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Central Bank Auditorium Celebrates 40 Years

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. March 26, 2026 –The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago celebrates the 40th anniversary of its iconic Auditorium, which first opened its doors on March 26, 1986, as the nation's first modern performing arts theatre. Four decades since then Governor Dr. Eurie Bobb officially opened the venue as “a civic contribution which would hopefully assist in enhancing the performing arts in T&T,” the Central Bank Auditorium has grown into an enduring cultural institution, hosting hundreds of local and international performances, groundbreaking cultural programmes, and landmark events that have shaped the country's artistic landscape.

Nestled at the base of the Eric Williams Financial Complex in Port of Spain, the 411-seat Auditorium distinguished itself from inception as a world-class space dedicated to nurturing emerging talent. The Auditorium's inaugural performance, “Two Choices” by The UWI Players Workshop, was staged in May 1986, just months after the venue's formal opening, setting the tone for the artistic excellence that would define the theatre's identity for generations.

Marking the occasion, Governor Larry Howai spoke to the Auditorium's significance to the nation, “The Central Bank Auditorium represents one of our institution's most enduring contributions to national life. For forty years, this space has served not only as a premier performing arts venue, but also as an incubator for talent. As we celebrate this milestone, we recommit ourselves to ensuring that this theatre space continues to inspire and uplift generations to come.”

Senior Manager, Human Resources, Industrial and External Relations, Nicole Crooks, who oversees the Auditorium as the line Senior Manager with responsibility for the space and has done so for over 20 years, reflected on the Auditorium's enduring place within the Central Bank's mission: “The Auditorium has been a labour of love for everyone who has ever been a part of its story. What makes this space truly special is the people — the artists who have poured their hearts onto this stage, the technical staff who have made the magic happen night after night, and the audiences who have returned again and again. Twenty years of watching this theatre grow and evolve has only deepened my appreciation for what it means to our institution and to our country. We are immensely proud of this milestone.”

In recent years, the Auditorium has significantly broadened its cultural reach. In collaboration with the Central Bank Museum, the arts website www.centralbankarts.org.tt was launched, widening access to its programming and aligning with the Bank's CSR mandate to foster the development of the performing arts. Highlights include the acclaimed inaugural *Calypso Stories* series and the *Steelpan Film Festival*. The *Creative Residency Programme* also enabled resident artists to collaborate with professionals in auditorium management, sound and lighting design, video production, and stage management, while school tours inspire youth with insights into theatre and career pathways in the performing arts. Operations Officer Delesse Francis, under the leadership of Manager, External Relations, Christine Nanton-Winter, has played a major role in bringing these recent initiatives to life.

As the Auditorium celebrates this historic milestone, special tribute is paid to retired Senior Operations Officer Jeffrey Joseph, who was instrumental in establishing and developing the theatre from its very beginning in 1986. A constant presence behind the scenes since its inception, Joseph's dedication, institutional knowledge, and deep passion for the performing arts were vital to the Auditorium's growth and influence. He retired from the Central Bank in January 2026, after nearly 40 years of distinguished service.

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Photo 1 – Delesse Francis, Operations Officer address students of Waterloo Secondary School during a tour of the Auditorium.

Photo 2 – Inside the Central Bank Auditorium.

Photo 3 – As is customary, Central Bank Staff perform on stage at the Auditorium at an internal event.

Photo 4 – From left, Nicole Crooks Senior Manager, Human Resources, Industrial and External Relations, Jeffrey Joseph, Senior Operations Officer (retired), Governor Larry Howai and Beverley Ramsey Moore- President of Pan Trinbago.