



## **Save the Date**

You are invited to participate in an official cultural and trade mission to the Bahamas. Join us as we celebrate the close relationship Miami-Dade County has enjoyed with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas while visiting the island nation's capital of Nassau on New Providence Island. The trip will include meetings with Bahamian government officials, tours of educational and cultural sites, and business meetings between Miami-Dade County based businesses and Bahamian businesses.

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a sovereign state, and also an English-speaking nation in the West Indies. An archipelago of 700 islands and cays, the Bahamas is believed to have been populated previously by Paleo-Indians, Taino Indians from Hispaniola and Cuba moved into the southern Bahamas around the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD and became the Lucayans. Some say the name 'Bahamas' derives from the Spanish for baja mar, meaning "shallow seas." Others trace it to the Lucayan word for Grand Bahama Island, ba-ha-ma ("large upper middle land").

Bahamian culture is a hybrid of African and European influences. Perhaps its most expression is a rhythmic form of music called Junkanoo. Aside from Junkanoo, other indigenous forms of music include rake and scrape, calypso, and a unique form of hymnal, known internationally through the music of the late Joseph Spence. Marching bands are also an important part of life, playing at funerals, weddings and other ceremonial events

In the less developed outer islands - islands outside the capital Nassau, known as the "Out Islands" or "Family Islands" - crafts include basketry made from palm fronds. This material, commonly called "straw", is also plaited into hats and bags that are popular tourist items today

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Adam Peters at the ITC at (305) 375-5420 or the general line at: (305) 375-5808, email [apeters@miamidade.gov](mailto:apeters@miamidade.gov)

**Miami-Dade County Sister Cities  
Program  
Mission to Bahamas  
June 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**