



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust Fundraiser Celebrates Maritime Heritage

6th June 2024 – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands celebrated National Maritime Day, on 22 May, with the fundraiser “A Night at the Museum: Dive Into Cayman’s Maritime Heritage”. The event was held at the Cayman Collections Centre which is filled with incredible maritime heritage artefacts and historical items on display, a fitting venue for highlighting the importance of Cayman’s historic past. The Honourable Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, the Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency was in attendance, as well as members from the Catboat Club, National Museum and The Seafarers Association who showed their support and shared with guests their memories of our seafaring traditions. The National Trust are deeply grateful for the generosity of the attendees supporting the event and helping raise just over CI\$30,000; these funds will go towards the conservation of natural and built heritage.

It was a spectacular night filled with great conversation, ample nostalgia, and celebration. Attendees enjoyed music by Caryn Caffarelli and a collection of stunning images provided by Courtney Platt. A special thank you to guest speakers Denniston Tibbetts sharing his memories of life at sea, and Sabrina Douglas discussing her journey and exploration of the Cayman Trench on the submersible Alvin. James Bebarfald was a fabulous emcee and auctioneer for the evening and engaged with the guests and encouraged them to show their support in the auctions and raffle. There was an impressive array of fantastic items totaling \$20,000 in value including staycations, artwork, jewelry, restaurant gift certificates, watersport activities, and more! A heartfelt thank you to all of the local businesses, organizations, individuals, and artists who donated these items to our auction and raffle. The night would not have been possible without the amazing volunteers, and the National Trust cannot thank them enough for all their hard work and dedication.

The event was made possible through the generous event sponsorship of Cayman National Bank, Dart, Cayman Islands Shipping Registry, the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, Celebrations, Cayman Collections Centre, and Cayman Islands Museum.

This event was one of the National Trust’s biggest general fundraisers to date that are hosted each year and an evening to celebrate maritime heritage with the local community. The Cayman Islands has a rich maritime heritage, from discovery, to the Caymanian sailors serving on vessels around the globe, shipbuilding, ocean conservation, to our watersports pioneers and those making a living on (and under) the water today. The



National Trust for the Cayman Islands has a 35 year plus legacy of fulfilling a mandate to preserve historical, natural and maritime heritage on all three islands. Many of the sites that are protected are linked to our Maritime Heritage including Fort George, East End Lighthouse House Park, Sylvia's Reef (Cayman Brac) and Dr. Roy's Ironshore, among other precious sites.

If anyone would like to make a donation to support the conservation of Cayman's natural and built heritage please visit the National Trust's website www.nationaltrust.org.ky or [click this link to make a direct donation](#) .

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About the National Trust for the Cayman Islands

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is a non-governmental organization whose mandate under the National Trust Law (2010 Revision) includes the preservation of the historic, natural and maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.

About the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme

The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme began in 1990 with only 30 dedicated Blue Iguanas and the primary goal to restore the wild population to 1,000 Blue Iguanas, encouraging viable population in the long-term.



Having met its primary goal in 2018, the initiative formally transitioned to the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme in 2019 with a new focus of sustainably conserving the native species of Grand Cayman.

About the National Trust's Environmental Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' environmental programme was founded on the concept that the protection of native plants and animals is best achieved by protecting the natural areas in which they depend.

About the National Trust Conservation Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' conservation programme strives to protect Cayman's native species and the habitats in which they live, and includes the endemic Blue Iguana of Grand Cayman, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana and Cayman's native bat species.

About the National Trust Historic Preservation Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands introduced the launching of its *Historic Preservation Fund* at its Annual General Meeting in September 2021 for the purpose of inviting increased support of its continuing efforts to encourage the preservation and protection of historic homes and buildings for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands.