Curtis Pierre is a world-renowned artist, educator, and guardian who has devoted his life to Afro-Brazilian musical, dance, and performance traditions. He is the founder and director of Casa Samba, which he leads with his wife, Carolyn Barber-Pierre, Assistant Vice President of Intercultural Life at Tulane University, and their son, Bomani Pierre.

Casa Samba promotes Brazilian musical and performance cultures through weekly open rehearsals and frequent school and university workshops. It also maintains a center that works to educate the New Orleans community and the Gulf South region of the rich cultural traditions of Brazil and the similarities which bridge Carnival in Brazil with Mardi Gras in New Orleans emphasizing the importance of their African tradition and influences.

In addition to the samba workshop Mestre Curtis will discuss a recent partnership with the Acadêmicos do Salgueiro, an esteemed Escola de Samba from Rio de Janeiro. Casa Samba has been selected to serve as the first international ambassador to Salgueiro.