



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

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Media Release

Ministry of Tourism and TT Carnival Museum Launch Youth Initiative - 'Foundation Meets the Future'

The Ministry of Tourism Culture and the Arts (MTCAs), in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Museum and Courts Unicomer Limited, launched the first in a series of youth workshops entitled *Foundation Meets the Future* on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Museum, Port of Spain. The first session featured cultural icon and Calypsonian Dr. David Michael Rudder and renowned local musician, Mr. Muhammad Muwakil of Freetown Collective, as they shared their cultural and industry insights with 30 students from Belmont Secondary School and St. Margaret's Boys Anglican School.

Foundation Meets the Future is an interactive community and youth outreach initiative aimed at leveraging the experiences of local cultural and creative icons, and encouraging knowledge transfer between seasoned and up and coming artistes and creatives. It aligns strongly with the Ministry's goals outlined in the National Cultural Policy which emphasize boosting cultural confidence by encouraging participation by all in cultural development, and developing integrated platforms to nurture excellence among developing artists which propel them toward thriving careers in the arts.

In their discussions, Dr. David Michael Rudder and Muhammad Muwakil shared practical tools which have guided their careers and success over the years. They emphasized the importance of letting knowledge of our history shape our appreciation for today's freedoms and opportunities. Students were also encouraged to nurture their spirits of curiosity, community and commitment to growth as they pursue their goals and dreams, and build towards contributing meaningfully to their country.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts congratulates the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Museum for its commitment to culture and youth development. The Ministry looks forward to continued collaboration with industry stakeholders and private-sector organizations to champion initiatives that promote heritage preservation and youth engagement in the creative and cultural sector.

For further information on the series, the public can contact Mr. Peter Corbie, Head of Operations and Steering Committee Lead – Marketing & PR, Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Museum, at 738-8948 or via email at Operations@tcarnivalmuseum.com.



Participants of the first iteration of the Foundation Meets the Future Youth series.



From l-r: Mr. Peter Corbie, Head of Operations and Steering Committee Lead – Marketing & PR, Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Museum; Mr. Tej Ramlogan, Director of Culture, MTCA; Ms. Satie Jamraj-Marimuthu, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MTCA; Mr. Videsh Maharaj, Permanent Secretary of the MTCA; Mr. Dexter Charles; Mr. Muhammad Muwakil; Dr. David Rudder; Councillor Nicole Young – Belmont East; Dr. Josephine Torrel-Brown, Curriculum Coordinator – Visual Performing Arts representing the Honourable Minister of Education; Mr. Lenny Tyson; Ms. Alicia Blake, Cultural Officer I, MTCA; and Ms. Jaime Bago, Cultural Officer I, MTCA.

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