

LATEST NEWS

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Inaugural Steelpan Film Festival launched at Central Bank

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad. August 22, 2025— The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago launched its first-ever *Steelpan Film Festival: Our Sound, Our Stories* on Monday evening, August 18, 2025, at the Central Bank Auditorium. Against the backdrop of World Steelpan Day, celebrated on August 11, and in celebration of Pan History Month, the festival aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the instrument, its pioneers, and the contributions of the steelpan community as a powerful symbol of innovation, resilience, and national identity.

Speaking at the Opening, Governor Larry Howai highlighted the steelpan's journey from its local roots to global acclaim. He reaffirmed the Central Bank's commitment to supporting Trinidad and Tobago's creative industries through initiatives such as its Creative Residency Programme and deepening its offering of cultural events. "The Steelpan Film Festival stands as a new and vibrant expression of our ongoing commitment. Film is a powerful medium for storytelling; through the films showcased this week, we invite audiences to journey through the legacy of the steelpan, to meet the visionaries and pioneers, and to witness the extraordinary contributions of the pan community to our national identity," he said.

Mrs. Nicole Crooks, Senior Manager, Human Resources, Industrial and External Relations, welcomed attendees and emphasised the Bank's longstanding dedication to arts and cultural heritage. She recognised Mr. Jeffrey Joseph, Senior Auditorium Operations Officer, and Ms. Delesse Francis, Operations Officer at the Auditorium as the architects of the festival. The evening's programme also included a preview of the week's films by Joseph who underscored the festival's role in celebrating not only the instrument but the pan tuners, arrangers, composers, players, filmmakers, sponsors, and fans who sustain the steelpan movement.

The opening night was graced by the presence of The Honourable Michelle Benjamin, Minister of Culture and Community Development and Mrs. Beverley Ramsey-Moore, President of Pan Trinbago. Also in attendance were Ms. Ann Philmore, sister of Ken "Professor" Philmore and members of the Philmore family; Mrs. Patricia Loquan, wife of cultural icon Mark Loquan ORTT, joined by members of the Loquan family alongside other invited guests, steelpan luminaries and creative stakeholders. Mark Loquan was specially honoured on Night 2 of the festival, August 19, with the screening of four of his films.

The opening film, *Panazz the Story*, a moving portrayal of one of the nation's premier steelbands and their contributions to the local musical landscape, was well received. Mr. Barry Bartholomew, co-producer and director, also addressed those in attendance. The night featured recognition of key contributors and ended with a cocktail reception in the Bank's main concourse. Tamboo bamboo from Santa Cruz All Stars Rhythm Section, pan soloist Emmanuel Joseph and Caribbean Steelpan Connexion band provided the evening's entertainment.

The Steelpan Film Festival runs nightly until today – Friday, August 22, culminating with the screening of the film *Pan! Our Music Odyssey*. For more information about the Steelpan Film Festival, please email jajoseph@central-bank.org.tt or call 621-2288 or 235-2288 ext. 2155/2142/2248.

-End-

Photo Captions:

1. Governor Larry Howai delivers Opening Remarks at the Steelpan Film Festival. [Photo 1](#)
2. Co-producer and Director Barry Bartholomew addresses the audience before the screening of "Panazz the Story." [Photo 2](#)
3. Patricia Loquan, wife of Mark Loquan ORTT, receiving special recognition from Governor Howai. [Photo 3](#)
4. Ann Philmore, sister of Ken "Professor" Philmore, receiving special recognition from Governor Howai. [Photo 4](#)
5. Barry Bartholomew receives a gift from the Central Bank. [Photo 5](#)
6. Maria Nunes, Director, *Panyard Universe, Women in Pan* receives a gift from the Central Bank - [Photo 6](#)
7. Gerelle Forbes, Director, *Pan on the Move* receives a gift from the Central Bank. [Photo 7](#)
8. (L-R) Central Bank's Nicole Crooks, Jeffrey Joseph, Governor Larry Howai and Mrs. Beverley Ramsey-Moore, President of Pan Trinbago, share a moment at the opening reception. [Photo 8](#)
9. Santa Cruz All Stars Rhythm Section. [Photo 9](#)
10. Pan Soloist, Emmanuel Joseph. [Photo 10](#)
11. Caribbean Steelpan Connexion band. [Photo 11](#)