

# Costume Carnival Ball celebrates Brazilian spirit

Put on your gowns, your island-inspired shorts or a wild costume and get ready to dance to the beat of Brazilian drums.

The Brazilian Cultural Club of Detroit hosts its annual Carnival Ball 8 p.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2 at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple at Dequindre in Troy.

Hundreds of party-goers are expected at the 18th annual event.

It's an evening to discover Brazilian music, its dance and exotic culture. The Carnival is an authentic Brazilian-style ball fashioned after the parties in Rio at Carnival.

Christina Peixoto of Nomads Travel Club said the Troy event is features live Brazilian entertainment including musicians, acrobats, samba dancers and extravagant costumes.

"It all creates a wild atmosphere and everyone is welcome," Peixoto said. "We wear

**'It all creates a wild atmosphere and everyone is welcome. Wear shorts, tuxedos or gowns — just be ready for a wild time.'**

*Christina Peixoto  
Nomads Travel Club*

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The creativity and eclectic crowd is what makes the Carnival Ball such a hit, she said. Costumes are encouraged but not required — a gown or tuxedo with a pretty mask can be worn. A pair of shorts and fun shirt is okay too.

The point is that anything goes, Peixoto said.

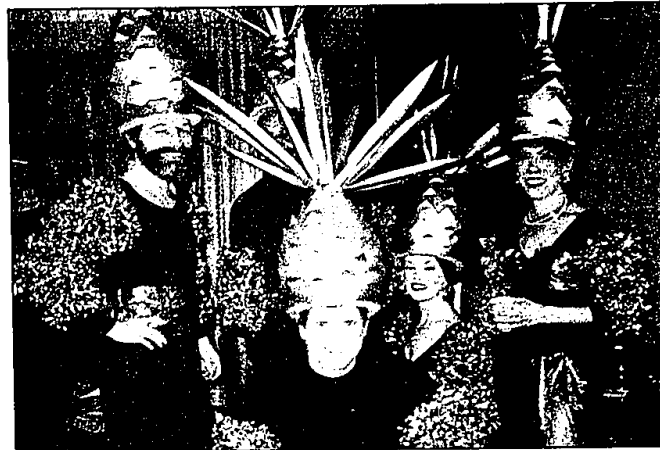
There's a costume contest and the grand prize winner receives a five-day cruise along the

Willamette and Columbia rivers. Categories include Best Couple, Best Group, Most Luxurious, Most Creative, Most Brazilian and Funniest.

Entertainment includes the Chicago Samba, a midwest-based ensemble, playing old and new Brazilian music such as Samba, Bossa-nova, Oldies, Forró, Choro and Pagode. Also see the dance-style, Capoeira, a ritualized and elaborate combat dance of whirling handstands and cartwheels in front of live music. It's based in the city of Salvador and is an intricate expression of dance and martial arts using legs, feet and hands.

Member tickets are \$35, non-members \$45. Cash bar. Ticket price includes entrance to the event and appetizers. For more information visit [BCCD2002@hotmail.com](http://BCCD2002@hotmail.com) or call 248-545-8450 or 313-862-7824.

— *Compiled by Lana Mini*



**Don your costumes:** A costume contest is part of the fun at the Brazilian Ball on Saturday. This group of friends attends yearly, wearing different themed hats. Last year they were the "Pineapple Heads."

## Mask from page B1

white and blue is a popular theme. Industrial, futuristic faces would lend a contemporary look to any environment. Among those creating masks are Lawrence Fishburne, Martha Reeves, Ted Nugent, and Rosie O'Donnell.

"We have smaller ones by children for hanging on the wall or wearing," said COTS spokeswoman Beth McKeown. "With the mask auction we try to increase awareness. It gives people an opportunity to know us and it gives us an opportunity to talk about homelessness as an issue, the great number of people homeless. The number continues to increase. Even when the economy was booming in the 1990s there were people at the fringe of the scale but the cost of living still went up. Working people come to us who can no longer afford to live, no longer pay rent."

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McKeown hopes by raising \$168,000 COTS will be able to provide temporary homes for 400 men, women and children on a daily basis. What concerns her is that every night COTS has to turn away about 45 people.

"Statistics tell us there are 5,300 homeless in Detroit and 1,995 shelter beds," said McKeown. "The number one reason for homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. People can always get minimum wage jobs but they can't afford to live on that."

"We help people upgrade their skill level and offer transitional housing for up to 24 months. We also have permanent supportive

housing for the disabled, mentally ill and HIV positive. Across the country the number of children is going up. Of the 400 beds COTS provides every night, 100 of those are for children."

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