

Title: LegendizeU - The Adventure of Learning

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Strand: Engaging innovative local pedagogies as opportunities for alternatives

Biography: Joanne Haynes is a Trinidadian author, film maker and educator. The signature of all her work is that it is inspired by her Trinbagonian heritage while reaching to connect with a modern, global world. A former teacher/lecturer, she remains committed to education through her LegendizeU project.

Abstract:

The Caribbean education system is not, intrinsically, Caribbean; it is a colonial scar that we cover with plasters.

For us to framework a way forward, we must begin by asking: **How do we Caribbean people learn?**

Caribbean art forms such as carnival, calypso, soca, steelpan, tell a story of learning that is centered on **experimentation, exploration, expression.**

This learning is **fluid, incidental, organic.**

The intangibles it thrives on are curiosity, trial and error, innovation, freedom.

For us to produce Caribbean citizens rather than excelling or failing students, our curriculum must make space for our Caribbean people to learn in the way we learn.

In 2016 - 2017, the LegendizeU project was successfully tested at Tabaquite Secondary, with the support of Principal, Sherry Ann Boodram, and school Librarian, Jori Daniel. With 48 students participating, and staff from various departments connecting over the Project, LegendizeU asked students to find and share in any written, audio or visual format, the stories of their community.

As Caribbean, we think our mission is to 'keep up' with the rest of the world. Yet 'keeping up' does not mean becoming something we are not, it means celebrating who we are, while injecting our essence into a continuously evolving world.

LegendizeU provides a space for these intangibles to be, not tested, but explored.

LegendizeU gives young people the opportunity to tell their stories about their world and in doing so, builds intangibles such as **self-esteem, identity, belonging, among the young.**

For schools, LegendizeU offers an opportunity to reinvent themselves as **guardians** of their communities.

For the education system, LegendizeU makes room for Caribbean people to learn in the way **natural** to us.

For the society, LegendizeU builds **bridges and connects communities.**

The point LegendizeU makes is that **identity, memory, transmission**, are intrinsic parts of what it means to be educated.

