



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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MEDIA RELEASE

Creatives and artistes get over 10 million in Cultural Relief Grants

Over \$10M in Cultural Relief Grants have been disbursed to artistes and creatives by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

Cabinet approved the Grant as a one-off payment of \$5,000 aimed at providing financial assistance to members of the cultural and arts sector who lost income because of the health and safety measures introduced by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts the Honourable Randall Mitchell said, “The Government through the Cabinet took a decision to extend a helping hand to this sector. We understood the impact of the pandemic on those individuals involved in culture and the arts, and we felt it was important to be compassionate during this difficult period.”

To date 2,152 persons received the Cultural Relief Grant, while an additional 520 persons have been approved and are awaiting their grant cheques. This will increase the total disbursement to date to over \$13M. Applications have been received from an additional 550 artistes and creatives and are currently being processed. GoRTT approved and allocated a maximum of \$25M for disbursement under this relief measure.

Chutney artiste Nishard M (Nishard Mayrhoo) who received the Grant said, “This year has been especially difficult for persons in the creative industry as revenue streams have almost dried up.” The Grant, he said, helped artistes like himself.

He described the application process as surprisingly easy and straightforward and encouraged others who qualify for the grant to apply and access it. Comedian, entertainer and events host, Kess Ramsey also found the application process simple.

“It isn’t that difficult to apply for, you get the form online, you fill out all the information and if you’re missing something, they call you and remind you to get it,” Kess said. He urged others to capitalise on this opportunity.

Soca artiste Kimba Sorzano said even though it was a small sum, he is grateful because it helped him. He said, “I will urge every artiste to reach out and utilise this opportunity, even if it is to pivot.”

Musician Vaughnette Bigford acknowledged that it has been a difficult time for creatives but she said she is grateful to the Government for the assistance. She wants others to apply for the grant.

“We need it, make the effort, do the application and get some sort of relief,” she appealed.

The cultural and arts community is reminded that the deadline for receipt of Cultural Relief Grant applications has been extended to Thursday 31 December 2020. The sector is also advised that effective 1 November 2020, the collection points for application forms as well as drop-off boxes for completed Cultural Relief Grant applications are located at:

- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Head Office, Level 8, Tower C, Waterfront Complex, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
- JOBCO Building, 51-55 Frederick Street, Port of Spain
- Naparima Bowl, 19-21 Paradise Pasture, San Fernando
- National Academy for the Performing Arts - NAPA - Frederick Street, Port of Spain

Nicholas Towers is no longer a drop-off point.

Application forms and the full list of requirements can be downloaded at www.tourism.gov.tt
Further information is available via the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts at 624-1403 extensions 251, 288, 334 & 512 or via email at reliefgrants@tourism.gov.tt

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