

CELEBRATING OUR GUYANESE HERITAGE



Contributors of distinction to the vibrancy of their spaces in the native land and the Diaspora through community service; literary, performing and visual arts; information technology education and social media.

*Ronald H. Lammy
Chair, The GCA Awards Committee*

The GCA Awards has become the international standard bearer for recognizing and acclaiming Guyanese creativity and life achievements in multiple forms. The organization's ascendancy in the last decade and a half brings it to a significant milestone in 2016. This is the year of a coincidental celebration of great importance: Guyana's Jubilee Independence Anniversary.

The stature of the Awards has risen because of its process of identification and selection of the honorees. Transparency has been the bulwark in a national environment of many negatives. The voices of the hard working Selection Committee members are duly acknowledged for their positive role.

Those who are being honored represent a people who share multi-ethnic and other similar cultural features. All are contributing to the vibrancy of their living space in the native land and in the Diaspora. Their distinctive cultural traditions have a discernible influence in the personality we observe and the professional accomplishments displayed. Successes are attained in a range of artistic, educational, entrepreneurial, and governmental sectors.

The Award recognitions have familiar and new designations including: community service; literary, performing and visual arts; information technology and social media.

We congratulate and introduce the 2016 Awardees. The community service committed supporters are Egbert Carter, Beverley Drake, Alfred R. King, David L. Lammy, Brooklyn Printers and Dr. Tulsi Dyal Singh. The literary artists are Stephanie Bowry and Cyril Dabydeen. Youth honorees Quincy Lacon – EGO and the GBTI-Buxton Steel Orchestra are performing artists. Marlon Forrester, Claire Ann Goring and Betsy Karim are visual artists. Information Technology learning is the forte of Dr Ann Wallace with Cyril Bryan in the related field as a sage of social media.



program

GUYANA
CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK INC.
**2016 LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Claire Ann Goring



VISUAL ARTS
ARTIST, CULTURAL ENABLER

For almost four decades, Claire Ann Goring has unselfishly advanced Guyana's graphic and festival arts. She has demonstrated a consistently high level of commitment to managing creativity and promoting the celebration of Guyanese creativity.

Claire Goring was an early member of Design and Graphics. In the early post-independence years, this public agency was the home for a community of artists and writers who piloted projects to develop a sense of Guyanese identity through the visual identities they created for national institutions.

Throughout the 1970s and the 1980s, Claire Goring was the creative engine behind significant innovations in Guyana's festival arts. Her design and "wire bending" skills revealed an imagination that was inspired by the color, rhythms, and textures of Guyana. Her creativity in this sphere has established the benchmarks—the standards to be emulated in Guyanese festival arts.

During the 1970s, 1980s, and the 1990s, Claire Goring demonstrated a commitment to "Niceing Up Guyana" through pioneering work in fashion design, the folk arts, mega-entertainment events, and mentoring a generation of fashion designers, musicians, and chefs.

Her work as the Cultural Director of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York since its inception in 2001 can be characterized as tenacious. Claire Goring has been unstinting in her efforts to make the Guyana Cultural Association and the annual Guyana Folk Festival in Brooklyn the premier not-for-profit association in the Guyana's diaspora committed to the preservation and promotion of Guyanese heritage and the celebration of Guyanese creativity. Under her leadership, GCA has earned respect for the work it does to reaffirm and to celebrate the folk heritage of Guyana's multi-ethnic ancestry. By 2015, Claire Goring had advanced another important element in her unselfish vision—the creation of the Guyana Cultural Association's Arts and Cultural Center.

GUYANA
CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK INC.
**2016 EXEMPLARY
AWARD**

Cyril Bryan



SOCIAL MEDIA
CULTURAL ENABLER

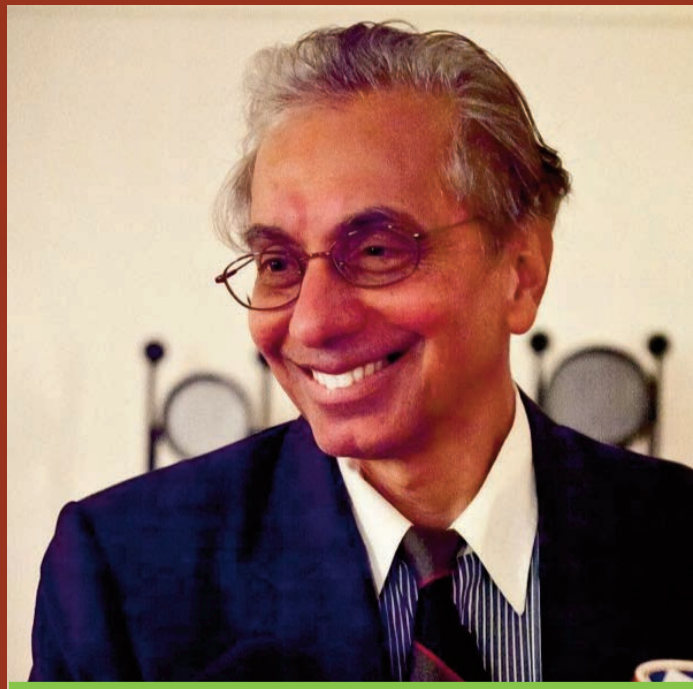
Cyril Bryan is leading a focus on enhancing and expanding the presentation of Guyana and Guyanese interests for a good life anywhere. The Guyanese OnLine Blog provides information on a wide array of topics and over the six year period since its inception stands out as the single large publication that is neither self – opinionated nor intentionally hostile to anyone. Its viewership has increased by one million every year since 2014 to reach 4,000,000 in March 2016. This is a remarkable, verifiable accomplishment for an entity serving an estimated total global population estimated at only 1,000,000. Mr. Bryan's values guides the editing services provided in the blog. There is a continual presence of balance and authenticity. This publication is singular in its daily presentation of information useful to Guyanese that has little bias, if any, and does not offer appeasement to any racial or ethnic group. It is a premiere resource for Guyanese by connecting them to their compatriots with authenticity. It is exemplary in breaking down barriers, combating fear and ignorance with worthy information and stimulating national pride in the face of ongoing negative publications.

Guyanese Online makes a variety of topics readily available about a cross section of sectors: academic; business; governmental; social/non-for-profit; arts, culture, and sports. It has partnerships with respectable individuals and publishers that provide credible information. Viewers can read about projects, diverse populations, and social and political issues. The Blog has no political party affiliation. One of its hallmarks is the support for Guyanese neighborhood and cultural groups. Their announcements are included in regular publications at no charge. This media outlet demonstrated how the leadership and goodwill of an individual can impact a community spread across the global. The breath of its work covers feature stories, public service announcements, community calendar listing, guest editorials, letter to editors to it on its own articles and those to others, and some paid advertising.

Mr. Bryan has combined Information Technology and social entrepreneurship that reaches active readers in 200 countries in the millions. His pioneering leadership has created a resource of enviable, extraordinary scope for a mainstream, non- controversial publication.

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
2016 EXEMPLARY AWARD

Cyril Dabydeen



LITERARY ARTS
 WRITER, EDUCATOR

A prolific writer of Guyanese origin, CYRIL DABY-DEEN holds the various titles of poet, short-story writer, novelist, anthologist, and essayist – as well as educator and advocate for race relations.

Cyril's achievements are innumerable. By the time he was 20, Cyril had already won Guyana's Sandbach Parker Gold Medal for poetry, and the first A.J. Seymour Lyric Poetry Prize. Twenty years later, and upon migrating to Canada, he would achieve the distinction of Poet Laureate of the City of Ottawa (1984-1987), while also claiming the city's first Heritage Award for Writing and Publishing (2000). Other awards followed: A Certificate of Merit from the Government of Canada, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Guyana Council of Canadians (Toronto 2012), and a Guyana Folk Festival/NY Award (2006). He also won Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council

awards, and the Okanagan Fiction Prize. His nominations include a US Pushcart Prize and a three-time nomination for the Guyana Poetry/Fiction prize which he won in 2007 for his novel Drums of My Flesh. This novel was nominated for the prestigious International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was a finalist for the Ottawa Book Award.

Many of Cyril's writings focus on Caribbean and multi-ethnic experiences, to find as he explains, "a greater relevance in and acceptance of the Diaspora" – a key ingredient to the bridging concept – "to extend the Caribbean space beyond borders or accepted boundaries". Presentation readings of his scholarly papers number in the three-hundreds, spanning the US, Canada, UK, Europe, India, Australia, Africa, and the Caribbean. To date he has published twenty books in Fiction and Poetry. Other works focus on his commitment to community development.

A career whose origins began in Guyana as a teacher and lasted there for almost a decade, Cyril also taught for fifteen years at the University of Ottawa. A predisposition for excellence in teaching earned him the Dean of Arts Award (University of Ottawa) for Teaching Excellence.

A bastion for social justice and equal rights, Cyril has worked in the race relations Administration for the City of Ottawa and the Federal Government; and in management with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, travelling to over thirty cities and towns to promote racial equality. For a decade, he managed a National Action Committee on Race Relations. He is on the advisory boards of the Journal of Caribbean Literatures (Univ. of Central Arkansas), Caribbean Vistas Journal (Texas Southern Univ.), and the Arts Journal (Guyana).

Cyril holds BA (First-Class Hons.) and MA degrees in English, from Lakehead and Queen's Universities, respectively. He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Queen's. He was twice admitted to the PhD Program at York University.

Cyril's extensive resume includes numerous works including God's Spider; My Multi-Ethnic Friends and Other Stories; Berbice Crossing; and Beyond Sangre Grande: Caribbean Writing Today. His works have appeared in several literary magazines and anthologies. A publication by Professor Jameela Begum (Kerala University Dept. of English) is a book-length endorsement of his work. Cyril Dabydeen has been lauded as a "gifted Canadian poet" and "one of the most confident and accomplished voices of the Caribbean Diaspora" (Kamau Braithwaite, NYU).

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York (GCA) celebrates its 15th Anniversary with recipients of fifteen awards. The Awards have four narratives: Youth Award; GCA Award; Exemplary Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2016 honorees are spread across the Guyanese Diaspora. They reside in the United States of America, Canada, Guyana, United Kingdom, and Barbados where the recipients display their global, regional and national impact in various sectors. They achieved significant accomplishments in visual and performing arts, social media, literature, government administration, information technology education, community service, aviation, and as cultural enablers. Prominently evident in the dedication of each individual effort is a demonstration of noble features of Guyanese heritage.

Nominations for the Awards are provided by members of the public, anywhere, after an extensive multimedia call for submissions. Honorees are selected by a ten-member selection committee that evaluates each nomination. It considers the annual theme and seven criteria: originality, scope, impact / influence, integration, pioneering spirit, challenges and achievements. Votes are cast privately.

2016 GCA YOUTH AWARD

CELEBRATING GUYANESE YOUTH WHO HAVE MADE ACHIEVEMENT AND POSITIVE LEADERSHIP THEIR CENTRAL GOAL

The GCA Awards salute the contributions by youth and especially, we acknowledge individuals from Guyana who enrich their communities and Guyanese society

**PERFORMING ARTS
 VOCALIST,
 YOUTH LEADER,
 Quincy Lacon**



Quincy Lacon is an emerging, young performing artist with notable successes in the Caribbean. He is continuing his commendable secondary academic work as he pursues a pharmacology career. The Youth Award also acknowledges his leadership positions in youth organizations providing impactful community service in Linden, Guyana.

**PERFORMING ARTS
 STEELPANNISTS
 The GBTI-Buxton
 Steel Orchestra**



The GBTI-Buxton Steel Orchestra is an impressive, rising, "relatively 'young' band," of girls and boys. They are 11 to 15 years old and attend secondary schools in Buxton, Bladen Hall, and Annandale. The ensemble was formed as "an after-school program" and it is "staying the course" in positive social activity by playing pan for the last five years. In May 2016, they visited

New York City and received much acclaim at the 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations.

2016 GCA AWARDS HONOREES IN CELEBRATION OF THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH STRONG CREATIVE GIFTS, LEADERS AND CULTURAL ENABLERS IN THE GUYANESE SOCIETY

LITERARY ARTS Stephanie Bowry

WRITER,
STORY-TELLER



Stephanie Bowry is “a talented writer, researcher, poet, story-teller and Performance Artist. She has done invaluable work in documenting our heritage: our oral ‘true-true’ stories of the supernatural, folklore, traditional rituals, even oral tales handed down from the days of slavery and Colonialism. She has written in an inimitable, lyrical folkloric style, capturing the idioms, proverbial wisdoms, historical drama, in a vivid, organic imagery. Ms Bowry’s literary work has transcended racial and cultural boundaries. Her themes and characters cut across social classes and ethno-political lines. Her enduring presence, popularity and impact in the town of New Amsterdam also transcend race and culture. She is a rare and trusted, unifying, build-bridging, cultural personality.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Egbert Carter

CULTURAL
ENABLER



Egbert Carter is a community service archetype based on his engineering education and career in Guyana. He is highly regarded for his voluntary service and contribution to educational and cultural institutions of his country. The National Library, the David Rose Centre for boys, and the Theatre Guild are some that bear his imprint. He was the Chairman of the Voluntary Service Committee of the Guyana Association of Professional engineers (GAPE) for a number of years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Beverley Drake

AVIATION PIONEER



Beverley Drake is one of Guyana’s first female pilots. She has an accomplished career in Aviation as a USA Senior Aviation Accident Investigator/Analyst, Safety Advocate, and Industry Safety Spokesperson. A pioneer, Ms. Drake has surmounted the odds working alongside her male peers and she has been rewarded for her achievements. An employee of the National Transportation Safety Board, Ms. Drake is the first and only black woman to serve in her position. She is also an advocate of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) encouraging students in the US and in Guyana to pursue STEM as a career choice.

2016 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

VISUAL ARTIST Marlon Forrester

ARTIST, TEACHER



Marlon Forrester is a Guyana-born artist and educator raised in Boston, MA. He received his Bachelor’s degree at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and completed a Master’s in Fine Arts at Yale in 2010. Mr. Forrester presents his social consciousness and cultural sensitivities through his paintings. He is proud of his immigrant heritage and pursues every opportunity to link it with his American socialization. He has expressed his concern with the corporate use of the black male body, or the body as logo. “His paintings, drawings, sculptures, and multimedia works reflect meditations on the exploitation implicit in the simultaneous apotheosis and fear of the muscular black figure in America.”

VISUAL ARTIST Betsy Karim

PRINT,
EMBROIDERY ARTIST

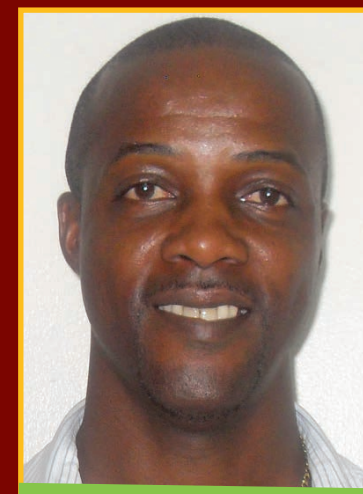


Betsy Karim is a self-taught visual artist from childhood. “Since 1986, she has been exhibiting her art at a National level. Her work has highlighted historical portraits and ancient Civilizations.” Ms Karim’s “preoccupation with great historical personages, the diverse religions and cultures of the planet, testifies to her relentless search not only for roots, but a past heritage which gives pride and dignity to ALL in our multiracial/ multicultural society.” She defines her work as also a testimony to our ‘ONE beating heart and universal soul’.” Ms Karim’s unique work “lies not only in the thematic content of her art but in her use of innovative materials ...which transform her canvas into a rich, exquisite piece of ‘medieval’ Eastern tapestry.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Alfred R. King

ADMINISTRATOR,
CULTURAL ENABLER



Alfred R. King is an avid supporter of indigenous artforms and a highly effective public administrator. In his Permanent Secretary position, he has managed the three intertwined portfolios of culture, youth and sport to meet the needs of Guyanese nationals. There have been notable improvements in cultural program development across the nation. He is also an astute educator and recognized the immense value of the University of West Indies (UWI) & SANCH Pan In Education program presented to the Ministry in 2010 by a Guyanese American social entrepreneur. It initiated the transformative period of steelpan musicianship that was acclaimed in the press in 2015 by iconic Guyanese musician Dave Martins. This year Mr. King planned and managed the 50th Independence Anniversary Steel Pan program.

2016 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

David L. Lammy

PARLIAMENTARIAN,
CULTURAL
ENABLER



David L. Lammy is a British born parliamentarian. First elected at age 28 he has served in ministerial positions and won reelection consecutively since 2000. His attainment of a Master of Laws from Harvard University gave him the distinction of being the first black Briton to reach that standing. Mr. Lammy's profile depicts a Guyanese immigrant story; a poverty story, overcome through the dedication of his single mother, and the pursuit of his aspirations. His professional work is a bridging story, too. Mr. Lammy has been active as "a conduit for successive Guyanese Prime Ministers with the UK government" for many years.

BUSINESS

**Bennett Printers/
Brooklyn Printers**

CULTURAL
ENABLER



Bennett Printers/Brooklyn Printers is a family-owned-and-operated company that has been serving local businesses for more than 50 years. The shop is currently in its third generation and has supported the work of the Guyana Cultural Association for many years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Tulsi Singh

CULTURAL
ENABLER



Dr. Tulsi Singh's scope of work "is a critical statement of personal dedication. He is a patron of Guyanese art, artists and artefacts. He has collected the carvings and paintings of more than twenty Guyanese artists; assembled probably the most complete collection in the world of the first editions of the works of Edgar Mittelholzer; compiled most of the books written about British Guiana from its "discovery" to Independence; collected multiple complete sets of the coins used in Essequibo and Demerary - Demerara and Essequibo; British Guiana; British Caribbean Territories Eastern Group; and Guyana, dating from 1809 to the present." He "envisioned and executed a sister-city relationship between New Amsterdam, Guyana and Midland, Texas in 1996.

2016 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Ann Wallace

BUSINESS EDUCATOR



Dr Ann Wallace has a career of distinction in business and information technology education. The Cave Hill School of Business – (CHSB-UWI) was at a fledgling stage in 1991. Guyana-born Ann Wallace joined the Centre for Management Development, envisioned its redesign, and managed the implementation of the Online and Distance Learning (ODL) program across the institution. She spearheaded the migration of the academic programs from traditional class room teaching to a blended learning format. All programs are now delivered completely in ODL systems. Dr Wallace's 25 years tenure has been definitive and transformative with pioneering elements for a black woman in IT. 65 Guyanese have graduated with BA/ MBAs or Diplomas from CHSB-UWI.

*Congratulations
of 2016 GCA
Honorees*

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS