

September 2023

# HOUSTON CARIBBEAN PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER



### THIS ISSUE

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REIGN

*Celebrating achievements, honoring heritage*






# WHO WE ARE

We are a nonprofit body of Caribbean professionals from diverse walks of life.

We are driven by our mission to "support, connect, and unite professionals of Caribbean heritage for the advancement of Caribbean communities domestic and abroad."

We would be delighted to have you as a member, so click on the icon to learn how: 

Also, click on the icons at the bottom of the page to follow our journey on social media.

## OUR ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

### Community service

- Feeding the homeless
- Thanksgiving baskets
- Clothing drives
- Back to school drives

### Civic engagement

- Voter registration drive
- Refugee assistance

### Member engagement

- Professional mixers
- Family fun days
- Partnership events

### Education

- Over \$13k in scholarship awards
- Mentorship and empowerment
- Back to school drives

### Purposeful fundraising

- Annual scholarship gala, REIGN
- Sponsoring 5 island schools
- Give2Serve

## The Board of Directors



**Marilyn Douglas-Jones**  
Community Development



**Lucia Bates**  
Gov Relations



**Sledge Leonidas**  
Chairman



**Chris Walters**  
Chairman Community Service



**Eddison Titus, J.D.**  
Legal Counsel

## The Executive Team



**Jemima John, PhD**  
President



**Noel Rock**  
VP & Membership Chair



**Frederick Dubique**  
Treasurer



**Denée Carpe, MSHEd**  
Secretary



**Alexa Dolmo**  
Marketing Chair



**Doris Jean Pierre**  
Fundraising Chair



**Chantelle Clarke**  
Community Liaison



**T. Monique Hoggard**  
Community Liaison



# SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Each year, HCPA awards a deserving student of Caribbean heritage, a scholarship in the amount of \$1500.00, to assist with tuition fees. This year, as a result of increased donor support, we awarded two scholarships to students in undergraduate and graduate programs. [Here is a look at our 2023 recipients!](#)

### 2023 SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT JAZMYN BLAKE | TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN MARKETING,  
BBA



"It is an honor and privilege to be a recipient of this scholarship, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity this will afford me as I further my education and fulfill my goals. Your generous support will not only make a difference in my life but also in the lives of my family, who have always encouraged and supported my goals. When I am successful, I plan to give back to my community and make a positive impact in the world the same as you have done for me." Jazmyn

### 2023 SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT TRUDY-ANN CAMPBELL | PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS, MASTERS



"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible blessing. It's not just about the financial relief – it's about the doors of opportunity that have swung open. Thanks to your support, I've been able to focus on my studies with renewed vigor and participate in meaningful activities that are shaping my growth both academically and personally. Your investment is contributing to a brighter future not only for me but for the community I hope to serve." Trudy-Ann





# OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES

HCPA has been engaged multiple impact-driven activities over the past 5 months. [Click the following pictures to see the video highlights of some of these efforts!](#)

## **MIND YOUR BUSINESS NETWORKING MIXER, AUGUST 2023**

At last month's mixer, industry experts provided each guest with tools to be successful with finances in business and life in general.



## **CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH: DAY IN THE PARK, JUNE 2023**

In June, we celebrated Caribbean Heritage Month with our local Houston Missouri City Domino Club.



## **FAMILY FUNDAY, JUNE 2023**

To honor our Caribbean fathers, we hosted our annual Family Fun Day filled with games, vendors, music, and genuine camaraderie. We also received a proclamation from the city in recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month!



## **CARNIVAL KICKOFF, JULY 2023**

HCPA kicked off Houston Caribfest celebrations with a Sunday of Caribbean music, drinks, island food, and beautiful people.



*Featuring Vogue Mas. in costume*

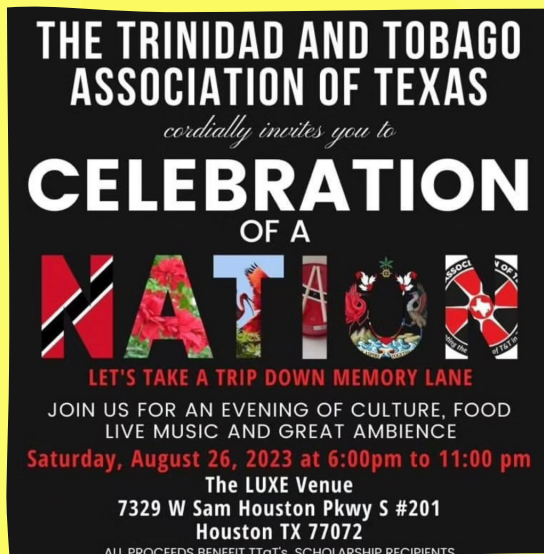


# PAST COMMUNITY EVENTS

Numerous activities have transpired in our Caribbean community these last few months. Here are some highlights of these events and initiatives!

## CELEBRATION OF A NATION, TRINIDAD

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Texas hosted an evening of culture, food, live music, and great ambience to raise funds for scholarships.



## JAMAICA 61ST INDEPENDENCE GALA

Themed "Proud and Strong", the gala was a remarkable event held at the Norris Conference Center, in honor of Jamaica's 61st year of independence.



## TASTE OF BARBADOS

The Barbados Association of Texas organized this event back in August where they sold their delicious food in support of organization priorities.



## HOUSTON HAITIANS UNITED MARCH

On July 9th, Haitians in the diaspora and around the world came together to lend their voices in support of relief for Haiti.







In CARIBIZ, we feature professionals and enterprises that are elevating Caribbean excellence and culture. In this issue, we introduce events planner, Latasha Thurston, Jamaican artist, Paul Blackwood, and REIGN, an HCPA philanthropic enterprise raising money for educational equity. [Click their names and photos to get to know more!](#)

### **LATASHA THURSTON, BARBADOS**

Latasha Thurston is the owner and founder of CT's Creative Art Space, located right in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. Check out her Caribiz feature below!



### **PAUL BLACKWOOD, JAMAICA**

Paul Blackwood is a Jamaican artist with a career spanning over 30 years. Please click his picture to view his interview at the Jamaican expo, and the icon to see his art on his website here> .



### **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**Annual Halloween Mixer** | October 26th, 7pm, at 5 Central

**Food Bank Volunteering** | Saturday, November 4, 1pm, at Houston Food Bank

**Afrifest** | Saturday, November 4, 1-8pm. Click link for more information.

**HCPA Blood Drive** | November 12, 10-2pm. Follow social media for more updates.

**Helping Hungry Houstonians** | November 18, 10-2pm | Near Astros Stadium.

**Bountiful Blessings Turkey Basket Packing** | November 18, 2-6 pm | 2329 Commerce St.

**REIGN- Black-tie Masquerade Gala** | December 9th, 7:30-Midnight | GAIA

### **REIGN FUNDRAISER**

Our annual gala, REIGN, to raise funds for educational equity and to honor achievements, takes place on December 9th. To date we have given over \$13,000 in scholarships and school supplies. Click on VP Noel's pic to preview the event!





# OUR CORPORATE & BUSINESS SPONSORS

Our deepest gratitude to our corporate sponsors and small businesses who help advance our mission through their generous support. **Please click their pics to learn more about their businesses!**

## THE TITUS LAW FIRM



We provide real estate, business, probate, and estate planning legal services to our clients.

## WENDY LEADER | VOGUE MAS



Vogue Mas: A premium Carnival Mas Band, providing unmatched road experiences!

## MAS PEPPA



"Spice Up Ya Life" by adding spice and flavor to everything you are..."

## KADRIA DERRICK, MD



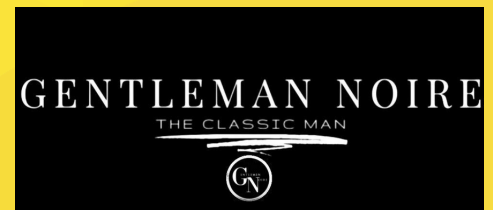
General, Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesiologist. Medical/Mental Health and Wellness and Entrepreneur.

## DR. MIKENAH VEGA, DDS



Dentist, with expertise in real estate, travel, and wellness.

## GENTLEMAN NOIRE



An inclusive lifestyle brand for men of discerning taste.

## CHAD SEBASTIEN PRODUCTIONS



Event coordinator and producer, fashion consultant, and personal stylist.

## CARIBBEAN WOMEN'S EXPO



Caribbean Womens Expo highlights the career paths and businesses of women from the Caribbean.

## MONIQUE HOGGARD



Monique Hoggard, real estate agent, travel agent, and corporate sponsor. Serves as our community liaison.

## BRYAN EAVENS



We provide residential and commercial contractor services.







YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Reign

**A Black Tie Masquerade Affair**

*Raising Funds, Honoring Achievements*

DECEMBER 9, 2023

7:30PM to 12:00AM

**GALA**

*2655 Winrock Blvd.*

*Houston, TX, 77057*

—> [Tickets on sale](#) <—

TO SUPPORT REIGN AS A SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER,  
OR ATTENDEE, CONTACT US AT  
HCPASSOC@GMAIL.COM