



AUGUST 2025  
ISSUE 6

## BACKCHAT 2025

Queer Resilience: Celebrating  
Caribbean LGBTQI+ Voices

## IDAHOBIT - MEDIA CONFERENCE

Plus solidarity statements from  
local organisations.

## PRIDE MONTH

Let's revisit our Pride highlights.

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Regional gathering of transgender people  
and queer allies.

# THE CAISO Quarterly

# FOREWORD

## Hello from the CAISO Team!



Hello friends of CAISO!

We are well past the first half of the year and we are winding down as we take the upcoming week to rest and reflect but don't worry, we'll be back refreshed and renewed in September!

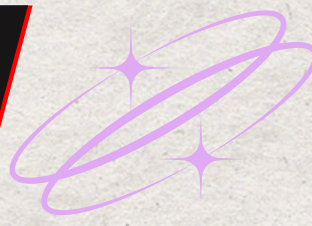
The past few months have been a whirlwind as we continue building on our ongoing projects while launching exciting new ones. We're thrilled to share what we've been up to—and what's coming next.

In this edition of The CAISO Quarterly, you'll find highlights from recent months, including International Women's Day, BackChat, TDOV, IDAHOBIT, and Pride activities, plus continuing our artist spotlights.

We hope you enjoy this edition, and as always, if you have questions, comments, concerns—or just want to send some love—don't hesitate to reach out!



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



March 8 marked International Women's Day, and CAISO was out in full force at the annual march and rally in support of the 2025 call to "Accelerate Action."



For us, along with other civil society groups and feminist organisations, International Women's Day is a staple on our calendar. Each year, it provides a vital platform to amplify our messages of resistance, solidarity, and hope for justice.



# BACKCHAT



Queer Resilience: Celebrating Caribbean LGBTQI+ Voices.

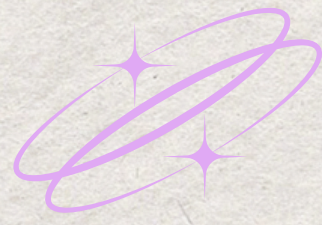


Another staple in the CAISO calendar, BackChat returned this year bigger and better than ever, with a spectacular lineup, electrifying performances, and a room full of our favourite faces.

We are always thrilled to partner with the Bocas Lit Fest to bring queer voices into the spotlight.



# BACKCHAT



This year's edition of Backchat featured an extraordinary lineup of LGBTQI+ writers and performers: **Andre Bagoo, Angelique V. Nixon, Daniel Blaze, earth, Shivane Ramlochan, and Tamara Ali.** We were also honoured to welcome BackChat Visiting Writer **Lesley-Ann Wanliss**, alongside special guest writers **Alexis Pauline Gumbs** and **Linzey Corridon.**



For the first time in CAISO westory, we were proud to host our first **Backchat Queer Writer's Workshop** with our visiting writer, **Lesley-Ann Wanliss.**

The workshop, titled, **“Magical Realism, Queerness & The Caribbean”** was for queer writers working on queer writing, and focused on on the themes of **magical realism, queerness, and the Caribbean**, exploring what it means to write the magical into the Caribbean experience.



# TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY



TRANS RIGHTS ARE  
HUMAN RIGHTS 

In the spirit of resilience, resistance and empowerment, we kicked off our celebrations of **Transgender Day of Visibility** with a regional gathering of people of trans experience, nonbinary and queer allies, that focused on **healing justice in the Trans movement and communications and outreach**.

The regional gathering included presentations from our diverse panelists, sharing their personal experiences, strategies and insights for collective growth and empowerment.

## PANELISTS



TAYLOR LUTCHMAN  
TNBTT/CAISO

SHE/THEY



GLYNN-DEVON BRYAN  
Cari-Trans Support Group

HE/HIM



MÓNICA RUIZ JOAQUÍN  
Trans Este Podemos Avanzar  
(TEPA)

SHE/HER



JESHUA BARDOO  
Equal Rights Access & Opportunities SVG

HE/HIM



# IDAHOBIT

## CAISO's Wholeness and Justice Report 2024

IDAHOBIT marks the anniversary of May 17, 1990, when the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases. Since then, the day has served as a focal point for raising awareness of the violence and discrimination still faced by LGBTQIA+ people across the globe and was first celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago in 2011.

On IDAHOBIT, CAISO shared the findings of our Insights from Wholeness and Justice Report, based on the fourth year of providing clinical, legal, and wholeness development services to Trinidad and Tobago's LGBTQI+ communities.

Check out the highlights below of four main key insights:



**Wider sustained interventions need to be engaged to address State-sponsored discrimination.**



**Discrimination makes diverse LGBTQI+ people disproportionately susceptible to social displacement.**



**Violent social systems contribute to the deterioration of individual's psychological well-being**



**Affirmation of dignity and identity is a core human need that LGBTQI+ people share with all others.**

**GAY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**



**[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT CAISO'S FULL WHOLENES AND JUSTICE REPORT](#)**



# IDAHOBIT

## The Power of Communities

The theme for this year's IDAHOBIT observance was "The Power of Communities." And what better way to honour that theme than through the unity of Civil Society Organisations across Trinidad and Tobago, sharing solidarity statements in support of the LGBTQI+ community in light of the Appeal Court's decision to overturn the 2018 decriminalisation of same-sex intimacy.

# CSO'S IN SOLIDARITY



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



CARIBBEAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



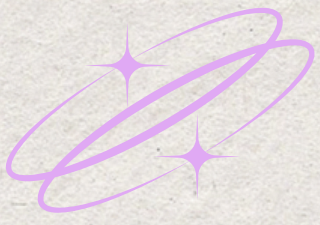
CEDAW COMMITTEE of Trinidad and Tobago



COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CariFLAGS

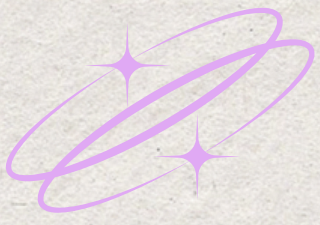


# PRIDE 2025

## Pride KARAOKE

This year CAISO hosted our first Pride karaoke event. On 17<sup>th</sup> July, we showed up and showed out with our vocals at Island Beer Chill and Grill. Entry was free and persons we encouraged to bring donations to our CAISO Food Bank.



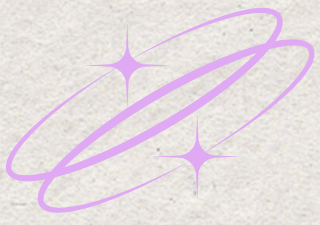


# PRIDE 2025

## MARKET AND PRIDE PARADE

We also took part of Pride TT's Pride Market and Parade on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July.





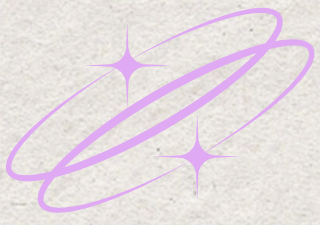
# PRIDE 2025

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRANSGENDER COALITION PRIDE MAS FLOAT



We teamed up with the **Trinidad and Tobago Transgender Coalition (3TC)** to create the very first Pride Mas Float for the annual Pride Parade. Alongside organizations like **Berkeley Carnival Revolution, Queer Corner, Friends for Life, Tobago Pride,** and others, as well as dedicated volunteers from the community, we joined forces to bring this iconic float to life on the parade route.





# PRIDE 2025

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRANSGENDER

## COALITION PRIDE MAS FLOAT



Photos provided by the CAISO team and @maniaproductions

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The Annual Report for 2024 is now live on our website.

Click below to read it!

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE ANNUAL REPORT 2024](#)



# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Maya Ramesar

she/her



Maya K. Ramesar (b. 1994) is a multifaceted artist, with years of experience in graphic design, animation and illustration. In her fine art practice, Ramesar works in oil, collage and digital animation.

She prefers a maximalist style and is influenced by local and distant people, places and memories as well as vintage magazines.



Business (2022)  
Oil, acrylic and collage  
24" x 24"



Eclipse (2022)  
Oil on Canvas, collage  
24" x 36"



@artofmkr

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Shalini Seereeram

she/her



Caribbean artist Shalini Seereeram has enjoyed a career spanning nearly 30 years, glittered with numerous achievements.

She turned her attention to painting and sculpture after her initial training in graphic design, and having won the President's medal for her jewellery creations.

Developing her unique style using unorthodox materials, Shalini's art is a favourite with local and international collectors.



Indigo (2024)  
Mixed Media 10" x 10"



Love's Vibrations (2020)  
Acrylic, 11" x 14"

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Shalini Seereeram

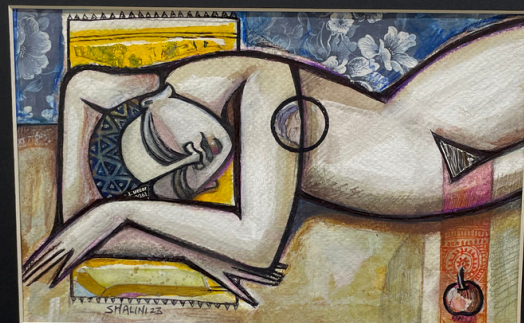
she/her

Her artistic style is informed by continuous line, intricate patterns, dramatic contrast of colour and a sweeping visual narrative of geometric shapes. Her subject matter does not shy away from the intimacies of human relationships and their spiritual connection to the natural world.



Conversations (2024)  
Acrylic, 6" x 10"

Her work has been frequently exhibited in her native Trinidad and Tobago as well as the United States, England, and Barbados.



