



ISSUE 04 | 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 stay 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 the **Tobago Heritage Festival and other activities over the last few months**. We also share with you 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

Chairman's Welcome

Mr. Ken Jones



Tobago's festivals hold a distinctive place in the cultural life of the island and continue to present meaningful opportunities for cultural preservation, community participation and economic activity. They provide a platform for our traditions, stories, talent and creativity to be experienced by audiences in Tobago and further afield, while contributing to the continued development of Tobago's identity as a cultural destination.

The Tobago Festivals Commission Limited has a responsibility to steward this growth with purpose and foresight. This means creating the conditions for our festivals to evolve, strengthening the relationships that support their development and ensuring that the value generated extends beyond the Festivals themselves. It also means remaining responsive to changes in audiences, the creative sector and the wider cultural tourism landscape, while keeping Tobago's own identity at the centre of our work. The work ahead is significant, but so too is the

opportunity to build on the progress already made.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere appreciation to the Tobago Festivals Commission Limited team, our partners, stakeholders, communities and supporters for their continued contribution to this important work. Their commitment provides a strong foundation for the Commission to move forward with confidence and purpose. As we enter another exciting period on Tobago's festival calendar where both the Tobago Blue Food Festival and Tobago Carnival will be staged, I encourage everyone to participate, support and celebrate the experiences that make Tobago truly distinctive. There is much to look forward to, and I am confident in what we can continue to achieve together.

Regards,
Ken Jones
Chairman,
Tobago Festivals Commission Limited

CEO's Address

Mr. Kern Cowan

The close of the 2025/2026 financial year provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the momentum built over the past several months and the work that continues to take Tobago's festivals to new audiences. Through the Tobago Heritage Festival, our participation in the Trade and Investment Convention, and our recent engagements in Canada, we have seen firsthand the value of creating opportunities to share our culture, talent and stories both at home and beyond Tobago's shores.

The final quarter of the calendar year now brings another important period on the festival calendar. On October 18, the Tobago Blue Food Festival marks 28 years of celebrating Tobago's culinary traditions, creativity and communities. Just twelve days later, Tobago Carnival returns from October 30 to November 1 for its fifth year, representing another significant milestone in the continued development of the Festival.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening the systems, partnerships and creative approaches that allow Tobago's festivals to grow and deliver meaningful value for the island. The months ahead present an important opportunity for us to build on what we have accomplished, respond to the evolving needs of our audiences and stakeholders, and continue positioning Tobago as a destination where culture and festivals are experienced year-round.

Sincerely,
Kern Cowan
CEO,
Tobago Festivals Commission Limited



Let's Recap the Third Quarter of 2026

A photograph of the Taste of London festival. In the foreground, there are blue and white food stalls with thatched roofs. People are walking around the stalls. The background shows more trees and festival structures.

Taste of London

**STORY ON
PAGE 6**

A photograph of the TIC Activation booth. Two people are standing in front of a booth with shelves displaying various items. The booth has a purple and white color scheme with the word 'STIVA' visible in the background.

TIC Activation

**STORY ON
PAGE 7**

A photograph of the Tobago Heritage Festival. Several people are wearing traditional costumes, including large hats and patterned dresses. They are standing in front of a backdrop of large tropical leaves.

Tobago Heritage Festival

**STORY ON
PAGE 8**

A photograph of the Trinbago Toronto Week event. A group of people are gathered around a table, looking at items on display. The background shows a colorful mural and other festival structures.

Trinbago Toronto Week

**STORY ON
PAGE 11**

Taste of London



TFCL's participation in Taste of London was, first and foremost, a strategic benchmarking exercise designed to examine how a leading international food festival transforms cuisine into a complete visitor experience. Represented by CEO Kern Cowan and Operations Manager Rayshawn Pierre-Kerr, the Commission assessed event design, visitor management, sustainability, sponsorship integration and revenue-generation opportunities. The experience was both informative and energising, demonstrating how tasting portions, interactive booths, accessible spaces and creative brand activations can encourage visitors to explore more, stay longer and return. These insights are particularly valuable as culinary festivals across the Caribbean seek to distinguish themselves in an increasingly competitive tourism market, while celebrating the food traditions, communities and stories that give each destination its character.

For Tobago, that opportunity finds its most exciting expression in the Tobago Blue Food Festival. While Taste of London provided an international benchmark, Blue Food possesses a cultural identity that cannot be replicated: a festival built around dasheen and other ground provisions, shaped by Tobago's agricultural heritage, culinary creativity and community spirit. The lessons gathered in London offer practical ways to strengthen that foundation through smaller tasting portions, stronger visitor interaction, sustainable service practices, improved festival flow and more imaginative partnerships. In the wider Caribbean culinary landscape, Blue Food has the potential to stand apart - not by imitating larger festivals, but by confidently transforming something deeply rooted in Tobago's soil into an experience with international appeal.

TIC 2026

Trade & Investment Convention



Patron interacting with a digital puzzle at our booth during TIC 2026

The Tobago Festivals Commission Limited (TFCL) made a vibrant and memorable impact at the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) 2026, held from July 8–10 at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya. Over the three-day convention, TFCL transformed its exhibition space into an interactive showcase of Tobago's festivals, culture, cuisine and hospitality, giving patrons a taste of what makes the island's festival calendar truly distinctive.

The activation attracted strong and consistent visitor traffic, with thousands of visitors engaging with the TFCL booth. Importantly, the activation also translated engagement into an opportunity for continued communication. Many patrons were already familiar with TFCL through its social media platforms and email newsletters, while repeat visits to the booth demonstrated the strength of the experience and growing interest in Tobago's festival offerings.

Rather than simply providing information, TFCL created an experience. Interactive activities such as Plinko, Cornhole, digital word searches and question-and-answer challenges kept patrons engaged, while giveaways added excitement and encouraged participation. Tobago's cultural identity was also brought to life through the appearances of traditional characters such

as the Baby Doll and Conch Shell Man. Their performances captured attention across the venue and provided an engaging way to introduce patrons to Tobago's heritage and upcoming festivals. Local treats and dasheen-based products added another dimension to the activation, giving visitors an authentic taste of Tobago while generating conversations around the island's culinary traditions and the Tobago Blue Food Festival.

Visitors were particularly interested in learning when Tobago's major festivals would take place and what experiences they could expect. The Tobago Heritage Festival, Tobago Blue Food Festival and Tobago Carnival generated significant interest, while patrons also sought information about festival locations, activities and opportunities to plan future visits to the island.

Ultimately, TIC 2026 was more than an exhibition opportunity. It provided TFCL with a platform to promote Tobago as the home of world-class festivals, authentic cultural experiences and unique culinary traditions, while building relationships, gathering valuable audience insights and inspiring visitors to experience Tobago for themselves.



Patrons Interacting with TFCL's booth at TIC 2026

Tobago Heritage Festival 2026

Leh We Tell De Whole Story



Bele Dancers on stage at the Opening Night of the Tobago Heritage Festival 2026.

For just over two weeks, Tobago became a living stage for culture, community and memory as the 39th Tobago Heritage Festival unfolded under the theme “Leh We Tell De Whole Story.”

The Festival opened on July 16 with “*She Becomes Whole*”, an original theatrical production presented at the Shaw Park Complex in collaboration with the Tobago Performing Arts Company. Through storytelling, music, dance and folklore, the production explored identity, memory and cultural awakening, establishing a fitting foundation for a Festival designed to celebrate the resilience, traditions and identity of the Tobagonian people.

From there, the story travelled across Tobago. The Ole Time Heritage Fair, Moriah Tobago Ole Time Wedding, Buccoo Heritage Fair, Charlotteville Natural Treasures Day, Les Coteaux Folk Tales and Superstitions, Pan-Folkorama, Tobago Ole Time Carnival J’ouvert, Speyside Harvest, Roxborough Belmanna Riots, Goodwood Yam Festival, Pembroke Salaka Feast and the Emancipation

Day Parade & Cultural Show were among the experiences connecting communities, generations and visitors to the traditions that continue to shape Tobago.

Celebrating Excellence

Competition brought another dimension to the Festival, highlighting the talent, creativity and commitment that keep Tobago’s heritage alive.

At Folk Fiesta 2026, the Roxborough Police Youth Club emerged as the ‘*Cultural Fusion*’ winner, while Delicia’s Dance Agency & Delicia’s Dancing Jewels captured an impressive three (3) categories — ‘*African Influenced Dance*’, ‘*Folk Song Medley*’ and ‘*Short Story*’. Rhythmic Vibrations won Drummology and De Wranglers claimed the Speech Band title.

