

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*University of Guyana / Greater Georgetown / Guyana / Wednesday, December 31, 2025***Sound and Stages of Origin- Fusion Cultural Evening Highlights UG–Colombia Cultural Collaboration**

Front Row, third from Left; His Excellency, Ambassador Graybern Livingston Forbes, Ambassador of Colombia to Guyana and CARICOM; front row, second from right, Mr. Keon Heywood, Civic Engagement Officer, PACE, University of Guyana, and participants with their certificates at the ' Sounds and Stages of Origin –Fusion Cultural Evening; Umana Yana, Georgetown.

The Colombian Embassy in collaboration with the University of Guyana recently held 'Sound and Stages of Origin- Fusion Cultural Evening' on December 1st, 2025 at the Umana Yana, Kingston Georgetown, to celebrate music, culture, and artistic partnership between Guyana and Colombia.

This event formed part of an ongoing effort to strengthen cultural ties between Colombia and Guyana through the performing arts. This was the second collaborative event between UG and the Colombian Embassy that emphasized the celebration of cultural exchange, artistic expression, and the creativity of our two countries. Previously, from October 27-29th, 2025, renowned Colombian playwright and actress Marilyn Leonor Biscaino Miller, visited Guyana and led a creative collaborative workshop with UG students and others from the theatre fraternity. Miller's visit also included performances at the National Cultural Centre and presentations on theatre in Colombia and Guyana at a special opening ceremony, held at the World Trade Centre.

The Sound and Stages of Origin- Fusion Cultural Evening at the Umana Yana on December 1st, was a rich and inspiring gathering of performing artists. The programme opened with a presentation and workshop by the Colombian Ambassador, who spoke on Colombia's Indigenous culture and musical traditions.



(His Excellency, Ambassador Graybern Livingston Forbes, Ambassador of Colombia to Guyana and CARICOM, presenting on Colombian musical heritage)



Performers at the event; left, University of Guyana Student, Gabirelle Burgess, reciting poetry; Top right, Mr. Victor Corro, Bottom right, Mr. Mark Hall

The event then evolved into a vibrant cultural showcase of Guyanese talent, featuring performances by University of Guyana students Gabrielle Burgess and Marshall De Souza, the Kreative Arts Dance Group, Xcellence Band, Christian Sobers, Victor Corro, Mark Hall, The Messengers and other local artistes.



University of Guyana Student, Marshall De Souza, receiving his certificate of participation from His Excellency, Ambassador Graybern Livingston Forbes



Members of the Kreative Arts Dance Group, pose for a photo with The Colombian Ambassador, His Excellency, Graybern Livingston Forbes

Following the concert, certificates of participation were presented, first to participants of the Sound and Stages of Origin Theatrical Workshop held in October, and then to those who participated in the Sound and Stages Fusion Cultural Evening. This event underscored the continuity of artistic collaboration between the Embassy of Colombia and the University of Guyana, reflecting the depth and diversity of Guyana's artistic community.

The Colombian Ambassador, His Excellency, Graybern Livingston Forbes, expressed strong interest in expanding future collaborations with the University of Guyana, reaffirming a shared commitment to cultural exchange, artistic development, and regional partnership.



From left to right, Mr. Herbert David, Managing Director and Producer, Legacy Studios, Ms. Linauris Alphonso, representative of the Embassy of Colombia, Mr. Keon Heywood, Civic Engagement Officer, PACE, University of Guyana, His Excellency, Ambassador Graybern Livingston Forbes, and members of the Xcellence band and other performers, pose for a photo, Umana Yana, Kingston, Georgetown.



A section of the audience, Umana Yana, Kingston, Georgetown

The Sound and Stages of Origin- Fusion Cultural Evening underscores the importance of the arts and the University of Guyana's commitment to fostering artistic innovation, intercultural dialogue

and meaningful community engagement. This collaboration forms part of UG's broader goal of establishing four Centres of Excellence in the Humanities within the Faculty of Education and Humanities. These centres aim to advance education and deepen cultural diplomacy through creativity, research and regional and international partnerships. This collaboration with the Colombian Embassy continues our commitment to celebrating cultural exchange, artistic expression, and the creativity of our two countries.

Please see link to photos from the event here:

Performances: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13JF7yuxTMPDWwLNjcKofw6W4YVyMea-N?usp=drive_link

Workshop/Presentation: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13K0EtFMz3kfGOh3bA4TGcxDk1fckCegc?usp=drive_link

Participants and their Certificates:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Qth0UWfHrIpbfLjEu7TmGuGpL68tEqA?usp=drive_link

UG in Brief

The University of Guyana, the accredited national University of Guyana, now in its 62nd year, was founded in October 1963, three years before Guyana became independent. "UG", as it is fondly referred to, offers over 180 distinct programmes in over 80 disciplines from Certificates, Diplomas, associate degrees, Bachelor's Degrees, Master's Degrees to Ph.D.'s. These programmes are offered in online, face-to-face or blended formats. UG delivers through a system of eight campuses. This includes its 37-year-old community-based Institute for Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the second major campus at Tain in Berbice celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025, as well as the path-breaking Makatau Forest Campus. The University of Guyana's student population is over 11,500.

Through its 9 faculties and 10 Research Institutes and Centers, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences which has been ranked # 5 globally, "UG" has provided education, training and research for over 71,000 alumni over its 62-year history with significant national and global impact. Key faculties include the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the College of Behavioural Sciences and Research, the Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The University's 10 Research Institutes include the recently launched Institute for Marine and Riverine Ecologies and Economies (IMAREE), the internationally important Centre for Biodiversity, the Institute for Food and Nutrition Security, the Institute for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Energy Diplomacy, the Green Institute, the Institute of Gender

Studies, the Institute for Human Resiliency, Strategic Security and the Future, and the International Centre for Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic innovation and universal respect.

UG's forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University's future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. It is entering the 2nd of its four phases. UG is currently celebrating its 62nd anniversary with a continued focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana.

Visit UG at www.uog.edu.gy.

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