

## *EMU Block Fair 2003: Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Ypsilanti, MI – Karinda L. Washington, founder of the EMU Block Fair, celebrated the Fair's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Friday, September 12, 2003. The Block Fair was designed to promote diversity on the Campus of EMU and unite students, faculty and staff. It is rare that a major event is held on a Friday night, however Washington, intrigued by the challenge, presented the Block Fair, which attracted well over 300 students throughout the night.

Of those in attendance to help celebrate the accomplishments of the Block Fair was Mr. Brian Fitzgerald, the Associate Director of the EMU Housing Department. Fitzgerald was instrumental in creating the Fair, which is one of the most anticipated campus events.

Ms Sabrina Underwood, an EMU Alumni of BMG Distribution graced the EMU Community with give-a-ways, in the form of posters, compact discs, and more. Underwood also held a raffle. Students won complete CDs by their favorite hip-hop and gospel artists, along with the official Hip-Hoptionary.

Puffer Red's Store owner, Tondra influenced the rap artist *Yuk Mouth* of Rap-A-Lot Records ([www.rapalotrecords.com](http://www.rapalotrecords.com)), to attend the anniversary celebration. The students were amazed as the Rap-A-Lot tour bus, featuring *Scarface* and *Yuk Mouth* on the side, made its way to the center of the festivities.

President and CEO, Rozeta Rox of Them Girls Clothing Company ([www.them-girls.com](http://www.them-girls.com)), along with, COO, Tara Hodge, presented their new line of Stretch Baby Tees to the ladies of EMU. The line was designed to heighten women's self-confidence, and is emphasized in their slogan "who you are and who you want to be." To learn more, please visit the website.

The Block Fair would not be complete without the presence of Detroit's own 105.9 Jamz and the local independent recording artists, who donated their time. *Lt. Dre* of 105.9, filled the Fair with laughter and comedy as he walked throughout the crowd, promoting information from various student organizations' booths, in addition to hosting the talent showcase.

This year's performers included: Cel, Diversion Dance Troupe, 5 Star Generalz, Khary, Mathias, Open Mic Affiliates, and Soul Speak. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, Prezence and Hot Sauce, along with the Natives of the New Dawn, were unable to perform.

The EMU Block Fair is fully-funded by the EMU Department of Student Affairs (Vice President Jim Vick), the EMU Housing Department (Brian Fitzgerald) and Soul Searching Ministries ([www.thebattleretreat.org](http://www.thebattleretreat.org)).

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), led by Cpt. Cindy Hall, has fully supported the Block Fair since its inception in 1999. The team of officers led by Sgt. Mathias Buckson, attended this year's Block Fair and seemed to enjoy the event as much as the students. Washington is grateful for their continuous support.

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The Block Fair was also made possible through the assistance of the 2003 Volunteer Team: Gregg Bennett, Twanna Nivens, Toyin Olatunji, Erica Williams, Jenell Williams and the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Special Thanks to the following Organizations:

105.9 Jamz

Alpha Omega Co-Ed Christian Fraternity

Battle of the Sexes Talent Competition

Black Student Union

BMG Distribution

C.R.E.A.M. Ministries

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Diversion Dance Troupe

Emmanuel Community House, Inc.

Fredrick Jackson

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc.

Hockeytown Café

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

NAACP- EMU

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

The Poetry Society

Puffer Red's Music Store

Rap-A-Lot Records

R.E.A.C.H.

Royal Kourt Entertainment

Soul Searching Ministries

Them Girls, Inc.

Women of Proverb

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.