Carnival 60 marks the sixtieth anniversary of Notting Hill Carnival with a season of heritage events

The voices who shaped Britain's biggest street festival gather across west London from May to October 2026 for walks, talks, Caribbean suppers and an exhibition.



Kensington, London Jun 10, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - This year Britain's biggest street festival reaches a milestone: sixty years since the first Notting Hill Carnival. Carnival 60 answers that anniversary with a season of heritage events stretching from late spring into autumn. It is the work of community interest company More Curricular CIC and its heritage walks practice Notting Hill Walks,

staged at Mason & Fifth in Westbourne Park from May to October 2026.

Rather than retell Carnival's story from a distance, the programme hands the platform to the people who shaped it. Three current Directors of Notting Hill Carnival appear across the season. The activist Ansel Wong CBE, who helped establish UK Black History Month, joins a Windrush Day special on 20 June. Allyson Williams MBE, who arrived in 1969 to train as a nurse before co-founding Genesis Mas Band, takes the floor on 11 July. Dr Claire Holder OBE, who steered Carnival as its Chief Executive from 1989 to 2002, reflects on running Europe's largest street party on 23 August.

The autumn brings two more conversations. Robert Singh recalls Grassroots Bookshop on Golborne Road, a cornerstone of Black activism in the area, in September. The season then closes in October, during Black History Month, with Leslie Palmer MBE, the figure who reshaped Carnival in the mid-1970s by bringing in sound systems and live bands and fixing the route still walked today.

Two panel discussions sit at the heart of August. On the twelfth, What It Means to Be Caribbean gathers Eugene Dusauzay, Zara Johnson, Samuel Shervington and Symone Williams. On the twenty-sixth, Past, Present and Future sets four generations side by side with Rosita Lynch, Linett Kamala, Alexander D Great and Leslie Palmer MBE.

Beyond the talks, monthly guided walks trace the streets where the history happened, a free exhibition of children's Carnival artwork titled In Full Colour opens from 17 to 19 July, and two August suppers serve home cooking alongside oral history. Carnival itself returns across the weekend of 30 and 31 August, six decades on from the first.

"I grew up in west London and played mas, so Carnival is part of who I am," said Yvette Reinfor, Founder and Director of More Curricular CIC. "Sixty years deserves more than a parade. It deserves time spent with the elders who built this, hearing the story in their own words."

The full programme and tickets are at nottinghillcarnival60.co.uk

More Curricular CIC delivers heritage education through walks, quests, workshops and exhibitions across London. Interviews and high-resolution Carnival images are available on request.





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