



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

Level 8 -10, Tower C,
International Waterfront Complex,
1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: 624-1403
Fax: 624-6737

March 16, 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Ministry of Tourism Welcomes the Return of the NCG Bocas Lit Fest

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts joins the literary community in welcoming the return of the NCG Bocas Lit Fest to a fully in-person state. The official media launch of this year's festival took place on March 15, 2023, at the National Library and Information System of Trinidad and Tobago.

After almost four years of virtual and hybrid events, the 2023 NCG Bocas Lit Fest was launched under the theme "*What's Your Story?*" and is set to run from April 28-30, 2023, with various initiatives taking place in the lead up to and following the main event.

In her remarks, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Ms. Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones, emphasised the incredible role that the literary arts play in preserving the stories of local culture and congratulated the Bocas Lit Fest team for its commitment to shaping Trinidad and Tobago through the literary arts. "Festivals like this invite aspiring and proficient writers and storytellers into a space where they can translate their experiences into stories for the next generation," she said. She also spoke to the festival's role in facilitating meaningful collaborations between creators and industry leaders, and reiterated the Ministry's commitment to furthering the professionalisation of Trinidad and Tobago's literary and creative arts industry. "We are eager to see our local writers break ground internationally," she said. She further celebrated the festival's role in driving visitor arrivals as well as international attention to Trinidad and Tobago's heritage.

This year's NCG Bocas Lit Fest will feature literary workshops, book readings, poetry competitions, children's initiatives, community engagement and panel discussions. Focus will also be placed on creating greater access to youth in local communities, international audiences and persons with learning and other disabilities.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts continues to be a proud sponsor of the Bocas Lit Fest as part of the Ministry's thrust to support initiatives that leverage this country's tourism and creative assets for economic and social growth. The Ministry will continue to champion the development of our literary artists as they take the stories of our culture throughout the region, as well as internationally.



From left to right: Chairman of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Dr. Joseph Ishmael Khan; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Ms. Simone Thorne-Mora-Quinones; Head Corporate Social Responsibility at the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Mr. Myles Lewis; Ms. Marina Salandy-Brown, Founder and President of the Bocas Lit Fest; Head of One Caribbean Media (OCM) Group Marketing, Mr. Marcus Chin Aleong; Deputy Executive Director (Ag.) of NALIS, Ms. Jasmin Simmons; Festival and Programme Director of The NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Mr. Nicholas Laughlin; CEO of the Bocas Lit Fest, Mr. Jean-Claude Courmand; Children's Programme Manager of The NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Ms. Melvina Hazard; and Director to the Board of NGC, Mr. Dan Russell Ethan Martineau.

###END###