

Marie Kellier is CEO and Executive Producer of MARIKEL International, a communications firm that provides business consulting, filmed entertainment and arts and cultural activities that promote place-making and community revitalization through the arts. Marie holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA), cum laude, in theater arts, and a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in film and television production from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



Highly impacted by firelight storytelling and character improvisations as a child in Jamaica, Marie's artistic impulses has always drawn her to create large outdoor events that showcase the arts and culture of the Caribbean. While a student at UCLA, she produced the first ever Caribbean Cultural Arts festival on the campus. She is the first person of African or Caribbean heritage, and the only Jamaican to have been awarded a Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation; as well as the only person to have won a writing award from the Samuel Goldwyn Foundation for a screenplay written in the Jamaican language.

Since 1997, her production company, MARIKEL International has been the developer and producer of CARICABELA, Los Angeles Carnival, the longest running Caribbean festival in Los Angeles, celebrating and sharing Caribbean culture. Marie has been the main creative engine who has spearheaded, developed and sustained a living Caribbean carnival tradition for the past seventeen years, creating the foundation on which other Caribbean carnivals in Los Angeles have been built.

As a result of her success in establishing a Caribbean carnival community in Los Angeles, Marie was elected West Coast Director of the International Caribbean Carnival Association (ICCA) and in that capacity was invited to speak at the On Route World Carnivals Conference as guest of the Arts Council England. Upon her return she formed Los Angeles Carnival On Tour, which enabled her to take the Caribbean cultural experience into neighborhoods and communities throughout Los Angeles that had never experienced Caribbean culture before. As carnival ambassadors Los Angeles Carnival On Tour appeared in dozens of events and parades throughout the state, from San Diego to San Francisco, winning numerous first place awards.

Marie is an effective, results-oriented professional with a range of expertise in media, production, event management, corporate presentations, festivals, parades and international programming. She was elected President of the Jamaica Trade and Business Council, and has wide outreach capacity across many communities where she has developed respect for consistently bringing excellence, originality and creativity to her work.

In 2010/2011 Marie competed for, and was selected among a group of top professional artists to represent Los Angeles as an international exchange artist. With additional support from National Performance Network (NPN), she spent three months in professional residence studying carnival arts at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Trinidad, and working with Trinidad's premier Carnival Artist, Brian MacFarlane.

While continuing to consult and produce place-making arts revitalizing events throughout Los Angeles, Marie chairs the Arts and Culture Committee of the Empowerment Congress in the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. In this capacity, she is focused on creating awareness around arts policy

frameworks, community re-vitalization and place-making, using arts and culture as a vehicles for community development. She now wants to transfer that knowledge and focus her tremendous energies and 'can do' spirit on creating awareness, and educating Jamaican communities on using its tremendous arts and cultural traditions to re-vitalize communities and create opportunities for place-based tourism throughout the island

She is a dedicated professional and a hardworking team player who leads by example and galvanizes support for projects she undertakes.