



Organization of
American States

EXPANDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

PHASE I: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PROJECT SELECTION OCTOBER 2012 – JUNE 2013

The project aims to contribute to expanding the socio-economic benefits of regional Cultural Heritage as valuable, non-renewable public resources through a new paradigm of public engagement.

This first phase will include a detailed analysis of needs and opportunities in the region, development of a framework for regional collaboration and planning, and recommendations regarding possible future pilot projects that could serve as models for multi-level, interdisciplinary, and participatory heritage engagement programs that enhance the protection of cultural heritage resources in the Caribbean.

We encourage all Caribbean Member States to join in this initiative and participate actively in all phases of the project, including the stakeholder survey, the regional meeting and on-site consultations, and the development of final recommendations for action.

Background

Meetings of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Culture in the Inter-American context have identified protection and promotion of cultural heritage as a priority for at least a decade. Many countries in the region have made significant advances and have successful experiences to share in this field. As Technical Secretariat to the Meetings of Ministers and to the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC, which is charged with monitoring implementation of the mandates of the Meetings of Ministers), the OAS Office of Education and Culture (DHDEC/SEDI) has worked with member states on several initiatives to support efforts to protect and promote cultural heritage. In particular, in 2007, and 2008 with financial and technical support from the U.S. Department of State's Cultural Heritage Center, the OEC organized three sub regional workshops on combating trafficking and looting of heritage objects and sites – two in Mesoamerica and one in the Andean region.

During the V Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (Washington, D.C., November 9-10, 2011), Ministers agreed in the Communiqué "Culture, common denominator for integral development", among other things, to: "Recognize the importance of safeguarding and promoting our tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and its contribution to the integral and sustainable development of our communities; and entrust the CIC, with support from the Office of Education and Culture, with the design and execution of its 2011-2013 Work Plan, aimed at strengthening capacity in the cultural sector and deepening cooperation in the thematic areas agreed at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in the framework of CIDI in Barbados in 2008 and building on the discussions and recommendations arising from this Meeting."

On multiple occasions in the CIC framework, Caribbean member states expressed their interest in obtaining technical support for heritage preservation and development efforts through the CIC. The present project would be a partial response to that interest.

Expected results

The end-of-project situation will mark the beginning of a longer process of addressing regional capacity needs to realize the socio-economic potential of cultural heritage in the Caribbean Region. The outputs of the project will accomplish stand-alone goals as well as lay the foundation for continued capacity building across the region. These outputs include:

- 1. 1 - A detailed situation analysis of cultural heritage needs and opportunities that will inform future strategies for participatory heritage engagement;*
- 2. 2 - A framework for regional collaboration and planning with cultural heritage stakeholders including an online regional cultural heritage information system to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders (across the region and cultural heritage sectors); and*
- 3. 3 - Detailed recommendations for potential pilot projects that will serve as a model for multi-level, interdisciplinary, and participatory heritage engagement programs that enhance the protection of cultural heritage resources.*

Inclusiveness and collaboration are fundamental ethical principles of this project's design. In that respect, attempts will be made to include representatives of populations in vulnerable conditions in terms of income level, gender, educational opportunity, cultural or religious tradition, and immigration or refugee status in the heritage planning and participation process. The initial needs assessment and selection of stakeholders for a regional project meeting will pay particular attention to the diversity of respondents, including gender and age considerations.

This Project enjoys financial support from the U.S. Mission to the OAS. Its execution is coordinated by the OAS Office of Education and Culture, with Coherit Associates LLC as primary technical consultant, with additional support sought, as needed, from other organizations: ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites/ National Committees throughout the Americas and the world); local ICOMOS in the Caribbean countries; CARIMOS (Monuments and Sites of the Greater Caribbean) ; INTO (International National Trusts Organization - England and Wales); USNT United States National Trust for Historic Preservation; YUDW Yale Urban Design Workshop (United States of America). Direct participation of experts in cultural heritage preservation and promotion from Ministries in charge of Culture, Tourism, Regional Planning, and the Environment, as well as other public and non-public institutions will be fundamental to ensuring project success.

For further information, please contact:

**Office of Education and
Culture
Organization of American
States
Washington D.C.
Tel. 202 458 3368
E-mail: cultura@oas.org**