



IMMERSE IN THE COUNTRY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

By: Genesis Escobar





Why Trinidad & Tobago?

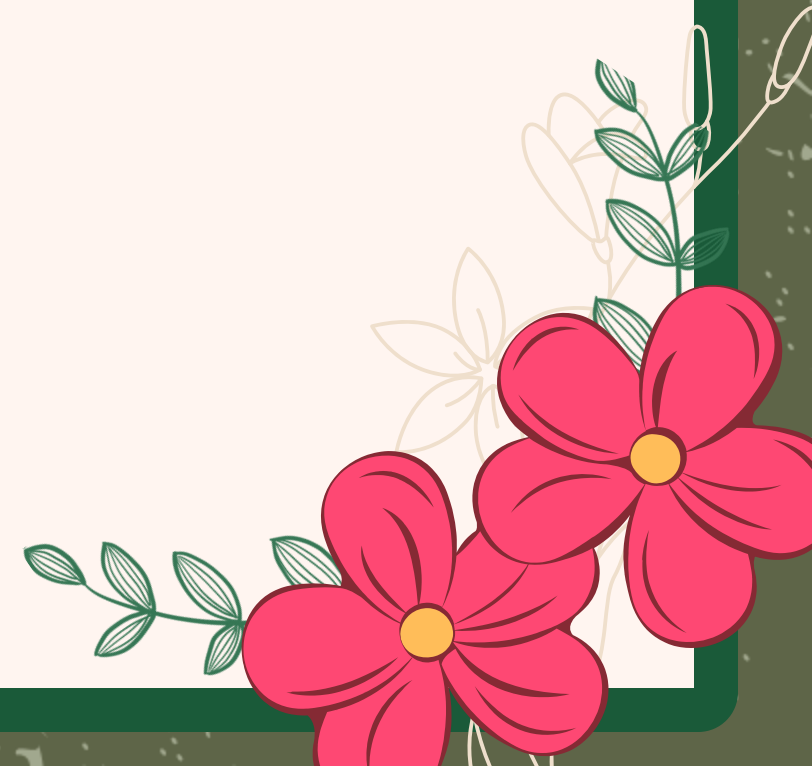
Hello my name is Genesis Escobar, and I am a second-year Montgomery College student majoring in art and interested in transferring into industrial design, so taking this class has given me the opportunity to learn how to use design software, which would be ,beneficial for my future career goals!

I chose the country Trinidad and Tobago because I have a friend who is from there, and I wanted to take the opportunity to learn more about her country by designing various things related to it.

Image Correction

For this assignment I had to look for a damaged image that is related to my county of choice. I was assigned to fix the image using adobe photoshop. The tools and techniques that I used was:

- Hue & Saturation
- Brightness/Dodge & Burn
- Contrast
- Correction filter
- Etc.



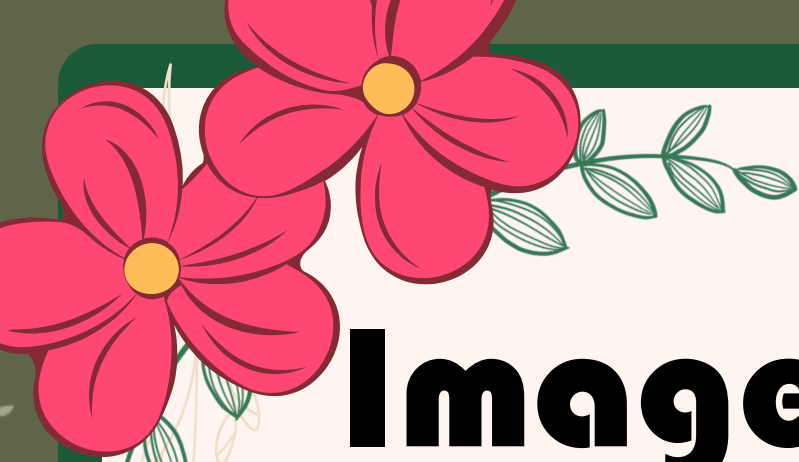


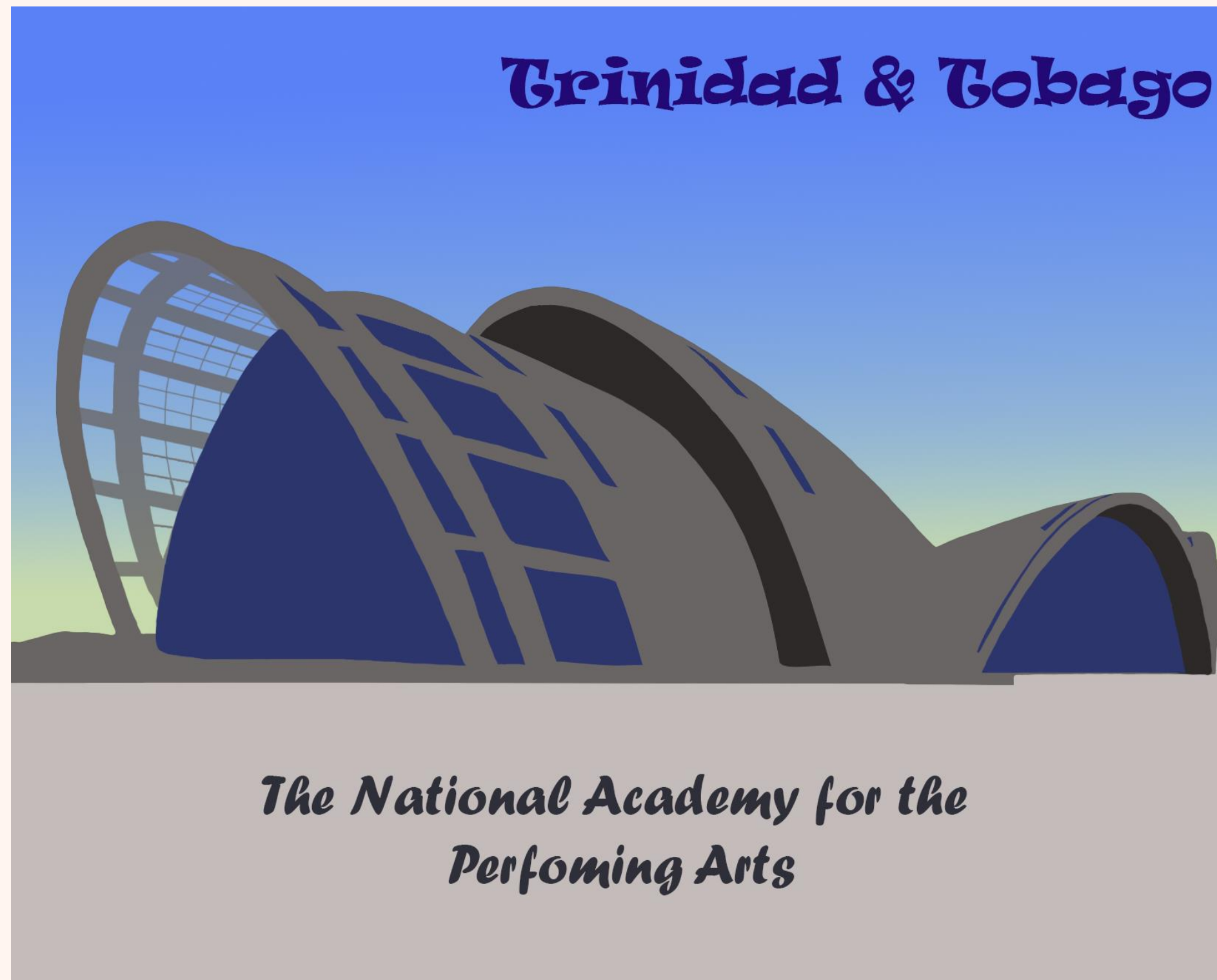
Image Correction Pt.2

Here is my second image correction. The reason why both of my images are a bit boring was because I had a difficult time looking for damage photos of Trinidad and Tobago

The first image include men digging at Pitch Lake, Trinidad while this photo is Beach at La Brea, near pitch Lake, Trinidad



