



2022-2023 NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL NOMINEES

Melanie Carmichael (Chairperson)



Proudly raised in Red Bay, Grand Cayman, Melanie has served on the National Trust Council as a General Elected Member since 2019 and currently sits as a Member of the Planning Appeals Tribunal of the Cayman Islands. Educated in Holland and England, Melanie is a trained professional and Notary Public who has worked in the offshore business sector for over 20 years, both as a Senior Corporate Administrator and as a Senior Trust Administrator for a private Cayman Islands Bank. Melanie has dedicated herself to building community for over 10 years, she has been an active volunteer in the grassroots organisations such as CPR Cayman, Amplify Cayman and Sustainable Cayman working to encourage the thoughtful development of our Islands. Outside of work, Melanie enjoys time on the water with her family and she especially enjoys Cayman's natural wildlife and her garden which is a safe haven for an array of water birds and a flock of West Indian whistling ducks.

Christina Pineda (Chairperson)



Christina is a generational Caymanian with roots in Cayman Brac. Christina is serial entrepreneur who has created and sold several successful businesses, many of which are still in operation today. An attorney by trade (non-practising), a multi-media artist and writer, Christina served as the former Executive Director of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (2012 – 2018) before returning to entrepreneurship. She is also an Accredited Mediator and a Business Strategist who helps organisations create a culture teams can thrive in. As an environmentalist and cultural animator Christina possesses a wealth of local knowledge and has served on several boards including The Central Planning Authority, National Conservation Council, Lands Commission, and Duke of Edinburgh Board, amongst others. She was also Chairperson of the Land-based Heritage Committee, as a part of the larger National Heritage & Culture Policy Committee. She is currently a member of the R3 (Recovery Committee).

Peter Davey (Secretary)



Peter Davey has served on the Trust Council for nine years, the last four as Vice Chairman of the Trust as well as Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee. He was responsible for establishing the National Trust's Malportas Bird Reserve, supported of course by the legal and technical expertise of his colleagues. His term came to an end in 2021. Peter is a founding member of the National Trust, the Cayman Islands Bird Club and the Cayman Islands Motorsports Association, for which he served as Vice President for one year. Peter owned jewelry businesses in George Town from 1983 to 2009, including the The Jewellery Center, where as a designer, he penned and created many pieces. His deep interest in the natural world and desire to protect it and give it space, is expressed mainly through his birding activities and his past attempts to photograph every dragonfly and butterfly species occurring in the Cayman Islands. During this exercise, he added two species of dragonfly to Cayman's list, The Blue-faced Darner and the Halloween Pennant and also re-discovered a small population of Gold-rimmed Swallowtails, which has since been extirpated on account of quarrying. As experienced birders, Peter and Christine Mailer have been reviewers for eBird since its inception. Peter's passion for the long-term success of the National Trust remains unabated.



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Zoe Foster (Secretary)



Zoe has served on the Trust Council for four years as Officer-Secretary and has a sound understanding of the oversight and good governance duties of the Council. Zoe has over 20 years' experience in the legal and financial services industries and previously was an eServices Compliance Audit Manager for a leading offshore law firm before retirement. Zoe is passionate about protecting the National Trust in its mission to continue to be an independent trustworthy voice for Cayman's flora, fauna, maritime beauty and heritage.

Jeri Bovell (General Council)



I have called Cayman home since 1993. I have supported the National Trust through charitable donations for many years. I have had plant walks with Ann Stafford to identify and appreciate local flora and fauna. I have worked with Joanne Mercille to populate my garden with endemic Caymanian species. In order to support The National Trust more holistically, I volunteered my time to sit on the fundraising committee and I offered complimentary meditation classes through this foundation. I have a MSc in Herbal Medicine. I understand intrinsically the connection of plants and experiences in nature on health and vitality. I work as a teacher and have spent many years developing effective communication and listening skills. I hope to serve on the National Trust board in order to inspire others to nurture and protect the biodiversity found on the Cayman Islands.

Patricia Bradley (General Council)



Patricia is one of the three founders of the National Trust, having served on the National Trust Council in some form since the Trust's early days and most recently for the last ten years. She is a current member of the Trust's Environmental Advisory Committee and for many years served as EAC Chair. Patricia also serves on the National Conservation Council. She is a Life Member of the National Trust and has always been involved in environmental issues. She played a key role in developing nature tourism in the Sister Islands. Patricia is the author of several books on Caribbean birds including *Birds of the Cayman Islands* and *Birds of Cuba*.



