	1/4 - page
Ads*:	March 22nd	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 125
Booths*:	April 5th	\$100/day		

* *Space is limited. First come, first served.*

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations made in writing on or prior to March 25th will be refunded less a \$25 processing fee. Cancellations made on or prior to April 2nd will be refunded less a \$50 processing fee. Any cancellations made after April 2nd will not be refunded.

CONFERENCE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

[Nancy Allen](#), *Executive Director, Women's Business Development Center, Miami, FL*
[Joseph Baptiste](#), *DDF, J.B. Dental Clinic and Chair, National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH), Washington, DC*
[Eddy Bayardelle](#), *First Vice President -- Global Philanthropy, Merrill Lynch and Board Chair, NCHR, New York, NY*
[Max Blanchet](#), *Founding Member, Bay Area Haitian-American Community Organization (BAHACO), San Francisco, CA*
[Alix Cantave](#), *Economic Development Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Boston, MA*
[Harry Fouché](#), *Economist, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Chicago, IL*
[Essud Fungcap](#), *Fungcap Arts, Atlanta, GA*
[Leonie Hermantin](#), *Research and Strategic Planning Director, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Miami, FL*
[Carole M. Berotte Joseph](#), *PhD, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dutchess Community College/SUNY Poughkeepsie, NY and Immediate Past President, Haitian Studies Association, UMASS, Boston, MA*
[Cheryl Little](#), *Executive Director, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) and Board Member, NCHR, Miami, FL*
[Gepsie Metellus](#), *Executive Director, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Miami, FL*
[Rudy Moise](#), *MD, General Practitioner & D.O., Comprehensive Health Center Clinic and Member, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Miami, FL*
[Msgr. Guy Sansaricq](#), *The Haitian Apostolate and Board Member, NHCR, Brooklyn, NY*
[Bishop Thomas G. Wenski](#), *Chairman, Committee on Migration of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, President, Catholic Charities, Inc. and Board Member, NCHR, Miami, FL*

The National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that seeks to promote and protect the rights of Haitian refugees and Haitian-Americans under U.S. and international law, and to advance respect for human rights, the rule of law and support for civil and democratic society in Haiti.

QUESTIONS

For further inquiries regarding the conference and/or registering, please call **(212) 337-0005 ext. 13**, or email us at register@nchr.org. All information is available on NCHR's website, www.nchr.org.

Registration Form

- Yes, I would like to attend NCHR's Conference, "*Developing a National Haitian-American Agenda*," at the Hilton Miami Airport Hotel, April 12-14, 2002.

Name (as to appear on badge) _____

Title _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fees are as follows:

	Full	Partial	Student
By March 26	\$ 100	\$ 75	\$ 35
By April 2	\$ 125	\$ 100	\$ 50
April 2-5	\$ 150	\$ 125	\$ 75
On-Site	\$ 200	\$ 150	\$ 100
	Registered Participants	General Admission	Student
Awards Dinner	\$ 20	\$ 65	\$10

- Full participation
 Partial participation (*Friday and/or Sunday* OR *Saturday and/or Sunday*)
 Student participation (*Students please provide a copy of a valid student ID with registration form*)
 Awards Dinner/Dance Party (*Saturday, April 13, 7:30pm – 9:30pm*)

Please make checks payable to NCHR. Please write *Developing a National Haitian-American Agenda* in the "memo" section of your check. All forms must be signed to be valid – please retain a copy for your records. Mail or Fax form and payment to:

National Coalition for Haitian Rights
275 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Fax: 212-741-8749

Check/Money Order Enclosed: # _____

Credit Card Type: MC _____ Visa _____ AmEx _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Name on Card: _____

Total Charge: \$ _____

Signature: _____

- No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to support the National Coalition for Haitian Rights.

Please rank your preference from a scale of 1-4 (most to least interest):

- Economic Development and Community Wealth**
 Public and Higher Education
 Building Strong Haitian-American Organizations
 Haitians, American Democracy and Civic Participation

Which additional conference features would you be interested in paying a separate fee for? Please check all that apply.

- Haitian Art Auction**
 Award Dinner Raffle
 Little Haiti Bus Tour (including Downtown Miami & Little Havana)