

# CAYMAN CONNECTION

# IMPACT REPORT

# 2023

## CC GLOBAL CLUBS

Since early 2020, CC Global Clubs have grown organically, with members inspiring and shaping endeavours overseas while sharing hobbies and interests.

## BIG TINGS COMIN’

We have some exciting plans and events for our fellow Caymanians and affiliates comin’ soon. **CONNEC’ WITH US.**

## INFUSIN’ FUN INTO ALL WE DO

We participated in one of the world’s largest celebrations of Caribbean culture, the world-renowned Notting Hill Carnival, which hosted over 2 million attendees.

*Get ready for 2024!*

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**LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It is with great pleasure that we present to you Cayman Connection's inaugural Impact Report.

Within our report we share the remarkable progress and achievements that we have made towards our mission to connect the Caymanian diaspora to home whilst providing opportunities to improve their quality of life abroad.

In our 10+ years of existence, we at Cayman Connection have been continuously dedicated to making a positive difference for our overseas community. This year we have developed new initiatives and offered critical support to our diverse community of Caymanians and friends across the globe. We proudly launched a new series, developed by students for students - 'A-Z of the Overseas Student Experience!'. This series helps better prepare prospective and current students studying overseas, providing advice on most needed topics including; finance and budgeting, student housing, mental health and more. To provide more bespoke, localised support we also recruited four new inspiring student ambassadors to connect and support other Caymanian students across the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Asia.

At Cayman Connection we pride ourselves on highlighting the key achievements of our community no matter where in the world they are. We don't want anyone to go under the radar, which is why we presented the second year of our annual Making Waves Awards celebrating overseas Caymanians making outstanding contributions in their respective field. We also extended our categories by introducing an exciting, new award, our 'Inclusion' award recognising those doing great things in the equality, diversity and inclusion space.

Another key highlight for our not-for-profit this year includes our new partnership with Mas Band ELIMU (UK, London). Through this valuable partnership we hosted the first ever Cayman Islands section in the world renowned event, Notting Hill Carnival, which hosts over 2,000,000 attendees in the UK, celebrating Caribbean heritage. Our production 'Play Mas Upon the Seas' showcased the critical contributions that the Cayman Islands continues to make to marine conservation, more specifically our turtle research and protection, whilst positively promoting our three beautiful Islands to all.

None of our activity this year would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, ambassadors, club leads, directors, and sponsors. Their energy, passion and commitment has been instrumental in propelling us toward our goals and we express our heartfelt gratitude to every one of them living out our values and making every connection count.

I welcome you to dive into our 2023 Impact Report to gain a deeper understanding of the positive changes that we have made together. Our success is a testament to the collective efforts of our overseas community. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and we hope that this inspires you to join the Cayman Connection family.

Caymankind regards,

Ashlea Smith  
Executive Director



caymanconnection.org  
hello@caymanconnection.org



**BECOME A CAYMAN CONNECTION MEMBER TODAY**

Join our network of Caymanians and those associated with the Cayman Islands overseas. Members will receive updates and newsletters and be invited to events online and in-person where possible.

[www.caymanconnection.org/cayman-connections](http://www.caymanconnection.org/cayman-connections)

# DIS WHO WE IS

Cayman Connection is an organisation that supports and connects Caymanians and those affiliated with the Cayman Islands who are working, studying, or living overseas. Cayman Connection is a not-for-profit that offers a number of virtual support calls, social clubs, networking opportunities, events with special guest speakers and advice and guidance about living overseas.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to connect the Caymanian diaspora to home whilst providing opportunities to improve their quality of life abroad. Through access to our services and unique network, our global community promotes the Cayman Islands and our way of life to benefit all Caymanians.

“Cayman Connection may be small, but it is mighty! We secured a place in the history books for us and the Cayman Islands at the largest street festival in Europe - Notting Hill Carnival! We all united with love for country in our hearts and bonded as Cayman people, overseas. What could be more beautiful than that? A huge thank you to our sponsors for making our wish come true!”

Cayman Connection Member



## GLOBAL CLUBS



Since 2020 CC Global Clubs have grown organically, with members sharing hobbies and interests, inspiring and shaping Virtual Yard event topics, and supporting one another in various endeavours overseas.

### FIT CLUB

Fit Club promotes the Club's health and wellness mind-body offerings, including the Fit 4 Feb challenge, Socasize virtual yard sessions and the 12 Days of Mindfulness campaign. Fit Club activities are published on a quarterly basis in the e-newsletter, and all members are encouraged to join the active WhatsApp chat.

### BUSH CLUB

Bush Club is for members who are interested in herbal remedies and bush medicines, making plant-based products, and holistic approaches to health and wellness. During National Tree week (Nov 25-Dec 3), Bush Club Lead and field specialist, Hannah Reid of Bush girl medicine, shared posts on social media highlighting and sharing facts on the trees that call our Islands home. These included Ironwood, Candlewood, Pepper Cinnamon and Christmas Berry.

### BOOK CLUB

If you love to read and want to provide reviews on novels, poetry books, playscripts, screenplays – literature in all forms – this is the Club for you. Led by Caymanian writer Antonio Arch, Book Club has welcomed many significant figures to the virtual yard. See the 'Boi Look Yah' section to read more.

### COOK CLUB

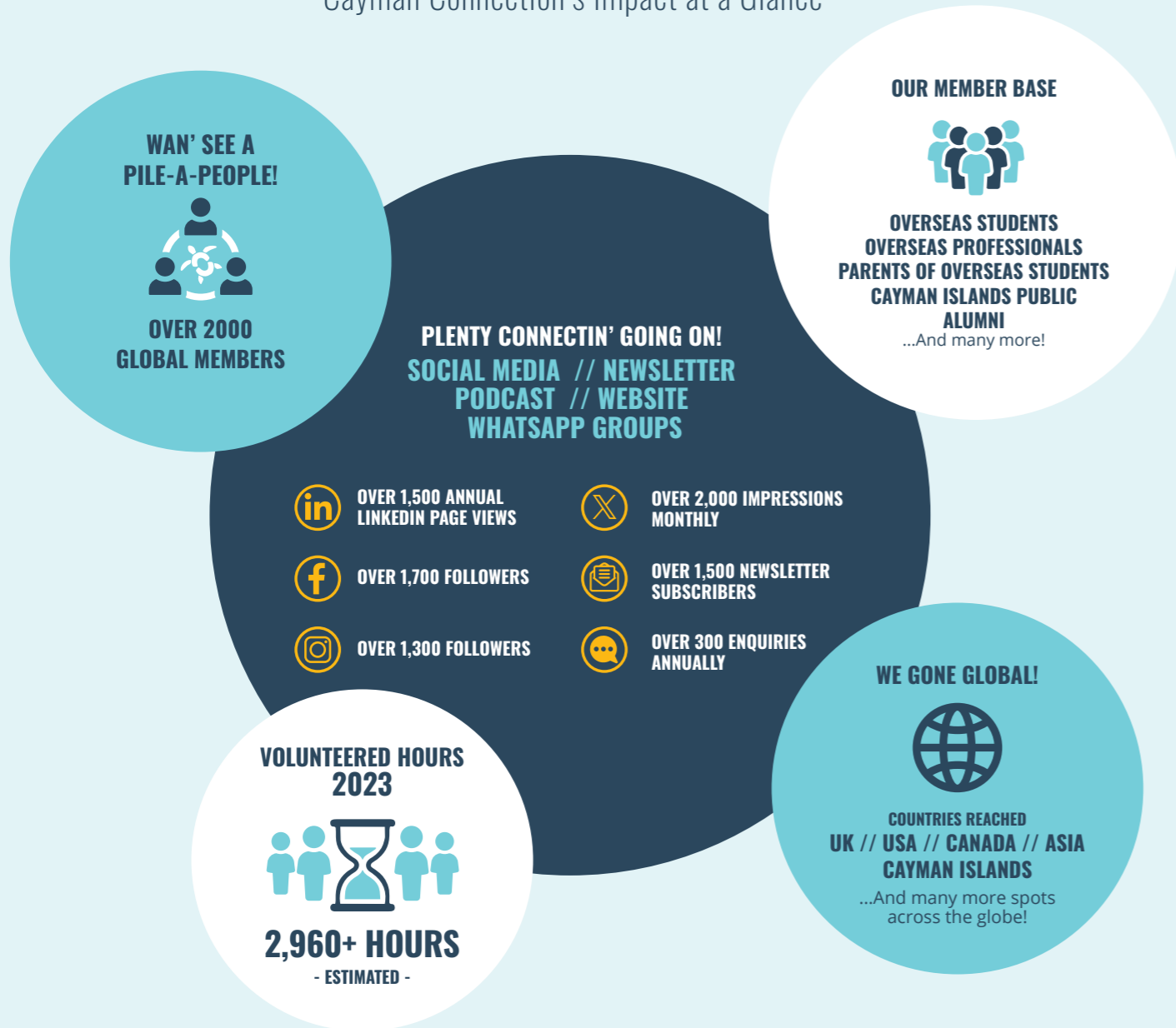
Cook club is the official umbrella for all things culinary taking place at Cayman Connection. This year a treasured Caymanian and Caribbean recipe, the pineapple upside-down cake has been posted on social, courtesy of Sookie's Kitchen, to celebrate National Pineapple Upside Down Cake Day in the USA. Pro mixologist, Maya Grant of Fusions Mixology also joined us in the Virtual Yard for a special edition of Happy Hour with King Navassa. See the 'Boi Look Yah' section.



# WE DID

# GOOD BOBO

Cayman Connection's Impact at a Glance



10+ YRS  
ESTABLISHED 2012



10-YEAR AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIP



LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE



PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNER SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED



OVER 50 PARTNERSHIPS  
NGOS, NFPS, ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANISATIONS

# BOI LOOK YAH

Event Highlights

From discussing arts, culture and heritage to making cocktails and mocktails, Cayman Connection hosts many exciting events suitable for each member. Take a look at some of our most popular virtual events in 2023.

