

2023 Council Nominees



**THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Meet the nomineees



2023 Council Nominees

Edward Kacal

BSc, MBA, PMP, CFM

My career of over 32 years has centred on utilizing my Industrial Engineering, Project Management and Business Management expertise to improve business processes: building efficiency within business, and developing strategic growth opportunities.

I am the CEO of Servus Limited, an Integrated Facility Management service provider. I previously lectured part-time at the Masters' level at the UWI in Project Management and Strategic Planning, from 2013-2019, and am a licensed Instructor for the International Facility Management Association's (IFMA) Professional credentials.



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Edward Kacal

From a volunteering and service perspective, I held the position of Secretary of the Caribbean Forest Conservation Association (CFCA) for 4 years.

Eventually leaving the organization because I felt that it had lost its way in terms of developing and implementing reforestation and forest protection projects and education. I also serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee of the International Facility Management Association and have held the Treasurer or Finance Committee Chair position for other volunteer positions.

While I am not a subject matter expert on historical or cultural topics, I am passionate about the preservation of the nation's history, be it the built environment, our culture, or our art. I believe that I can provide a positive contribution to the Council using my engineering and management experience as a base, particularly in the areas of project management, finance, governance, and marketing and general outreach.

2023 Council Nominees

Dr. Kadelle Jessamy

I am Dr Kadelle Jessamy, 32 years of age and a Medical Doctor by profession. I possess a Master's degree in Public Health and a Diploma in Global Leadership from the United Nations University of Peace.

I was raised in the historic community of Laventille, which is in the East Port of Spain district and as such, have always been in awe of our rich culture and diversity as a nation.



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Dr. Kadelle Jessamy

I have a passion for education and learning and as such, believe myself to be a suitable addition to the Council of the National Trust as we aim to achieve our Strategic Goals particularly Goals Number 2 (Enabling Environment) and 4 (Education and Outreach).

If selected, I intend to work closely with the other esteemed members of the Council to increase our membership, to expand our outreach initiatives and to offer a youthful perspective.

I also intend to be innovative in assisting with the expansion of the Heritage Keepers (Trust Junior) as preservation is an ongoing process and the need for increased and sustained youth involvement cannot be underscored enough.

2023 Council Nominees

Mark Franco

Mark was born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago where he practices today as a Registered Architect.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1983. He works in Trinidad and through the Caribbean in all sectors, particularly residential, commercial and hospitality, including new build, renovations, adaptive re-use, and conservation. He is a Past-President of the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects and Past-Chairman of the Board of Architecture of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mark is concerned about environmental, conversation and preservation issues. He is a Past-President of the Crusoe Reef Society and a founder of the Council of Presidents of the Environment.



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Mark Franco

An Architect whose work is contemporary he considers context, history, conservation and memory in his approach.

Mark was elected to the Council of the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago in 2020. He serves on the Trust's Landmarks Sub-committee. He supports the Heritage Preservation and Research Officers in their work, in particular, with the monitoring of Listed Properties of Interest, and offering guidance and advice to owners and occupiers of our National Heritage Assets.

2023 Council Nominees

Marie Abdulah



Upon reflection, I realize how fortunate I am to have received such a good upbringing and an excellent education.

My diverse professional life and my travels have also been of great benefit, broadening my horizon and my understanding of the world, its natural beauty, of people, of their culture and history.

My deep interest in history, architecture, art and heritage led me to get involved with Citizens for Conservation and later with the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2017 and 2020, I was elected a Member of the NTTT Council and felt greatly honoured.

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Marie Abdulah



I was able to utilize my education, my interpersonal skills, my public relations and management capabilities to assist my esteemed Council colleagues in preparing a strategic plan, sitting on the Tenders Sub-Committee, faithfully attending and participating in our meetings and generally helping wherever and whenever I can be useful.

Although the Trust has covered milestones over the past few years and the Council forms a well-rounded homogenous team, there is lots to do all year round. Since my energy, enthusiasm and goodwill are as strong as ever, I would like to serve for another term.

2023 Council Nominees

Dr. Ryan S. Mohammed



PhD, MPhil, BSc, PMA

- Co-authored scientific articles in both international and local journals, documenting potentially invasive and exotic species.
- Training in fossil identification and preparation at the La Brea Tar Pit and Museum, Los Angeles and Museology and museum management at the National Heritage Museum Institute, New Delhi.
- Submitted article 'The Role of Natural History Museums in Creating Awareness and Conserving Natural Heritage'.

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Dr. Ryan S. Mohammed

- Acting Curator of the UWI Zoology Museum from (August 2018 - July 2019)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Auburn University Alabama: research on ecology and co-evolution in stream fish in the Northern Range of Trinidad (November 2021- November 2023).
- Conducting and management of biodiversity baseline surveys (2003-2023)
- Worked with FAO and UNESCO on policy and implementation matters of Aquaculture and Blue Economy.
- Conducting and management of biodiversity baseline surveys (2003-2023)
- Worked with FAO and UNESCO on policy and implementation matters of Aquaculture and Blue Economy.
- Cooperate Secretary for Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC) (2015 - 2023)

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Dr. Ryan S. Mohammed

- President of the Aquaculture Association of Trinidad and Tobago (aQua-TT).
- Honorary Research Fellow of Cardiff University.

Activity as a Council and Landmarks Subcommittee member over the last 3 years.

- Hosted and co-organized a free and a paid online workshop on Trinidad's fossils as a mechanism to both boost awareness for our citizen as well as generate income for the NTTTT.
- Submitted nominations for the tar fossils of Trinidad to be listed on our inventory and planning team drafting both dossiers on the NE Tobago Islands and the fringing reefs to be listed as assets on our inventory.
- Been on several asset inventory assessment trips focusing on both built and natural heritage.

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Dr. Ryan S. Mohammed

Goals for the next 3 year term if re-elected, boost revenue for the NTTT and promote natural heritage awareness. in keeping with the National Trust's Goals #3 (Preservation) and Goal #4 (Education and Outreach)

- Carnival social sub-committee to increase revenue for the NTTT.
- My colleagues (La Brea Museum) currently have access to international funding (National Geographic Institute) to continue fossil training and research in Trinidad.
- Head quarter for the NTTT along with a registered and curated museum collection, repartition of fossils found in both Trinidad and Tobago for the benefit of citizens in both islands.
- Member Nelson Island Management Committee.

2023 Council Nominees

Turkessa T.L. Blades

Attorney-at-Law, Registered Mediator

Ms. Blades holds a LL.B. from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and was admitted to the Bar in 1999 after graduating from the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School.

Her legal career began in the Solicitor General's Department and in the Chief State Solicitor's Department as Advocate Attorney where she appeared before the High Court and the Court of Appeal in many civil litigation matters.

In 2004, she was appointed Legal/Corporate Secretary at the Regulated Industries Commission as the Commission's Chief Legal Adviser with key responsibilities for the structuring and oversight of contracts, as well as leading legal briefs as instructing attorney.



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Turkessa T.L. Blades

Her legal acumen has also been recognized in her former executive role as Legal Manager and Corporate Secretary at the Government Information Service (GIS), applying her project management skills, ensuring legal compliance with leadership of a legal advisory team on corporate governance initiatives at GIS.

As an experienced court Advocate, she was also retained as General Manager of the CEPEP Company Limited, one of the largest State enterprises responsible for government's mass employment initiatives. Consistently recognized for her leadership skills, Ms. Blades has also acted as General Manager at the National Broadcasting Network and again as Company Secretary and Head of Legal Services at the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC).