



**THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**



**National Trust of Trinidad & Tobago
Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

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About the Trust

The National Trust was established by the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act, chapter 40:53 of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago. An important part of its mandate is to preserve, manage, maintain, repair and service natural and built heritage properties of interest and to make provision for the access to and enjoyment of these properties by the public. According to the Act, the Trust is deemed to be a charitable institution of a public character. It is managed by a Council that reports to a Minister responsible for National Heritage, which at this time is the Minister of Planning and Development. Six of the eleven members of Council are appointed by the Minister but at least three of these must be from organisations that have similar objectives to the National Trust.

The membership of the National Trust elects the other five members of Council, allowing the public to have a voice and make a contribution to the preservation of National Heritage. There are now 3,000 members registered and the numbers are growing steadily.

In the past five years the staff has grown from two assistants to sixteen persons versed in heritage preservation and research, education and outreach, administration and finance and business development, sales and marketing. The National Trust has become well known for its tours, trips, exhibitions and lectures throughout the length and breadth of the country and focuses on a wide range of clients from the thousands of school children to senior citizens and active adults.

It utilises partnerships with state and private organisations to enable the management, maintenance and repair works to be done on the properties it manages. It has several years of experience in event management and outreach as well as facility management. As a response to the limits on public congregation, the National Trust has created virtual tours and is beginning to advertise tour packages catering to smaller numbers and will be rolling out additional videos, films, webinars and lectures utilising its website and social media platforms.

The National Trust completed a Strategic Plan in 2019, which lays out the road map for successful growth and development. It has through its associate membership with the International National Trust Organisation, been able to forge links with National Trusts across the world and in particular in all of the Caribbean. In fact a close working relationship has developed with the Barbados, Guyana, Bermuda and St Lucia National Trusts and the Heritage Trust of Curacao, all of whom own and successfully manage hundreds of historic properties.

The National Trust is a membership-based organisation which generates income as well as receives stipends from the State. Its governance and financial structure enable it to respond quickly to the needs of the properties that are under its control. Its audited accounts are produced annually and provided to its members and the general public as well as to its client Ministry.



Chairman's Report For October 2020 – September 2021



This year marks the last year that the National Trust spent at Sackville Street. While the Heritage House at Mille Fleurs was formally handed over to us in August 2020, it was only in the last few weeks of the next year, that we were able to finally pack up and move relatively seamlessly even though it was not quite the location we were expecting.

As usual, we are examining an accounting period that has passed over a year ago and while it is useful to mull over the activities of this time, I look forward to the day when with some changes in our legislation, we are able to account for the year soon after it has passed.

Anyway, what was 20/21 like? – I describe it as a year of Challenges and Triumphs!

You will remember that during this year, the pandemic was still in full force, with cycles of full lock downs and cautious openings – which served to keep everyone vigilant but uneasy. Nevertheless, the Heritage Preservation and Research department focused on developing its policies for monitoring and listing, preparation of dossiers for additional properties of interest, streamlining its heritage asset inventory by creating new categories to make it easier for the public to locate the properties on the website and ultimately create a cohesive Heritage Management system. Working with the Outreach and Education department the staff finetuned the listings of properties by region. They continued their very popular blogs and workbooks which were received eagerly by the public who were still mainly at home. The Outreach and Education department, while stymied by the restrictions on gatherings continued to expand its virtual tour offerings, increased the virtual lectures and workshops and then as the pandemic appeared to wane began to publicize its Friends and Family tours which have now become a popular fixture on our calendar.

This year resulted in larger numbers at our online lectures and workshops to the point where we had to expand our Zoom account to cater for the demand which has continued to this day. Our staff became ever more proficient at managing the Zoom platform – exploring all that it could offer and adopted the Teams platform as well, which they seemed to prefer for their internal meetings. The pandemic stimulated an expansion of our website, social media, and email communication, which kept hundreds of persons informed



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and entertained. The Project and Facilities Management focused on Nelson Island utilizing the limited funding to expand the solar power and then moved on to desalination to ensure that the island was sustainably 'off the grid'. The Operations department which included the accounting unit, also focused on policy creation, upgrade of our filing system and membership records, improved our asset register and streamlined the human resource data.

