

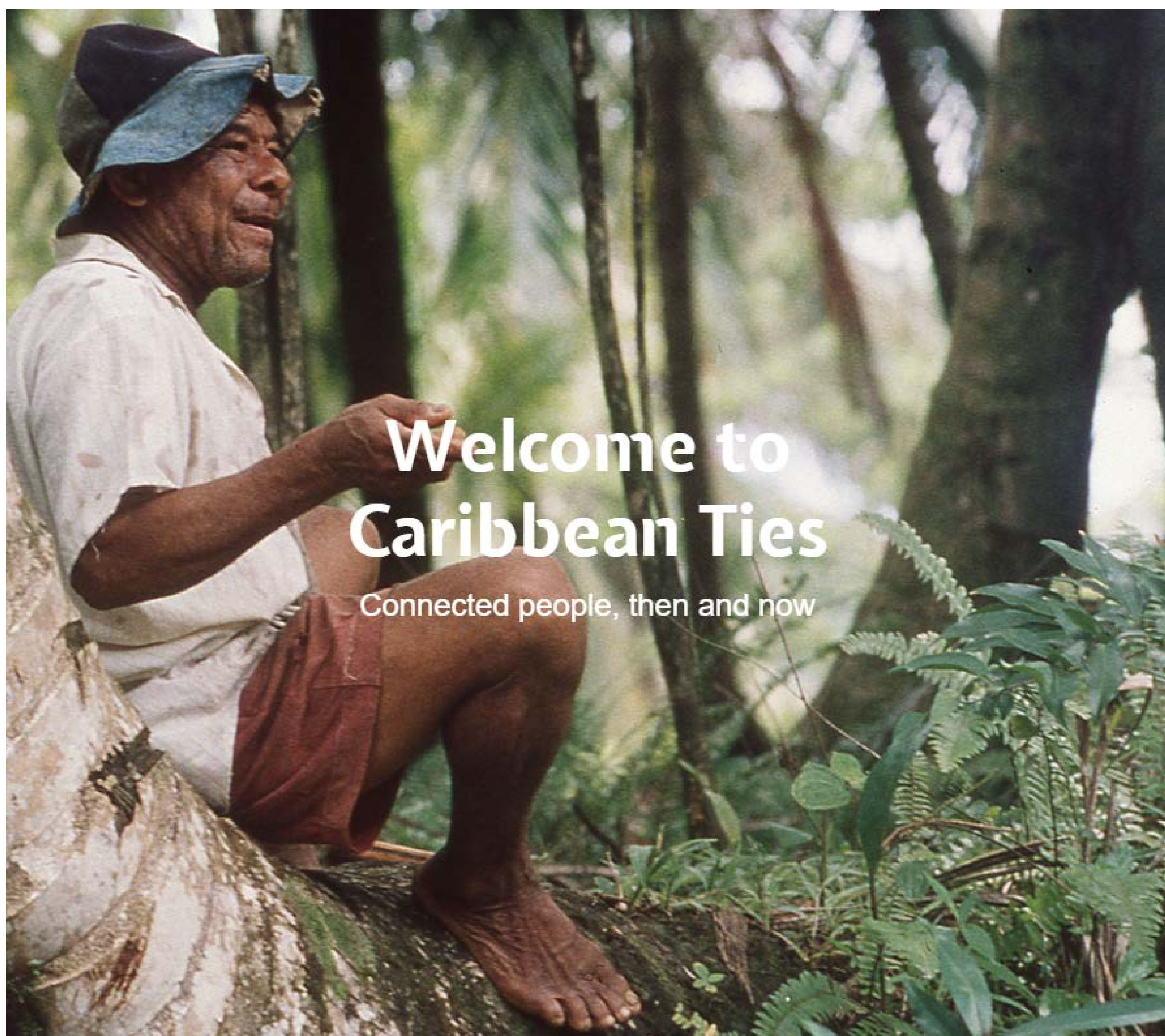
About We Heritage

Welcome to We Heritage, the monthly newsletter by the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative will keep stakeholders abreast of the advocacy, research and developmental work of the National Trust, and we are honoured to share it with you.

If there are any topics/stories you think we should cover, please send us an email at tiycross.lovelace@nationaltrust.tt and we will consider adding it!

