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### **Walcott Open House 2019**

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*Students from Trinidad & Tobago visiting Walcott House during Nobel Laureate Festival 2019*

Walcott House is the childhood home of world-renowned twins, Sir Derek Walcott and Roderick Walcott. 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. Both writers were iconic and pivotal in their documentation and expression of Saint Lucian traditional stories and art. Walcott House has become a place to re-examine Saint Lucia’s history and culture in the body of work produced by Sir Derek Walcott and Roderick Walcott.

In observance of the 2019 Nobel Laureate Festival, the SLNT conducted an event called Walcott Open House in an effort to further promote a greater understanding of our cultural heritage through the work of the Walcott brothers, while encouraging conversations that help us learn about our traditions.

In recent years to celebrate the life works of one of our Nobel Laureates, Sir Derek Walcott, the Museum has benefitted from being included into the newly implemented Nobel Laureate Festival. This year schools Island wide were invited to visit Walcott House over the week of January 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> where they were greeted by local icons who have been influenced by the Walcott Brothers’ work. These icons gave students some insight of the Walcott Brothers’ contribution to Saint Lucia and the region. Mr. Kendel Hippolyte and Mr. Mac Donald Dixon conducted question and answer sessions with the visiting students.

Students were engaged for an hour during this process, thirty minutes of which included a documentary on the Walcott brothers. A further thirty minutes involved the performance and writing of poetry with a more personal account of Sir Derek and Roderick by facilitators. This activity was very successful and achieved part of the overall objective for the week of events focusing on the works of the Walcott brothers.



*Mr. Kendel Hippolyte speaking to students  
from St. Mary's College*

The Walcott brothers have received regional acclaim for their works as such a collective group of students from Trinidad and Tobago also visited the Museum to show their appreciation for their legacy.

This indicates that the legacy of the Walcott brothers is regional and its tangible and intangible memorable traditional stories interspersed with Kwéyòl permeate the open minds of young students and scholars alike.

The Saint Lucia National Trust congratulates the Nobel Laureate Committee on another successful year of the Nobel Laureate Festival!