**“I’m really proud of what Cayman [Connection] is doing with supporting the diaspora. However, we can make efforts to keep that bridge with the diaspora and Caymanians who are homebound. It’s going to be the difference between us excelling on the world stage.”**

Frank E. Flowers Jr., Chairman CIFC / Filmmaker

## A TALK ON CAREER, COMMUNITY & HERITAGE

As a finale to our Arts, Culture & Heritage quarter, award-winning Caymanian filmmaker Frank E. Flowers Jr. spent time with us in the Virtual Yard. This meeting, hosted by Rita Estevanovich, focused on the career of award-winning Caymanian filmmaker Frank E. Flowers Jr., as well as highlight his involvement in building the Cayman Islands film community and his contribution to cultural heritage preservation in the Cayman Islands. This event also included a Q&A segment for upcoming talent to learn from the award-winning Caymanian filmmaker.



## IN CONVERSATION WITH SARA COLLINS

Award-winning Caymanian author, Sara Collins, joined CC Book Club's Antonio Arch and Kate Kandiah in the Virtual Yard where attendees had the opportunity to interact with a masterful storyteller whose novel 'The Confessions of Frannie Langton' was also adapted for television and learn about her beginnings as a writer, the inspiration behind the novel and what is coming up for the celebrated storyteller.



## HAPPY HOUR WITH KING NAVASSA

Special guest, Maya Grant of Fusion Mixology, joined us for happy hour in the Virtual Yard for a special edition of Happy Hour with King Navassa. The theme for this happy hour was 'Cocktails on a Budget' where participants followed along and created a cocktail and a mocktail that were delicious, attractive, AND economical.



**BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS. CONNEC' WITH US!**

# BIG THINGS COMIN'

We have some exciting plans and events for our Cayman Connection members comin' soon. Be sure to **CONNEC' WITH US!**



## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI) TRAINING

Cayman Connection recently launched our NEW Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training offer for groups and organisations looking to cultivate an inclusive team environment.

We will use our human, Caymankind approach to support you in achieving happier, more welcoming, and understanding workplaces. We go beyond a compliance-based process; we combine research and expertise with a reflective approach that engages and challenges minds, ensuring authentic development, actions and learnings that create genuine impact.

This training will equip you with knowledge on equality, diversity, and inclusion to improve your systems and provide you with practical tips and resources that you can use to attract a more diverse workforce and customer base.

If you're interested in accessing Cayman Connection's EDI training, or if you have any questions, please contact Executive Director, Ashlea Smith at: [director@caymanconnection.org](mailto:director@caymanconnection.org) to request an initial consultation conversation.

We are excited to see how this initiative will develop in the new year.



## HEALTH CITY CAYMAN ISLANDS

Students can expect to see information soon on Cayman Connection's social media pages and newsletter about Health City's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), which is offered annually in July, their Explorer Internships, which provides STEM education opportunities to inspire students to pursue careers in the medical and allied health fields, as well as their MBBS Electives placements.

“We're excited to be partnering with Cayman Connection, who will help us to connect at a deeper level with our university students overseas.”

Shomari Scott, Health City's Chief Business Officer

## STUDENT SERVICES

Our overseas students are a crucial element to our success, and we are always looking for ways to enhance their overseas experience. To further expand our student services we are aiming to offer more student meet ups and gatherings around the GLOBE, as well as airport pick-ups.

If you're interested in sponsoring, participating in these services, or if you have any questions, please contact Executive Director, Ashlea Smith at:

[director@caymanconnection.org](mailto:director@caymanconnection.org)

## VIRTUAL & LIVE EVENTS

Keep an eye on our social media pages to take part in our upcoming in-person and Virtual Yard Events. We offer a diverse range of events and have some exciting new content and guests visiting the Yard. Be sure to **CONNEC' WITH US!**



CAYMAN CONNECTION  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
[www.caymanconnection.org/events](http://www.caymanconnection.org/events)



CAYMAN CONNECTION  
**MEMBER CAMPAIGN**  
[www.caymanconnection.org/member-campaign](http://www.caymanconnection.org/member-campaign)

# WANN CATCH GAPSEED?

Success Stories & Memorable Events

We care about our members whom we serve and love to see them succeed. See for yourselves the ways we have assisted them, the things that they have to say about us and the impact that we have on our overseas family!

## LEAH ARCHIBOLD'S SUCCESS STORY

Leah joined our family in May 2022 to support the Cayman Connection marketing team - with social media and graphic design – and we were truly blessed to have her. Leah has been such a big asset, bringing creative and inspiring ideas to life to promote Cayman Connection activities to all.

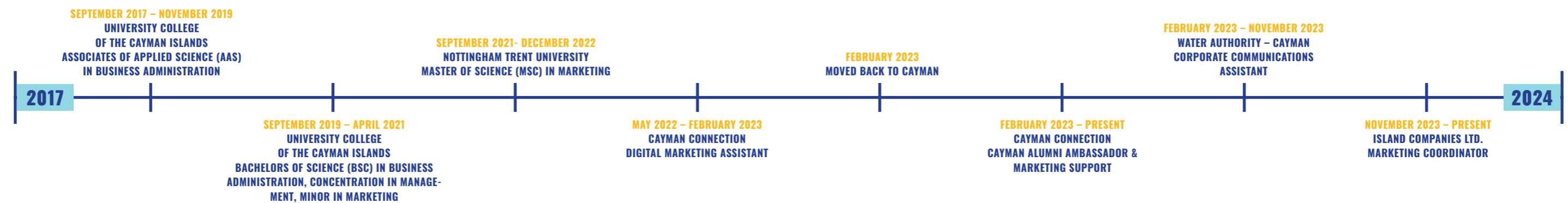
“When I moved to the Uk, there weren't any Caribbean students studying on my course, so I already felt like an outsider, however by attending the Virtual Yard Meetings, as well as participating in the Cayman Day events, this has made me enjoy my time being abroad.”

Exploring her passion for marketing, Leah did not want to stop at a Bachelors – this led to her making the decision to continue her overseas studies to achieve a Masters in Marketing at Nottingham Trent University.

Leah is a creative individual with a goal to become Head of Marketing in a well-respected company or an entrepreneur of her own agency. Although Leah has now moved back to Cayman and is now working with Island Companies, she continues to give back and volunteers her time as a Cayman alumni ambassador and marketing support for Cayman Connection.

“I would describe Cayman Connection as “my second family” and “my home away from home”. My Cayman connection family means a great deal to me as they have helped me stay closer to my fellow Caymanians studying overseas.”

Leah Archibold,  
Alumni Ambassador and Marketing Support



# INFUSIN' FUN INTO ALL WE DO

Cayman Connection does more for our members than provide support and advice. We also encourage our members to embrace our culture and heritage through fun events.

This year history was made when Cayman Connection partnered with Mas band ELIMU Mas Academy to participate in one of the world's largest celebrations of Caribbean music, culture, and heritage, the world-renowned Notting Hill Carnival. This was the first ever appearance of a Cayman Islands specific section in the famous Notting Hill Carnival aiming to positively promote the Islands overseas.

“The day (Notting Hill Carnival) made me feel welcomed and almost at home. I brought a friend from university who has never visited the Caribbean and she said it was amazing. The day at self was exciting and full of love.”

Cayman Connection Member



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



UK Office  
Cayman Islands Government



CAYMAN ISLANDS  
GRAND CAYMAN | CAYMAN BRAC | LITTLE CAYMAN



Supporting public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## PLAYIN' MAS UPON THE SEAS

The event, hosting over 2 million attendees, saw a diverse group of Caymanians and friends come together in London to connect and celebrate in true Caymankind style. Cayman Connection showcased the invaluable contributions that the Cayman Islands continues to make to marine conservation, more specifically our turtle research and protection, whilst positively promoting our three beautiful Islands to all.

Audre Ezekiel Ebanks (DJ Zeeky) was the first Caymanian DJ to perform as part of a Mas band at Notting Hill.

“To get to play at Notting Hill Carnival is a highlight for any DJ's career, however, to do it with your people supporting you every step of the way is truly breathtaking. Seeing our Caymanian flags waving and chipping down the road, even with our national mascot 'Sir Turtle', and our Carnival Queen made me feel such a sense of pride that I've never felt before. As the first Caymanian DJ at Notting Hill Carnival, I have made history, and I couldn't have done it without the support of Cayman Connection. Thank you for the opportunity, the best is yet to come.”

Audre Ezekiel Ebanks (DJ Zeeky)



Former Miss Universe Cayman Islands (2021), Georgina Kerford modelled a Monarch butterfly costume in the parade which formed part of the Notting Hill Carnival judging process. ELIMU Mas band (to which Cayman Connection formed part of) proudly won 2nd place overall in the Medium Adult Mas band category.

Cayman Connection wishes to thank their sponsors and partners who supported the event: Elimu Mas Academy, The Arts Council of England, The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism (Europe and Cayman Islands), The Cayman Islands Government Office (UK) and Seven Fathoms Rum.

# SUPPORTIN' OUR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

A new student series, the 'A-Z of the Overseas Student Experience!' was launched to help prospective and current students make the most of their time overseas and get advice on finance, budgeting, and scholarships.

This bi-weekly, 30-minute Virtual Yard session was hosted by student ambassadors, Ayanda Jones and Zoe Conolly Basdeo. All sessions were hosted for students, by students, and were shaped based on student need. All session topics were cultivated in response to student voice captured during each exciting workshop.

There was an exciting line-up of activities, games, breakout rooms, polls, and plenty of peer learning opportunities. Students also had a chance to contribute to the future of the organisation by sharing their suggestions to make the overseas student experience even richer - all while getting to know their Cayman Connection community!

