

# CULTURE IN MOTION

FY 2011-2012

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CULTURE AND HISTORY | CULTURE IN MOTION | ANNUAL REPORT FY 2011-2012



N I C H

national institute of culture and history

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

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Cover Photo: Sam Hamilton of the World  
Culture Band performing at the Mr. Peetaz  
Brokdong Bram, 2011

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# ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

## VISION

A Belize that embraces its diverse cultural heritage, promotes understanding and appreciation of its people, and ensures their growth and development in a global community.

## MISSION

NICH is Belize’s premiere cultural institution dedicated to creating an enabling environment for the development, conservation, promotion, expression and accessibility of culture in all its diversity.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Respect, Integrity, Tolerance and excellence are our hallmarks

Culture is central to the overall development of our country

Education is fundamental to understanding and appreciating culture

People have a right to cultural expression and benefits

Culture contributes positively to building social cohesion and fostering national identity

Alliance building is essential for developing our cultural potential

Promotion of culture, nationally and internationally is an integral part of Belize’s development.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF NICH 2010-2015

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:**  
CONSOLIDATE INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:**  
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NICH

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:**  
GROW, EMPOWER, AND SUSTAIN A DYNAMIC CULTURAL INDUSTRY

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:**  
MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL EXPRESSION AND APPRECIATION THROUGH CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5:**  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6:**  
IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7:**  
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL IDENTITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

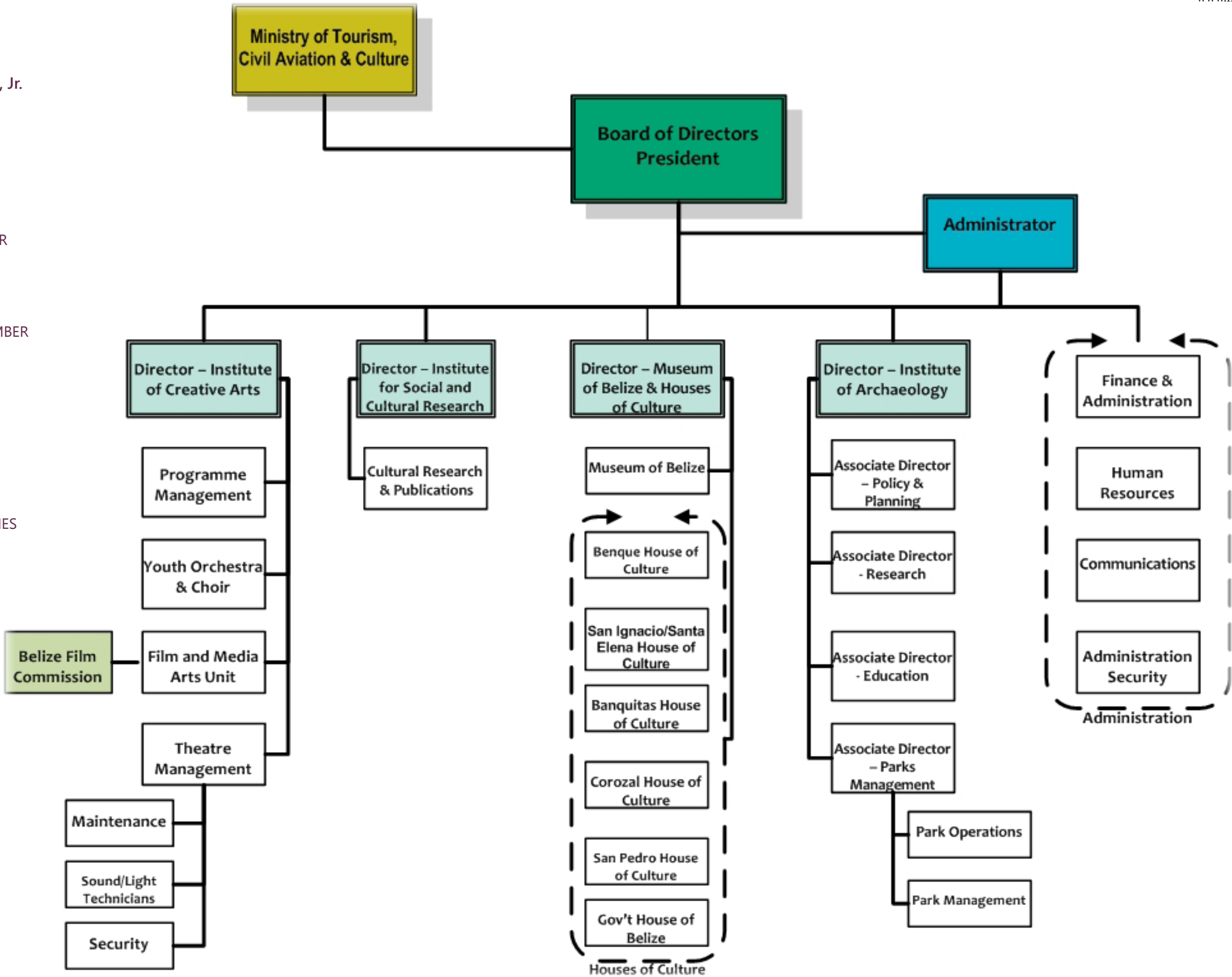
MINISTER - HON. MANUEL HEREDIA, Jr.  
CEO - MR. LINDSAY GARBUTT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- MS. DIANE C. HAYLOCK, CHAIRPERSON
- DR. HERMAN BYRD, BOARD MEMBER
- MRS. MAMIE MARTINEZ, BOARD MEMBER
- MR. TONY WRIGHT, BOARD MEMBER
- MS. SUZETTE GIBSON, BOARD MEMBER
- MS. ROSITA MAI, BOARD MEMBER
- MR. LINDSAY GARBUTT, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
- MR. GIL WILLIAMS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

