

Biosketches of nominees to
serve as Elected Members on
the Council of the National
Trust



THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Marie Abdulah

Upon reflection, I realize how fortunate I was to have received such a good upbringing and an excellent education. My diverse professional life and my travels have also been a great education, 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 have led me to get involved with **Citizens for Conservation** at first and then with the **National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago**.

I felt honoured to be elected as a Member of Council in November 2017. I was able to utilize my education, my interpersonal skills, my public relations and management capabilities to assist with the rest of the Council in preparing the Strategic Plan; I also served as a member of the Tenders Sub-Committee. I believe I can assist with the sustainable development of the properties that the Trust has under its control – especially with Mille Fleurs.

The NTTT Council is at a very exciting and important stage of its short life and therefore it is with enthusiasm and energy that I would like to serve for another term.

Cezanne Chang

Cezanne Chang is a senior Health, Safety and Environment professional with over 14 years' experience. She is the team lead with responsibility for monitoring compliance in the upstream and downstream oil and gas industry.

Cezanne is a member of the Cabinet-appointed Steering Committee on child labour and is currently involved in drafting the National Policy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Trinidad and Tobago. As a strategic thinker, she adopts a practical and agile approach to problem solving and reprioritisation given the ever-changing nature of the public and private sectors. Committed to culture in San Fernando, she hopes to advocate for heritage preservation through strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in the City.

Cezanne has recognised expertise in environmental protection, process improvement and project management; competencies which can support the property management initiatives at the Trust. She considers membership development to be a priority area for the Trust and will seek to create an active relationship with regional partners and underrepresented sectors who have a significant role to play in the development of a sustainable heritage economy in Trinidad and Tobago.





Mark J. H. 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.

An Architect whose work is contemporary he considers context, history, conservation and memory in his approach. Relevant examples are in Georgetown, Guyana in an addition to the historic Woodbine House and the head office for Republic Bank (Guyana) Limited. In the former (adaptively re-used as a hotel) the addition is sensitive in site planning, scale and connection to the existing, drawing on key features of the House and incorporating into the new. The latter is a contemporary building successfully including references to specific vernacular elements of Georgetown architecture. This allows the building to sit comfortably within its context.

Dr. Ryan Mohammed

(PhD Environmental Biology: Aquatic Ecology, M-Phil Environmental Biology and Fish Pathology, B.Sc Zoology and Botany, UWI) I completed my PhD at The University of the West Indies, Faculty of Science and Technology in Aquatic Biology in 2019. I have co-authored several scientific articles in both international and local journals, documenting potentially invasive and also exotic species. My most recent article submission, 'The Role of Natural History Museums in Creating Awareness and Conserving Natural Heritage' focusses on natural history and culture. I received additional 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 during 2019.

I was the Acting Curator of the UWI Zoology Museum from August 2018 to July 2019 and I now teach at two MSc Programs (UWI and Regis, Colorado). I have at least a decade of experience in conducting and management of biodiversity baseline surveys. I have worked with FAO and UNESCO on policy and implementation matters of Aquaculture and Blue Economy. Lastly, I am the Cooperate Secretary for Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC), President of the Aquaculture Association of Trinidad and Tobago (aQua-TT) and an Honorary Research Fellow of Cardiff University. Additionally, as I highlighted in the TTFNC's herpetology guide, I see a link between conservation, fauna and culture. Working with ERIC in particular I was happy to be part of the team responsible for the recent listing of the Main Ridge as a Heritage Site for Trinidad and Tobago as well as UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere designation for North East Tobago.

