



NIA CENTRE HOSTS MEDIA ARTS LUNCH N LEARN

Nneka Elliott Shares her Career Journey at ‘Simone’s Caribbean Restaurant’

Saturday, June 24 was the perfect day to enjoy a Caribbean-themed meal outdoors—our gathering of mentees sat on the backyard patio of Simone’s Caribbean Restaurant, and had one-of-a-kind access to eat and chat with media personality and lifestyle blogger Nneka Elliott.

Selected via online application, the group was treated to an educational lunch session hosted by Nia Centre for the Arts’ *Creative Connect* Program Coordinator, Shelton Mpala, featuring Nneka as our guest mentor for the afternoon. The Media Arts theme highlighted conversation surrounding education, internships, volunteering, job opportunities, and the industry-at-large.

The *Creative Connect* program is a professional development project for early career artists seeking career-building opportunities. The Lunch n Learn series is an informal talk-back session with topics that include: building one’s creative skill set, politics of creating one’s art, intersections of identity in art, and creative career paths.

Nneka described her journey from living in St. Vincent, to attending Toronto’s Ryerson University, interning at CFRB 1010 radio, becoming a news anchor on CP24...and the various stages in between that eventually led her to create a media platform to express her culture and passions. Nneka was informative (and funny!) as she candidly shared with the group.

A popular topic amongst the participants: personal branding. Technology was also a common theme, and each individual shared their favourite social media platform and related artistic uses.

“It’s easier to be authentic when you know who you are,” Nneka shared. What made her session impactful was that she did not provide hard rules, but instead urged participants to take time to listen to themselves and define their own brand and vision. “You will always be relevant if you are true to yourself,” she concluded, followed by a group Instagram story that she shared with her network. It was a great afternoon filled with reflection, laughter, and career motivation!

For more information about the *Creative Connect* program, visit the Programs & Partnerships section at www.niacentre.org; connect with Nneka Elliott at www.nnekaelliott.com.

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