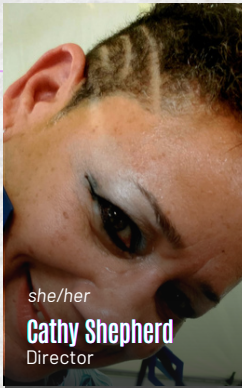
Eve (2023)  
Mixed Media, Pen and Inks  
6" x 9.5"



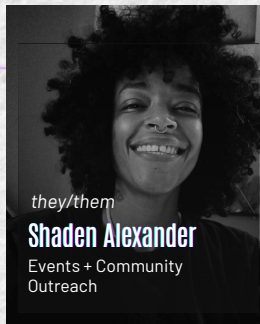
@artist.shalini



# MEET OUR TEAM



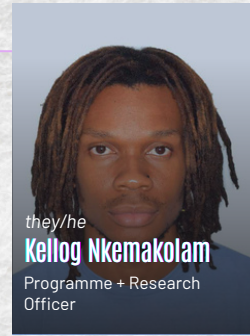
she/her  
**Cathy Shepherd**  
Director



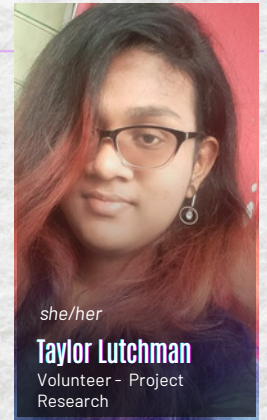
they/them  
**Shaden Alexander**  
Events + Community Outreach



she/they  
**Chinyere Brown**  
Research + Admin Associate



they/he  
**Kellog Nkemakolam**  
Programme + Research Officer



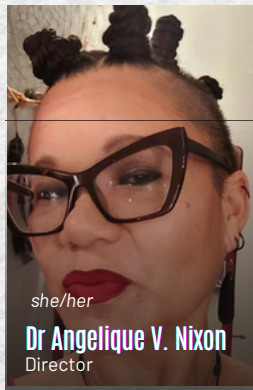
she/her  
**Taylor Lutchman**  
Volunteer - Project Research



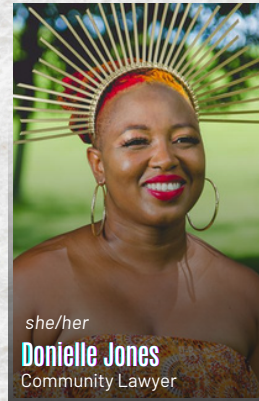
she/her  
**Akilah Riley Richardson**  
Community Therapist



she/her  
**Johannah Rae Reyes**  
Projects + Community Outreach Officer



she/her  
**Dr Angelique V. Nixon**  
Director



she/her  
**Donielle Jones**  
Community Lawyer



she/he  
**Rae Alibey**  
Community Caseworker



he/him  
**Elron Elahie**  
Advisor, Wholeness & Justice



he/him  
**Josh Drayton**  
Advisor



she/her  
**Alessandra Hereman**  
Director



he/him  
**Omar Mohammed**  
Director



she/her  
**Psyche Gonzales**  
Financial Manager + Website Designer



they/them  
**Chandelle O'Neil**  
Volunteer



she/they  
**Francisca Ferret**  
Volunteer, Project Research



she/her  
**Jo Johnson**  
Volunteer



he/him  
**Dr Nikoli Attai**  
Volunteer, Queer Archives Project

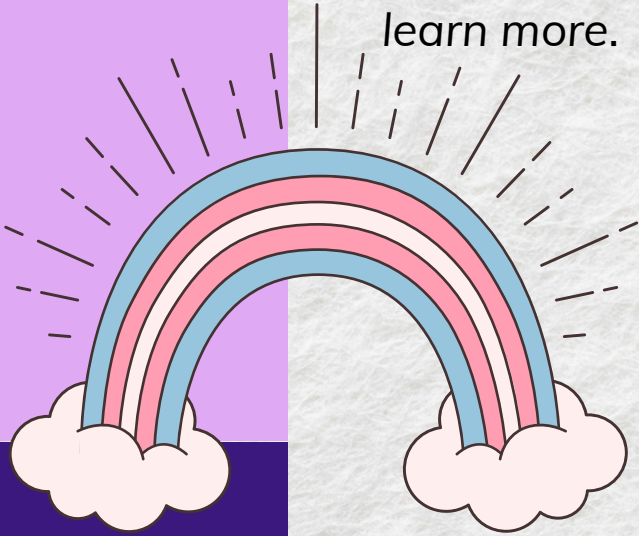


she/they  
**Chanel Moosan**  
Content and Social Media



# WANT TO SUPPORT?

- Become a **Resource Volunteer!**
- **Donate to CAISO** via our First Citizens Bank Account!
- Become a **Projects or Events Volunteer**: email us at [outreach@caisott.org](mailto:outreach@caisott.org) to learn more.



# WANT TO DONATE?

Name: **CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice**

Bank: **First Citizens Bank**

Account No: **2415395**

Account Type: **Chequing**

Please email us at [info@caisott.org](mailto:info@caisott.org) with your donation information and indicate whether the donation is for Community Food Support, Client Emergency Support, or any other Operational Support.

# NEED SERVICES?

[wholenessandjustice@caisott.org](mailto:wholenessandjustice@caisott.org)

1-868-28-CAISO

1-868-384-9557



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