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Fred Burton (General Council)



Fred has lived and worked in the Cayman Islands since 1979. In 1990, he founded The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme as a National Trust volunteer. He has authored a number of books including Threatened Plants of the Cayman Islands – the Red List as well as The Little Blue Book. Fred currently holds the post of Manager of the Terrestrial Unit at the DoE. He formerly worked as the Environmental Programmes Manager of the National Trust and was a key player in establishing the Cayman Islands' terrestrial protected area systems and worked on wildlife conservation habitats. Fred was awarded an MBE for his services in conservation of endangered species. He currently serves as a Trust Council member.

Lauren Dombowsky (General Council)



Lauren is a Caymanian who moved to the UK for her Master's degree in Environmental Diagnosis and Management in 2011. She worked in London as an Environmental Scientist until 2018, when she returned home to become the Senior Environmental Assessment Officer at the DoE. She is now the Manager of the Environmental Management Unit. Lauren was a Council Member and Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee for 2021 to 2022. She is also the volunteer project manager for the National Trust's Motus Stations. In the UK, Lauren was a volunteer with FoodCycle and as a result of her efforts, she was shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM's) Young Environmentalist of the Year and also won the Lewisham Mayor's Award for Voluntary Contribution in 2017.

Ellen Lazzari (General Council)



Ellen is self employed. Her National Trust interests focus on preservation of built heritage and family history, birds and native plants/trees. Ellen has served as a Justice of the Peace since 2004 as well as on Cayman Brac High School PTA as Treasurer from 2010-2015. She took a break from volunteering from 2015 until joining the Trust last year. Ellen enjoys gardening and reading. She also loves driving and road trips. Ellen is a current Council member and Chair of the Historic Advisory Committee.



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Chris Luijten (General Council)



As a Cayman Islands resident in 2020 working closely with key stakeholders in the media, government and various grassroots movements, I was able to bring about a movement that helped accelerate the implementation of new legislation to protect mangroves. Together with Martin Keeley I helped form the Mangrove Rangers program which Martin launched in 2020. The program has been widely covered in local and international media and generated a lot of attention for the mangroves by delivering workshops, creating educational content and engaging the community. Aside from mangrove conservation work, I am an Entrepreneur in the b2b SaaS technology vertical through various companies on which I serve as Investor and Board Member. I am the CEO of ITCA, a company that helps software companies with fighting against software piracy. My wife and children are very passionate about the environment, and we support a variety of causes such as the Virunga National Park in Congo, Skyscanner, and the Sea Shepherd. I hope to support the National Trust in its efforts to preserve, protect, promote the beautiful Cayman Islands its flora, fauna, maritime beauty for future generations to enjoy.

Ally McRae (General Council)



Raised in the Cayman Islands, Ally earned her Bachelor of Commerce degree in Real Estate in 2017 and has been working in the real estate industry in Cayman ever since. As the daughter of an architect and an interior designer, her commitment to Cayman's built heritage was inherited. In early 2018, Ally began to campaign for the preservation of the Clayton Nixon House, a 200+ year old wattle and daub home in George Town. Her activism led to a partnership between the National Trust and the Cayman Islands Government resulting in the Clayton Nixon House's relocation to the Mission House grounds in 2020. In 2021, Ally was nominated for a Governor's Conservation Award for her work on that project. Ally has also served on the board of directors for Rotaract Blue since 2018, most recently serving as the club's president for the 2021-2022 year. Most recently, Ally was invited to speak on the Youth Panel at the National Trust Conference in April 2022. As a proud resident of West Bay, Ally has set her sights on the preservation of historic homes in the district and would love to contribute to the National Trust's work in the field.

Harris McCoy (General Council)



Harris McCoy III - was born in the Cayman Islands and lives in North Side, he is a principle in Landmark, a multidiscipline international marketing and management consultancy. Harris spends much of his time traveling between residences in London and Grand Cayman. He has worked with Bloomberg LP, and many of the City of London financial houses. In addition, numerous C.I. Govt. Ministries and Departments. Harris is a former Chairman of the C.I. National Museum, Board member of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, and former Deputy Chair of National Trust. He has served at Cultural Attaché to UK Govt Office and continues as a benefactor of the McCoy Prize and steward of the McCoy Collection. He is currently historical advisor to the North Side District National Trust Committee. Harris has served on numerous public sector boards over the past 15 years and is a strong advocate for Caymanian heritage and culture. He has written on Caymanian furniture and at present is exploring all aspects of Sustainable Heritage in the Cayman Islands. Harris is a graduate of Brock University with BA in Public Administration, and Westminster University with MA in Museums & Galleries - currently a Doctorial Researcher at the Centre for Arts, Culture and Media Newcastle University in Museum and Heritage management. Having studied Sustainable Heritage at the Bartlett School UCL faculty of the Built Environment.