The CEO brought a level of structure and cohesiveness to the staff members as they continued to operate mainly out of the office, and she was able to report to the Council and bring feedback to the staff so that they could work as a unit despite not being physically together.

During the year under review, the opportunities to enhance the funding from the State were limited but the National Trust did get a few small grants that assisted in upgrading our website and enabled the continuation of a collaboration with the Scottish National Trust to create a masterplan and vision for Nelson Island and the Five Islands. But near the end of the fiscal year came the news that the National Trust had been awarded a grant of \$USD 200,000.00 from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation to implement a Project entitled Resilient Heritage. This was a great achievement and signaled the growing ability of our staff to operate at an international level as this is the first award of this kind to an english-speaking country in the Western Hemisphere.

As usual, I take the opportunity in the Annual report to give a brief overview of the year after the Fiscal Year that we are concerned with.

As you all know, we moved into the Mille Fleurs Heritage House on the 1st of October, 2021. We were really supposed to move into the Mews, but that building was not and still is not completed. Determined to move however, we decided to occupy three rooms of the Heritage House and use fans to keep some of the heat of the non airconditioned house at bay. We are now left to wonder whether that was the most strategic move as we have gone for more than a year with little or no movement in terms of the funding to complete the Mews. Luckily, our prowess in remote working has enabled us to operate with a desk sharing arrangement and we have operated as if we had all the amenities that a modern office would offer, thanks also to very committed and flexible staff members. Nevertheless, it has offered us the opportunity to market the Heritage House and undertake the facility management of the House and Grounds and our own profile has grown exponentially.

Another area that I want to mention is our increasing image as being in the forefront of sustainable energy and contributing to the knowledge and response to the impact of Climate Change. The fact that Nelson Island has operated 'Off the Grid' for the last two years and of course our research into sea level rise with the University of Florida has ensured that we join the band of implementors in this regard.

Our CEO has moved on to greener pastures, but we have continued to operate at the heightened capacity with which we have grown accustomed with additional assistance from our Business Development Coordinator. We are getting increasingly involved in



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stakeholder conferences and meetings on a wide variety of natural and built heritage issues. We have continued our collaboration with INTO and we look forward to renewing our work with US ICOMOS and other international bodies. We have commenced work at the Banwari Burial site to ensure that our architectural heritage is also in the forefront of our nation's development. We have expanded our range of tours and lectures and become known as one of the places to encourage exhibitions of all kinds. Our social media and website have grown and can now handle a greater demand for services. We are just about to launch our first book as a publisher in collaboration with an amazing group of individuals in the Woodbrook Residents Committee, who need special mention.

And the list goes on – please continue to visit our website and our social media platforms to keep in touch with the ever- expanding activities.

I want to pay tribute to the contribution of all members of Council, Subcommittees, and Staff whose names are published in this annual report. I must mention the contribution of the Ministry of Planning and Development – several of whose departments are aligned to the work we are doing and have assisted us throughout the year. We look forward to our continued collaboration. Finally, I want to thank all the National Trust Members, many of whom have volunteered with us, read our articles, provided feedback and advice, and participated in the tours, lectures, and exhibitions. We appreciate your support.

Margaret McDowall

Chairman



Our Team

FPO



Council of the National Trust



Margaret McDowall
Chairman

Neisha Ghany
Deputy Chairman

Dominic Romain
Treasurer

Candice Ramsaran
Secretary

Jacqueline Weekes Penco

Louis Vilain

Mark Franco

Marie Abdulah

Cezanne Chang

Dr Ryan Mohammed



Committees

Landmarks Committee - 2020-2021

Ms. Rudylynn Roberts - Chair

Mr. Mark Franco - Council member

Dr. Ryan Mohammed - Council Member

Mrs. Roma Wong Sang - NT Member

Mrs. Avril Siung-Chang - NT Member

Ms. Kara Roopsingh - Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Mr. Ashleigh J Morris - Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Ms. Leslie-Ann Paul - Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Ms. Karishma Nanhu - Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Tenders Committee - 2020-2021

