

News Release



RBC sponsors Redemption Sound Setters Steel Orchestra Pan Camp

PORT OF SPAIN, August 14, 2024 — In the heart of National Steelpan month, it is encouraging to share stories of our pan tradition being passed on to the younger generation. In July, the Tobago based RBC Redemption Sound Setters Steel Orchestra hosted a pan camp for 41 youngsters comprising children from Tobago and the United States between the ages of five and 16.

The Vacation Pan Camp 2024 was designed for novices. Under the keen tutelage of Shaquille Broomes and Dachele Morrison, the students were exposed to both the theory and practical elements of the steelpan, including acquiring knowledge of scales and chords at the introductory level. The vacation camp provided an opportunity to profile careers in the steelpan industry and demonstrate productive use of leisure time.

Coming out of a similar initiative in 2023, ten students between the ages of ten and 15 honed their skills on the national instruments and were able to join the senior band for Panorama 2024. At a graduation ceremony on July 27, each participant received a certificate of participation and put on show the skills they acquired over the 3-week camp.

“The Steelband movement has become an important channel for musical creativity and a significant factor within the cultural fabric of Trinidad and Tobago,” said band captain Marie Toby and underscored the importance of introducing the national instrument – pan – to beginners.

Witnessing an inspiring display of newly acquired talent at the graduation ceremony, RBC Branch Manager Lesa Cruickshank-Simon said, “It is so rewarding to see young people embracing the legacy of the pan – out of the depths of simplicity there is a harmonious, encouraging symphony of hope.” She was pleased the Bank was able to support Sound Setters in making the camp a reality and lauded the band for including children from the United States, which can continue to foster keeping pan on the world stage.

The band is aiming to make the camp an annual event.

PHOTO CAPTIONS



Lesa Cruickshank-Simon, RBC's Scarborough Branch Manager (centre), along with executives of the RBC Redemption Soundsetters Steel Orchestra, at the recent pan camp graduation. Pictured from left are: Albert Percy, CEO; Cindy Hackett, Treasurer; Odette Joseph, Public Relations Officer; Alana Toby-Phillips, Secretary; Ashley James, Trustee; Marie Toby, Captain.



A young musician, ready to show off his skills on the steelpan.



Smiles and rhythms unite as participants of the Pan Camp pose for a photo.



Group photo of all the participants and executives of the RBC Redemption Sound Setters Steel Orchestra Pan Camp.



Lesa Cruickshank-Simon, RBC's Scarborough Branch Manager presents one of the participants with her certificate of participation.

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