



AGENDA

NORTH MIAMI CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013
7:00 P.M.

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TAB M

- RECOMMENDATION TO NAME FARAH JUSTE TO NORTH MIAMI
CITIZENS' HALL OF FAME
Sponsored by: Councilman Jean R. Marcellus

FARAH JUSTE BIOGRAPHY

La Reine Soleil Farah's Juste was born and raised in Port-au-Prince Haiti and starts singing at the age of 7 in her neighborhood church, St. Gerald Church, St. Gerard Church in Carrefour-feuille. As she grew older however, she began writing poetry and political songs denouncing the Duvalier regime. It wasn't until she immigrated to Montreal, Canada that she began to sing these songs in public. While attending the institute Gerardine of Arts, Farah eventually settled in New York City where she began her career as a passionate singer of Haitian folk songs. She then joined Soley Leve (Rising Sun), a cultural association that promotes Haitian folk music and dance.

In 1977 she produced her first album as a solo artist. The album gained critical acclaim and marked the rise of an important voice on the Haitian musical landscape. Farah self produced and recorded 14 albums. Unlike her contemporaries, Farah did not sing primarily compas, Haitian dance music. Her music was more political and relayed the pain and misfortunes of vast Haitian underclass. She also worked with well-known musician Dadou Pasquet who became her musical arranger as well with Bemol Telfort, Nicole Levy, and Arsene Appolon. In 1983 Farah moved to Miami, FL where a fledgling, Haitian community was taking root after a wave of Haitians drifted ashore in the late 1970's Farah Juste became a community activist championing the rights of the recent immigrants before the immigration and Naturalization Services and other entities discriminating against them. She became the unofficial voice of the community and was often quoted in the Miami Herald, CNN as well as other news media.

In 1985 Farah opened her day care center "Farah Angels", which has grown from 5 to 130 children. She provides early child-care to the children of North Miami.

Farah released her defining song "Halleuyiah Pou Haiti" in 1986 from herself titled album "Farah". She has also had the unique opportunity to perform with the woman who inspired her to sing, the late Martha Jean-Claude in both Montreal and Cuba where Ms. Jean Claude lived in exile. Farah has also sung in New York's Carnegie Hall and in Venues in Paris, Spain and Switzerland. Each year on the anniversary of Haiti independence, Farah presents a concert at Miami's James L. Knight Center. As such, she is pictured on the International mural between Diana Ross and Patti Labelle with the Haitian Flag behind her. Here are some of many accolades and titles received throughout her illustrious career.

Minister of Haitian Affairs abroad 1995 – 1996

Prix de Popularite pour 1981 – Stephen Tuxedo

Outstanding Services Award – La Societe Haitienne De cinema 1983

Artiste la Plus Populaire de L'Anne – Nuit de T & A Productions 1987

Farah'Juste Day – mayor Joe Celestin, The City of North Miami 2003

Key to the City of Miami – Arthur E. Teele District 5 Commissioner 2003