

## **Dr Vijay Ramlal Rai**

**1975 – 1979 - Executive Chairman of the Nottinghill Carnival and Arts Committee, (London) conducting Meetings, Assessment, Reports and Making decisions. Spear-heading the Nottinghill Carnival. Assigning duties to various groups and individuals. Making contacts and meeting Various artists, musical and dance groups from all sections of the Community within and outside of Britain. Meeting regularly with various agencies, local police and community representatives among other areas of activities.**

**1979 – 1982 Project Manager – Carnival Industries, having total responsibilities for the development of an Industrial Project based on creating jobs for the unemployed youths and adults in London. Areas of responsibilities included Project Analysis, Making Decisions, approving appointments, salaries and promotions in an Industry based on skilled trades eg: - Metal Craft, Leather work; Fine arts; Designing; Welding ;Carpentry etc.Placing qualified workers/apprentices into work placements, following their employment training with the project. The continual development of Ideas and Creativity Re: commercial products for wholesale and retail purposes.**

**1992 - Present Administrator/President Carnival/Cultural Judges Association of Trinidad and Tobago. (CJATT). Founder of the Soca (International) Monarch Competition. The Ragga Soca Monarch.  
The National Chutney Monarch of T&T and Chutney Soca Monarch.**

**1993 – 1997 Public Relations Officer – Caribbean Region of the International Caribbean Carnival Association (ICCA).**

**1993- Present - General Deputy – Trinidad & Tobago Representative of The Foundation of European Carnival Cities. (FECC)  
President – Uptown Carnival Improvement Committee (UCIC) the birthplace of Trinidad's Carnival. East Port of Spain.**

**1994 - Present - Director – National Cultural Promotions of Trinidad and Tobago.**

**President - National Chutney Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago (Act 6 of 2000)  
(Incorporated through an Act of Parliament)**

**2000 – Present – Trinidad and Tobago Copyright Collection Organisation (TTCO)**

**2010 – 2012- Director – Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Co.  
Ministry of Trade and Industry.**

## SOME OTHER ACHIVEMENTS of - Vijay Ramlal Rai - includes:

- **Publisher of the first ever “The Adjudicator” magazine in 1992 which Relates to all the official results and articles on the various carnival Competitions.**
- **Former Caribbean Director of the International Caribbean Carnival Association (ICCA) and a founding member of ICCA which was formed in 1992 at the Marriott’s hotel Miami, Florida, USA.**
- **Produced and Developed the Ragga Soca Monarch competition, held in Trinidad and Tobago, known as the Ragga Soca New Wave Music Monarch of T&T then International Ragga Soca Monarch in 1998.**
- **Produced the National Pan Chutney Competition in collaboration with Pan Trinbago and the National Chutney Foundation in 1997.**
- **Founding Member/Developer of the Soca Monarch Competition .1993 (Publication-The Finalists-by John EH Barry; ISBN # 976-8193-86-7)**
- **Producer/Developer of the first National Divali singing exposition with the Maha Sabha (SDMS) in 1998 on the school grounds of Tunapuna Hindu School.**
- **Developed and Produced the First Ever World Carnival Conference, which were held in collaboration with the United Nations’ 50th anniversary and under the Patronage of the Mayor of San Francisco, USA. In 1994.**
- **Created/Developed/Produced the First ever Independence Nation Building Calypso and Chutney Competition held at the Centre of Excellence in 1998, with Calypsonians and Chutney artists performing**
- **Developed and coordinated the Carnival/Cultural Judges course at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad for persons to graduate with professional certificates as adjudicators in 1990/1.**
- **conducted a 12 month television programme with the host of the Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) Date Line programme about aspects of Adjudicating.**
- **Produced and Developed the Carnival Musical Fusion in 1997 with the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organization (TUCO) and the National Chutney Foundation of Trinidad &Tobago .(NCFTT).**
- **Developed - First Ever National Chutney/Calypso Touring Tent in Trinidad and Tobago - 1996.**
  