The Ole Time Heritage Fair also celebrated community excellence. Frontline Flavors took first place for ‘*Spirit of the Festival*’ and ‘*Best Dressed Team*’, while the Roxborough Police Youth Club captured ‘*Best Village Dish*’.

Tobago Heritage Festival 2026

Leh We Tell De Whole Story

Calypso remained firmly at the heart of the celebration, with Zari Kerr crowned '*Tobago Heritage Calypso Monarch 2026*', while Shervell Williams captured the '*People's Choice Award*'. Another memorable moment came when Kiara Bailey of Encore Dance Theater was crowned Ms. Tobago Heritage Personality 2026. Bailey also received '*Best Talent*', '*Best Designed Gown*' and '*Excellence in Expression*'.

One Festival, Many Stories

What made the 39th edition special was not any single event or title, but the collective story they told.

Village traditions stood alongside contemporary theatrical expression. Food became a vessel for memory. Dance, drumming, speech band, folk song and calypso demonstrated how traditions can remain rooted while continuing to evolve. Communities were not simply venues for the Festival; they were its storytellers.

That idea was embedded in '*She Becomes Whole*' from opening night. Heritage is

something each generation must actively preserve, celebrate and share.

The Story Continues: 40 Years Of Heritage

As the curtain closed on the 39th Tobago Heritage Festival, attention now turns to an extraordinary milestone. Next year, the Tobago Heritage Festival celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Four decades of villages telling their stories. Four decades of preserving customs, celebrating ancestors, showcasing creativity and passing traditions from one generation to another. The 39th Festival challenged us to "Tell De Whole Story."



In 2027, we celebrate 40 years of keeping that story alive.



Protesters during the Re-enactment of The Belmanna Riots



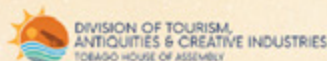
A group of drummers performing during the Drumology segment at Folk Fiesta 2026



Leh We Tell De Whole Story

Thank You

To All Of Our Sponsors and Partners



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For Partnering With Us in 2026 To Create Another Successful Heritage Event

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WWW.TOBAGOFESTIVALSCOMMISSION.COM



Trinbago Toronto and Tobago Week

Tobago Takes Centre Stage in Canada

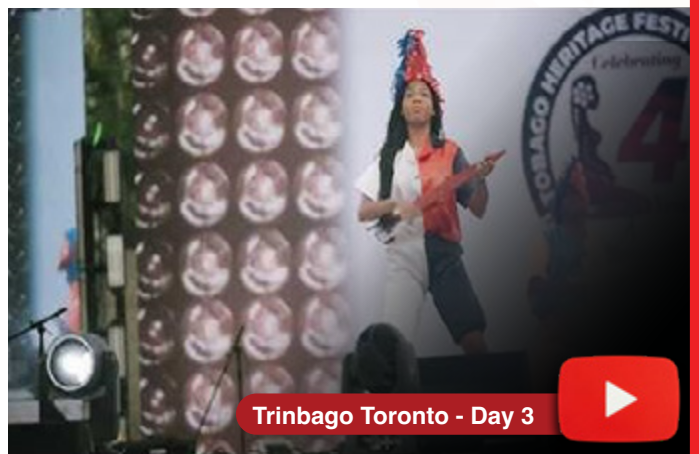
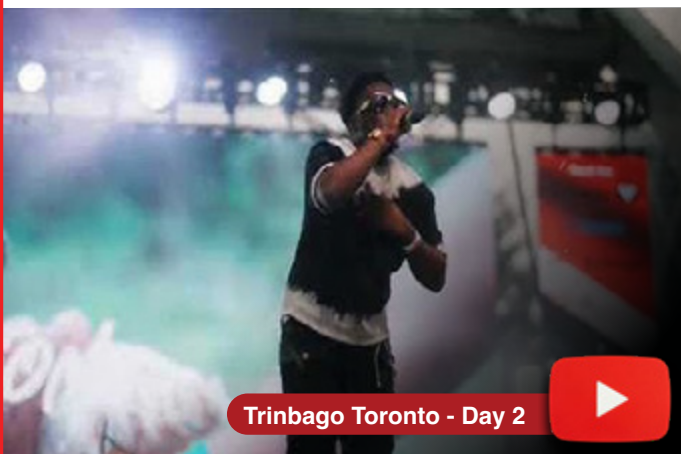
Tobago brought its culture, festivals and destination experiences to Canada in August and September 2026 through its participation in the Trinbago Toronto Festival and Tobago Week. Led by the Tobago House of Assembly, the Tobago Festivals Commission Limited (TFCL) assisted in showcasing Tobago as a destination where culture, food, heritage and celebration come together.

