



BELIZE@41
VALIANT AND BOLD,
PROUD AND STRONG!
BELIZE REBOUNDS @41!

Belize@41 Awards



Andy Palacie
PRIZE FOR ORIGINAL BELIZEAN MUSIC



Resita Baltazar
PRIZE FOR DANCE



Zee Edgell
PRIZE FOR LITERARY ARTS



George Gabb
PRIZE FOR VISUAL ARTS



Eligio Panti
PRIZE FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



Beverley Smith-Lopez
PRIZE FOR ACTING IN
THEATRE AND FILM



Leela Vernon
PRIZE FOR CREATIVE COMMUNITY ACTION
& SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Awardees



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Brad Pattico

Leela Vernon Prize

FOR CREATIVE COMMUNITY ACTION & SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Born in Burrell Boom Village on 23 December 1949, Bradford Samuel Pattico is an iconic musical artist and pioneer of Belizean folk music. As a child, Pattico learned to play the guitar and other instruments. At 13, he recorded his first song “The Fox” at Radio Belize. After completing high school, he was employed at Radio Belize based on his artistic skills that caught the eyes of Premier George Cadle Price. Since then, Pattico has become a prolific songwriter and musician performing on major occasions in Belize and internationally. One such occasion was Her Majesty's visit to Belize in 1995. Some of his major hits include: "Sal Sal," "Rice and Beans," "Old Fashion Christmas," "Smiling Faces," and "The Burrell Boom Song," co-written by Ronald Clarke Sr.

However, Pattico's involvement in Belizean society exceeds his well-written musical pieces. He has worked on several children's initiatives, including the Scouts of Belize and the “Kohn Mek Wi Sing Folk Songs of Belize” publication. He is also the 2016 recipient of a Meritorious Service Award for his contribution to music, given by former Governor-General Sir Colville Young. Today, Brad Pattico resides with his wife in Burrell Boom Village.



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Dawn Adderley

Rosita Baltazar Prize

FOR DANCE

Dawn Adderley was born on 17 April 1960 to Roy and Alyndie Campbell in Belize City. Adderley attended Ebenezer Primary School, Belize Junior Secondary School Number I, and later graduated from Belize Technical College. In 1968, Adderley was a student at Bob Reneau School of Dance. She learned diverse choreographies and traveled across Belize. In 1977, Adderley joined the Leo-Mar Dance Group and was selected to represent Belize at the 1979 CARIFESTA in Cuba.

In 1980, she became a founding member of the Belize Creative Dancers, which expanded her knowledge of choreography. She was then part of the Belize National Dance Company, which took her to Jamaica, Mexico, the United States of America, and Europe. This gave her international exposure and empowered her with new knowledge, skills, and expertise in dance.

Adderley became an itinerant dance teacher in 1990, starting at Holy Redeemer Primary School and later instructing teachers across the country. Adderley retired from the stage in 2012 but promised to continue teaching dance for as long as possible. In 2016, Adderley received an Outstanding Women's Award from the Women's Department.



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Bredda David Obi

Andy Palacio Prize

FOR ORIGINAL BELIZEAN MUSIC

David Obi better known as “bredda David” is Belize's most revolutionary musician and creator of “Kungo Muzik”. He was born on 23 October 1947 in Belize City but grew up in Dangriga Town and was one of the first students to attend Stann Creek High School. Leaving Belize for the U.S.A., David enrolled in the Los Angeles Trade Technical College to learn more about the theory and business of music.

Performing in the U.S.A., “bredda David” was introduced to reggae music and gravitated toward the positive message and spirituality of the genre. Forming a band of the best Belizean musicians around, he came up with Kungo Muzik, releasing the importance of every country having its own musical style. He is the first Belizean to get a contract from Hollywood.

David Obi was elected the first President of the United Belizean Artists Association and is the current President of the Belize Universal Negro Improvement Association. He was the first Vice-President of the National Kriol Council. He was the engineer behind the creation of the National Kriol Council's Flag and created the video entitled “Belizean Products” which the BTB has used to represent Belize. “bredda David” and his band Tribal Vibes have performed in many parts of the world. Their tenth CD album, “Day di Dawn” signaled a new era for Belize. In 2012, he was awarded the Meritorious Award in Culture and Music. “bredda David” now lives in his home town Dangriga where he has a business in music and tourism.



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Lawrence Vernon

Zee Edgel Prize

FOR LITERARY ARTS

Lawrence Vernon was born on 19 May 1937 in Belize City, Belize. He holds the Associate of the (British) Library Associate Association (A.L.A.). A career librarian, he was first employed with the Belize National Library Service in 1956. He served as Chief Librarian from 1978 to 1992.

