

NCRA/ANREC

Community Radio Awards

From:

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Nomination for Volunteer of the Year Award: Raymond Laurent

Raymond Laurent is the host of Samedi Midi, CKUT's Haitian Community program, which airs every Saturday 10:30Am to 2PM. Mr. Laurent has been the host of the program since its inception on CKUT's airwaves in 1988. His presence on and commitment to the show reflect his involvement in Montreal's Haitian community, and for this we here at CKUT feel the volunteer of the year award is long overdue for Mr. Laurent.

At the recent gala held to commemorate CKUT's 25th year of existence, Mr. Laurent gave a moving speech, beginning with the memorable line "Produire une emission a la Radio pour la communauté Haïtienne, ce n'est pas facile!" The audience responded with laughter and clapping to the sweeping understatement, and possibly out of recognition of how it reflects on Mr. Raymond's restrained yet passionate and charismatic personality.

Parallel to Mr. Laurent's hosting of Samedi Midi, he has, and continues to be, very active in politics in the Haitian community. Since the 1980s he has been active and held administrative positions in the following unions and worker collectives: Travailleurs unis de l'automobile (TUA), Fédération des travailleurs québécois (FTQ), Syndicat du Vêtement Textile et autres Industries (SVTI), and has advocated on behalf of immigrants seeking union membership. He is chairman of the Board of the Service d'aide aux néo-québécois et immigrants (SANQI), and was the founder of the Ligue culturelle haïtienne de soccer de Montréal. He has organized events with health professionals to offer free medical clinics for people without Medicare coverage. He has organized several townhall forums on street gangs at boxing gymnasiums, 2 of these events were broadcast live on CKUT.

He regularly returns to Haiti to promote awareness of activities in his home country. He was in Port au Prince during the earthquake of 2010, and filed numerous reports during the ensuing rebuilding.

The breadth and scope of Samedi Midi as a vital resource for Montreal's Haitian community can be measured by the fact that during electoral campaign at all levels of government, leaders of the major parties will request interview time with Mr. Laurent.

For his passionate and ongoing commitment to Samedi Midi, CKUT and Montreal's Haitian community, we at CKUT feel that Raymond Laurent is an excellent candidate for the Volunteer of the Year Radio Award at the 2013 NCRC.