At the Trinbago Toronto Festival, Tobago connected directly with members of the diaspora as well as Canadian audiences and visitors, promoting its diverse festival calendar and inviting audiences to discover more of the island. The Tobago presence featured

live performances, festival and destination information, merchandise, local confectionaries and opportunities for meaningful engagement to support continued destination promotion.

The Canadian programme continued with Tobago-De 8th Wonder at the Jane Mallett Theatre on September 10. The experience brought Tobago's story to life through cuisine, culture, performance and creative expression, offering audiences a more immersive taste of what makes Tobago unique. The programme provided another opportunity for a unified Tobago message while strengthening relationships within the Canadian market and diaspora.

▶ Click links below for event recaps



TOBAGO
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FESTIVAL

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Tobago Carnival Calendar of Events

What patrons can expect.

Monarchs of Mas

Monarchs of Mas is a vibrant showcase celebrating the creativity, craftsmanship, colour and spectacle of Tobago Carnival. Masqueraders take centre stage in stunning costumes, bringing artistry, culture and energy together as they compete for top honours and the coveted title of Monarch of Mas.

Rox GLO

This year introduces 'The Mud Festival' and celebrates Tobago's unique mud-mas tradition with an unforgettable blend of culture and creativity. Beginning with the Mud Blocko, patrons will take to the streets of Roxborough for a vibrant Mud Parade before ending at the Mud Yard for the signature fete experience, featuring live performances, rhythm sections and DJs.

Calypso Monarch

Calypso Monarch is a celebration of Tobago's rich calypso tradition, where talented calypsonians take the stage to deliver powerful lyrics, captivating melodies and commanding performances. Through wit, storytelling and social commentary, competitors vie for the prestigious title of Calypso Monarch.

Soca Titans

Soca Titans is Tobago Carnival's premier platform for discovering and celebrating the island's next generation of Soca talent. Showcasing electrifying live performances from emerging artistes, the event highlights the creativity, energy, and musical excellence that define Tobago's vibrant cultural landscape. Beyond the competition, Soca Titans is committed to developing local talent by providing aspiring performers with valuable exposure, technical support, and branding

opportunities, helping to shape the future of Soca while adding excitement and authenticity to the Tobago Carnival experience.

Tobago Dutty J'ouvert

A unique and thrilling event that forms a distinctive part of the Tobago Carnival celebrations where revellers cover themselves in mud and parade the streets of Scarborough.

Steelman and Powder

The streets of Scarborough will be filled with the pulsating rhythm of the drums, the melodious sound of the steelpan with a mix of powder in the revelry.

Night Mas

Night Mas transforms the streets of Tobago into a captivating after-dark celebration where light, music, and masquerade come together in spectacular fashion. As night falls, masqueraders parade through the streets in illuminated traditional and contemporary costumes, creating a dazzling display of colour, creativity, and movement.

Parade of the Bands

Parade of the Bands is the grand finale of Tobago Carnival's official street activities, where vibrant spectacle meets the natural beauty of the island. As thousands of masqueraders fill the streets in colourful costumes, the scenic parade route, pulsating music, and infectious energy of the masquerade create an immersive celebration of culture, creativity, and community. With Tobago itself serving as the stage, the Parade of the Bands delivers an unforgettable Carnival experience unlike any other.

Tobago Sound Check

Women Turning Up the Volume

Adana Roberts “No Tomorrow”

(Classy Riddim produced by Nikholai Greene & Gideon Bishop | Written by Kerwin DuBois | Mixed & Mastered by Gayle Clunie Lampshade | Live Guitars & Bass by Gideon Bishop | Live Drums by Gerion Williams)

With “No Tomorrow,” Adana Roberts steps into the Classy Riddim, a production that brings the sound of jazz into the melody and movement of soca. Live guitars, bass, and drums give the track the warmth of a stage performance, while the riddim keeps its focus firmly on moving the crowd.

The track’s appeal comes from the meeting of sophistication and release. Rather than overcomplicating its message, “No Tomorrow” builds around a direct, memorable idea that is easy for a crowd to claim as its own. The jazz colouring adds character to the melody, while the soca pulse keeps the song open, rhythmic, and ready for audience participation.

