

Fund Access looking to new emerging sectors

By Ashlee Cox

NOT only will Fund Access be offering funding to the winner of Bank on Me, but they are also looking to offer funding to all of the 24 contestants of the reality TV Contest.

This was announced by Kirk Dottin, Business Development Manager, of Fund Access, recently at the Bank on Me Press Conference, which was held in the Goddard Rosen of Cave Hill School of Business.

As noted by Dottin, "We are offering funding to each participant of the Bank on Me, not only the finalist, but to all 24 contestants, in terms of seeing how we can develop those projects, because you know sometimes we tend to focus on the winners but there are some good projects that come through, that need development and that's what we are looking at. We want to get those projects out, because we are here to foster entrepreneurship and we don't want to

leave anybody behind."

According to Dottin, the traditional sectors have become very saturated and over the years with the falling economy, many things had regressed, however, he explained that the company would be looking at the new emerging sectors, including the Cultural industries.

"We want to educate our clients about the cultural industries now and the benefit that they can make from it and as I said, it is an emerging sector and

from Fund Access' point of view, we are fully on board, with these new emerging sectors," he noted.

Speaking on one of his clients, who was working on a new film, he noted, "Recently, I had a meeting with a client, he's actually in the cultural industry, he's actually developing a film and in that meeting, it just blew me away!"

Continuing, he revealed, "I can say that the film - without bringing too much out - is very interesting and we may actually

outside of the financing component, we might actually put some sponsorship just to build momentum, because it is all part of developing the project in terms of, we offer technical assistance which go into the direction of product development and marketing so we are actually going to be considering giving some grant money just for this young guy to get his project into the market arena, so we are on board with the new emerging sectors."



Design Tutor of the Barbados Community College, Stephen Jackman (left) was presented with a wide range of fabric samples from former student and inaugural 2014 Jenny Blanc Design Scholarship winner, Tyra Woodroffe (right).

Student outlines benefits of design programme

THE recipient of the inaugural 2014 Jenny Blanc Design Scholarship, Tyra Woodroffe is back from London and seeking to inspire other students at the Barbados Community College.

Woodroffe, a 19-year-old graduate of the BCC's design programme, recently visited the institution after completing a six-month stint at the England headquarters of international designers, Jenny Blanc Interiors.

Along with giving an overview of her "eye-opening" experience in London to the BCC's 2014-2015 Interior Design class, Woodroffe and Jenny Blanc's Caribbean Director, Emma Blanc, presented the students

with hundreds of samples of fabric of varying colours, textures and designs.

"Designing is an exciting career and my trip to London allowed me to be more involved in the hands-on aspect. It was different and enlightening and the exposure also allowed me to benefit from a wider scope of design techniques and experiences," said Woodroffe.

Explaining why she opted to provide the current BCC students with such a varied range of fabric samples, the emerging designer said BCC students were always challenged to find wide varieties of fabrics and they would certainly be useful.

This was underscored by Design Tutor, Stephen Jackman,

who accepted the samples on behalf of the class, and thanked Woodroffe and Jenny Blanc for their kind gesture. "Fabric samples are essential for interior designers and will enhance their portfolios and knowledge," he said.

While in England, Woodroffe also succeeded in gaining City and Guilds certification in computer-assisted designing (AutoCad 2) and will fulfil the second half of her scholarship programme through a six-month attachment at the Hometown-based showroom of Jenny Blanc in Barbados. The emerging designer was also formally presented with her C&G certificate by Sue Thomas-Richardson, the Design Director

of Jenny Blanc.

Through the partnership with the BCC, Woodroffe emerged as the first winner of the Jenny Blanc all-expenses paid Scholarship last June after students were assessed on their course work and a special project that included the interior design of a four-bedroom luxury home - complete with furniture, fabrics, lighting and functional spaces.

The next scholarship will be offered in 2016 and Jenny Blanc Interiors also revealed to students that the top two BCC students from the 2014-2015 class and the top two from the 2015-2016 class will all be eligible to compete for the prized all-expenses paid scholarship.

Sir Neville comments on study

THE Fair Trading Commission (FTC) has conducted a study on the renewable energy sector. This has been stated by Sir Neville Nicholls, the Chairman of the FTC.

He said that the study is being done to identify any potential anti competitive issues. Sir Neville gave opening remarks just before the presentation of this year's FTC lecture by Ambassador Dr. Marion Williams, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Barbados to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations.

The Chairman told the event at the Acera Beach Hotel and Spa, that the findings will be discussed later this month during the annual fair competition training workshop for business persons.

According to Sir Neville, this provides an opportunity for the Commission to engage with its stakeholders on a range of relevant issues.

He also gave a report on other matters related to the renewable energy in Barbados. The Chairman referred to the application by the Barbados Light and Power Company for a review of the billing arrangement of the renewable energy rider programme.

He pointed out that the Commission had concluded that for customers whose renewable energy system had the capacity higher than two kilowatts, the billing arrangement would be buy-all sell-all whereas customers with smaller systems had the option to choose either the buy all sell, or pre-existing sale of excess arrangement.

Sir Neville said that two weeks ago the FTC agreed that the Barbados Light and Power Company should increase the capacity to 20 megawatts based on the company's submission.