Raster Drawing

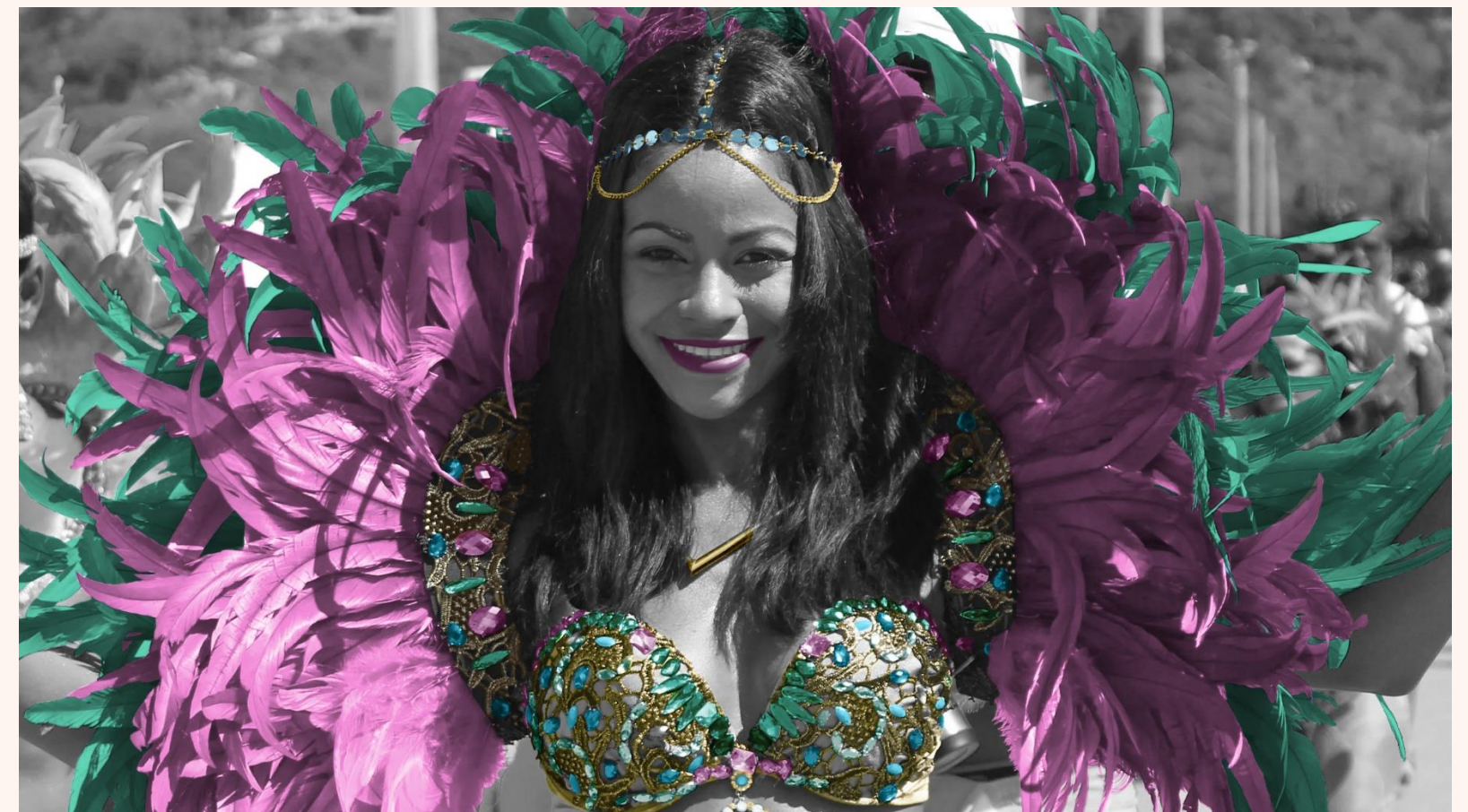


For my raster drawing, I chose the National Academy for the Performing Arts because I thought this building was very unique and interesting. I had to use various tools and techniques in Photoshop such as the:

- Shapes tool
- Brush & line tool
- Crop/Warp tool
- Layers & special effects

Image Colorization

For this assignment I had to first remove the color of an image and then re-color it in any color of my choice. I decided to only color the outfit and accessories because I thought it would really make the outfit pop out. The tools I used were the lasso tool, paintbrush, adjusting opacity, and color blending mode.



Text Masking



In this assignment I mostly use the masking tool to design the name of the country using the image that represents it the most. I also used many effects for the letters to look bubbly and darken the background.

TRINIDAD

Trinidad Traditional Dances



Information of Each Traditional Dance

Trinidad and Tobago has a vibrant tradition of folk dances, including Limbo, Bèlè, and Calypso, all influenced by African, French Creole, and Indian heritage. These dances are often performed during festivals, celebrations, and even funeral wakes.

Limbo:

The Limbo (Limbo-Bò) is a unique dance and is also known as the "Under Stick Dance". The limbo dance, originally a ritual performed at "wakes" (funeral dance which may be related to African legba or lègba dance) in Trinidad from the mid or late 19th century does not appear to have any roots in West Africa where most African traditions within the diaspora have emerged. Today limbo refers to a dancer moving to a rhythm and dancing under a stick, held up by a person on each end of the stick or a stand, without knocking or touching the stick. If the dancer is successful he must repeat this again and again with the bar being lowered another "notch" each time. Each dancer does this until there is only one left standing who has not touched the bar, fallen down, laid on the floor or used his/her hands to keep balance. On-lookers as well as other dancers would clap and cheer (or yell on) and sing while the dancer tries to go under the stick. This dance was very popular at beach parties in the mid 1960's. A Fire Limbo was done as a stage act as well as a few contests were thrown, but legal hazards made this cease publicly. The Fire Limbo is a normal Limbo with the exception of the stick. It is set on fire to burn while the dancer performs, with occasionally the dancer having a lighted torch, blowing alcohol from the mouth to an explosive burst of flames. The Fire Limbo was not done socially, and was performed by professionals and should not be tried at home for obvious reasons. Eventually local entertainers adapted and transformed the ritual into the stage performance as it is today, spreading it throughout the region.

Bèlè:

The Belle Air dance, also called Bèlè or Bèlair, has a history shaped by African and French Creole influences. The name "Belle Air" means "pretty tune" in French, but its origins may lie in African languages. Some experts link it to the Kikongo word "bèlè" or Kimbundu "bèlè", both related to dancing. These connections suggest deeper African roots for the dance. Its movements reflect African dance forms: flowing and rhythmic hip movements. Initially, the Belle Air dance was a communal and social activity performed at gatherings and festivals. It was often accompanied by drums, shoo-shoo (a percussion instrument), chantrelle (call-and-response singing), and a chorus. It was most commonly performed by women, who held up one or both ends of their skirts while gracefully moving in circles or sideways, performing quick and delicate steps.

At the heart of the Belle Air dance is a sequence of graceful, fluid movements that emphasize the dancer's elegance and rhythm. As the dancer moves, they may travel in a circle or sideways. The movements are slow yet deliberate, and they maintain a posture of poise. The women who perform the Belle Air are often dressed in the traditional Dosette costume, typically consisting of a long skirt, a blouse, and a head wrap. This attire adds to the dancer's visual beauty and complements the feminine movements central to the performance. The delicate swaying of the skirts and the fluidity of the dancers' motions create a mesmerizing atmosphere where every movement tells a story.

Calypso:

Calypso music, originating from Trinidad and Tobago, is more than just a musical genre; it is a profound and dynamic cultural expression that has evolved over the decades. It reflects the struggles, joys, and traditions of the Trinidadian people, embodying this island nation's national identity and cultural heritage. This article explores its history, its characteristics, the social impact it has had on Trinidad and Tobago society, and the modern artists who continue this tradition. Calypso experienced a significant surge in popularity during the 1930s and 1940s, a period often referred to as its "golden age." Iconic artists such as Lord Kitchener, Mighty Sparrow, and Calypso Rose emerged, bringing international recognition to this musical genre. It became a means to comment on society, politics, and contemporary events, allowing artists to express themselves freely on issues affecting the people. The Trinidad Carnival, held annually before Lent, also played a crucial role in the popularity of it. Some competitors, such as the "Calypso Monarch," attract thousands of spectators and showcase the talents of local artists. The Carnival has become an essential platform for celebrating the creativity and diversity of Trinidadian culture.

Calypso is characterized by catchy melodies, engaging rhythms, and often witty lyrics. Themes addressed in the songs can vary, ranging from love and personal relationships to social and political commentary. Calypsonians often use irony and satire to convey powerful messages. The use of instruments such as drums, piano, guitar, and saxophone is common. Musical arrangements are often rich and varied, allowing for great creativity in musical expression. Calypsonians also incorporate elements of soca, another popular musical genre in Trinidad, which is more dance-oriented.

[Go back to learning about the Scarlet Ibis.](#)

HTML Website

TRINIDAD

Trinidad National Animal: Scarlet Ibis



Information about the Scarlet Ibis Bird

The largest habitat of the Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus Ruber*) is the Caroni Swamp, in central Trinidad. The Scarlet Ibis has been protected by law since 1965. This beautiful bird is brown when young and its colour changes to bright red when fully mature. The striking red plumage owes its colour to the diet of tiny crustaceans found within the swamp.

Appearance:

Their bodies are bright red with a lighter shade of red on the head, neck and underparts. The only non-red parts are the tips of the longest flight feathers, the eyes and the bill, which is black. The male and female are similar in physical appearance having a length of 55 cm to 76 cm from the tip of the tail to the tip of the bill with a wingspan of 52 cm to 56 cm. The males are slightly larger than the females. Adults on average weigh about 3 pounds and being so heavy means that they have to flap their wings more rapidly when flying (Kushlan 1978). The down curved bill is thin and long with a blunt, pointed tip that is square at the base. Their long necks assist the bill in probing head movements when hunting for prey in shallow waters, preening and mating displays. Preening involves using the bill to squeeze oil from the uropygial gland from their back and applying this oil onto each feather by pulling it through their bill (Adams and Carol 2008). Their two slender legs are a lighter shade of red and covered with large scales, each having four partially webbed toes with claws attached for wading through shallow water, yet still separated to some degree for it to be able to perch in trees. They fly in flocks with their necks held straight in front of their body and the bill straight forward in V-formations (Fig. 2) because this reduces wind resistance and they are able to travel longer distances (Kushlan 1978).

Fun Facts:

- The scarlet Ibis has a curved, slender bill that they use to probe into shallow water, mud or grass when foraging.
- As with flamingos, the brilliant red color of the scarlet ibis comes from carotene found in the crustaceans on which it feeds.
- The scarlet ibis is a gregarious bird, living, traveling, and breeding in flocks. In flight, ibises form diagonal lines or V-formations. This formation decreases wind resistance for trailing birds. When the leader of the pack tires, it falls to the back of the formation and another ibis takes its place at the front.
- These birds are rather quiet, only grunting or croaking on breeding grounds.
- Both the male and female take turns in guarding the nest site until the chicks are large enough to defend themselves. In addition, both parents help feed the chicks.
- Ibises are an ancient lineage with fossil records going back 60 million years.

[Learn more of Trinidad Traditional Dances.](#)

For this assignment I had to create a website using Adobe Dreamweaver. I was required to create a two link HTML pages that discussed two topics about Trinidad & Tobago, as well as including image related to those topics.

The topics I decide to choose was Trinidad national bird (the Scarlet Ibis) & traditional dances.

Logo



This assignment was the most exciting to make because I had fun designing a logo for a made-believe business.

The bird I chose for the logo is Trinida's national bird, which is called the scarlet ibis, but to me the second half sounds like abyss, which gave me the idea to name my "restaurant" Scarlet Abyss.

TRINIDAD

Carnival Festival

Background:

Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival is known as the "Greatest Show on Earth", renowned for its vibrancy as the world's most authentic carnival celebration and has always been synonymous with festival. Although in the beginning this celebration did not start out as the colourful, all-inclusive phenomenon that we are familiar with today.

Carnival is traditionally celebrated before Lent, as a kind of last hurrah before the solemnity of the Lenten period. During the time of slavery on the island, a Carnival of sorts was celebrated by the upper class in the form of masquerade balls, fancy outdoor parties and street festivities. Although slaves and mixed race individuals were never allowed to participate in these gatherings, they no doubt celebrated within their own communities. However, this did not last with the announcement of Emancipation in 1838, the Africans choose to exercise their freedom with their own recreation of Cannes Brulées (now known as Canboulay), accompanied by the Kalenda, or the stick fighting dance that later became well-entrenched into the history and culture of Trinidad and Tobago, singing, and marches that were the precursors to the parades we see today.

As Trinidad and Tobago entered the twentieth century, some of the separation that had so marked the previous eras dissipated and the upper class joined the street festivities of the lower class. With the introduction of vehicles came the mobilization of Mas, and the beginning of what a modern day viewer would recognize as today's Carnival. The masqueraders were broken into 'bands', (groups of people all wearing the same costume, or matching a particular theme). Creative individuals within the bands, band leaders, came up with new ideas and designs every year, and Carnival costumes evolved with each innovation. By the 1950s, fierce competition had arisen among band leaders to have the most spectacular costumes and to win the coveted "Band of the Year" award.

The festival of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago continued to grow and change until it became the present day spectacle well-known to people in all corners of the globe.



Events that Occurs:



J'OUVERT: Showcasing participants covered in paint, mud, and oil while dancing through the streets to the pulsating rhythms of soca, calypso, and steelpan music. It's a time of revelry and freedom, where people shed their inhibitions and embrace the spirit of Carnival. J'ouvert stands as a reminder of the people's resilience and creativity, serving as a time for communities to come together, celebrate their heritage, and revel in the joy of life.

PLAYING MAS

Thousands of masqueraders flood the streets. They dance to the exhilarating sounds of soca music in elaborate costumes adorned with feathers, beads, and sequins, often depicting various themes. Mas bands compete for prizes and bragging rights.

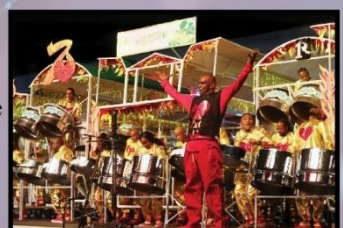


KINGS & QUEENS

Known as "Dimanche Gras", Trinidad's Kings and Queens Carnival competition showcases immense imagination and skill from costume designers. Intricately detailed costumes and floats are displayed and carried by individuals. Often tied into specific mas band themes, competitors present their dazzling creations for judges. The competition also incorporates the finals of the National Carnival Calypso Monarch competition – a highly esteemed event showcasing numerous legendary artists.

PANORAMA

The Panorama competition in Trinidad and Tobago is the world's premiere steel band competition. The championship band is chosen from the 60 to 80 bands that enter the preliminaries; each band consists of 75 to 200 musicians. This grand event is an integral part of the annual Carnival celebrations and is fiercely contested, showcasing the talents of steel bands from across Trinidad and Tobago.



