



Keynote speaker

Professor Paloma Mohamed-Martin, PhD, A.A.

Scholar, Vice-Chancellor, Playwright, Filmmaker, and Cultural Leader - Guyana

Overview

Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin is a Guyanese behavioral scientist, academic leader, writer, and cultural advocate. She made history as the 11th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana and the first woman to hold that post in UG's history and in the Anglophone Caribbean. She served in that role from June 2020 until 2026.

Education & Academic Focus

- Studied at the University of Guyana, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Harvard University (HIES), and CAMH in Canada
- Specialist in social and behavioral change, human communication, strategy and change, and how culture and communication drive transformation

Leadership at University of Guyana

Before becoming VC, she served as:

- Director, Centre for Communication Studies
- Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences - first woman elected to that role
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE)

As Vice-Chancellor 2020-2026, her tenure included:

- Moving UG several hundred places up in regional and international rankings
- Establishing 4 new research institutes: energy, green economics, resilience & strategic security, and food & nutrition security
- Raising over US\$45 million for the university
- Adding 30 new programmes, 70 new policies, regional expansion, and new infrastructure
- Leading UG through the COVID-19 transition to online learning

Research, Writing & Film

A highly prolific academic and creative:

- Author/Editor: Over 11 books including Communication, Power and Change in the Caribbean and Notes on the Media in Guyana. Her 12th book, Letters from The Past, and memoir A Brave and Beautiful Thing are forthcoming/2026
- Plays & Poetry: Written/performed over 30 plays, 3 collections of poetry. Three-time winner of the Guyana Prize for Literature
- Film: Executive producer/co-producer of 22-32 films and documentaries. Founding force behind CineGuyana
- Supervision: Supervised scores of graduate theses and produced over 20 PhDs

Culture, Service & Advocacy

- Founder: Healing Arts Guyana Inc., Founding Director of Moray House Trust
- Chair: Theatre Guild of Guyana
- Founder: KIDSTAGE, Guyana's first televised children's talent series
- Served pro bono on boards including CXC and UNESCO. Currently on CXC's Governing Council and CARICOM committees COSOH and CREE

- Technical advisor to governments and international organizations as a communications strategist

Awards & Recognition

- Presidential Medal of Service – 2012
- City of New York Award for Culture – 2013
- First woman Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Arts and Letters, Anthony N. Sabga Awards – 2015
- National Arrow of Achievement – 2015
- Named one of Guyana's Top 5 Most Influential Women - 2014

Current Work

As of 2026, Professor Mohamed Martin is stepping down as VC to focus on her specialist work as a futurist strategist and her first memoir, A Brave and Beautiful Thing, set for release October 2026.