Roberts’ delivery gives the song its personality. She brings confidence and warmth to the record, meeting the live instrumentation with a vocal presence that feels equally at home on record and onstage. That combination helps explain why “No Tomorrow” became one of her most popular songs.

At its core, “No Tomorrow” captures the emotional promise of soca. It offers a temporary escape from routine and reminds listeners that joy can be immediate, communal, and worth choosing without apology. Alongside Kerwin DuBois’ contribution to the Classy Riddim, Adana’s song helps shape a project built for live energy, musical texture, and connection.



Follow Adana:

Instagram: @officialadana

Music Platforms & Youtube: @officialadana

Tobago Sound Check

Women Turning Up the Volume

Artiste Snapshot

Adana Roberts is a Tobago singer and recording artiste whose career reflects a willingness to experiment and evolve. From early appearances at the Tobago Jazz Festival to recording across soca, reggae and other Caribbean genres, she has steadily developed a musical identity rooted in melody, emotion and versatility.

Adana Roberts has built her musical identity around versatility. Hailing from Bon Accord, Tobago, she began singing as a teenager and has since explored soca, reggae and jazz, developing a style she has described as “sultry.”

Her musical influences are equally diverse, ranging from Caribbean powerhouses Machel Montano and Destra Garcia to international artists Sade, India.Arie and Roberta Flack. That mix can be heard in Roberts’ approach to music.

Her catalogue includes songs such as, “*Changing*”, “*No Tomorrow*”, “*D Wuk*”, “*All For You*”, “*We Reach*”, “*My Dahlin*”, “*Share D Ting*” and “*Deep Waters*”, appearing on the Deep Water Riddim in 2026.

Roberts’ ability to move between genres while maintaining her vocal identity remains one of her greatest strengths. Rather than being confined to a single sound, she continues to demonstrate the range and creative possibilities of a Tobago artiste.

Her smooth vocal delivery distinguishes her from more conventional high-energy soca performers, allowing her to bring a different texture to Tobago’s contemporary music landscape.

As she continues releasing new music, Roberts remains an example of an artiste willing to explore where her voice can take her.

“Sultry.” — Adana Roberts, describing her musical style



Tobago Sound Check

Women Turning Up the Volume

Nicole Thomas-Clarke “Sacrifice”

For Nicole Thomas-Clarke, calypso is more than a song...it is storytelling.

Raised in Mt St George, Tobago, Thomas-Clarke first entered the calypso arena as a teenager and has grown into one of the island’s most accomplished contemporary calypsonians. Her commanding vocals, theatrical presentation and commitment to social commentary have helped establish a career marked by persistence and competitive success.

Influenced by a musical family as well as powerful women in calypso including Ella Andall, Singing Sandra and Karene Asche, Thomas-Clarke approaches performance as a complete experience. Lyrics, voice, costuming and stage presentation work together to communicate the story behind each song.

That approach is evident in “Sacrifice”, the song that earned her the 2025 Tobago Calypso Monarch title. Exploring the work and sacrifice required to achieve success, the song also reflected Thomas-Clarke’s own journey of preparation, discipline and continuous improvement.

In 2026, “Sacrifice” carried her onto the National Calypso Monarch stage at Dimanche Gras, where she placed seventh which was another significant milestone for the Tobago performer.



Watch Nicole's Live Performance

Tobago Sound Check

Women Turning Up the Volume

Artiste Snapshot

Nicole Thomas-Clarke is a multiple Tobago Calypso Monarch whose career spans more than two decades. From winning her first Tobago title in 2010 with “Sweeter Tomorrow” to victories with songs including “Carnival is We”, “Crown Jewels” and “Sacrifice,” she has established herself as a formidable voice in Tobago calypso.

What distinguishes Thomas-Clarke is her commitment to storytelling. Her performances

combine strong social commentary with theatrical presentation, transforming the calypso stage into a space for reflection, culture and entertainment.