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Joanne Mercille (General Council)



Joanne has been a National Trust member since 1997 and a current co-opted member of the Council. She was a key volunteer for the Wildlife rehabilitation program till 2003. Currently she is volunteer curator for the National Trust physical herbarium and a team member for cataloguing the digital herbarium database, a consultant for CUC vegetation management and webmaster for two environmental websites. Since 2014 she has owned a native plant nursery retail business that targets their re-introduction as landscaping plant material into new urban habitats.

Arthurlyn Pedley (General Council)



Arthurlyn has had a long association with the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. From its formation, she volunteered for the Memory Bank Programme. She went on to work for the organization as ED then as HPM for five years. In those roles, she served on Trust Council. This past year, as a co-opted member, she has been on the Historic Advisory Committee. She is also a long-serving, active member of the West Bay District Committee. Arthurlyn is passionate to preserve our built heritage so that future generations will have tangible contact with their past through buildings and sites of historic significance. A retired educator, Arthurlyn enjoys the outdoors: walking, swimming and pottering around her garden. Because of her love for Cayman's history, she has taken up part-time work writing historic articles and posts for the Cayman Islands National Archive. Most of all, she's enjoying being a first time Grammie to her precious Granddaughter.

Laura Powery Egglshaw (General Council)



Laura Egglshaw (née Powery) was born in West Bay and one of the '1000' babies delivered by midwife 'Ms. Leila Yates'. Laura attended West Bay Primary School; C.I. High School; I.C.C.I., and received a scholarship from the C.I. Chamber of Commerce to attend St. Godric's College, Hampstead Heath, London. Laura is a generational Caymanian whose family instilled in her a respect, love and gratitude toward the environment. She was taught to nurture and 'leave the earth a better place than she found it'. Volunteering and family & community values have always played a large part in Laura's life. Laura has volunteered for the National Trust from the 1990's and still does. Her interests in the National Trust are, Environmental; Preservation of land, Culture and Heritage. She also volunteers for LIFE; the Neighbourhood Watch Programme and more recently, West Bay Beautification Task Force. Laura is an executive member of the Grand Cayman Garden Club and a member of the C.I. Sailing Club. Beautifying Cayman and protecting the environment and Community Service is something instinctive and a passion that Laura enjoys.



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Olivia Scott-Ramirez (General Council)



Olivia is from Cayman Brac where she held various leadership roles as a student, including President of Youth to Youth. While at University in North Carolina, she spent a semester in London before graduating in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications. She had a successful career as the Caymanian Compass' Business Editor and Tourism and Travel Writer for many years, then as a News Anchor with Radio Cayman, before transitioning into the Marketing and Public Relations field. Currently Olivia is the Senior Marketing and Public Relations Manager at Cayman Airways. She has been an Advisor for Junior Achievement and currently sits on the Cayman Carnival Batabano Board of Directors. Olivia has been an active member of the National Trust Council since 2020.

Matt Southgate (General Council)



Matt is a Caymanian engineer, artist and conservationist. He is leading the design of the National Trust's Motus stations on all three islands - a wildlife tracking system that will form part of an international collaborative research network. As a local bird enthusiast and eBird reviewer, he has co-founded the Cayman Birding Club, co-organised BirdFest 2021 (a festival celebrating and studying the birds of Cayman Brac), and led birding groups for both adults and school children. He has conducted bat surveys, sea turtle monitoring, and BioBlitz citizen-science efforts. He has a passion for using technology in new ways and for democratising science so that it can be enjoyed and appreciated by all. Matt is also a founding member and current board member of Cayman Climbing, a non-profit organisation created with the aim of promoting the sport of climbing in the Cayman Islands and the surrounding region.

Sonya van de Wouw (General Council)



As one of the National Trust's previous Historic Programmes Managers, and having served on HAC, Sonya has a sincere affection for Cayman's natural and historic heritages, with the latter being her soft spot. She arrived at the shores of these breath-taking islands almost 30 years ago and has since gained a genuine fondness for Cayman's built heritage – a heritage she deems significant and worthy of preservation in both construct and theory for our younger generations, our residents and our visitors. Sonya believes strongly that preserving our cultural heritage will help build a better Cayman, because she agrees with UNESCO's assertion that culture, including historical landmarks, and our living heritage, is a resource for the identity and cohesion of communities.

Today, Sonya is settling into a life that incorporates her passions: the Italian culinary arts, travelling with her husband, writing, running, meditating and being an Italian mamma, of sorts, to family and friends. She can cook-up a not half bad conch stew and fish run-down and considers herself blessed to be a part of the Caymanian community. She's also head over heels in love with her 2 darling nieces and can never get enough of hearing the words Zia Sonya!