The Virgin Islands Consortium

Dominican Republic Independence Day Parade 2016: A Colorful Affair

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Ernice Gilbert February 29, 2016

ST. CROIX -- Vibrant colors and a seemingly endless stream of parade performances marked the successful Dominican Republic Independence Day parade in Christiansted on Sunday. The annual event, organized by residents of Dominican Republic descent, celebrates the nation's independence from Haiti on February 27, 1844. It also demonstrates the growing strength of the Dominican Republic people here.

Senator Sammuel Sanes, a favorite among the Spanish-speaking electorate, said one of the reasons he loves St. Croix is because of how it embraces multiple cultures.

"It's amazing to me how we can celebrate so many cultures in such a small place, and that's what makes St. Croix so unique," he said. "I just love how today, we're here in this parade and everybody's enjoying it. You see whites, blacks, Hispanic -- everybody comes together as one, and that's what St. Croix is all about."

The parade started at the Basin Triangle and made its way through town, reaching a climax at the Canegata Ballpark, where even more performances -- dances, bands, and other displays of Dominican Republic culture -- entertained a near-capacity crowd.

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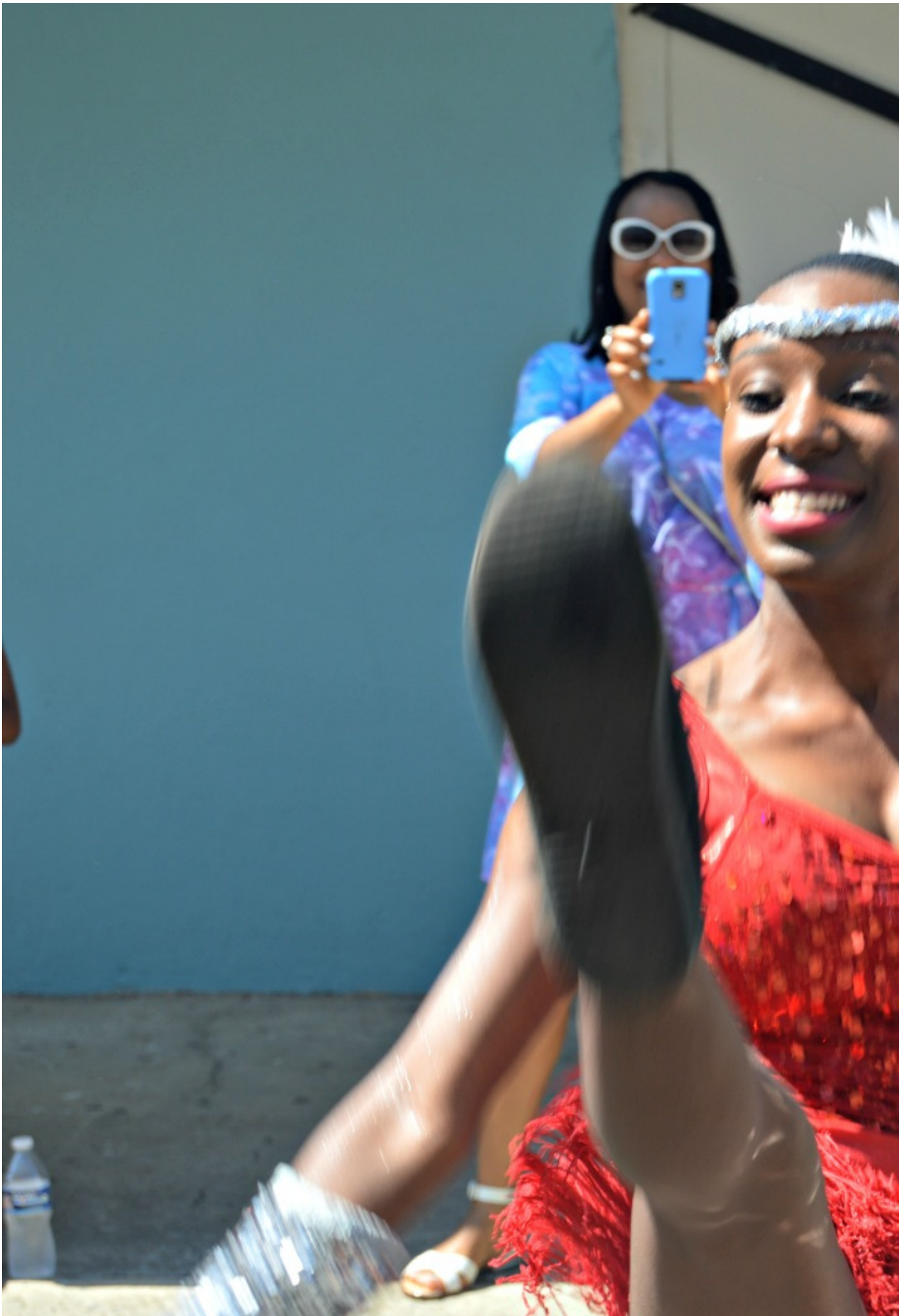
de Acción Dominicana
Parada Dominicana 2016
Mes Febrero de 2016



St Croix Educatio

Marching Band

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Senator Kenneth Gittens, seen having a good time, acknowledged the growing presence of the Dominican Republic community and noted its involvement in island activities. "The tradition forged the ties that bind us and nurtures a respect for both cultures," Mr. Gittens added.

Food is always an important part of such events, and there was no lack thereof at the Canegata Ballpark. And there was a strong showing of residents not of Dominican descent as well, which serves as a testament to the meshing of cultures on an island of about 50,000 people.

Below, find some video footage of yesterday's celebration.

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