Kara M. Roopsingh
[redacted]

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cultural heritage professional, curator, researcher, instructor, and project leader with talents in planning and implementing all stages of international grant projects and selecting the most effective approaches and processes for timely completion. Outstanding organization and risk management abilities which allows a smooth translation of the big picture into operational and policy elements. Manager with substantial experience leading all stages of local, regional, and international research, grants, cultural heritage, climate change and geography projects. These experiences have allowed me to deftly lead cross-functional teams to meet objectives by strategizing and implementing effective solutions.

EXPERIENCE

MUSEUM OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE

Museum Curator | October 2024-present

- Works in conjunction with executive management to develop the strategic direction and establish initiatives to fulfill the mission of the Museum.
- Develops and oversees the annual Museum budget and all expenditure items.
- Interprets and assists in the formulation of administrative policies for the museum.
- Supervises a small group of subordinate curatorial and other staff.
- Negotiates for new exhibits and determines the scope of exhibits.
- Investigates and determines new methods and techniques for restoring, preserving and exhibiting specimens and labels new exhibits.
- Conducts research on new collections and prepares related reports for library material.
- Orders the purchase of material related to the physical plant and assets of the museum.
- Promotes the Museum through special exhibits, lectures, school visits and through the media.
- Develops and maintains Museum educational publications.
- Establishes and maintains contact with other museums, curators and institutions for exchange of information and data.
- Understands the role of technology in information exchange and works to ensure that the Museum employs current and innovative methods needed to reach multiple demographic groups.
- Monitors and evaluates program effectiveness; effects change required for improvement.

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND (WMF)

Regional Co-coordinator of the Coastal Connections Caribbean Hub |Feb 2026-May 2027

• Leading a project to create a working network, coordinate regional collaboration, develop and manage stakeholder engagement, and strategic initiatives to strengthen coastal resilience, knowledge-sharing, and sustainable development across the Caribbean.

Caribbean Regional Program Development Fellow |April-June 2024

• Investigated and documented relevant issues in heritage preservation within the Caribbean, identified priorities for WMF engagement, especially related to climate adaptation and resilience, and tourism.

• Lead brainstorming sessions with Caribbean professionals familiar with the region to identify priorities and develop possible strategies.

• Researched and identified areas of opportunity for knowledge exchange among heritage practitioners and stewards in the Caribbean.

• Reported and identified opportunities for the development of a regional Caribbean program, including potential projects, initiatives, and local partners with strategic recommendations.

THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) | WASHINGTON DC

Professional Affiliation |Culture and Tourism Section, Department of Economic Development |March - October 2024

• Reviewed OAS documentation on Culture and Development, including that of the Inter American Committee on Culture.

• Reviewed technical documentation, including existing and executed projects related to resilience and cultural heritage.

• Prepared a project profile on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change.

• Completed a presentation to a Working Group of the Inter American Committee on Culture on the project profile on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change.

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer | January 2015 – October 2024

- Coordinated site monitoring visits to verify adherence to the National Trust Act, Chap 40:53 protocols and good preservation practice guidelines.
- Managed three portfolios of international grants including an EU Grant, and an INTO Grant. Wrote, applied and currently manages the *Resilient Heritage T&T Projec*t funded by the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation through the US Embassy Port of Spain. Resilient Heritage T&T focuses on the documentation, conservation, and enhanced resilience of two heritage areas. It hopes to serve as a model framework for conserving and adapting heritage sites across Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Region to be more resilient to climate change.
- Developed and Supervised staff schedules and leads the Heritage Preservation and Research Unit.

- Established strategic goals for broad-scale research through the acquisition of appropriate partnerships, funding and program support.
- Builds the institution's research and preservation portfolio per the long-term strategic plan.
- Organized, facilitated, coordinates regional and local meetings, conferences and event management associated with Cultural Heritage Festivals, Tours, Cultural Events and other activities.
- Directed multiphase research and grant projects from conception to monitoring and evaluation by overseeing training and recruitment of staff and creating reporting frameworks to be able to meet international reporting standards efficiently and effectively.
- Maintained and built relationships with international bodies, UNESCO Commission for T&T, and INTO (International National Trusts Organisation), ICOFOM LAC International Council for Museology Latin America and the Caribbean) and assist with alignment with local and international standards of reporting.
- Fostered relationships with NGOs, local government and other community organisations by assessing needs, procuring new projects, and negotiating budgets and contracts with new and existing organisations.
- Advised and supports staff on parameters of research, conservation, and project development.
- Created, curated and/or implemented exhibitions (Details Exhibition created from volunteer stakeholders which spent weeks in various locations around Trinidad and multiple locations in Tobago)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES OPEN CAMPUS

Postgraduate Course Instructor | August 25th to December 20th 2019

- Course Instructor at the University of the West Indies, Open Campus for Organisation of American States (OAS) funded graduate course: *Values-Based Heritage Site Management*.
- Led course independently, including lectures, student communications, and student online platform engagement.
- Marked and created assignments, proctored, and created assessments and provided grades according to university standards.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Geography Undergraduate Researcher & Teaching Assistant | January 2010 - January 2015

- St Augustine for the following courses: GEOG 1131 Human Geography, GEOG 3001 Caribbean Geography, GEOG 2002 Geographic Information Systems, GEOG 3000 Quantitative Methods in Geography.
- Supported advanced field research by assisting with experimental design, execution and results tracking.
- Documented attendance and completed assignments to maintain full class and student records.
- Oversaw class preparation of over 40 students in Geography courses.

- Checked course materials, lessons and assignments for discrepancies and helped senior teachers resolve problems.
- Led tutorials independently with minimal oversight from professors.
- Marked assignments, proctored tests and provided grades according to university standards.
- Taught small groups of students focused on specific parts of the coursework.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- Board member; National Museum and Art Gallery: April 8th 2026 – April 7th 2029. (Government)
- Vice-President; Trinidad and Tobago Alliance of Museums. (Non-Profit Organisation)

PUBLICATIONS

RESILIENT HERITAGE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO BUILDING RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION, by Kara Roopsingh, Cleary Larkin, Kimberly Rose in 2026 Routledge Handbook on Cultural Heritage and Climate Justice, eds. by Mesut Dinler and William Megarry. ISBN 9781032977263

GUARDIANS OF THE PAST: CREATION AND PERPETUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO by Ashleigh Morris, Kara Roopsingh, and Zara Ali. n.d. In Local Voices, Global Debates: The Uses of Archaeological Heritage in the Caribbean., Leiden University. ISBN 9789004692947

ACCESSING CARIBBEAN DEFINITIONS OF THE MUSEUM: A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT by Shani Roper, Natalie McGuire, Kara Roopsingh et al. in Latin American and Caribbean Perspectives on the New Museum Definition 2022 eds. Vinicius Monção and Luciana Carvalho, Published by ICOFOM LAC. ISBN 978-2-491997-66-3

UNITED PETROVARADIN: MANAGING THE FORTRESS by Ksenija Krsmanović, Simon Parkin, Kara Roopsingh in Petrovaradin Dossier. 2019. Published by the Faculty of Sport and Tourism, Novi Sad, Serbia Europa Nostra, Belgrade, Serbia Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the City of Novi Sad, Serbia. ISBN 978-86-85871-40-5

EDUCATION

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY | MPhil Geography
The University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, 2016
Thesis Title: ***"Think not how Arima is insignificant to the world but how the world is insignificant to Arima"*: The Role of Cultural Heritage in Supporting Community and Sense of Place in the Borough of Arima, Trinidad.**

Graduate Cultural Studies Courses completed: Theory and Conceptualisation of Culture, Methods of Inquiry into Culture, Debates in Caribbean Cultural Identity.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in Geography, History minor, Upper Second Honours
The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, 2009.

