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Perris Pupils Perform for African-American History Month

Singers and dancers from Perris schools kicked off the entertainment at the recent 2015 African-American History Month celebration in the City.

Perris City Councilmembers Julio Rodriguez and David Rabb represented the City at the youth performances on Feb. 28, which took place in the Bob Glass Gymnasium.

"It's always important to support endeavors like this," Rodriguez said. "Whatever is important to our community is important to our City Council. I look forward to this every year. It's important to show our support for community-based groups and to our community."



Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez with event organizer Virniecia Green-Jordan at the Youth Talent Show honoring African-American History Month in the City of Perris.

Rabb enjoyed the performances from his spot in the gym bleachers where he sat with several relatives.

"It's important to our youth that we support them when they give their presentations," Rabb said. "I want to see what they can do. I am happy to be part of a City that celebrates its various communities."

The performers included Fabian Guerrero, 12, who attends Perris Elementary School; the group Soaring Voices (Leonard White, 10; Yamila Castillo, 10; Isabella Gallardo, 8, and Lizette Rodriguez, all of Park Avenue Elementary School); the dance group DIP Duo (Ahrion Collins, 16, of Perris High School, and Amariah Cali, 12, who attends Pinacate Middle School) and aspiring rapper Sandinet Garcia, 14, of Perris High School.

Fabian took home first prize for his rendition of "Amazing Grace." He sang it to honor his aunt, who died recently.

"I felt like the people in the audience were encouraging me," he said.

He thanked the City for hosting the youth talent show.

"It's an amazing event," Fabian said. "It encourages young people to display their talents."

The Soaring Voices quartet performed "We Are the World" for their first number. Then they returned to the stage and signed "I Need You to Survive."

"It was fun to sing in front of a lot of people," Leonard White said. "We just sang. We got to have fun in front of our peers."

Lizette Rodriguez said she enjoyed the performance because "it involves getting kids to let loose!"

Event organizer Virniecia Green-Jordan said African-Americans have played a vital role in the City of Perris' development for nearly 150 years. They helped build roads and churches and helped contribute to the City's economic, political and cultural development.

"That's why it's important to celebrate black history," Green-Jordan said. "This is exciting because it's community involvement in a multi-cultural environment."



Perris City Councilman David Rabb and Virniecia Green-Jordan present the first-place prize to Fabian Guerrero, 12, for his version of "Amazing Grace."

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