

Laureate News



ANTHONY N. SABGA
AWARDS
Caribbean Excellence





About

The Anthony N Sabga Awards were established in 2005, to recognise and support excellence in human endeavour that uplifts the region.

Since then, we've awarded 62 laureates, presenting them with over TT\$30 million to further their careers.

The Awards' E-News is a bi-monthly publication – all about our laureates and the infrastructure that selects and supports them.

[Learn More](#)

Contents

I

Beryl spares Mustard
Seed Communities

2

Marlon's Best Books

3

Prof Morris's
Seismic Smashing

4

Artist-in-Residence,
Joanne C.

5

Dr Muppuri's New
Med School

6

"Panyard Universe"
on the big screen

7

Welcome!

8

Sir Shridath's
Caribbean Vision

9

Farewell,
Dave Martins



My Father's House – Kingston, Jamaica

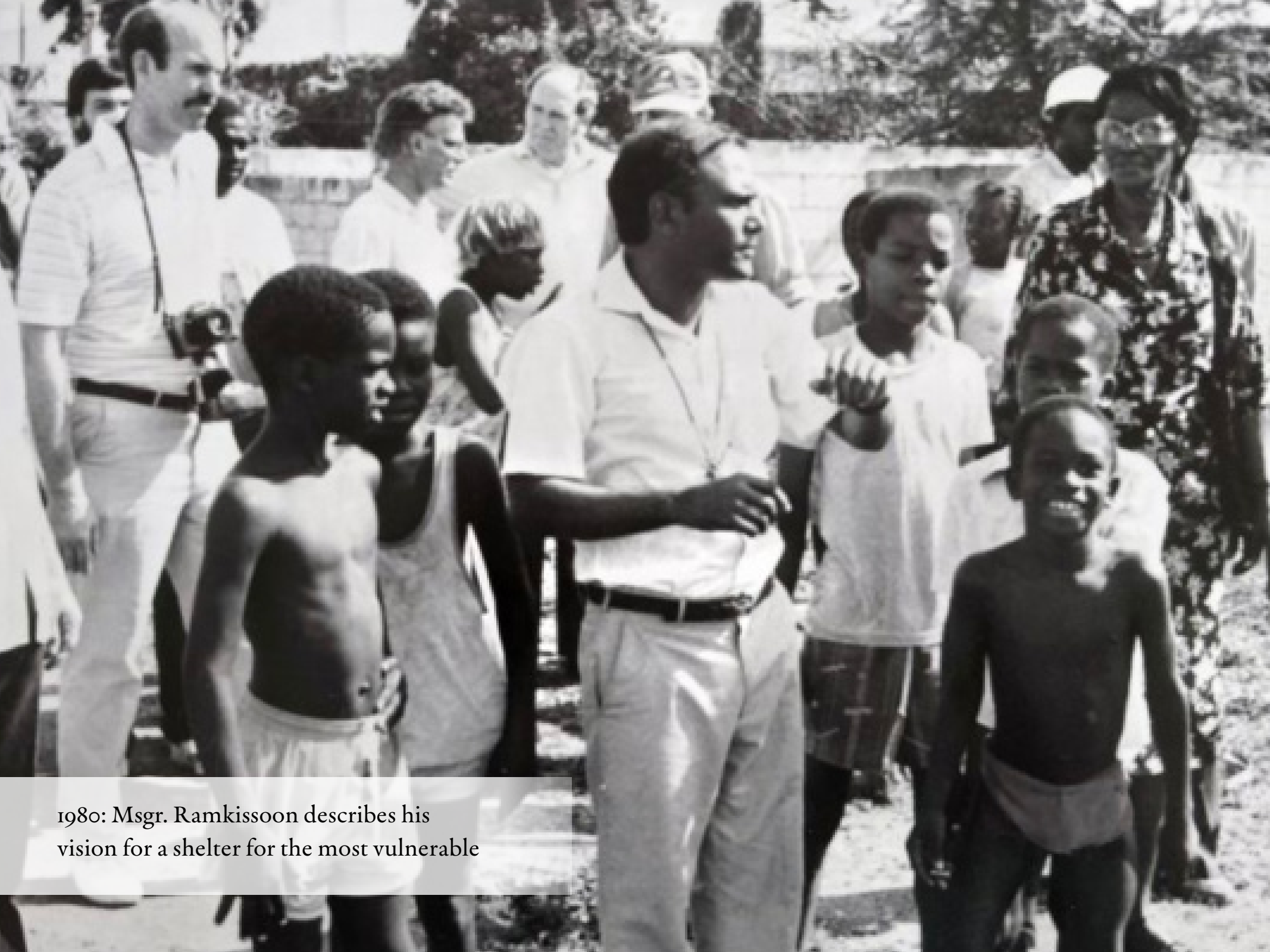
Beryl spares Mustard Seed Communities

Monsignor Gregory Ramkissoon's Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) in Jamaica suffered minor damage from Hurricane Beryl in early July, but the 2006 Public & Civic Contributions Laureate wrote to let us know that they'd been spared the worst. "Thanks to your prayers and unwavering support," noted Ramkissoon, "all the children and residents are safe. Thank you, Lord!"

