

**The San Fernando Arts Council in conjunction with The National Gas
Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) presents the National Junior
Arts Festival
Sanfest 2010**

Theme:-‘The Arts - God’s Gift to Mankind’

40th Annual Festival of the Arts and Culture

September 27 - November 11, 2010

For the past eighteen years, NGC’s Community Relations has been supporting communities and groups that impact the lives of the youth through sport and education, and, in this instance, arts and culture. Since 2003, NGC has been sponsoring the National Junior Arts Festival (Sanfest) which is hosted by the San Fernando Arts Council.

The festival, which embraces all the areas of the arts targets students who are 19 years and under. According to the San Fernando Arts Council, Sanfest, which originally targeted south-based schools, has been widening its appeal to all children, nationally. Accompanying this growth has been some changes and additions to the syllabus of categories offered, and this has added to the festival’s appeal, and assisted in firmly placing the festival in the country’s national arts calendar.

As the sponsor of the event, NGC has noted that for the last 40 years, the San Fernando Arts Council has been tapping the energy of the youth, via Drama, Music, Dance, the Visual Arts and Creative Writing. Sanfest has as one objective the no child is ever left out because they can all find a niche in the wide categories offered as well as gain something by participating at the festival.

Like in 2009, Sanfest 2010 will be keenly contested in the national songs categories, steel band ensemble and ballroom dancing. The inclusion of Tobago into the festival now adds more appeal and assists in making the festival truly national.

As has become customary, teenagers can also participate in the Mr. & Miss Sanfest Teen Talent Competition, which is quite an interesting feature of the entire festival. Geared to the individual performer, participants are required to display their talent and they are tested on their intelligence. Young people are required therefore to research and talk a little about Sanfest using a folk medium. They are also marked on poise and decorum. To qualify for entry, students must be 13-19 years old.

This year's theme, 'The Arts - God's Gift to Mankind' is aptly representative of what the arts can do to raise the creative genius as god given in the lives of the youth.