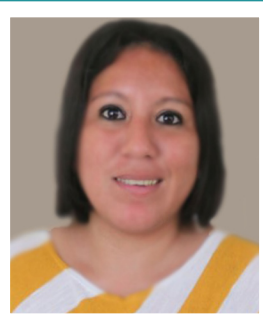
SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- PRESIDENT - DIANE C. HAYLOCK
- ADMINISTRATOR - GIL WILLIAMS
- DIRECTOR, ICA - GREGORY VERNON
- DIRECTOR, ISCR - NIGEL ENCALADA
- DIRECTOR, MOB/HOCs - SHERILYNE JONES
- DIRECTOR, IA - DR. JAIME AWE



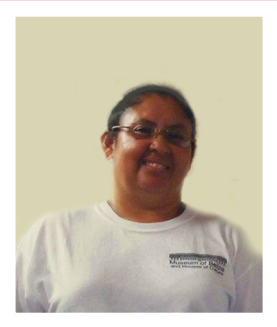
EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

performing  
above  
expectations



TERESITA TORRES  
*Executive Secretary  
President's Office*

loyalty

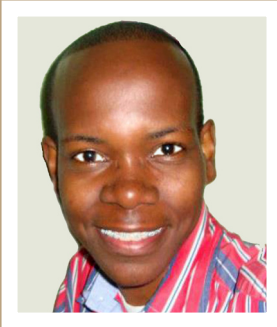


TERESA BATTY  
*Curator  
Museum of Belize/Houses of Culture*



MELISSA BADILLO  
*Archaeologist  
Institute of Archaeology*

integrity



MISON FERGUSON  
*Research Assistant  
Institute for Social and Cultural Research*

positive  
attitude

dedication



DORREN AUGUST  
*Light Technician  
Institute of Creative Arts*

motivated

thank  
you!

## MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Amid a precarious global economy, Belize has been confronted with the universal challenge of achieving greater feats with fewer resources. In response to this limitation, and in recognition of the crucial role that cultural development plays in moving our country forward, we have had to become more innovative and strategic in the promotion, preservation, and development of our national culture and heritage. It is in this spirit that the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture through the National Institute of Culture and History worked diligently to ensure that the strategic initiatives implemented throughout this fiscal year resulted in significant value creation for our stakeholders.

This was especially important as we reached a milestone in our country’s history, celebrating thirty years of political independence, a notable achievement. As the Co-Chair of the National Celebrations Commission, it gave me great pride to be a part of the year-long festivities to mark this momentous occassion. Throughout the country our people came together to pay tribute to all that makes us uniquely Belizean.

Undeniably, cultural and anthropological tourism are vastly becoming our signature service products that generate considerable revenue for the local economy and while we must meet these increasing demands, this trend could become more detrimental than beneficial, if it is not properly managed.

NICH has taken proactive measures to safeguard our intangible heritage through the implementation of various initiatives including the development of strategic plans to upgrade our archaeological parks to make them more visitor friendly while maintaining the integrity of the site. We have also enhanced our park rangers’ ability to mitigate the looting of our sites and other illegal activities that have become more prevalent in the archaeological parks and nearby areas by having them trained and sworn in as Special Constables.