Ms. Margaret McDowall - Chairman of the Council

Ms. Candice Ramsaran - Secretary to the Council

Ms. Neisha Ghany - Deputy Chairman of the Council

Mr. Dominic Romain - Treasurer of the Council

Mrs. Marie Abdulah - Council Member

Ms. Shamila Ramsaran - CEO

Mr. Kumi De Souza - Senior Project and Facilities Management Officer



Staff

Administration

Shamila Ramcharan
Chief Executive Officer

Pauline Philip
Operations coordinator

Safiya DaSilva
Assistant

Heritage Preservation & Research

Kara Roopsingh
Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Ashleigh Morris
Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Leslie-Ann Paul
Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Karishma Nanhu
Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

Maya Doyle
Research Officer

Catherine Serrant
Research Assistant

Outreach & Education

Graeme Suite
Business Development and Marketing Coordinator

Marlon Green
Outreach and Education Officer

Joseph Bertrand
Outreach and Education Officer

Tiy Cross Lovelace
Social Media and Education Officer

Cheryl Ali
Receptionist and Trust Shop

Carlene Philip
Outreach Assistant

Facilities & Project Management

Kumi DeSousa
Facilities Coordinator

Sean Austin
Facilities Supervisor



Heritage Preservation and Research (HPR) Department

The HPR Department is responsible for the listing and monitoring of properties of interest, researching the history and heritage of Trinidad and Tobago related to tangible heritage, and engaging NGOs, international organisations and relevant government agencies with respect to preserving sites and monuments of national significance.

The Heritage Preservation and Research Department comprises:

- 1) Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer:
Kara Roopsingh
- 2) Heritage Preservation and Research Officer: Ashleigh Morris
- 3) Heritage Preservation and Research Officer: Leslie-Ann Paul
- 4) Heritage Preservation and Research Officer: Karishma Nanhu
- 5) Research Officer: Maya Doyle
- 6) Research Assistant: Catherine Serrant

2020 was the year for closing the gaps in knowledge and policy. The strategic goals of the department centred upon creating policy, improving collaboration both locally (interagency, inter-Ministerial etc.) and internationally, and new research to fill the gaps.

Policy Creation

1. The Policy and Procedure for Listing Properties of Interest (the Listing Policy) was created by the HPRD, with the approval of the Landmarks Sub-committee and the Council. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the listing process, as mandated by the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act. Public consultations were also done for feedback from membership and the general public.
2. The HPRD team began working on a Policy for the Inventory of Heritage Assets. The Inventory Policy Framework was presented to the Landmarks Sub-committee in July 2021. The intention was to create a cohesive Heritage Management System which will clarify the process, criteria and maintenance of the Inventory. This will also feed into the proposal for a centralized digital platform through a collaborative partnership with Tulane University.



New Projects

Inventory of Heritage Assets

Inventory Reboot

As part of continuous updating of the Inventory of Heritage Assets, the department worked towards the goal of reducing the amount of missing information and photographs on the website by 10%. This was ongoing throughout the year by all HPRO staff. Although heritage property profiles are concisely written, much research is required to ascertain relevant histories and other information about them before they can be added to the database. Information was sourced mainly from books, articles, online materials, and interviews.

A list of sites which needed further research on the Heritage Asset Register was compiled and preliminary data was filled in from the Outreach and Education Department's well-researched tour scripts which also identified additional sites to be added to the Inventory database.

Re-categorisation of the Inventory of Heritage Assets

The National Trust Inventory of Heritage Assets was updated and upgraded and properties sorted into categories so that the Trust could be clear about the types of objects, places etc that exist on the inventory. In the process there was also a need to evolve the data fields to offer as much information as possible about the sites, objects and monuments identified. This of course includes the history of these for the benefit of staff who use the data to inform our

tours, regional corporation briefs etc as well as for public awareness. The categorisation also proved useful for:

- 1) Planning of tours.
- 2) Providing better information about listed sites for monitoring purposes.
- 3) Use by the NTTT Landmarks sub-committee when selecting a new tranche of properties for the purposes of listing.
- 4) Integrating the data with a robust GIS system.

