



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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MEDIA RELEASE

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE NGC BOCAS LIT FEST AND ITS
FESTIVAL LAUNCH**

As a proud supporter of the festival for many years, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts (the Ministry) welcomes the official launch of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2023, with approximately 80 activities taking place throughout this weekend. Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Ms. Jasmine Pascal, was pleased to deliver remarks and to declare the festival officially open at the festival's ceremony which took place today, April 28, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Old Fire Station, Port of Spain.

Among those in attendance were Founder and President of the Bocas Lit Fest, Mrs. Marina Salandy-Brown; Bocas Lit Fest CEO, Mr. Jean-Claude Cournand; Festival and Programme Director of The NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Mr. Nicholas Laughlin; Director of the Heritage Library at NALIS, Ms. Jasmin Simmons; Representatives of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago; Representatives of all NGC Bocas Lit Fest sponsors and partners.

In her remarks, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Ms. Jasmine Pascal reiterated the privilege that it has been for the Ministry to support the work of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest over the years. She said, "We see the NGC Bocas Lit Fest as an important incubator for the development of emerging storytellers, where hobbies can be transformed into passions, and passions into lucrative professions. This work significantly aligns with that of the Artist Registry of Trinidad and Tobago, through which the Ministry supports the development of our creative sector and the professionalisation of our nation's artists."

She also congratulated the Bocas Lit Fest team on their commitment to cultural advocacy, to the preservation of our performance traditions and to youth development. "This is a space for the young to encourage each other and be inspired to create a happier world, a better world through uplifting, people-focused, nation-building stories," she emphasised. She concluded by congratulating the courage of the festival's new writers and the commitment of returning writers, while inviting visiting storytellers to enjoy all that Trinidad and Tobago has to offer.

Festival and Programme Director of The NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Mr. Nicholas Laughlin also thanked the Ministry for its valuable contribution to the festival as an eager and recurrent contributor to the festival's work, both financially and in heart. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts will continue to invest in the development and preservation of our nation's performance traditions. We champion the work of our young and emerging literary minds and encourage the nation to enjoy all that the weekend's festivities have to offer.



Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Ms Jasmine Pascal delivering opening remarks.



Ms Jasmine Pascal enjoying lively conversation with Director of the Heritage Library at NALIS, Ms. Jasmin Simmons and young local poet Ms. Shimiah Lewis.

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