“Cayman Connection supports the physical, social and mental wellbeing of young Caymanians and friends of Cayman as they transition to life overseas while studying or progressing their careers. Through a diverse range of initiatives, Cayman Connection directly impacts members' lives to further enhance their personal development and connect them to home.”

Georgia Scott, Client Director at Ogier

To further broaden our student offerings, we also introduced four new student ambassadors to connect and support other Caymanian students in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Asia.



## GLOBAL LEAD STUDENT AMBASSADOR AYANDA JONES

Ayanda Jones is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, having studied International Relations and International Law. In the final year of her degree she enjoyed running the Edinburgh Law Society for non-LLB students and volunteering for the British United World College national committee alongside her studies. As Global Lead Student Ambassador, Ayanda is a point of contact for all Student Ambassadors and Caymanian students.



## CANADA GABRIELLE "GABBIE" KING

A North Side native, Gabriella "Gabbie" King joins us as Student Ambassador for Canada. She is currently studying in Toronto, Canada at York University, majoring in Cinema Media Arts (Screenwriting) and Political Science.



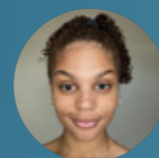
## USA EDDIE WEBER

Eddie Weber is completing his Master of Public Policy (MPP) at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. An American who grew up in Cayman, Eddie is passionate about sustainable economic development, cross-cultural diplomacy, and international relations with a regional focus on Latin America & the Caribbean. With high school, undergraduate, and graduate studies in different American states, Eddie is a point of contact for students of all levels in the United States and American education systems.



## UK CELINE WEBSTER

Celine Webster is currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Business and Laws at the University of Exeter. Believing in the power of shared experiences, she values the connection to her community while embarking on her second year. Linking arms with fellow members, guiding them through a vibrant university journey that blends academics, the local social scene, and the Cayman community.



## UK KAYLA JEFFERS

Kayla Jeffers is currently entering the second year of her undergraduate degree at the University of Brighton, studying Business Management with Human Resource Management. She is an avid member of her school's student union acting as course rep for Business Management with HRM. In this role she helps to create positive change within her university and ensure that students' voices are heard.



## ASIA JULIAN MENKO

Julian is a current Master's student of Urban Planning at the National University of Singapore and a graduate of Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent. Diverse professional experience and community involvement have reflected his passions for connecting cultures, preserving heritage and sustainable development.



## STUDENT LINK BLOG & ADVICE

Handy tips and advice from our Regional Student Ambassadors, which will be expanded monthly to include other regions. If you would like to send us some of your tips, email [hello@caymanconnection.org](mailto:hello@caymanconnection.org).

[www.caymanconnection.org/student-advice](http://www.caymanconnection.org/student-advice)



# CHAMPIONIN' CAYMANIANS OVERSEAS



We host our annual Making Waves Awards to celebrate those who have excelled in their field whilst abroad, specifically those who continually strive to promote our community and share “Caymankind” globally.

The Making Waves Awards are dedicated to recognising Caymanian students and professionals living abroad who have made outstanding contributions to, and excelled in, their respective fields and who strive to promote Cayman globally.

“Through our awards programme we celebrate the diverse Cayman community who are making waves across the globe. We are delighted to provide this platform shining a light on the successes of those making strides in their respected field and making Cayman proud”

Ashlea Smith, Executive Director, Cayman Connection

The initiative, now in its second year, is spearheaded by Cayman Connection to celebrate the Cayman Islands, its culture, and its people.

Award winners were selected by a panel of five judges over nine award categories and celebrated at the National Gallery along with a host of family and friends, as well as a congratulatory welcome from His Excellency, the Acting Governor, Franz Manderson at Government House.

## DEJEA LYONS' SUCCESS STORY

Dejea Lyons, student at Bath Spa University and a 2023 Making Waves Award recipient, is a prominent environmental activist and editor of the global magazine OH-Wake.

In 2023, Dejea reached out to Cayman Connection for help, and with our global network and connections, we were able to successfully provide assistance. Dejea recounted this situation and says: “In my second year of university, I was in an unfortunate housing situation. Cayman Connection helped me find other housing options and put me in contact with neighbouring Caymanians that supported me until I found a new residence. I don't think I would've gotten through that situation without the help of Cayman Connection. They do not only represent Caymanians worldwide, but they are there to show their Cayman Kind when you need it.”

Dejea was awarded the Environment & Sustainability award from the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency for her commitment to passionately promote environmental consciousness worldwide. Her endeavours advocate for sustainable change and enhanced community involvement. A pivotal contributor to global climate discussions, she was also the vice president of 'Protect our Future in Cayman' for two years, exemplifying her local leadership. On the global arena, her role was particularly noteworthy at COP26 as a youth delegate, where she fervently promoted ocean health and earned commendations for her unwavering commitment.

“Cayman Connection is an amazing organisation. The organisation has done an amazing job of creating a community of Caymanians that are supportive and feel like a literal piece of home. I am forever grateful for this organisation and what they have done for myself and Caymanians globally.”