CERTIFICATION / FELLOWSHIP

LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE STEWARDS IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES 22–27 September 2024, Training course at The Hague, the Netherlands directed by Cultural Emergency Response (CER) & Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI)

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP: FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME – AUGUST 2023- JUNE 2024
10-month Fellowship at University of California, Davis, as a Hubert Humphrey Fulbright Fellow with a focus on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage.

ANTIGUA RESEARCH STUDIO 8-26 May 2023
Held in Government House, St. John's, Antigua as Part of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Commonwealth Heritage Skills Training Programme, Funded By The Hamish Ogston Foundation and the Commonwealth Heritage Forum.

STRENGTHENING UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COURSE - 2021
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Course on the Training Manual for UNESCO.
Course: Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Certified PADI Open Water Diver - 2014

MUSEOLOGY AND MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COURSE - 2019

Capacity Building Programme, National Museum Institute and the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, India. 21st August to 3 September 2019.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS WORKSHOP - 2018

Arthur Lok Jack, Global School of Business, University of the West Insides, Trinidad and Tobago.

MANAGING HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPES: SUMMER ACADEMY -2018
UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. Europa Nostra Serbia, Petrovaradin, Novi Sad, Serbia.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) AND UWI OPEN CAMPUS - 2017

Museum Conservation Skills *– Graduate Course*
Museum management; developing museum policies, documentation and record-keeping, collections management; conservation within a heritage facility; the agents of deterioration – facilities and object deterioration, preventative conservation; disaster and recovery management and reporting.

Values-Based Heritage Site Management *– Graduate Course*
Application of methodologies of values-based heritage management to Caribbean heritage sites; Canons of site documentation, assessment, monitoring and evaluation; Heritage site evaluation and documentation.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME - 2014

The University of Florida. Preservation Institute: Nantucket, Massachusetts, USA.
Curriculum: World Heritage and Stewardship/ Documenting Heritage Resources / 3D Digital Documentation.

CARIBBEAN HERITAGE COURSE, UNIVERSITY OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, CURACAO - 2011

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Caribbean Capacity Building Certificate Programme.

- *Module 1- Application of the World Heritage Convention*
- *Module 5 - Management of Historic City Centres*

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- **3rd December 2024 – "Resilient Heritage: Trinidad and Tobago."** International Conference of National Trusts, Amman, Jordan.
- ***19th October 2024*** **– Panel Discussion "Cultural Heritage Through an Environmental Lens: A Caribbean Perspective."** The Centre for Environmental Justice at the Anacostia Community Museum Virtual Conference.
- ***27th March 2024*** **– Panel discussion "Climate Change, Culture, and Peace in Small Island Developing States".** 'Heritage Based Climate Action' - An International Virtual Conference by ICCROM First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR)
- ***16th June 2022*** **– Resilient Heritage: Trinidad**. Caribbean Urban Forum.
- ***20th April 2021*** – Planning Masterclass Presentation: **From Small Islands to Whole Organisations.** International National Trust Organisation Online Conference.
- ***28th March 2019*** **– International Conference of National Trusts, Bermuda.** Title of Conference Paper: "Heritage Keepers".

- ***5th June 2012*** - **Association of Critical Heritage Studies Inaugural Conference, Sweden.** The Re/Theorisation of Heritage Studies. Title of Conference Paper: "I am Arima: The Role of Memory in the Validation of a Cultural Landscape".
- ***26th February 2012***- **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, New York**. Title of Conference Paper: "Community Boundaries of Exclusion: Investigating the Cultural Landscape of Arima, Trinidad".
- ***17th April 2010*** - **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington DC**. Title of Conference Paper: "Toute Bagai: Defining the Cultural Heritage of Trinidad and Tobago".
- ***27-28th September 2008*** - International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage. Topic: "Finding the Spirit of Place". **International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS),** Quebec, Canada.

RESEARCH INTERESTS: **Museum Management and Museology| Cultural Heritage Preservation | Community and Place Identity | Cultural Resource Management |Climate Change and Cultural Heritage.**