- **Produced and Created the First Ever National Limbo Monarch Competition in Trinidad &Tobago , which was held in Chaguanas at the Mid Center Mall in 1996, and was recorded for entry into the Guinness book of World record which was broken... However, the Guinness Book of records had cause, to change the rules after the contest, now Eradicating the Rule that the Limbo Bar can now be attempted without Live Fire. Since the media reports said it was too dangerous to conduct With Live Flames.**
- **In 1994 Developed and Planned for National Carnival Competitions to be held at the Birthplace of Trinidad’s Carnival, the place all historians and people at large calls Behind D Bridge, East Dry River, Piccadilly Greens, Port of Spain. This continues to be a success on an annual basis with the Up-Town Carnival Improvement Committee.**

- Conducted and supervised in Carnival/Cultural Judging throughout the world as President and member of, The Carnival / Cultural Judges Association of Trinidad and Tobago. (CJATT).
- Chairman of Europe's Largest street festival/parade the Notting Hill Carnival in London from 1976 -1982/3.
- Developed the first ever Calypso and Chutney Nation Building Competition: with the then Minister Hon. Kamla Persad Bissessar as patron in 1998 (DVD available)
- Developed and Pioneered CARNIVAL as an INDUSTRY with the support of the British Government's (Manpower Services Commission- MSC) which turned out to be a model used throughout the UK. as a developmental project in Cities and Communities.
- In 2000 developed and produced the musical instrument of Tassa into the 1st ever National Tassa Competition of T&T, on an annual basis.
- Served on the Plans for the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Industry known as the Tourism Master Plan, which was conducted by the Tourism, Industrial Development Company (TIDCO) and consultants from Canada.
- Served in the Cabinet appointed committee for the establishment of a National Cultural Council of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Served in Carifesta (a Caricom Cultural Project) Committees.
- Developed a major project known as "MM94" for the East Dry River area in Port of Spain in relation to Carnival and hydroponics as a community based sustainable, financially rewarding and an esthetic development. In the Birthplace of Trinidad's Carnival.
- Attends ALL religious festivals and maintains FULL respect for all religions of the world and beliefs that all spiritual and religious teachings carry all to the said destination all be it in different ways.
- Dr. Ramlal & Mr. Junior Telfer were the ones who introduced Mr. Peter Minshall to bring a carnival mass band into Notting Hill Carnival as his first band. Mr.Minshell brought the band "THINGS ON WINGS" and he never looked back since, the rest is history.
- Promoted and developed other musical artforms at a time when traditional carnivalists so to speak, were objecting to Reggae, Pop, Dub, Punk Rock, etc into the Nottinghill carnival activities. However, Ramlal created a space and allowed bands like UB40, Award, Ice Records, Eddie Grant, Steel Pulse, and others were given a space known as the "Static Sounds" on a large stage to perform.
- Ramlal as chairman of Nottinghill Carnival Arts Committee in the 70's was the first to request having its own stewards on the streets and obtained permission from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and Westminster to have the Nottinghill carnival parade through Bayswater, into Hyde Park as the end point of the Street parade.
- Ramlal was also responsible for persuading the authorities to retain the Nottinghill carnival as a street event after the RBKC and the Metropolitan Police said that there will be no more Carnival in the streets after the 1976 carnival riots.
- Attended Prince Charles and Lady Diana's wedding in London with the High Commissioner for Dominica- Mr.& Mrs. Shillingford.
- Organized for representatives of PanTrinbago (Owen Serret) National Carnival

Bands Association (NCBA)-Mr.Richad Afong, The Trinbago Unified Calypsonian Organization (TUCO) –Winston Peters. And The Carnival Judges Association (CJATT) to attend and take part as founding members of the International Caribbean Carnival Association (ICCA) Miami, Florida in 1993 at the Marriott's Hotel

- Ramlal organized with the Rastafarian Corporation, The Twelve Tribes of Israel and The Ethiopian Peace Foundation (EPF) to host in Trinidad the visit of Crown Prince Zere Yacob Asfa Wossen – the Grandson of Emperor Hail Salassie of Ethiopia.
- Dr.Vijay Ramlal Rai as Executive Director of NCP met the Duchess of Northumberland at Alnick Castle, Newcastle, England at the Third World Summit in June 2006 on the “Role of Arts and Culture in Regeneration”
- Founding member of the Inter-Cultural Organization of Performing Arts which was launched on 5th January 2003 at the Lewah – Parang Festival, Maracas RC church hall.
- Member of the Committee, who met with the Mayor’s office in N.Y. seeking to have Eastern Park Way in -USA-,renamed “The Carlos Lezama Park Way” (after the most recognized developer of the Labor day Carnival in New York-USA.)
- Assisted with the Carnival Institute of Trinidad and Tobago
- Member of the National carnival commission-Carnival Village 2011  
Adjudicator of the Caribbean plus Fashion week at Cascadia in Trinidad 2014
  - 2015/6 ; World Cultures Connect –Creative Skills Development Training for International working across the Arts- EU & Visiting Arts UK. & Ministry of Community Development Culture and the Arts of Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **SOME PROJECTS BEING DEVELOPED BY - VIJAY RAMLAL RAI**

**(OVER 67 DOCUMENTED and COPYRIGHTED PROJECTS)**

1. The First Ever Caribbean Carnival Conference  
(Proposed since 1992 and in 2006 & 2007 & 2008&2010)
2. The Caribbean Carnival Championships  
(Proposed since 1992, 1997, 1999, 2006 & 2007& 2008)
3. The World Carnival Council/Commission (proposed since 1994)
4. The World Carnival Championships (WCC)
5. The National Junior/Chutney Monarch of T&T
6. The Nationalization of the Tassa Instrument as the Second National Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.
7. The Junior National Tassa Competition of T&T.
8. To have the Tassa instrument as part of the instruments in Military bands in T&T and throughout the world.
9. The First World Steel band Championships in T&T.
10. The World Calypso Monarch Competition in T&T.
11. Establishing the Carnival Shares/Units through the Unit Trust Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago.
12. Marketing the Queens Park Savannah as the world’s largest roundabout.
13. The International RaggaSoca Monarch
14. The National RagaSoca Monarch of T&T

- 15. The Tobago RaggaSoca Monarch**
- 16. The Northern Range Cable Care network in Trinidad**
- 17. A Hovercraft transport system along the coast lines of Trinidad and Tobago.**
- 18. The Central Range Safari Park in Trinidad**
- 19. The Water Sports Festival in Trinidad and Tobago**
- 20. The Caribbean Water sports Championships in various Caribbean Countries.**
  
- 21. Tourist Sites on the Laventille Hills and Fort George with special viewing at Nights.**
- 22. The West Indies School of Cricket**
- 23. An official Carnival Glossy publication soon after Carnival with all the official records of the said year's events.**
- 24. An annual Sporting Conference of the Caribbean, rotating every year.**
- 25. A World Religious and Spiritual Conference in T&T  
(All religions and spiritual organizations and scholars).**
- 26. Develop the World's best Organic Cocoa Farm in Trinidad**
- 27. The World Sample Centre**
- 28. The World Carnival Museum.**
- 29. The Chutney Museum of Trinidad and Tobago**
- 30. The London/UK Calypso Monarch.**
- 31. The London/UK Soca Monarch**
- 32. The World Chutney/Soca Monarch Festival.**
- 33. A Waterfront Development in the Chaguaramas Bay of Trinidad**
- 34. Proposals to develop Chaguaramas as one of the Caribbean's most visited area. Including a hovercraft facility throughout the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.**
- 35. Developing A Grand Stand Facilities and Bleachers with a Main stage for the Parade of Bands in NottingHill Carnival- (London) and as part of the parade route of the Largest Street event in Europe.**
- 36. Developing the World Carnival Championships (Launching) as part of the 2012 Olympics in London.**
- 37. Developed the World Chutney Soca Monarch with 25 countries launched 2014**
- 38. Coordinated the NCC visits in August 2014 with major officials in London including the Lord Mayor of London.**
- 39. Attended the 3 days seminar in October 2015 - Inaugural ACP/ EU Cultures plus, hosted by World Cultures Connect: Creative Skills from Visiting Arts UK and the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts. T&T.**