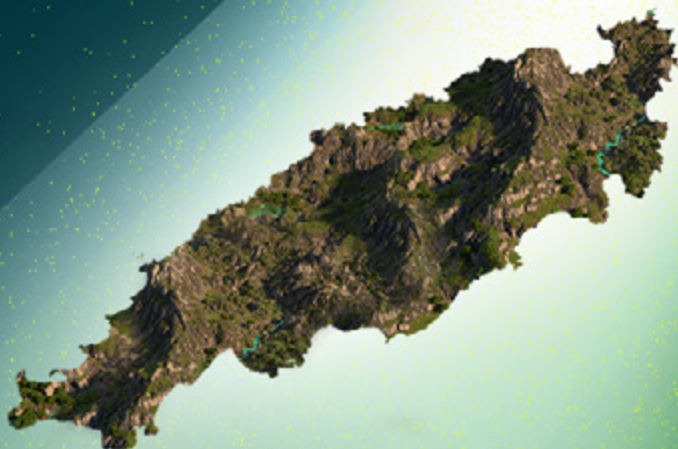
With her continued presence on stages in Tobago and across the national calypso circuit, Thomas-Clarke is helping to ensure that Tobago’s voice remains firmly represented in the wider calypso landscape.



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Celebrating the legendary people of Tobago whose impact shaped our island.



The Mighty Shadow

To us in Tobago, Winston "The Mighty Shadow" Bailey was more than a calypsonian; he was a mystic and a philosopher who marched to the beat of his own drum. Growing up on his grandparents' farm in Les Coteaux, a village steeped in folklore and the supernatural, Shadow absorbed the deep, haunting rhythms and storytelling traditions that define our island's soul. He didn't just sing calypso; he created a "bassman" in his head that changed the entire frequency of the genre. While others were focused on standard melodies, Shadow brought that raw, earthy Tobago energy that felt both ancient and futuristic. Seeing him in his signature all-black outfits, leaping across the stage with that iconic "skip," was like watching the very spirit of the island come to life. He was our eccentric genius, a man who proved that you didn't have to follow the crowd to be the greatest.



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MENTOR



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Culture Classroom

Tobago Blue Food Festival

Since its beginnings in 1998 as a community-based initiative in the villages of L'Anse Fourmi, Bloody Bay and Parlatuvier, the Tobago Blue Food Festival has grown into one of Tobago's most anticipated culinary and cultural celebrations. Developed through the vision of former Tourism Secretary George Stanley Beard, former Tourism Division Manager Bindley Benjamin and the pioneering communities of Tobago's north-east coast, the festival was created to showcase the island's agricultural heritage and the remarkable versatility of dasheen, also known as taro.

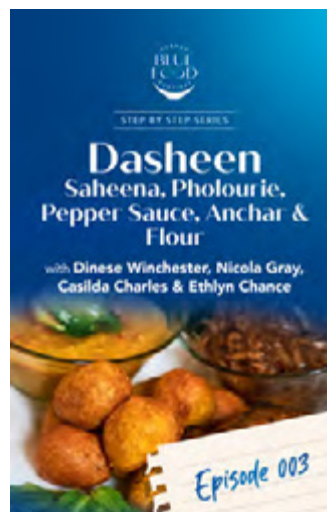
Today, this humble root crop takes centre stage as local cooks and chefs transform it into an astonishing array of savoury dishes, pastries, desserts, drinks and other creative culinary delights. But the experience extends far beyond the plate. Visitors can browse the

much-loved craft market, where talented local artisans and vendors showcase handmade treasures, discover Tobago's natural world at the wildlife petting zoo, and soak up the island's infectious energy through a vibrant programme of live stage entertainment. Expect the sounds of Tobago to come alive with local artistes, calypso, soca and cultural performances, creating the perfect soundtrack to a day of food, community and celebration.

Now firmly established at the Bloody Bay Recreational Grounds, the festival continues to celebrate Tobago's agriculture, creativity, culture and culinary traditions. Come taste the creativity, experience the culture and enjoy the rhythms of Tobago at the Tobago Blue Food Festival on Sunday, 18th October 2026, at Bloody Bay Recreational Grounds.

Check Out Our Step-By-Step Series on Youtube

Create your very own mouth-watering dishes



CLICK THE IMAGE

To watch the directions for recipe on

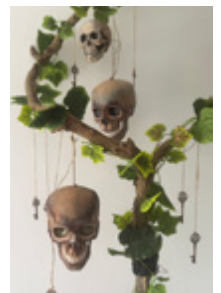
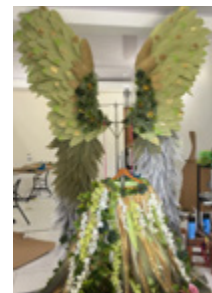
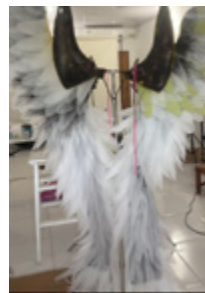
Culture Classroom

Monarchs of Mas 2025 Winner : Ayanna Nedd



My Creative Process

My ideas usually begin with a story or an image in my head. From there, I research, sketch, experiment with different materials, and figure out the best methods, as well as the most cost-effective way, to bring my ideas to life. I enjoy the challenge of building things myself, solving problems along the way, and allowing the design to evolve throughout the process.



The Inspiration Behind My Costume

My winning costume, "Seraphina, Dark Angel of the Green Veil," was inspired by Tobago's rainforest and the idea of a mystical guardian of nature. I wanted to create something powerful, magical, and connected to the island's natural beauty. The colours, wings, keys, and rainforest elements helped tell the story of a mysterious protector representing the balance between the natural and mystical worlds.

Why I Entered Monarchs of Mas

I entered Monarchs of Mas as a first-time competitor because I wanted to challenge myself creatively. Interestingly, long before Monarchs of Mas was a thing, I would often tell my close friends that one day I wanted to make my own individual costume for Carnival.

I wanted to see if I could take an idea from my imagination and build it with my own hands. Bringing the character to life on stage, however,

A Brief Autobiography

My name is Ayanna Nedd, a Tobago-based creative entrepreneur and the owner of Cosmo's Glam Studio. I am a photographer, makeup artist, designer, and self-taught creative who enjoys bringing ideas to life through different forms of art. I also have experience in sewing, woodworking, hairstyling, and face and body art. Creativity has always been a big part of who I am, and Tobago's culture and natural beauty are constant sources of inspiration.

Culture Classroom

was never part of the original plan. Somehow, I ended up portraying my own design and that became an experience I will never forget.

My Experience

The experience was exciting, challenging, and incredibly rewarding, not only because I won, but because I stepped completely outside my comfort zone by being on stage and I did well!

There were many mishaps, moments of problem-solving, and uncertainty, but seeing everything come together on stage made it worthwhile. Winning as a first-time competitor was especially meaningful and gave me even more confidence to continue pushing my creativity.

Advice to Aspiring Competitors

My advice is simple: believe in your idea and don't be afraid to think big. You don't need to know everything before you start. Learn, experiment, make mistakes, and figure things out along the way. Most importantly, remember that mas is storytelling. A strong concept and a story you believe in can make your presentation memorable.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my story. I am honoured to have been part of Monarchs of Mas and look forward to continuing to create and contribute to the art of mas.

In 2026, Monarchs of Mas is carded for October 22nd at Carnival City, Market Square Car Park, Scarborough.



From Blue Food to Bacchanal

A Festival Lover's Guide to Tobago's October Schedule for 2026

By **Cayla Culture**, festival lover and seasoned event goer

October is shaping up to be a big month in Tobago. First, we eat. Then, we experience..

With the **Tobago Blue Food Festival** on **October 18** and **Tobago Carnival** from **October 30th to November 1st**, there is plenty to look forward to. So, if you're planning to experience either one, here are a few things to know before you head out.

Start with Blue Food

On Sunday, October 18, the **Bloody Bay Recreational Grounds** will once again come alive for the **Tobago Blue Food Festival**.

Yes, there will be dasheen. Lots of it.

But expect to see this humble Tobago staple transformed into creative dishes, sweet treats, savoury bites and other surprises from local food vendors. Add music, community and the beautiful setting of Bloody Bay, and you've got yourself a full Tobago day out.

And here's your little Blue Food warning: **Bring an umbrella.**

October is typically hot, humid and wet in Tobago, so sunshine and rain can both make an appearance. But around here, we don't call it rain at Blue Food. We call them showers of blessings 🌧️

So come prepared to enjoy the day, even if the clouds decide to join the party.

Because the Festival is held outdoors, comfortable footwear, sunscreen, a hat, water and a small bag are all good ideas. And while some vendors may offer cashless options, having some **cash on hand** is always wise, especially when you're buying from smaller vendors. There *isn't* an ATM close-by so ensure to pick up your cash in Scarborough and environs before heading to the event.

Getting there also requires a little planning. Shuttle services and designated parking arrangements will be in place, with additional transportation options available. Check the official Tobago Festivals' channels before the event for the latest information on shuttle locations, parking and transportation.

Then We Get Into Carnival

Just when you have recovered from all that eating, **Tobago Carnival** arrives. From **October 30th to November 1st**, Tobago will celebrate the **5th year** of Tobago Carnival, bringing together mud, mas, music, and the unmistakable Tobago setting.

And by now, there are certain things people have come to expect.

The energy.
The costumes.
The music.
The ocean.

There's something special about revelling with the sea just a few steps away, with Tobago providing the backdrop to the action. From **J'ouvert** to the **Parade of the Bands** and the various experiences taking place throughout the Carnival period, there will be plenty happening across the island. And don't forget your camera.

Tobago Carnival has a way of creating photo opportunities without you even looking for them. A spectacular costume. A colourful group of masqueraders. A performer perfectly framed against the sea. Fireworks lighting up the day and night. Independent photo opp structures popping up along the route.

You may arrive with your phone at 20% battery. Please don't.



Bring your charger. Bring your power bank. Clear some storage. You are going to need it.

So mark the dates.



And most importantly, come ready to experience Tobago.

Eat something local. Make a new friend. Learn about culinary culture. Support a small business. Take the scenic route. Stay a little longer.

Because these festivals are more than events on a calendar. They are experiences shaped by Tobago's people, creativity, culture and landscape.

October in Tobago is calling. Come ready.

Your Festivals' Favourite
Cayla Culture

MAZE



The Missing Headpiece

It's Tobago carnival morning, and the vibes are high. Our masquerader is ready to join her band, but there is one big problem... her headpiece for her costume is missing.

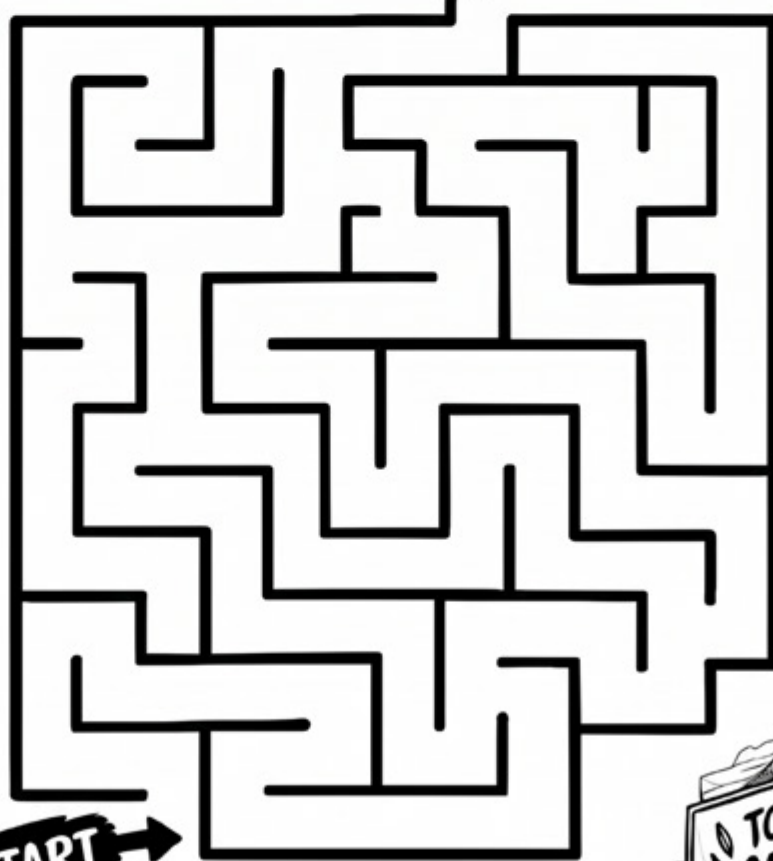
She has searched everywhere, but it's nowhere to be found. Can you help her find the missing headpiece so she can join her band on the road?

Follow the Maze from **START** to **FINISH** to bring the headpiece back.



START →

↑ **FINISH**



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.tobagofestivalscommission.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 traditions/celebrations 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.

Q: How do I get my event/s on the Tobago Festivals Calendar of Events 2027?

A: Submit your events by using this link <https://forms.gle/WiRWc9bvBZPQfUah8>. Deadline for submission for 2027 is November 27th, 2026 at 4pm



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



Get the Latest Updates here

www.tobagofestivalscommission.com