The heritage property categories are as follows:

- Archaeological Heritage
- Art
- Buildings/sites associated with well-known characters, communities or events
- Civic buildings
- Cultural Spaces
- First Peoples (Pre-Columbian heritage)
- Fossils
- Geological landscape features
- Graves, tombs and burials
- Heritage Districts
- Industrial and Estate Heritage



New Projects

- Isles/Islets
- Military and war
- Monuments, memorials, and statues
- Natural heritage
- Parks, public outdoor and public green spaces
- Railway and transportation relics
- Religious spaces
- Tangible cultural objects
- Vernacular Architecture
- Sites of natural beauty/aesthetic interest

The department has completed two approaches to the inventory categorisation process:

- 1) one which provides an extensive list of the assets according to their region and;
- 2) an In-depth approach which emphasizes the type of asset within a given municipality.

These approaches were presented before the Landmarks Subcommittee on July 15th, 2021, and were approved.

The HPRD has successfully collaborated with the Outreach and

Education department in populating the various data fields, creating new fields in which to input data, including missing sites, the inputting of historical information and the documentation of changes. This leg of the project ended on 1st September 2021 with the completion of the following regions:

- Arima
- Chaguanas
- Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo
- Diego Martin
- Penal/Debe
- Port of Spain
- Point Fortin
- Princes Town
- Mayaro/Rio Claro
- San Juan/Laventille
- Sangre Grande
- Siparia
- Tobago
- Tunapuna/Piarco

The next step will be the inclusion of this inventory into a GIS system.



Monitoring Exercises and Site Visits

The following Listed POIs were monitored by the HPRD during the time period. This was necessary to ensure compliance with the Grade of Listing as well as build a relationship with property owners to lend assistance to their preservation efforts:

- 1) Archbishop's Palace
- 2) Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
- 3) Queen's Royal College
- 4) Minor Basilica of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- 5) Sarah Morton Dormitory
- 6) San Fernando Railway Station
- 7) Railway Engine No. 11
- 8) Arima Dial
- 9) Old Fire Station (Port of Spain)
- 10) Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
- 11) Fort Picton
- 12) St Joseph RC Church
- 13) Church of St Francis of Assisi

Information derived from the Monitoring exercises included:

- i. Funding was the number one issue raised by stakeholders. Stakeholders were keen to find out how the National Trust could assist them with funding to properly maintain Listed Properties of Interest.
- ii. Request for signage by multiple stakeholders so that the listed status of the property could be readily recognized.
- iii. A desire for more consultation with property owners before the Listing process is initiated.
- iv. The need for recognition of heritage preservation advocates who are committed to preservation and give their personal time and risk their own safety for the cause.



International Collaborations

- i. Through the TAP INTO Grant the Trust is continuing its work with Clea Warner of National Trust of Scotland in creating a Vision and Masterplan for Nelson Island and the Five Islands. This plan will assist in structuring applications for grants and guide management of the islands
- ii. Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago: Mr Marty Hylton the University of Florida Director of the Historic Preservation Program, in March 2021, and Trust staff member Kara Roopsingh, Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer created a grant project entitled Resilient Heritage. The Trust, in collaboration with the University of Florida's Historic Preservation Program (UF), was successful in securing the highly competitive U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 20th Anniversary Partnership Program grant to cover the first phase of this project and is the only organization in the Caribbean to so do. This two-phase initiative will advance the resilience and long-term preservation of the nation's historic places and cultural resources as they are impacted by climate change, such as sea level rise. UF will digitally document the downtown Port of Spain and Nelson Island sites, model coastal threats with a focus on flooding, undertake vulnerability assessments, and develop prioritized conservation and resilience strategies with the Craig Group Consultants. The goal is to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the process and identify shared values to inform the process and recommendations, i.e., employ a "values-based approach" to heritage management. Primary deliverables include conservation and adaptation

management plans with considerations and strategies for enhancing resilience. The project will serve as a model for documenting, assessing, and addressing the threats of climate change to other heritage sites across Trinidad and Tobago and the larger Caribbean region. <https://tt.usembassy.gov/national-trust-of-trinidad-and-tobago-awarded-us200000-preservation-grant/>

- iii. In 2021 Leiden University & The Royal Netherlands Institute of South Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) donated 491 publications on archaeology for the benefit of the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago and other stakeholders including First Peoples.