Upon retirement in 1992, Vernon was employed with the University College of Belize (now the University of Belize), holding the post of Library Director from 1993 to 1996 and Associate Librarian from 1996 to 2003. In 2003, Vernon resigned to take the position of Principal Librarian at the Belize National Library Service from where he retired again in 2021.

Similarly, Vernon has held critical positions with the Council of Voluntary Social Services, the Belize Library Association, and the Belize History Association. He also served on the Board of Excelsior High School from its inception and for many years after.

His interests include writing short stories, some of which have been published in *Among My Souvenirs* and *Snapshots of Belize*. Additionally, Vernon has published several historical and biographical works including *A Narrative of Political Parties in Belize* and *The Monrad Metzgen Story*. Vernon is married with three children.

Photograph courtesy Richard Holder, 2022.



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Pen Cayetano

George Gabb Prize

FOR VISUAL ARTS

Delvin “Pen” Cayetano was born on 21 April 1954 in Dangriga Town, Belize. In 1980, Pen Cayetano rocked the national music scene. According to anthropologist Dr. Joseph O. Palacio, “Pen used his deep musical talent to retain traditional Garifuna rhythm but to hasten the tempo slightly using the variegated sounds emanating from turtle shells. This marked the birth of Punta Rock. The older folk could continue with the rhythm. At the same time, the youth could also enjoy the stepped-up rocklike beat coming through electronic amplification.”

Today, Pen’s creation continues to be inspired by his Garifuna heritage and his surroundings. Oil on canvas is his medium. The paintings are colorful, recreating the rich tapestry of Belizean life and faithfully capturing the Garinagu culture. His task is to conserve the culture and give consciousness to the people and the youth.

Pen also focuses on historical events and places from Belize. The paintings manifest melancholy, shelter, tranquillity and tradition. Such an art becomes the opposite of our modern time, where many people disappear into the masses without roots.

Pen Cayetano has been featured in many international exhibitions. His work continues to be represented in several museums, public and private collections. He is passionate about art and music and loves what he does. Sharing his love and knowledge is part of his life. Roots and culture, art and music must go on for generations to come.



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Susano Blanco

Don Eligio Panti Prize

FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Susano Blanco was born on 19 February 1953 at August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District. Son of Pedro and Lauriana Blanco, Susano attended his village primary school and later worked with his father in agriculture. Soon after, Blanco moved to Shipyard, where he worked as a carpenter.

Blanco is a proud Belizean Yucatec Maya who aims to preserve his mother's legacy and knowledge of indigenous medicine. He is an artisan, herbalist, and traditional healer. Susano has hosted local and international guests at his home who have come to seek holistic healing. He has also spoken at conferences and facilitated workshops with NICH and other institutions like PACT and Programme for Belize. He is certified in handicrafts specializing in the use of various materials such as bamboo, coconut, and cow's-horn.

Blanco was also once the August Pine Ridge cultural group president. He worked closely with members and was a dancer performing Yucatec dances like the Hog-Head Dance.

Blanco shares that at the age of eight, he would follow his mother and learn about medicinal plants. As a teenager, he was mentored by his mom, who taught him to prepare herbal medicine and remedies for minor illnesses. As time progressed, he opened his medical garden *Yuum Mil K'aax*. Today, he continues to keep the memories of his mother and knowledge of his Maya ancestors alive.



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Ray Gongora

Beverly Smith Lopez Prize

FOR ACTING IN THEATRE AND FILM

Raymond A. Gongora is an iconic Belizean actor, dramatist, and comedian. In the 1970s, Gongora became a prominent figure in what is now called the Belizean Artistic Renaissance. During 1973-1983, Gongora was the director of the “Square Peg Players”, one of the longest-running acting troupes in Belizean history. Together, the group performed in several countries, including Canada, Jamaica, Barbados, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the United States.

In 1983, Gongora became Director/Producer of the Belize Theatre Company. While the company produced several stage productions, perhaps the most famous is its adaptation of Ntozake Shange’s “For Colored Girls”. Gongora also co-wrote and performed in “Down Memory Lane,” the first attempt at Belizean dinner-theater. In 1998, Gongora founded the Belizean Roots Arts and Theatre Alliance (BRAATA), a Belizean theater group in Miami. Gongora has received a host of accolades and awards both in Belize and the U.S.A., including an MBE given by Her Majesty the Queen. Gongora continues to serve on many executive boards in civil society organizations and contributes to the development of theater in Belize.

Today, Gongora resides in Florida with his wife Veronica and has three children, Amber, David, and Charles.



national institute of culture and history



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EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)



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