Similarly, we have taken a more systematic approach in the development and professionaliztion of our cultural workers. NICH has started the process of engaging artists and other cultural workers through their relevant associations and organizations, an initiative that is expected to yield more far reaching effects at the industry level. These relevant bodies will be entering a formal



agreement with NICH by the middle of the next fiscal year.

Another significant undertaking has been to form strategic alliances with like-minded organizations at the national, regional and international levels. These alliances will enhance our ability to enable research and cultural retrieval projects as well as establish a National Museum of Belize, one of our long-term goals.

And finally, we are especially thankful for the kindness and generosity of our industry patners, who contributed considerably to our artistic and cultural development. Without their support of our festivals, exhibits, performance art showcases, seminars and symposia, our success would not have been profound or effective.

We invite you to share in our journey as we embark on yet another grounbreaking year that includes the end of the Maya Long Count calendar, consultations to effect a Cultural Policy, and the World Indigenous Music Festival.

Best Regards,

Hon. Manuel Heredia,  
Minister,  
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, and Culture

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The National Institute of Culture and History has had an impressive year! We are proud to present to you a myriad of accomplishments within these pages of the institution’s Annual Report for the fiscal year of March 2011 through to April 2012.

The 2011-2012 fiscal year encompassed our nation’s thirtieth anniversary of independence, an official visit from Prince Harry of Wales, the country’s first ever international stone sculpture symposium, the first-ever forum with the Prime Ministers of Belize, and the launch of Maya 2012 Calendar of Events, which together with our other accomplishments enabled us to achieve excellence in our cultural initiatives.

The institution’s substantiated through NICH - the Institute of Archaeology, Institute for Social and Cultural Reasearch, Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture, and the Institute of Creative Arts - have been working assiduously to execute the organization’s five-year strategic plan, which was developed and introduced in 2010. Now in it’s second year of implementation, we are even more pleased to report that we have made considerable progress in achieving our strategic objectives.

The 2012-2013 fiscal year, promises to be even more remarkable with the sustained and commendable efforts of our instutitional leaders and staff who are dedicated to preserving our nation’s cultural heritage, the promotion and professionalization of our cultural workers, and shaping a national identity.

We thank you, our stakeholders and partners, for your trust and continuous support as we work to fulfill our mission and realize our vision.

Yours in Art and Culture

Diane C. Haylock,  
President,  
National Institute of Culture and History



“Et des quae  
il in rem. Et  
hil imi, es acea  
vel eostis ratiis  
moluptia net  
reperiatur snia  
quos voluptasped  
ut velendic  
tem voloriozem  
velibus, si volorer  
ionsequo te  
volupt”

## THE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE



Above: Opening of Horizons Photo Exhibit

The President of the National Institute of Culture and History is tasked with the general oversight of the organization and its institutions and is entrusted to lead the organization in its fulfillment of its mission and vision.

The President spearheads key partnerships at the highest levels of government, global agencies and organizations. The President also leads policy development, and as such assumes direct leadership on the organization’s most crucial projects and undertakings.

**Some Key Partnerships** currently include our sister counterpart in the Ministry, the Belize Tourism Board - with both NICH and the BTB working to promote Belizean culture through varying mediums, it is still essential that these bodies operate in unison. Similarly, the Sustainable Tourism Program, Restore Belize and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) share some commonalities with NICH’s objectives and have been instrumental in the organization’s work.

While NICH continues to work to promote the development of Belizean culture, it is cognizant that this cannot happen without exposure and appreciation of other cultures, making it worth our while to collaborate with the many Embassies and Consulates posted in Belize. While NICH enjoys a mutually beneficial relationship with our diplomatic community, there are

some who have been exceptional contributors to the promotion and development of our cultural and artistic endeavours, including the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Embassy of Mexico, the Embassy of the United States of America, and the Embassy of Brazil, and more recently, the Embassy of Israel and the Embassy of Austria.

Through these key partnerships, among many others, NICH has been able to provide opportunities to explore cultural diversity and enable artistic growth in a variety of genres.

One such opportunity was the participation in **the 42<sup>nd</sup> World School Children Art Exhibit hosted in Taipei, Taiwan** where seven entries from the St. Joseph Primary School in Belize City were displayed in the exhibit, with one entry being awarded the bronze medal - a remarkable achievement by any measure, especially as the exhibit organizers received more than eighteen thousand entries from more than one hundred countries.