Content: Articles, Blogs, Student Printable Worksheets and more

Articles, blogs and student printable worksheets were created and written by staff to commemorate significant occurrences, people and places in Trinidad and Tobago, some of which have direct bearing on our built and natural heritage. Others highlight heritage that is under threat due to natural or man-made interference. Collectively, these writings serve to connect National Trust members and other interested readers to heritage that is often overlooked.

Website “Trusted Articles”:

- A Story of Survival: Vodun in Trinidad and Tobago
- Butler: Man of the People
- Our Lady on the Hill

Articles featured in the national newspapers: Islands of Quarantine Series

- “From Mainland to Island: The Leprosy Problem in Trinidad”
- “Isolation on Prison Island”
- “The Quarantine Islands (The Five Islands)”

Blogs:

- 1) Islamic Heritage
- 2) Divali Nagar
- 3) Deeyas and Divali traditions
- 4) Celebrating our First Peoples
- 5) Chinese Association of T&T Celebrates its 75th Anniversary
- 6) Islamic Heritage in Trinidad and Tobago
- 7) Divali Nagar: The City of Lights
- 8) Divali 2020: Exploring the Built Heritage of the Hindu Community
- 9) Mud Volcanoes: Trinidad’s Geo-Heritage
- 10) All About Toco
- 11) Heritage Sites to Visit this Christmas
- 12) The Parang Heritage Connection
- 13) Heading East: Arima’s Heritage
- 14) History of the Siparia Railway: 1913-1965
- 15) When Carnival Was Cancelled
- 16) Can Archaeology Settle the Debate about Cannibalism in the Pre-Columbian Caribbean. Guest Contribution by Chike Pilgrim.
- 17) The Lighthouses of Northern Trinidad: Beacons of Built Heritage
- 18) St. Joseph’s Day 2021
- 19) Ring the Bell: A Look at the Spiritual Baptist Faith



Content: Articles, Blogs, Student Printable Worksheets and more

- 20) The Right Kite
- 21) Sacred Heart RC Church: The Harmful Impact of Latex Paint
- 22) A Look at Art History in Trinidad and Tobago
- 23) Five Things You Should Know About the Coterie of Social Workers and its Founder, Audrey Jeffers
- 24) Rocking the Colonial Order: Brother Resistance and the Rapso Uprising. Guest contribution by Dr Tyehimba Salandy.
- 25) Communicating with Spirits, Getting High: The Wooden Artefacts of the Caribbean Indigenous Cohoba Ceremony. Guest contribution by Chike Pilgrim.
- 26) Celebrations in Focus: Eid-Ul-Fitr
- 27) The Last Ship and the End of Indian Indentureship in Trinidad
- 28) A Lion Amongst Men: The Story of Elma Francois
- 29) Family Oral History Project
- 30) National Trust 101

Student Printable Worksheets

- Hispanic heritage
- The Indian Contribution to Trinidad and Tobago



Stakeholder Relations

Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (IFPAMTT) committee.

With regards to building relationships with stakeholders, the National Trust lent its expertise to various projects often of an inter-ministerial nature or other exogenous linkages. One such relationship was with the **Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (IFPAMTT) committee**. The lifespan of the project was 2015-2020 although collaboration with the National Trust began in 2019. The fourfold aim of the project was to:

- contribute to developing a new National Protected Area system
- develop and test new financial mechanisms needed to support Protected Areas
- enhance management effectiveness through piloting management arrangements in pilot Protected Areas which could be later replicated in other Protected Areas and
- build the skills and expertise of staff with responsibility to manage Protected Areas in Trinidad and Tobago.

Aside from contributing ideas via several meetings and workshops, the National Trust contributed a Short Story “The Hunt” and colouring page in reference to said story which were printed in the Teacher’s Resource Toolkit for Social Studies in Secondary Schools as part of the 2020 IFPAMTT project.

San Juan Laventille Networking Committee

The HPRD engaged the San Juan Laventille Networking Committee and other stakeholders regarding the development of the 2021 Emancipation into Calypso History Month and African History Month programmes. The National Trust contributed articles that dealt with Emancipation and the Black experience in Trinidad and Tobago: “Ring the Bell - A Look at the Spiritual Baptist Faith”, “A Lion Amongst Men: The Story of ELMA FRANCOIS” and a guest contribution of “Rocking the Colonial Order: Brother Resistance and the Rapso Uprising” by Dr Tyehimba Salandy. The Trust also supported two panel discussions in commemoration of African History Month: The First (Open) Panel Discussion was held on Tuesday 16th November 2021: “Pan Africanism and Persistent African struggles - referenced to 1970 and the Black Power Uprising”. The speakers:

Mr. Khafra Kambon (Director of Regional and Pan-African affairs, ESCTT and Fmr. Chairman ESCTT), Servant Kwasi Mutema (Leader, of the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC)) and Servant Jawara Mobota. (Chief Spiritual Elder and Chairman of the Council of Spiritual Elders (NJAC)). Moderator: Sis. Ife Alleyne (Director of Youth Affairs, NJAC and Principal of the New Butler Associate College). Focused Audience: Secondary Schools - History and Caribbean Studies Students.

The Second (Open) Panel Discussion was held on Thursday 18th November 2021 titled: “Cultural Reclamation: Slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism and the impact on African culture in Trinidad and Tobago”. Speakers: Mr. Corey Gilkes (Independent Researcher & Representative,



Stakeholder Relations

The Philosophical Society of T&T), Dr. Tyehimba Salandy (Africa Speaks Network (ASN)) Servant Nyahuma Obika (Former TT Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and former Deputy Political Leader of NJAC). Moderator: Mrs. Valerie Taylor (Education and Development Consultant, former Interim CEO, National Trust T&T)

Focused Audience: Secondary Schools - History and Caribbean Studies Students

Woodbrook Residents Committee

The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago ('The Trust') in collaboration with Woodbrook Residents Committee (WRC) is preparing to produce a Living Memory Heritage Book entitled "*Growing Up Woodbrook-A Tapestry of Then and Now: An Amazing Square Mile in History*". The heritage community of Woodbrook, entered its commemorative 110th Anniversary Year on 01, November 2021 of the historical negotiated transfer on November 1, 1911, of the Siegert Estate to the Town Board (now known as the Port of Spain City Corporation). Woodbrook has become a very changed community over the years, but still remains a residential suburb of Port of Spain with a rich history. This coastal suburb of Port of Spain has given way to heightened commercial activity and as such the physical infrastructure has altered the ecosystem of the built environment and landscape and much of the heritage landmarks have been slowly eroding.

The objective of this collaboration is to ensure the stewardship and long-term preservation of this historic community's assets, and also to ensure that its Living Memories are preserved for retention, especially through the medium of 'story-telling/living memory'. Until the end of 2021, the WRC/NTTT team approached sponsors and was able to find some success. At this point in the project the NTTT/WRC collaboration had received a financial contribution from NLCB, from Well Services Petroleum Company, from Massy Foundation, from IDB, and from Angostura in the upcoming period (outside the scope of this report), the WRC/NTTT received a contribution from the OAS.



Outreach and Education Overview

In the reporting period 2020 – 2021, the focus of the National Trust was to adapt its offerings and processes to minimise exposure of members and staff to the risks inherent in the pandemic, while at the same time fulfilling its commitment to promoting public education and access to heritage spaces. This entailed broadening the use of appropriate online technologies for sales, lectures, tours and meetings, and renegotiating with food and transport service providers as well as heritage property owners to accommodate smaller group sizes and to strictly implement covid protocols. Notwithstanding the cycle of lockdowns and incremental easing of restrictions, all stakeholders embraced the opportunity to rise to the challenge of doing things differently, with an acute demonstration of adaptability, resilience, and focus on sustainability and a commitment to be ‘our brother’s keeper’.



LECTURES

Full adoption of video conferencing technology ensured that the Trust was able to continuously spark the imagination of members and the public. One of the most popular virtual lectures / workshops hosted also marked the Trust assertion and embrace of its responsibility for fossils as an important source of tangible heritage. “Trinidad Ice age fossil workshop” was a milestone for many reasons. It marked the beginning of a new era of repatriation of pre-historic fossils exhumed and exported decades ago; a new collaboration between the Trust and La Brea Tar pit museum, an ally in the repatriation process; the beginnings of popularising palaeontology and Trinidad’s fossil history among the public in Trinidad; the start of a new era in exploration for more fossil digs in Trinidad.