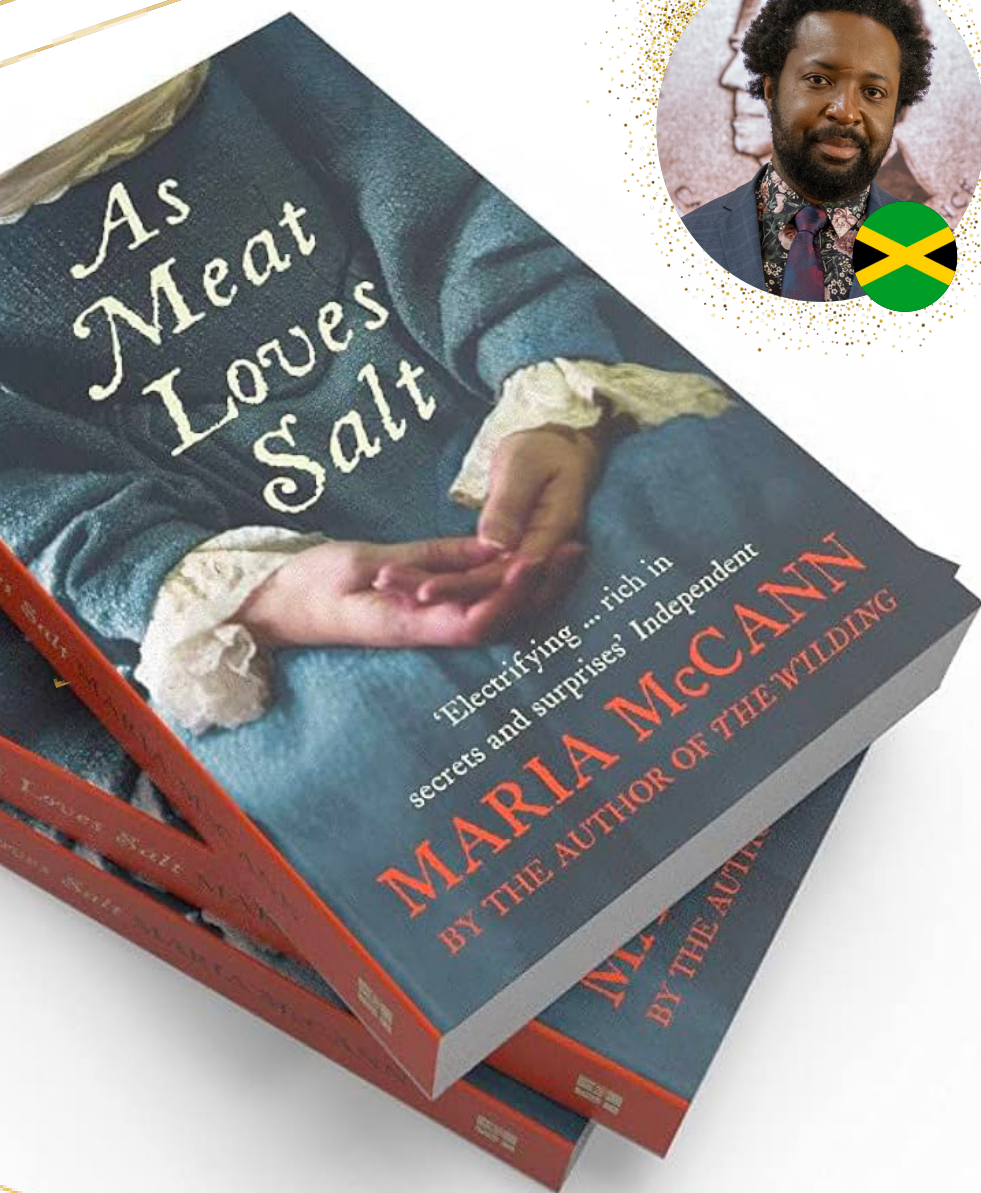
Damage included leaking roofs and broken windows. A retaining wall at My Father's House – an MSC residence for 40 children with diverse cognitive and physical abilities – also collapsed. MSC Jamaica provides support for over 440 vulnerable Jamaicans, including individuals with disabilities, children with HIV, and teen mothers.

You can support MSC's work here:

[Click Here](#)



1980: Msgr. Ramkisson describes his vision for a shelter for the most vulnerable



Marlon's Best Books

Author Marlon James, our 2022 Arts & Letters Laureate, shared his favourite books of the 21st Century with the New York Times Book Review in July, alongside other literary luminaries like Stephen King, Junot Diaz, and fantasy novelist Rebecca Roanhorse.

The Jamaican author of “A Brief History of Seven Killings” - winner of the 2015 Booker Prize - chose “Wolf Hall” by Hilary Mantel, “2666” by Roberto Bolaño, and “As Meat Loves Salt” by Maria McCann, among other books. Six of James’s picks appeared on the Times’s larger list of the 100 best books of the 21st Century.



Prof Morris's Seismic Smashing

2021 Public & Civic Contributions Laureate, Senator Floyd Morris, made history in May when he became the first visually impaired person to be appointed professor at the University of the West Indies. The new Professor of Disability Studies is not only the first visually impaired person to be appointed to a full professorship in UWI's 75-year history, he is also believed to be the first such appointment in the Caribbean and Latin America.

"This is indeed seismic, and a smashing of the academic glass ceiling by a person with disability in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean," Morris told *The Gleaner*. He recounted that he had had "to go the extra mile" to get access to research materials to complete the publication of four books and nine peer-reviewed journal articles.

Morris went blind in 1989 due to glaucoma. "I have been very disciplined in my work, dedicated to the cause of improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities and allowed God to be at the centre of my life in all things that I do," he told *The Gleaner*.



Joanne C. Hillhouse, by Annetta Jackson,
Intersect Antigua-Barbuda

Artist-in-Residence, Joanne C.

Writer Joanne C. Hillhouse recently wrapped up a stint as Artist-in-Residence by gender justice advocacy group, Intersect in Antigua. For the past few months, our 2023 Arts & Letters Laureate has been sharing two pieces of writing monthly and has used the opportunity

“to share a mix of original writing, process writing, and critical writing.”

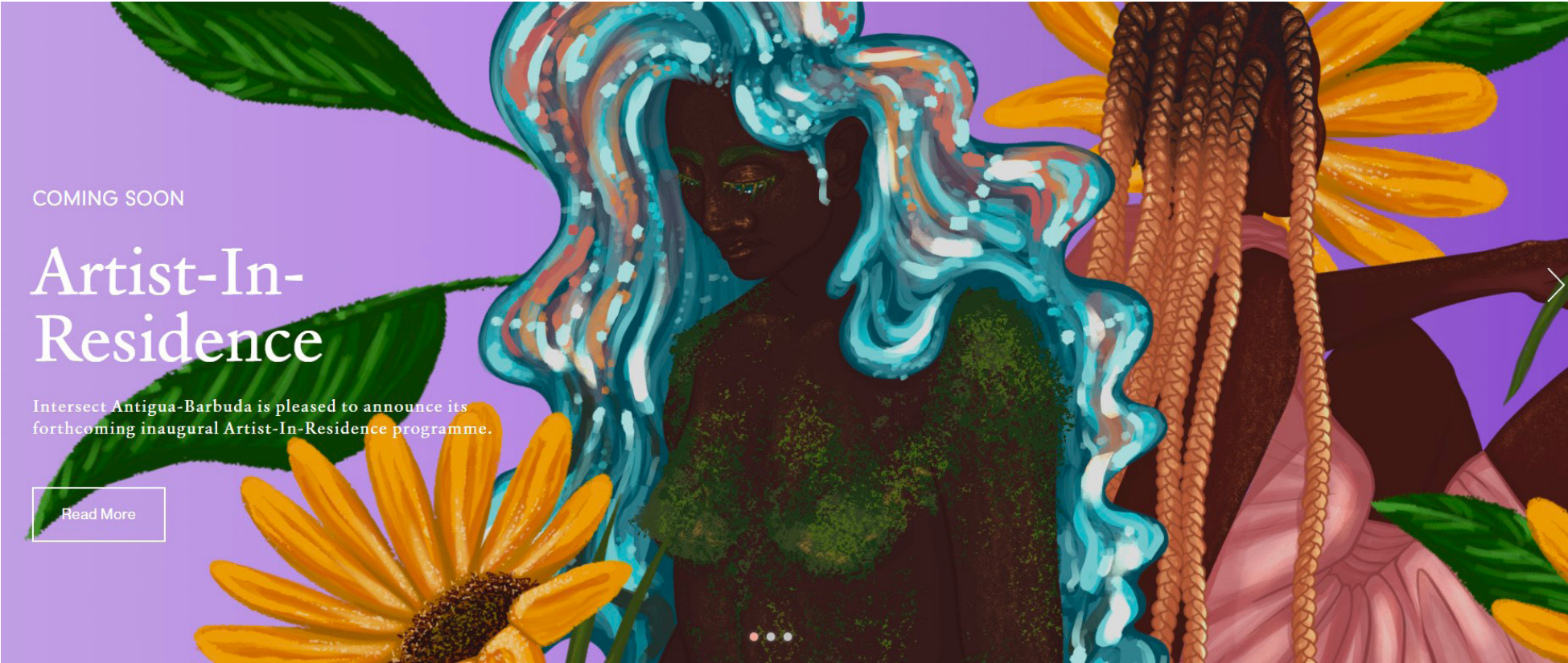
Intersect was formed in Antigua in 2015 to “spark action and dialogue to end violence against women and Queeribbean people.” During her residency, Joanne wrote about her climate anxiety and the emotional value of objects.

