



ISSUE 02 | 2025 / 2026

Lagniappe

NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Welcome to '**Lagniappe**', our quarterly newsletter where you can catch up on all things festival. This publication allows you to keep yourself up to date on all that the Commission has achieved and gives you a glimpse into what's next on Tobago's cultural calendar.

This issue features highlights from **National Carnival 2026** and what's coming for the rest of the year.

We hope you enjoy reading and we look forward to providing you with more engaging and cultural content in the future.

HAPPY READING!

Sincerely,
Tobago Festivals Commission Limited



CEO's Address

Mr. Kern Cowan



Hello to all and welcome back! As we move further into the year, the Tobago Festivals Commission Limited continues to build momentum in delivering experiences that celebrate Tobago's culture, creativity, and community. In March, we shared our 2026 events calendar across our social media platforms and to our email database, giving audiences, stakeholders, and partners a glimpse of the exciting year ahead. The calendar reflects our ongoing commitment to developing a dynamic festival portfolio that highlights Tobago's unique identity while creating meaningful opportunities for participation, partnership, and economic activity.

Beyond the events themselves, our work continues year-round. We remain actively engaged in strengthening relationships with community groups, industry stakeholders, sponsors, and regional partners. These connections are essential as we continue to refine and define Tobago's festival product ensuring that each experience reflects authenticity, professionalism, and the welcoming spirit of our island.

As the year progresses, there is much to look forward to. Later in the calendar we anticipate the continued staging of cherished celebrations such as the **Tobago Heritage Festival**, as well as culinary and cultural experiences like the **Tobago Blue Food Festival** and **Tobago Carnival**. While we will share more details in the months ahead, these events continue to form an important part of Tobago's cultural landscape and our broader mission of positioning the island as a premier festival destination.

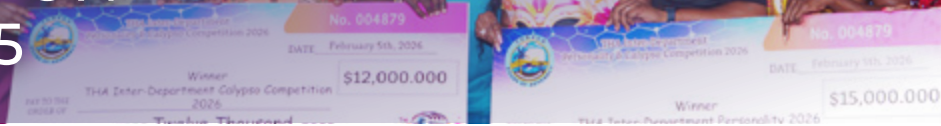
On behalf of the Commission, I extend sincere thanks to our partners, communities, and supporters who continue to journey with us. Together, we are building experiences that celebrate Tobago's culture while expanding the reach and impact of our festivals.

Regards,
Kern Cowan
Chief Executive Officer,
Tobago Festivals Commission Limited

Let's Recap The First Quarter of 2026

THA Interdepartment & Calypso Competition

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National Carnival Recap

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Windward Afro Queen Show & Calypso Monarch

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THA Inter-department Personality & Calypso Competition 2026



Winners of the THA Inter-department Personality & Calypso Competition 2026, (From Left) Calypsonian winner Inesha James and Personality winner Shervell Williams

The Inter-Department Personality and Calypso Competition 2026 electrified the Parade Grounds, Dwight Yorke Stadium on February 5th, as thousands of patrons gathered for a bold, high-energy showcase of culture, creativity, and talent.

Presented under the theme “Rewired: Carnival Traditions of the Future,” the competition explored the evolution of Carnival expression while maintaining storytelling, satire, and social commentary.

Ten contestants competed in each category with Shervell Williams representing the Division of Education, Skills and Innovation winning the Personality category and Inesha James representing the Division of Public Infrastructure and Transportation topping the Calypso category. Performances were assessed by a panel of judges using a 100 point system designed to balance creativity, execution, and audience connection.

In the Personality category, scoring focused on presentation, delivery, originality and creativity, impact, and the meaningful integration of departmental identity. Costumes were evaluated

on creativity, craftsmanship, presentation, impact, and the strength of the accompanying synopsis. In the Calypso category, judges assessed lyrical content, melody, rendition, presentation, and overall impact.

Highlights of the event included performances from reigning Tobago Carnival Soca Titan Verse and Mical Teja who was the final performer of the night. The Inter-Department Personality and Calypso Competition 2026 executed by Tobago Festivals Commission Limited and sponsored by AMPLIA and Unicomer once again proved to be one of the most popular events in Tobago for the National Carnival.