The National Trust at Work

Our Caribbean Ties



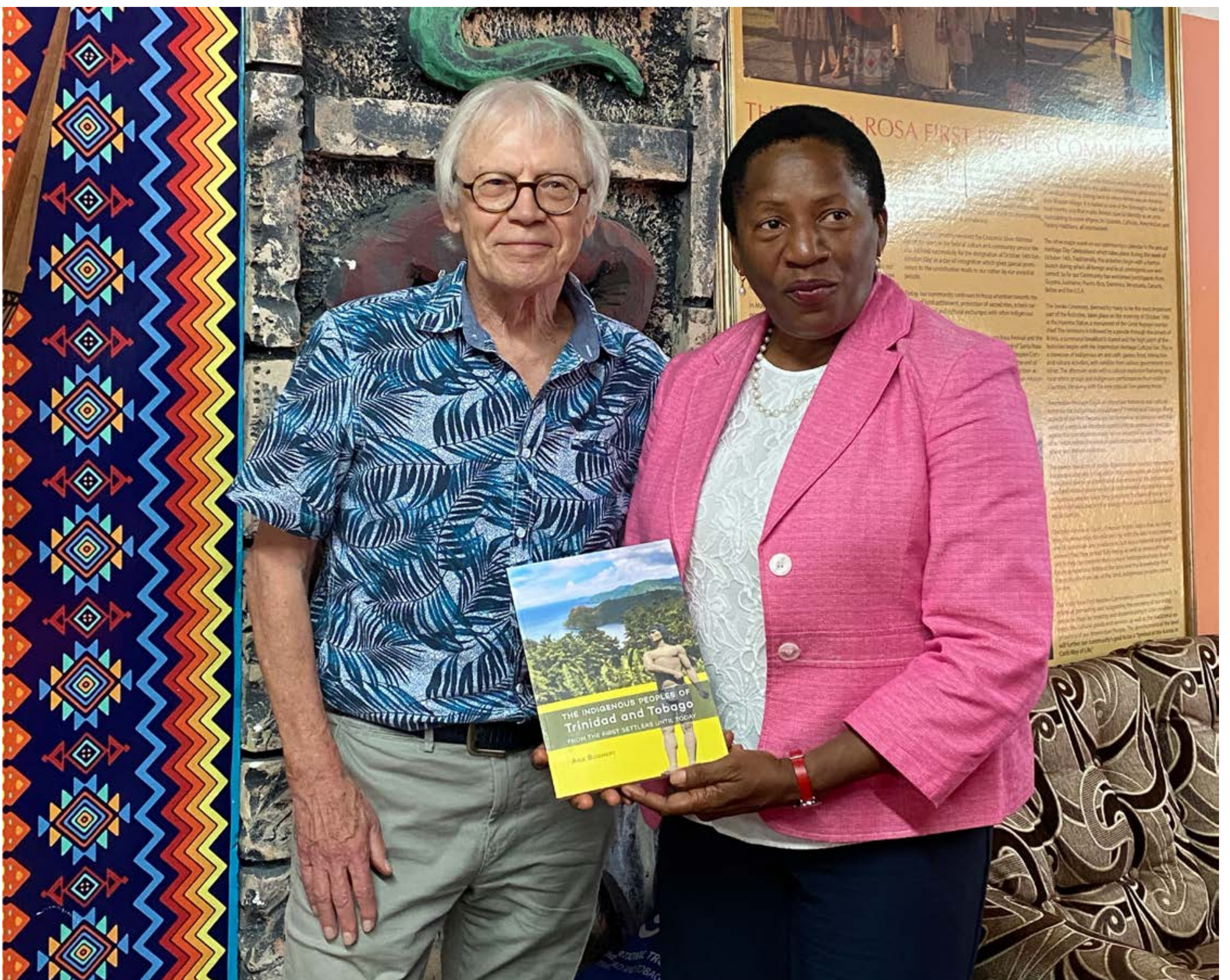
By Ashleigh Morris, Heritage Preservation and Research Officer

The Caribbean Ties Exhibition showcases the latest research on the connections between past and present indigenous cultures and multi-ethnic communities in the Caribbean region. The exhibition is designed to engage visitors of all ages and interests with its state-of-the-art, interactive format and customizable modular concept and components.

Recently launched in Trinidad at the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community Centre, the Caribbean Ties Exhibition was a resounding success, attracting numerous guests and offering a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the region's rich and diverse heritage. The exhibition has been displayed in 17 countries across the Caribbean and Europe, presenting the results of the NEXUS1492 project.

Honouring our indigenous heritage is crucial in preserving and promoting the nation's cultural identity. The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago is dedicated to this task by safeguarding cultural and historical landmarks, hosting events and exhibitions to educate the public and advocating for the preservation of heritage sites. Through their efforts, the National Trust helps to create a sense of pride and awareness among the local communities, encouraging them to become stewards of their heritage.

Caribbean Ties is a must-see for anyone interested in the history, culture, and people of the Caribbean region. The exhibition will remain at the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community Center until February 28th. Stay tuned for where it will be next.



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) PROFESSOR ARIE BOOMERT AND THE HONOURABLE PENNELOPE BECKLES-ROBINSON, THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ARIMA

Resilient Heritage Trinidad & Tobago

An Origin Story



By Crystal Austin, Grants Officer

It all started on the island of Nantucket.

That's where the idea sprouted in the head of our Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer, Kara Roopsingh, to increase the climate resilience of T&T's heritage sites.

Like our country, the small, historically rich island is faced with the stark reality of a changing climate.

Witnessing that community's efforts to preserve its heritage in the face of this threat, and working with the inspirational Marty Hylton, then Director of University of Florida's Historic Preservation Program (UFHPP), Kara felt compelled to do the same in T&T. Thus Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago was born!

Years of discussions between the two parties gave birth to a partnership project, and funding was sought and approved through the prestigious AFCP, administered by the US Embassy POS. Resilient Heritage T&T is well underway, with collaboration from UFHPP, who facilitated training last year on the tools and techniques being used for the project, and the Craig Group.



**Resilient
Heritage**
TRINIDAD+TOBAGO



STAKEHOLDERS TAKE PART IN PHOTOGRAMMETRY TRAINING AT THE NATIONAL TRUST'S MILLE FLEURS OFFICE

Heritage in Focus: Hayes Court

Magnificent restoration

After months of diligent work, the restoration of Hayes Court has added some more sparkle to the Magnificent 7!

Check it out when next you are in the neighbourhood.



HAYES COURT. IMAGES COURTESY: GRAEME SUITE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

Regional Heritage: Forts of the Caribbean



HT CAP-HAITIEN AREA CITADELLE LAFERRIERE (IMAGE SOURCE: DAVID PIRMANN, FLIKR.COM)

By Pauline Philip, Operations Coordinator

The Caribbean is littered with forts built in the region's colonial period, a time of war and conflict. Though we do not have the space here to talk about all of them, we'd like to introduce four of these stone reminders of that period that are still standing today.

Several Caribbean forts have received the designation of World Heritage sites by UNESCO. One of these is the well-preserved Brimstone Hill fortress in St Kitts and Nevis which was designed by the British military and built by African slaves. Construction began in 1690 and took almost 100 years to be completed.

The Citadelle Laferriere in Haiti is also a World Heritage site. Built in the early 19th-century on top of L'Eveque mountain, it was commissioned by the Haitian revolutionary Henri Christophe, and built by former slaves. It was a big part of the defence against the French and the first example of African influenced architecture in this part of the world.

In the World Heritage area of Old Havana in Cuba we find Morro Castle called Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro by the Spanish after the three biblical Magi. The fortress was designed by Italian engineer Battista Antonelli and constructed in 1589. The British captured it from the Spanish in 1762 and returned it a year later as part of the Treaty of Paris. Morro Castle protected the Havana harbour via a chain which was strung across the water to another fort at La Punta.

The fourth site is Fort George in Grenada. Constructed in 1667 it was called Fort Royal but the British later renamed it.

This fort has played an important role in the history of Grenada especially during the Grenadian Revolution in 1979 and US invasion four years later. It became the headquarters of the People's Revolutionary Army and the name was again changed to Fort Rupert. On October 19th, 1983, more than 20 persons including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and four of his cabinet members were executed by firing squad in the courtyard of the fort.



COURTYARD OF FORT GEORGE, GRENADA (IMAGE SOURCE: ALBERT SYDNEY, CREATIVE COMMONS)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

www.caribbeanjournal.com – 12 great forts of the Caribbean by Caribbean journal staff, 30.9.2013

International Heritage: Repatriation of Historic Artefacts

By Pauline Philip, Operations Coordinator

In recent years museums in developed countries have been under increasing pressure to return pieces that were stolen or taken by force from their countries of origin during the time of colonial rule.

Some institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the Denver Art Museum have recently returned antiquities to their rightful owners. In October 2022 the National Gallery of Art and the National Museum of African Art returned 29 sculptures known as Benin bronzes that were looted from the royal palace in the 1890s, to Nigeria after a request from the Nigerian government and in the US the Manhattan district attorney's office seized 27 looted artifacts from the Met which they intend to return to Egypt and to Italy.

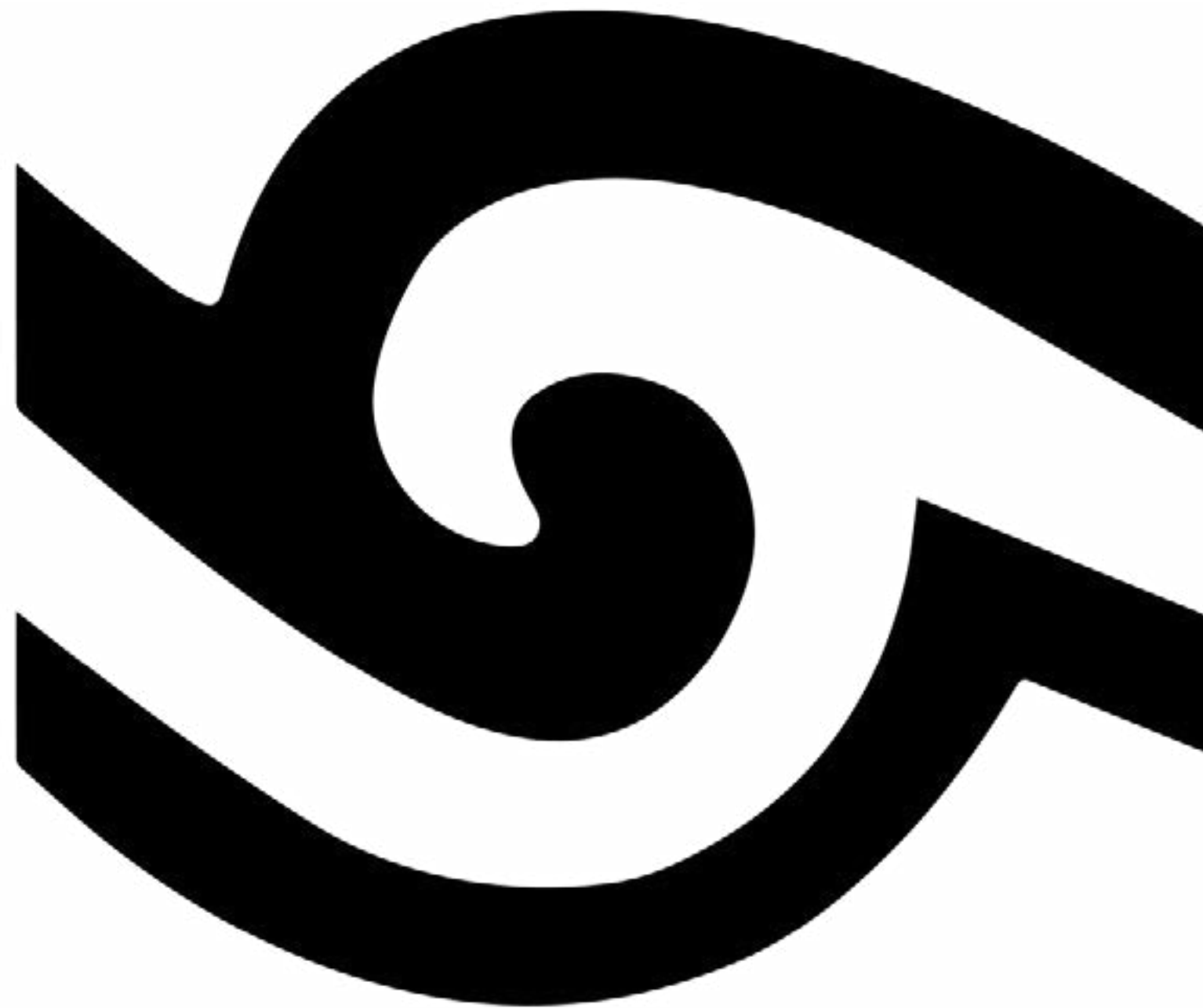
At the Smithsonian Institute, a return transfer can be requested by a community, a government, or a descendant with claims of ownership, or an internal curator can initiate the process based on his/her research.



A SCULPTURE FROM THE MID 16TH TO 17TH CENTURY DEPICTING WARRIORS THAT IS AMONG THE BENIN BRONZES HELD BY THE SMITHSONIAN. THE MUSEUM SAID THAT IT WOULD RETURN A MAJORITY OF ITS COLLECTION OF THE BRONZES TO NIGERIA (IMAGE COURTESY: FRANKO KHOURY/NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICA ART, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION)

The claim is investigated extensively before the process can move forward using provenance research, which is the study of an object's history of ownership throughout its existence.

While many people welcome this trend towards repatriation, there are also dissenting voices, some from within the field, from those who believe that the safety and preservation of the artefacts cannot be guaranteed outside of the museum setting. They fear that the developing countries from which the artefacts come do not possess the financial and other resources of the colonial powers to preserve these historically and culturally important items. What do you think?



THE NATIONAL TRUST OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

About the National Trust

The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago was established by Act 11 of 1991 and amended by Act No 31 of 1999. The Trust is established to:

- Identify built and natural properties and sites of interest
- Formally list properties and sites important to our national heritage to prevent destruction or to ensure discussion prior to agreed modification.
- Make provision for access to and enjoyment of properties of interest by the public
- Encourage research and acquire records of properties of interest and historical artefacts
- Conduct education and awareness campaigns to ensure general acceptance of the rich and diverse heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.