

“What Would You Do For Kaaboo?”

In February 2018 it was announced that a “Three day sound voyage”; as per the organizers description, called Kaaboo Cayman was invading the Island. There was excitement, confusion and anxiety among the local Caymanians, but one local Caymanian; Sharon Banks, was very excited with the idea of having such an event on her beautiful island, not only because it would put the Cayman Islands on the world map, but because she had never attended a live concert in her life, she would now attend 20 concerts in two days.

As time went by and the land for Kaaboo Cayman was getting cleared and ready for the February 14th launch, Sharon would drive by in amazement seeing the progress, and one of the preparations that most captured her imagination was the seated girl looking into a mirror and seeing herself as a blue iguana in the reflection that was painted on 3 stacked containers and painted by California artist Lauren YS . This location would later be known as the main entrance to Kaaboo Cayman festival. Sharon identified herself with the painting stating she “felt the connection between humans and nature”. Sharon, being always active in participating in as many events offered on the Island, and even participating for many years in Batabano, the Islands carnival, she was no stranger to fun and excitement.

Sharon was so excited that she wanted to show her appreciation and her Caymanian pride in some way that would be fitting for this special event, but what to do? After hearing on the radio a contest for an opportunity to win tickets for the event titled “What Would You Do for Kaboo? The wheels in her mind started to move and her creative juices flowing.

That day she started thinking about something special, and like a lightning bolt, it hit her. She wanted to get her finger and toe nails painted with the colors of the mural and the painting of the girl on her back, so she asked her 4th grade art teacher to paint it for her and on the evening of February 14th after a span of four hours, Sharon’s imagination was transformed into reality. With a champagne toast upon completion of painting, it was time to celebrate the commencement of Kaaboo Cayman in grand style.

It was a challenge for the next couple of days not to ruin the painting by limiting certain movements and only sleeping facedown. Receiving praise from spectators and organizers of Kaboo Cayman alike, that challenge was quickly transformed into satisfaction and smiles. Sharon proudly accepted the hundreds of request for photos and graciously explained the reason for her pride. The inspiration of Kaaboo Cayman has and will live in the hearts of all that experienced this magnanimous gesture and event, and for one local Caymanian it was the experience of a lifetime. Now **“That was so Caymanian”**, Thank You Kaaboo Cayman for creating the inspiration for many and especially for this one Caymanian girl seeing herself in the reflection of your event.

Upon completion of the festival, the painting was carefully peeled off from Sharon’s back, and is now framed and proudly displayed on the wall of her home.



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