- Two “Virtual Open Day” presentations were hosted by Outreach & Education providing the public with a look at the work of the Trust and how the public can support by becoming a member and/ or Volunteer.
- There was a commemorative emancipation lecture facilitated by Shabaka Kambon discussing – “The African Trinbagonian and Nation Building”.
- A presentation on “Central Park Conservancy - 40 Years of Partnerships” was facilitated by Ms. Sarah Tracy – Director of National Programs -The Central Park Conservancy Institute, to provide insights on how conservancy programs might be developed for Queens Park Savannah

- “Evolution of the Muslim Community in Trinidad and Tobago”
- “Tracing Indian Ancestry through the eyes of Archives” provided well-received insights into genealogy research and sources and techniques for primary and secondary data gathering in creating family histories.
- 1970 Black Power Movement - Chike Pilgrim presented on his interviews with select leaders of the Movement exploring lesser-known insights into the thinking, motives and apprehensions of the leaders.
- Heritage Buildings Restoration, offered a professional guide to managing restoration of heritage properties by Justin Charles of Parvenir Construction
- The railway system in Trinidad with special focus on The Arima Line facilitated by Mr R. Bunting recounted the complex social and operational impact of train lines in Trinidad.

Lecturers reflected the length and breadth of issues in heritage conservation and preservation and continue to afford the public a profound insight into the scale of concerns requiring the attention of the Trust.



TOURS

Tours remain one of the best immersive tools available for the public to experience the people and events that shaped the country's development and culture. Like the melting pot society we live in, tours cover an exciting array of tangible and cultural heritage issues, in as many diverse locations.

In the period, public tours were adversely affected by public health rules for gatherings and transportation of persons. The Trust pivoted to structuring tours that strictly adhered to all COVID-19 public health guidelines. Needless to say, while some persons ventured out on the tours, the level of apprehension among senior members to be in public spaces was evident in the turn out for tours. The Trust nonetheless did its best to pursue its public outreach and education mandate and even took the opportunity to explore and develop new tour products for La Brea, Coalmine, Moruga, and Biche.

Apart from the public tours, some members turned towards the Friends and Family tours that facilitated custom private tours from small groups of individuals within the same family network.

Special developmental tours were also facilitated for various embassies who took the opportunity to learn more about the history of the country they had been commissioned to. These includes the India High Commission, the US Embassy, and the Australian Embassy.



TOURS

VIRTUAL TOURS

- A collaboration with virtual tour developer Roundtripin.com resulted in three new virtual tours added to the Heritage Asset Inventory for Triveni Mandir, Holy Trinity Cathedral and Knollys Tunnel.
- New Virtual Tours were also developed for Our Lady of Montserrat RC Church, Dattatreya Yoga Centre, Temple in the SEA, Nelson Island and San Antonio Estate.



COLLABORATIONS

The Success Laventille Networking Committee (SLNC) is a community-based NGO that promotes awareness of and appreciation for ancestral ties of communities in their network to countries in Africa from where their forefathers were forcibly removed. The Trust supported SLNC in realizing the goal of having a professionally created Map of East Port of Spain, Belmont, Laventille and Morvant overlaid with the boundaries of communities that traced their early establishment back to African ancestors from Benin and several tribes in Nigeria. The Map was created with the support of a Trust member, Hasani Taylor and his company Terra Mining and Materials, who designed the map.

Heritage Keepers - Civilian Conservation Corp-

In person meetings and site-visits for Rio Claro were postponed regarding Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) collaboration. Work is continuing on developing the content for CCC heritage maintenance training. The project aims to provide the CCC students with avenues for career opportunities in Heritage Conservation Management based on their hands-on engagement with properties on the Heritage Asset Inventory. (Proposal Attached)

In collaboration with UNICOMER - Heritage Is Me art competition was completed. Approximately 52 entries were received, many of very good quality. Judging and People's Choice voting was conducted during the week of April 12th to 16th and prizes were handed out at a controlled ceremony on April 18th at Mille Fleur.

Discussions commenced with IDB in the year in review that resulted in funding received in the following year for website upgrade, online payments. The Trust was part of a Heritage stakeholders group convened by Tourism Trinidad that included destination owners, tour operators and conservationists that met frequently to discuss challenges, opportunities to mitigate the worst effects brought on by the pandemic and to explore avenues for collaboration.

