



# SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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*Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy*

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## **Nobel Laureate Festival 2020: New Events Form Part Of Walcott Open House**

**By Germaine Joseph**

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Grade 2 of the Ave Maria Girls Primary School visiting Walcott House

Walcott House is the childhood home of world-renowned twins, Sir Derek Walcott and his brother Roderick Walcott, who lived there with their mother, father and sister. The Walcott House was vested in the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) to be converted into a “birth museum” with a mandate to uphold the legacy of the brothers. Walcott House has become a place to reexamine Saint Lucia’s history and culture in the body of work produced by Sir Derek Walcott and Roderick Walcott.

In observance of the Nobel Laureate Festival 2020, the Saint Lucia National Trust conducted its annual event Walcott Open House, in an effort to further promote a greater understanding of our cultural heritage through the work of the Walcott brothers.

The Museum has benefitted tremendously from being a part of the Nobel Laureate Festival. The Open House commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020, and continued until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Students who visited Walcott House on the first day participated in a treasure hunt which engaged them with questions on exhibits in the Museum and also engaged their memory on what they had learnt about the Walcotts on the tour. Winners of the treasure hunt were given memorabilia from the SLNT.

This year Walcott Open House introduced two new events. The first one was the screening of the Sir Derek Walcott Lectures



Students from Grade 4 of the Bonne Terre Preparatory School touring Walcott House

from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January. This involved showing past “Sir Derek Walcott Memorial Lectures” by guest presenters such as Jamaica Kincaid and Dr. Edward Baugh, discussing his influence on their work.



Mr. Adrian Augier, Mr. O’Neal Joseph on keyboards, Mr. Lestan Celestin on guitar and Anderson Charles on flute

The second new event was KINDLING: Under Walcott's Light which took place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the courtyard of Walcott House at No; 17 Chaussée Road. The featured writer Mr. Adrian Augier read from his latest manuscript, *Inverted Islands*, and was accompanied by O’Neal Joseph on keyboard, Lestan Celestin on guitar and Anderson Charles on flute. Supporting poets and writers, Mr. Glenn

Charlery, Mr. Garner Raymond, Mr. Rohan Bennette, Ms. Naomi Patrick-Smith, Mr. Anthony “Tree C” Avril and Ms. Katherine Atkinson paved the way with a refreshing eclectic selection of works, presenting their discourse on sobering prologues of the times we live in. They highlighted our environment; emotional, built, and natural, playing on the harp strings of the dichotomy of balancing the human footprint and our estrangement with our natural environment. Mr. Augier and his talented minstrels started the second half of the event with a moving medley, an ode to Sir Derek.

The event was well received by a growing audience of leading entertainers, cultural heritage agents, the general public and members of the Grass Street community throughout the night. Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, the Chairperson of the Nobel Laureate Festival Committee and Ms. Sigrid Nama were present.



Ms. Sigrid Nama & Dame Pearlette Louisy enjoying KINDLING: Under Walcott's Light

The SLNT would like to thank Peter & Company Distribution and Landmark Events for providing part sponsorship of this event.

The SLNT is also pleased to announce that as a spin off to this event, poets from Kindling were invited to participate in the Bordelais Correctional Facility’s literary night which has been taking place annually. Two poets performed their pieces and judged the poetic works of fourteen reformed inmates as part of a poetry slam.



Inner City Pre-school students with Dame Pearlette Louisy in Walcott House

Although the Trust has noted that the school visits to Walcott Open House have declined, we were grateful for the guest appearance of our patron, Dame Pearlette Louisy on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. Her visit was arranged especially for a pre-school which visits Walcott House annually. The SLNT is grateful for her continued patronage and look forward to next year’s staging of Walcott Open House.