With innovation, creativity and culture on full display, Rewired: Carnival Traditions of the Future reaffirmed that Carnival is not only alive but evolving, and rooted in tradition.



Personality winner Shervell Williams representing Division of Education, Skills and Innovation, during her costume portrayal



Calysonian winner Inesha James representing Division of Public Infrastructure and Transportation, performing her winning composition

National Carnival

The Recap

Tobago's National Carnival 2026, held under the theme "Yuh Go Love Dis," delivered a vibrant and culturally rich experience, with a full calendar of events that showcased the island's creativity, talent and community spirit.

Carnival across the island unfolded through a dynamic series of events, beginning with the Junior Extravaganza, followed by Kiddies Carnival in Scarborough and Roxborough, and the highly anticipated Windward Afro Queen Show and Calypso Monarch.



The energy continued into Carnival Monday and Tuesday with J'ouvert celebrations in Roxborough, Crown Point and Calder Hall, alongside Parade of the Bands and Mud Mas in Roxborough and Scarborough, where masqueraders brought the streets alive with colour, storytelling and traditional expression.

Across these events, the parade results highlighted the depth of talent on the island from standout junior presentations to large band portrayals and traditional mas competitions, demonstrating excellence in creativity,

craftsmanship and performance throughout the Carnival season.



National Carnival 2026 in Tobago once again proved to be a powerful celebration of identity and culture, leaving lasting impressions on all who experienced it.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CARNIVAL



RESULTS



Click the image or scan the QR-Code
to get the full listing of results.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CARNIVAL



Windward Afro Queen Show & Calypso Monarch 2026

The Recap



(From left) Tyreek Mahabal-Chairman of the Windward Carnival Committee; Assembly Member Zorisha Hackett-Secretary for the Division of Tourism, Antiquities and Creative Industries; Kyria Job-winner of the Windward Afro Queen Show 2026; Mr. David Thomas-Member of Parliament for Tobago East; Mr. Orlando Kerr-Secretary for Education, Skills and Innovation.

At the Windward Afro Queen Show 2026, Kyria Job stole the spotlight, capturing the crown along with multiple titles—Best Gown, Best Gown Portrayal, and People’s Choice. Windward Calypso Monarch saw Mrs. Nicole Thomas-Clarke successfully retaining her title as Windward Calypso Monarch 2026, with song her titled “*Sacrifice*”. Both event took place on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at the Cyd Gray Complex, Roxborough, Tobago.



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Staff members of the Commission commemorated World Down Syndrome Day in March, proudly wearing brightly coloured socks symbolizing diversity, inclusion and celebration of differences.



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HERITAGE
FESTIVAL**

She Becomes More Beautiful

**TO JULY 16TH 20
AUGUST 1ST 26**



“Leh We Tell The Whole Story”



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TOBAGO
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FESTIVAL

OCT . 18TH . 2026

10AM



BLOODY BAY
RECREATIONAL GROUNDS,
TOBAGO



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Oct 30 - Nov 1
2026

SAVE
THE
DATES



Tobago | **MUD MASH & MUSIC**
CARNIVAL



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TFCL FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOBAGO FESTIVALS COMMISSION LIMITED

Q: What does TFCL stand for?

A: Tobago Festivals Commission Limited

Q: Where is the TFCL office located?

A: TFCL'S office is located at GNV Place, Wilson Road, Scarborough, Tobago.

Q: In what year was TFCL incorporated?

A: The Tobago Festivals Commission Limited (TFCL) was incorporated in April 2019 as a company under the purview of the Division of Tourism Culture, and Transportation charged with the responsibility for "cultural expressions, festivals and activities indigenous to Tobago as well as National Festivals", that is, the hosting and elevating of National Festivals to stage Tobago as a Festivals' destination.

Q: What is TFCL's Mission Statement?

A: A resilient and adaptable TFCL, in partnership with its stakeholders, will embark on a passionate pursuit to promote and showcase world-class festivals, encourage innovation, and enrich the cultural and socioeconomic landscape of Tobago, within a framework of competency, productivity, inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

Q: What is TFCL's Vision Statement?

A: To be internationally recognized as the mecca for festivals in the Caribbean region with year-round authentic Tobago cultural experiences.

Q: Where can I get branded merchandise?

A: Currently, TFCL and branded event merchandise are available for sale physically at our events and our office located at GNV Place, Wilson Road, Scarborough, Tobago. You can contact **639-4441** or tobagofestivals@gmail.com for more details.

Q: How can I register for news about upcoming events?

A: Sign up for our newsletter on our website : www.tobagofestivalscommision.com or click the link : <https://forms.gle/fFv72tZXHewvTZuy8>

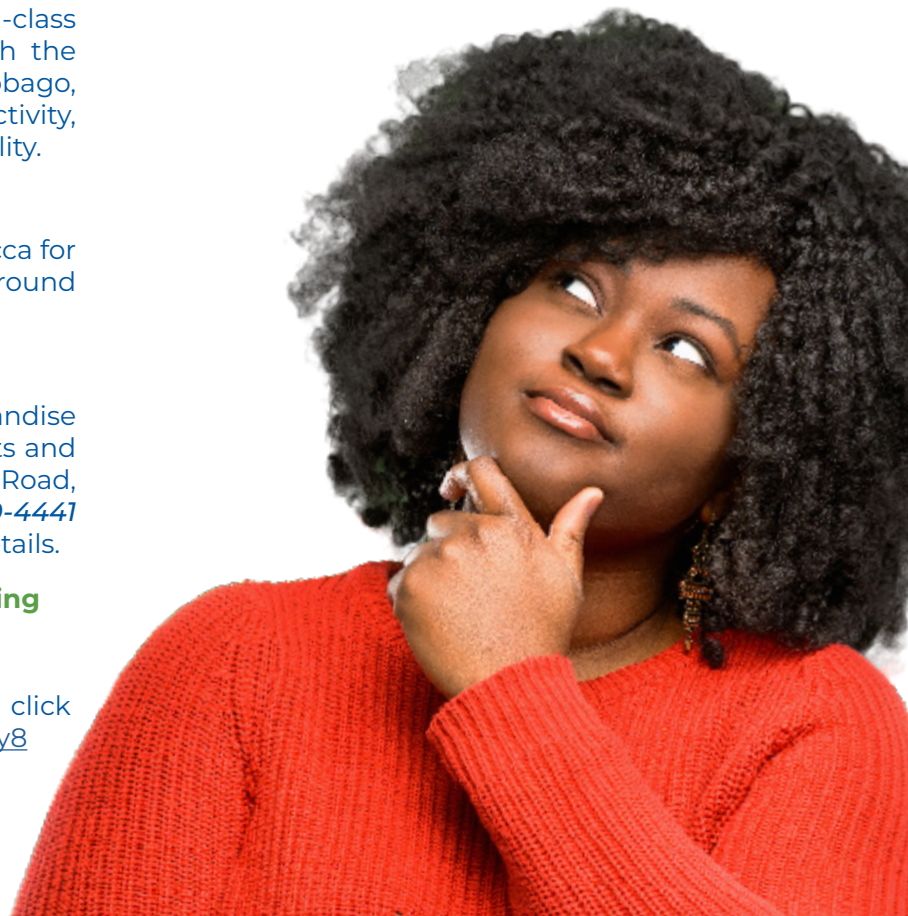
Q: What events fall under the purview of TFCL?

A: TFCL is mandated to provide managerial support and strategic direction for cultural expressions, festivals and activities indigenous to Tobago, as well as National festivals. These include but are not limited to:

- **National Carnival**
- **Tobago Heritage Festival**
- **Tobago Blue Food Festival**
- **Tobago Carnival**
- Other Community festivals as approved by the *Division of Tourism, Antiquities, and Creative Industries*.

Q: Is the TFCL responsible for village Harvests in Tobago?

A: No. The Harvest Festivals are observed throughout the year in various villages on the island to recognize the significance of food in Tobagonian culture. In this unique experience, many villagers cook and share food and drinks with friends, family and strangers in this house-to-house celebration.



Come for the **Culture**
Stay for the **Experience**
Return for the **Memories**