Dejea Lyons, 2023 Making Waves Award Recipient



## 2023 MAKING WAVES AWARDS WINNERS



MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE SPORTS AWARD  
JORDAN CROOKS



HEALTH & WELLNESS AWARD  
DR BRANDY DARBY



HEALTH & WELLNESS AWARD:  
ROBERTO SILVA



DAVENPORT DEVELOPMENT ARTS & CULTURE AWAR  
FRANK E FLOWERS



DART EDUCATION AWARD  
SANDY GRAY



B1 STEM AWAR  
DR CHARLOTTE HINDS



THE PEARINDER FOUNDATION INCLUSION AWARD  
TANEL LEE



MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCY ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY AWARD  
DEJEA LYONS



MAPLES GROUP FINANCIAL, LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AWARD  
KAMALA MURUGESU



TOURISM, TRAVEL & HOSPITALITY AWARD  
JORDY RANKINE

# WORKIN' TOGEDDA

Cayman Connection relies on partnerships and sponsors to continue the work to connect Caymanians in the around the globe. Our valued sponsors play a starring role in helping us to realise our vision to grow the global network, and to connect with even more Caymanians and friends of the Cayman Islands.

“ We couldn’t do what we do without our partnerships and sponsorships, which are not only about helping to fund our organisation, but for us are about building important relationships - we love learning all about our partners; as individuals, businesses, and organisations, and sharing the great work that they do with our network. A huge thank you to our 2023 Sponsors we look forward to developing our 2024 partnerships! ”

Kate Kandiah  
Cayman Connection Chairperson/Founder’

## OUR VALUED SPONSORS

### HARNEYS

In partnership with Harneys, Cayman Connection hosted a special Virtual Yard Chat - “The Career Advice I Wish I Had”. Senior Human Resources Officer, Allison Fernandez, shared her first-hand experience about making the most of professional opportunities and provided critical advice on excelling in your career. Participants were able to listen to Allison’s lived experiences, shared their own insights and ask valuable questions to support their career development.

“ Harneys values our partnership with Cayman Connection, as their mission aligns with our commitment to community engagement. Working with their passionate team over the last two years has been both impactful and enjoyable. ”

Krystal Cuccioletta Ebanks, HR Manager



### MAPLE GROUP

The Maples Group is also the Financial, Legal & Professional Services award sponsor of the 2023 Making Waves Awards. This award was given to Kamala Murugesu whose dedication and expertise have paved the way for her to become a valuable bridge between Cayman and the UK legal landscape. Her role in fostering connections and dispelling misconceptions about the jurisdiction have established her as a true ambassador for Cayman. Kamala’s active involvement in promoting Caymanian culture and serving as a role model for young Caymanians further highlights her commitment to her homeland.

“ Investing in the next generation is integral to the Maples Group’s values and we are pleased to continue our collaboration with Cayman Connection. It is our hope that this financial commitment will enable Cayman Connection to continue providing invaluable services, support and programmes to overseas Caymanian students. ”

Matthew Gardner, Cayman Islands Managing Partner



### OGIER

Tina Ramos, an Executive Legal Secretary at Ogier, joined us for an episode in our Celebrating Caymanians Overseas Podcast. Tina shared her experience transitioning to living in the UK and the challenges that come with moving away from home. Tina provided insights through the lens of an Ogier employee living and working overseas and how Ogier accommodated her work life balance to support her wellbeing. Keep an eye on our socials for the release of this podcast episode.

“ Having worked with interns that are part of Cayman Connection, we have seen the benefits of the network’s support. Cayman Connection aligns with Ogier’s focus on wellbeing, personal and professional development, and the importance of creating a community based on shared identity, experiences and passions. ”

Georgia Scott, Client Director, Ogier Regulatory Consulting and CSR Committee member

**WE ARE HIGHLY GRATEFUL FOR  
OUR VALUED SPONSORS!**

## OUR VALUED PARTNERS

### CONNECT BY NOVA

This year we welcomed our newest partner, Connect by NOVA! Hannah Jackson joined us in the Virtual Yard during our A-Z's of the Overseas Student Experience series to showcase about the opportunities that Connect provide to enhancing the student experience.



Connect by NOVA partnered with us to enhance our student offer by providing free resume building sessions, LinkedIn setup & optimisation sessions. Our student members also benefitted by gaining access to the invaluable personal development and financial wellbeing eLearning courses.



### ALEX PANTON FOUNDATION

We work closely with the Alex Panton Foundation (APF) to support the wellbeing of our Caymanian family overseas. Given the vulnerability of some of our members, and the challenges faced with the transition of moving away from home, our work with APF is crucial to supporting our community at times of need.

“ We know that moving and living abroad comes with highs and lows. The Alex Panton Foundation (APF) values the opportunity to reach and connect with Caymanians across the globe through Cayman Connection, to offer support and resources for navigating mental health challenges. The APF team looks forward to a continued partnership with Cayman Connection as we seek to expand our virtually accessible mental health support services. At home or abroad, you are not alone! ”

Erin Kaufman, APF Administrative Manager

The APF is a not-for-profit organisation with the primary objective of raising awareness of mental illnesses affecting children and young adults – this is done through advocacy, awareness and support.

Cayman Connection is here for you – in addition to our Virtual Yard Meetings we are here to point you in the right direction if you feel you are in need of support or experiencing mental health challenges. Our team are here to connect you to a service that can help you based on your needs and location across the globe.

For more information, please visit:

[www.caymanconnection.org/minding-your-mental-health-overseas](http://www.caymanconnection.org/minding-your-mental-health-overseas)

### REGUS

Given the remote nature of our work at Cayman Connection, our work spans the globe. Therefore, having space in all locations is vital for us to do the work we do. This year we welcomed an exciting partnership with Regus who have graciously provided Cayman Connection with global office space. Their Caymankindness has enabled us to continue our work no matter where in the world we are.



“ At Regus, we take pride in our association with Cayman Connection, enriching the organization with more than just office space. Together, we create a synergy that goes beyond physical locations, fostering a culture of productivity, collaboration, and success. Our partnership turns workspaces into vibrant hubs that empower Caymanians overseas and elevates their business to new heights. ”

Sophia List, Client Relationship Officer

### CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Cayman Connection and the Cayman Islands UK Government Office have collaborated for the past 10 years to provide assistance to our UK members and deliver exciting cultural events in the UK. This includes the famous 'Cayman Day' event, a celebration of our culture, music, and mouth-watering flavours, to Caymanians and affiliates of Cayman overseas. Cayman Connection have proudly assisted with the delivery of this event over the years and continue to work with the Government Office to help those in the UK stay connected and supported.



“ I'm not aware of any other organisation that uniquely finds a binding community connection for Caymanians overseas. It has cultural, social, and educational aspects that are important for the Cayman community overseas to give them a slice of home whilst away. Cayman Connection is the only organisation dedicated to the holistic support of Caymanians overseas who aid a social network that they can depend on for urgent situations and getting information on home, which has proven invaluable during the height of the Covid pandemic. ”

Honourable André Ebanks MP



Cayman Islands Government

10-YEAR AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIP



LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE



PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNER SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED



OVER 50 PARTNERSHIPS NGOS, NFPS, ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANISATIONS

# T'ANKS!

We can't thank you enough for your support and would like to acknowledge the following individuals who contributed to our 2023 efforts and for their generous contributions to Cayman Connection.

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS

These are valued volunteers who play an integral role to connect and support other Caymanian students in their area:

- + Ayanda Jones – Global
- + Celine Webster – United Kingdom
- + Eddie Webster – United States of America
- + Gabrielle "Gabbie" King – Canada
- + Julian Menko – Asia
- + Kayla Jeffers – United Kingdom

“Volunteering as a Student Ambassador for Cayman Connection has helped me develop a wide skillset and opened the doors to many special friendships. Cayman Connection to me means culture, wellbeing and support away from home.”

Ayanda Jones, Student Ambassador

## CC GLOBAL CLUB LEADS

- + Antonio Arch – Book Club
- + Erik Leacock – Bush Club
- + Hannah Reid Ford – Bush Club
- + Jamil Solomon – Fit Club

“I love that Cayman Connection host a series of cooking events that allow us to learn how to cook traditional Caymanian meals, as well as connecting with Caymanians who live in the same area who can share information and resources on where to source things here in the UK where it can be quite challenging to get the things we are accustomed to back home.”

Cayman Connection Member

## MANAGEMENT, MARKETING & EVENTS

- + Jared McGill - Regional Manager (Canada)
- + King Navassa - Virtual Yard & Podcast Host
- + Leah Archibold - Alumni Ambassador & Marketing Support
- + Paula Jackson - Regional Manager (USA)
- + Rita Estevanovich- Global Programmes Manager
- + Rosita Ritch - Marketing Intern & Editor
- + Suahil Housholder - Regional Manager (USA)
- + Toma Pople - Design & Production
- + Zoe Conolly Basdeo - Alumni Ambassador & Internal Support

“Cayman Connection is true to its name; in that it has been invaluable in keeping me connected to other Caymanians in the UK. Knowing that a huge network of Caymanians is just one click away is incredibly reassuring for whenever I miss home a little more than usual. Cayman Connection is a tight-knit community ready to support you, and with a smiling face around every corner!”

Zoe Conolly Basdeo, Alumni Ambassador

## DIRECTORS

- + Ashlea Smith - Executive Director
- + Ben Gillooly - Director
- + Kate Kandiah - Chairperson/Founder
- + Marzeta Bodden – Board Member
- + Robin Harding - Director
- + Winston Connolly – Director

“I wish Cayman Connection was there as a resource when I was studying abroad. The networking, the knowledge base, the internship opportunities and just that connection to fellow Caymanians and the bridge to home is invaluable.”

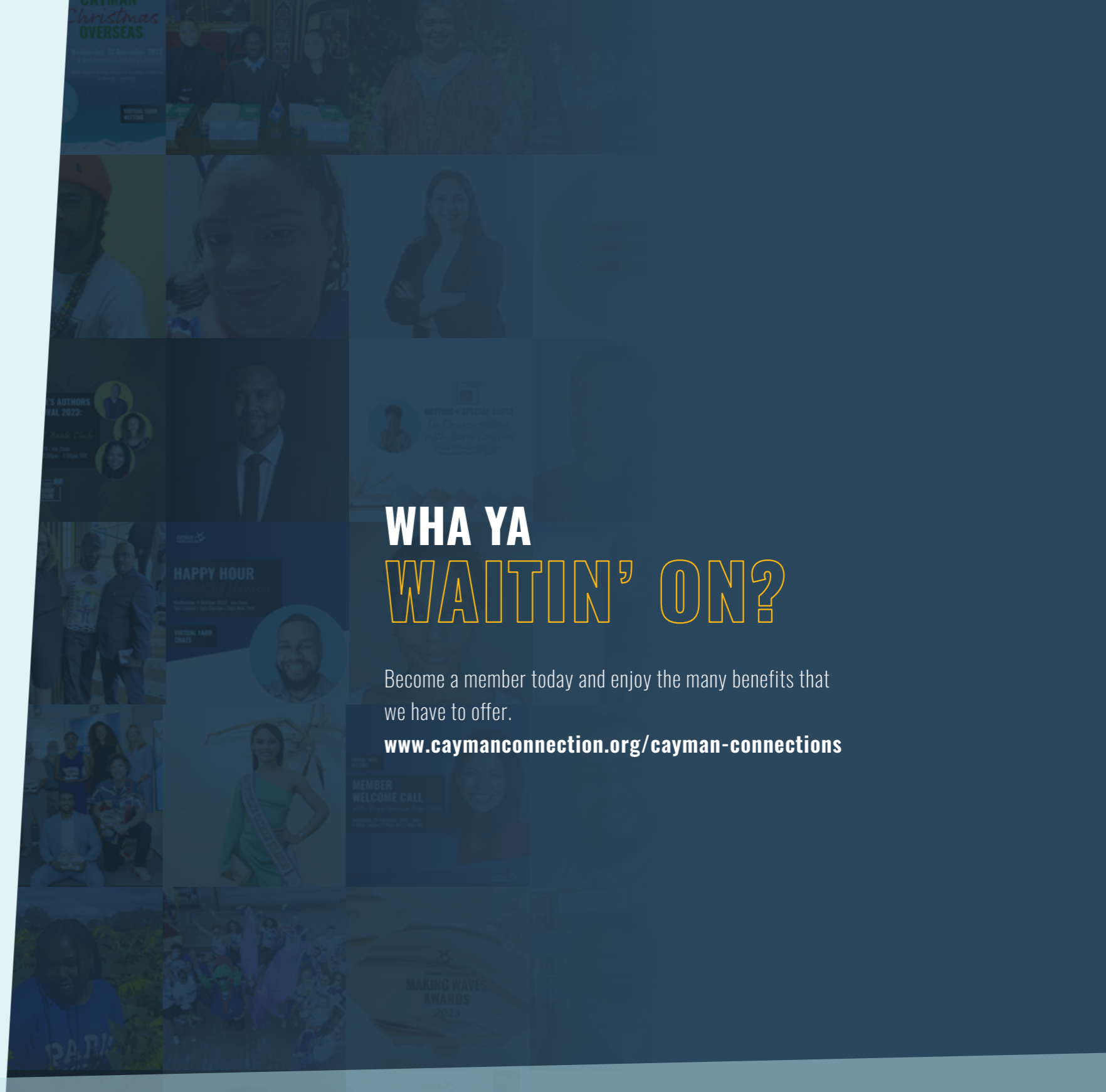
Winston Connolly, Cayman Connection Board Director

# YOU COMIN' TEDE?

For more information on working with us and for sponsorship details and information including distribution figures, upcoming programmes, events, and general attendance numbers, please contact us at [hello@caymanconnection.org](mailto:hello@caymanconnection.org).

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# WHA YA WAITIN' ON?

Become a member today and enjoy the many benefits that we have to offer.

[www.caymanconnection.org/cayman-connections](http://www.caymanconnection.org/cayman-connections)



# IMPACT REPORT 2023

SECRETURE'S AUTHORS  
FESTIVAL 2023  
10-11 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
11 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
12 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM

HAPPY HOUR  
17 NOVEMBER 2023 - 5:00 PM  
18 NOVEMBER 2023 - 5:00 PM  
19 NOVEMBER 2023 - 5:00 PM

MEMBER  
WELCOME CALL  
17 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
18 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
19 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM

MAKING WAVES  
AWARDS  
2023

STUDENT  
KNOW  
17 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
18 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM  
19 NOVEMBER 2023 - 10:00 AM