Flyer

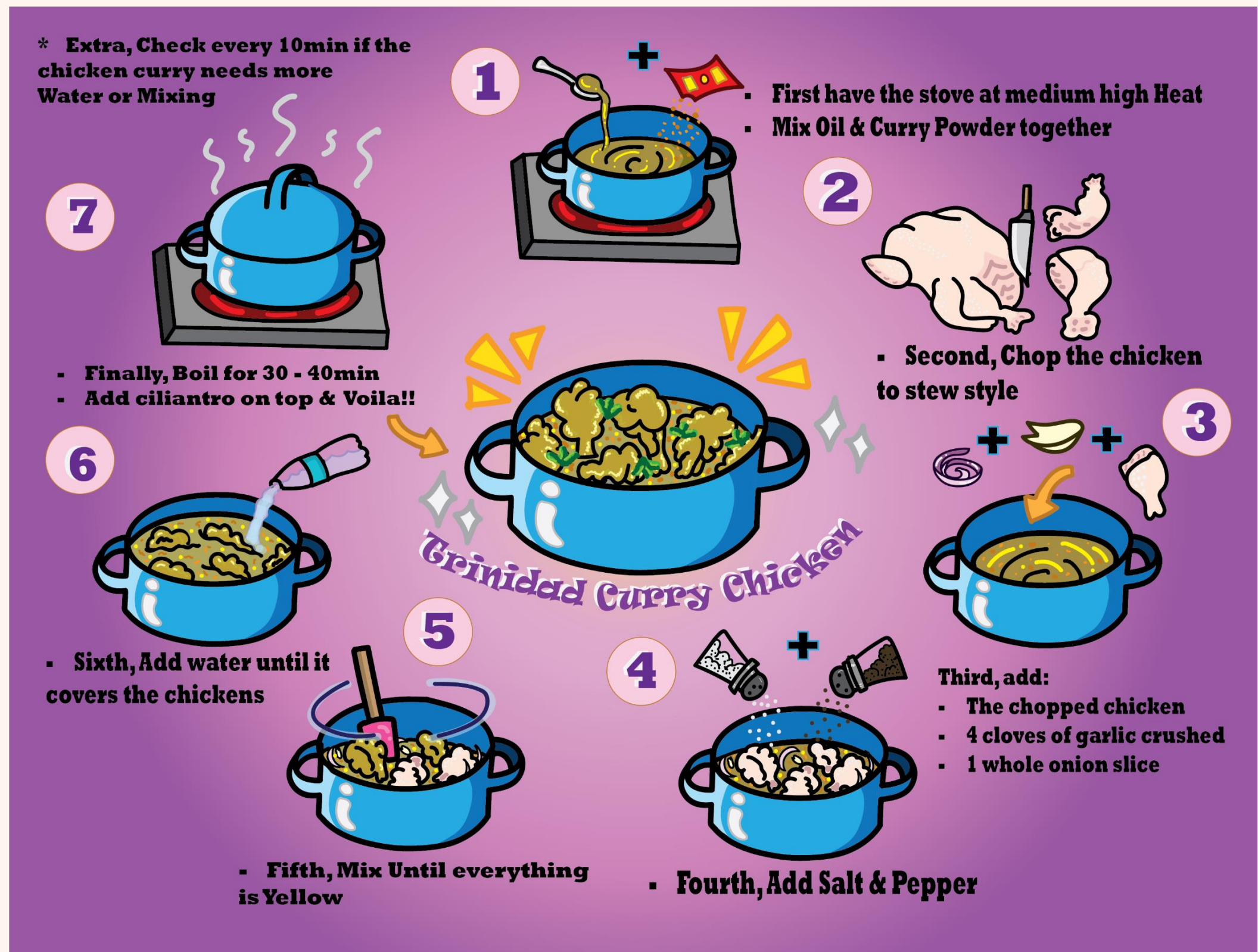
For the Flyer I mostly relied on layers to create this design. I had mostly used the shape tool to make a template where I can easily place my text masking and information. I also had to use the warp tool on the text in order to add the images that correspond with the information.

Before starting this assignment, I overestimated the difficulties of it, so during the process of creating it, I was astonished at myself for putting it off for so long.

Illustrated Recipe

For this assignment I had to draw a recipe from Trinidad & Tobago. I had to rely on my mom and friends to create this because I don't usually cook, so I wanted to get opinions from those who do and often read recipes. I also had my Trinidadian friend provide instructions for the Trinidad curry chicken!

I decided to create the recipe in a circle format because I thought it would be easier to follow along.



Business Card



For this assignment I was required to create a business card for my made-up business by providing information while incorporating my logo to promote my “business”.

The tools and techniques I used to complete this were:

- Importing images
- Text tool
- Line tool
- Shape tool
 - Creating a gradient

Video of Trinidad



For my video assignment I want to achieve in making the viewer have the urge to dance while watching.

I did my best in searching for as many video that include colorful clothing and dancing.

Creating this video was a bit of a struggle, but I pushed forward to see the end results!