COMING SOON

Artist-In-Residence

Intersect Antigua-Barbuda is pleased to announce its forthcoming inaugural Artist-In-Residence programme.

[Read More](#)





Dr Guna Muppuri (front, left) at the opening of the BIMS School of Medicine and Health Professions in Montego Bay, Jamaica

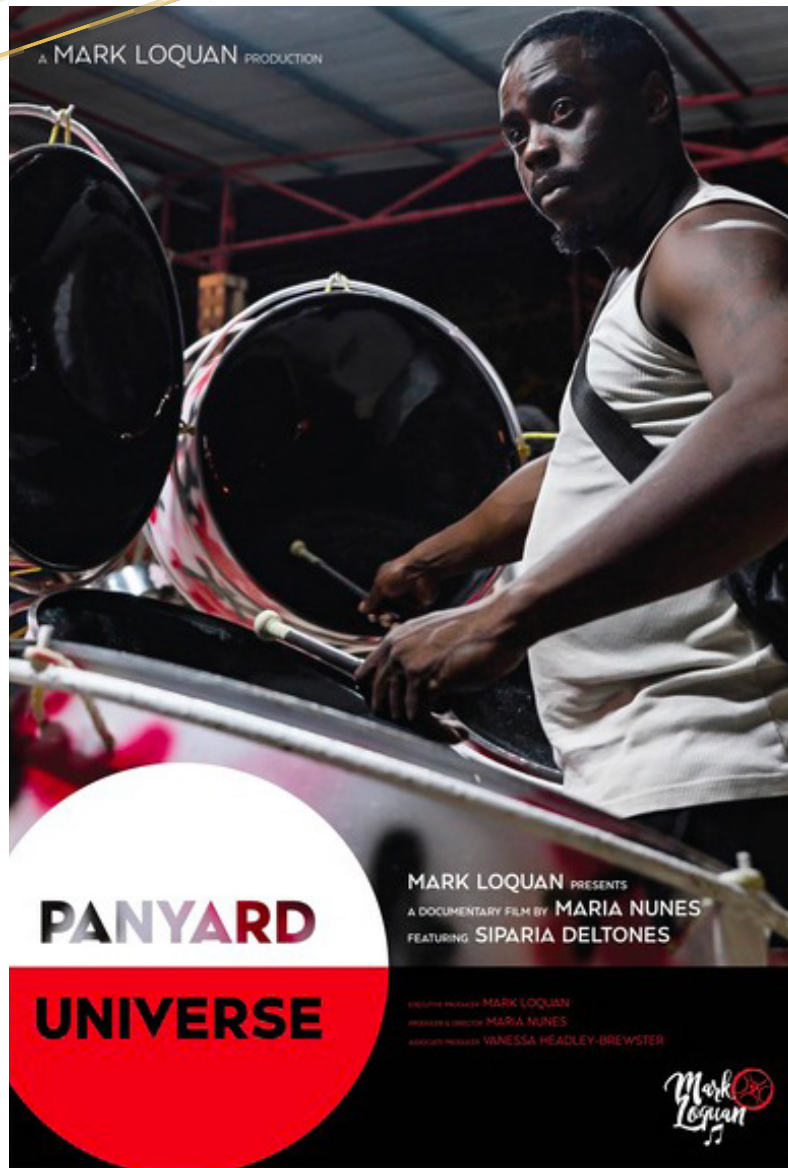


Dr Muppuri's New Med School

2021 Entrepreneurship Laureate Dr Guna Muppuri and his Bioprisk pharmaceutical group have established a private medical school in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Dr Muppuri, a physician who became an entrepreneur when he saw the need for affordable, effective pharmaceuticals in Jamaica, told the Anthony N Sabga Awards that the new school's ultimate goal is to "produce the best quality of next generation physicians primarily to the US and global health sectors."