Further to the Mille Fleurs Heritage House being pledged to the National Trust as its headquarters, subject to the Trust ensuring the property's ongoing maintenance, the Trust began facilitating tours and private rentals of the space as a demonstration of the principle of adaptive re-use. Although significant additional works were still required, the Trust facilitated a number of visits and paid private usage of the compound. The Trust also received a number of donations of art, furniture and antique fixtures from individual and organisational well-wishers specifically for the benefit of Mille Fleurs.



GRANTS

The TRUST was the beneficiary of a Grant from the Inter-American Development Bank which was used to upgrade the Trust's website to better support its evolving responsibilities and e-commerce.

The National Trust received a grant of approximately 1000 Pounds Sterling from INTO as part of INTO's program for sponsoring membership management programs. The funding was used to upgrade the National Trust membership database and implement a Customer Relationship Management solution to improve records management and support proactive marketing and communications with members.



MEMBERS

New Members

corporate	1
Family	5
Junior	8
life	21
Ordinary	30
Preferred	81

The slowdown in operations due to the pandemic adversely affected membership engagement notwithstanding efforts to use technology to bridge the gap. The reduction in the levels of subscription from new members and renewals reflects this. However, it has presented the Trust with an opportunity to revisit a new approach to providing value and function to members so that they play a more active role in advocating for the conservation and protection of tangible heritage.

Discussions about Built and Natural Heritage sites at risk were held over the future of Lion House, a Health Care Campus in Belmont and the First Peoples' Caurita Stone. In the case of Lion House, the Trust held discussions with the Chaguanas Borough Corporation and has intimated to the property owners its willingness to provide every assistance possible to safeguard the heritage building from further deterioration. This was also endorsed by the Corporation however an unresolved private ownership issue remains a significant barrier to developing and implementing a sustainable course of action.



FACILITIES

The Trust has focused on making its managed properties symbols of adaptive re-use while promoting public engagement, environmental sustainability, and self-sufficiency. The flagship property, the Nelson Island Heritage Site has undergone significant transformations aimed at improving the visitor experience. Key projects undertaken include:

- 1) Upgrade of the Jetty Project to facilitate safe mooring for visiting boats and disembarkation for guests. This was a key element in supporting Friends and Family tour products that enabled small private groups to visit the island in response to restrictions on public gatherings and passenger capacity limits set for boats.
- 2) Supply & Installation of Bollards at Jetty was an important preparatory project to support the eventual resumption of charter trips on the Water Taxi vessels. They will provide more robust moorings for the chartered crafts and greater stability for the vessel while guests disembark and board.
- 3) Supply & Installation of an A/C Unit for the Solar Room and upgrades to the Desalination Unit were central components of the island's self-sufficiency and "greening" of its operations. Nelson Island is completely off grid for power and fresh water. Investments in solar power systems and a small desalination plant have proven immensely beneficial for the Trust. In addition to making this important historical mecca an environmentally friendly experience for visitors, it has been an enormous source of pride in fulfilling the Trust's plans to eliminate diesel- operated generators and the barging of fresh

water to the island time and time again. Additionally, the supply and installation of a Solar Water Heater has added a new element of visitor convenience and comfort.

- 4) Work started on the design and installation of special outdoor information signs that would enable guests to independently explore and discover the many layers of history on Nelson Island dating back over two centuries. The natural scenic, quiet beauty of the space can be enjoyed by guests at a leisurely pace, while they meditate on the journeys of former occupants who came from almost every continent.

Banwari Trace Archaeological Heritage Site

Honouring First Peoples and their continuing contribution to national identity while sharing authentic histories of their experience, is a major commitment of the National Trust. The opportunity to work with stakeholders and help to amplify their voices has yielded a richer understanding and appreciation for their heritage. Providing greater opportunities for the public to immerse themselves in this experience is the goal of the development of the Banwari archaeological Site. The first phase of establishing a visitor experience centre has started with the construction of a traditional communal structure called a Benab. This will be used to display storyboards, artefacts, dig pits and other educational content.



FACILITIES