The BIMS School of Medicine and Health Professions was recently accredited by CAAM-HP, the regional accreditation agency, which allows them to start enrolling students immediately.



“Panyard Universe” on the big screen

“Panyard Universe”, a documentary on the role of panyards as centres of creativity and community directed and produced by 2021 Arts & Letters Laureate Maria Nunes, ran for a week at Port of Spain cinema Movietowne in August. It was no small feat to secure local screen time at a cinema multiplex that features almost exclusively Hollywood (and the occasional Bollywood) fare, but for sporadic collaboration with the annual TT FilmFest.

The 50-minute doc features ‘deep South’ steelband Siparia Deltones. Nunes told the Trinidad Guardian in July that it was clear from all that happens at Deltones that “a panyard is a universe of possibility.” The doc portrays Deltones as a progressive steel orchestra that demands “self-excellence” from all who enter their space. “Panyard Universe” is the latest instalment in a series of films by executive producer Mark Loquan on the myriad directions that T&T’s national instrument is taking.



Maria Nunes -
photo by Marlon Rouse



Kevin Farmer – Barbados CNC



Gwyneth George – Guyana CNC

Dr Deborah Hickling Gordon –
Jamaica CNCStanley Everton Reid, OBE –
OECS CNC

Adesh Ramsubhag – T&T CNC



Marina Salandy-Brown – T&T CNC

Welcome!

Welcome to the six new members of our Country Nominating Committees (CNCs), which do the hard work of finding and nominating Caribbean talent for the Awards each year.

The Barbados committee added Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, who is profoundly committed to preserving and promoting Barbados's history. The Guyana CNC welcomed Gwyneth George, Head Librarian at the University of Guyana and former lecturer on Guyanese History.

In Jamaica, Cultural Studies lecturer at UWI, Mona, Dr Deborah Hickling Gordon, attended her first meetings as the most recent addition to a dynamic CNC. The OECS committee greeted Stanley Everton Reid, OBE – a legal consultant and part-time CAPE Law Teacher.

Finally, the Trinidad and Tobago CNC received two new members. They are Prof Adesh Ramsubhag, our 2018 Laureate for Science & Technology whose research on microorganisms has affected sectors including animal husbandry and environmental pollution, and Marina Salandy-Brown, founder and president of Bocas Lit Fest, the largest literary festival in the Anglophone Caribbean.



Sir Shridath's Caribbean Vision

Former Chairman of the Eminent Persons Panel (EPP), renowned Caribbean diplomat Sir Shridath Ramphal, passed away at his home in Barbados at the age of 95 on August 30. Sir Shridath was the third Chair of the EPP, following Sir Ellis Clarke and Mr Michael Mansoor.

In a letter to the editor of the Stabroek News, current EPP Chairman, Ambassador Professor Compton Bourne, wrote that the former Commonwealth secretary-general (1975-1990) was “remarkable for his inexhaustible energy... and his undiminished commitment to advancing the welfare of Guyana and the Caribbean.”

He added that the beneficiaries of Sir Shridath's legacy and commitment to the Caribbean “should do no less than remain faithful to his vision and life's work for human betterment.”

We at the Awards Programme Office would like to extend our condolences to Sir Shridath's family.



Sir Shridath Ramphal (sitting, right) with
Dr Anthony N Sabga and the 2015 laureates



Farewell, Dave Martins

Renowned Guyanese singer Dave Martins, husband of our 2008 Public & Civic Contributions Laureate (Joint) Annette Arjoon-Martins, passed away in August at the age of 90.

Online publication Demerara Waves noted that Dave Martins and the Tradewinds was a household name in the 1980s, when he composed and sang “Not a Blade of Grass”, which “mobilised Guyanese across the divide against Essequibo’s nagging claim to the Essequibo region.” That claim, of course, is still nagging.

Annette Arjoon-Martins wrote on Facebook: “Eternally grateful to have shared 15 years of unconditional love, support and especially shared passions for everything Guyanese with my soulmate.”

We extend our condolences to Annette and her family.