**The Taiwan @ 100, Belize @ 30 Art Exhibit**, in honor of both nation’s celebrating milestones in their political history, featured Taiwanese now living in Belize who have been so inspired by their Belizean environment that they were moved to create the momentous pieces of art in different mediums and genres displayed in the exhibit. This exhibit was featured in several galleries around the country.



Above: Student painting one of entries displayed at the 42nd World School Children Exhibit

## THE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

Among our many **notable achievements**, it is paramount that we highlight the founding of a **National Youth Orchestra and Choir** which is meant to encourage youths to appreciate music and to work as a team touring and representing our country using indigenous as well as classical instruments, while using local and international compositions to portray a true Belizean symphony. Youths have been invited from the educational sector, the private music institutions as well as from the impoverished areas through Restore Belize to merge as one.

We are working diligently in securing a full partnership with the Youth Orchestra of the Americas who is willing to facilitate workshops for trainers as well as musicians. Through these workshops we are hoping that our young musicians will become qualified to successfully audition and become members of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas giving Belize a prestigious seat within this world renowned group.

Presently, we have procured the services of four instructors in music, instrumental and vocal technique who are conducting classes to approximately 46 young and vibrant musicians.

*This NICH initiative is currently executed through the Institute of Creative Arts.*

Certainly, creating a national forum for the expression of culture and arts is of utmost importance for NICH, as is the investment in infrastructure that will enable this to happen. Notable progress has been made in securing funding for the establishment of a **National Museum**, which will become an ideal home for our National Collection, which is not only in need of a more adequate space, but should be on public display for all to enjoy.

This year of many firsts for our organization and nation, also hosted **Prince Harry of Wales** during his tour of the Caribbean in honor of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and other government department, NICH organized the cultural entertainment for the Royal Visit, including the Street Festival in Belmopan and his guided tour the Xunantunich Mayan Site.

While we celebrated an incredible year, it was imperative that we take stock of our country’s progress from an anthropological perspective. As such the Institute for Social and Cultural Research organized both the Prime

Ministers’ Forum and the Belize @ 30 Conference. Both of these historic events served as opportunities for us to seriously ponder what we have achieved in the last thirty years as a politically independent nation.

And now, as we look ahead, we have already embarked on a monumental endeavor of marking the end of the Maya Long Count Calendar. While some have postulated that this signifies the end of the world, NICH has taken a positive perspective by asking, “Where will you be when the world begins anew?”. We have declared 2012, the year of the Maya and have tailored our annual events to reflect this declaration.

In recognition of our Mayan heritage and its increased significance this year, we are offering a rare opportunity - we are allowing overnight stays at the Caracol Site during the Spring, Summer, Vernal, and Autumnal Equinox. Additionally, we have introduced a special commemorative 2012 Passport for the NICH Archaeological Sites.

One other key undertaking for the 2012-2013 fiscal year is the introduction of the World Indigenous Music Festival, which will showcase Belize as the landmark destination for experiencing Indigenous cultures and their authentic and diverse music.

NICH will also be embarking on a countrywide consultation to effect a National Cultural Policy that will establish links between culture and development and to identify factors that should be considered when making decisions at the national level.



Above: President signing agreement on behalf of NICH



Xunantunich Mayan Site

# INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY



The IOA is responsible for the management of Belize’s ancient monuments, antiquities and prehistoric heritage. It monitors all ongoing archeological projects in Belize, and manages all archaeological parks and reserves, including several visitor centers. It is also responsible for the curation and conservation of Belize’s national collection of antiquities and the recording of historic sites.

## PARKS MANAGEMENT

An essential component of the IOA’s operations is to manage the archaeological parks, ensuring that the visitors who want to immerse themselves in our cultural heritage can access the sites easily and safely and have the best possible experience as they explore our archaeological wonders.

Preserving our cultural heritage responsibly requires that upgrades and expansions are done in a strategic and systematic manner. Therefore, the IOA commissioned management plans for several archaeological sites and now rely on these strategic blueprints when implementing changes in the parks across the country. This year alone, strategic upgrades include the installation of informative signage, safety rails, improved parking facilities and easier access to equipment used during trail and cave tubing expeditions. These enhancements contribute positively to each visitor’s cultural experience at our sites.

To further enhance the visitor’s experience, a Park Ranger is assigned to each site to oversee it’s daily operations, especially since a vast number of visitors trek through the sites annually. They are also responsible for the monitoring and prevention, where possible, of the looting of artifacts and other historical antiquities. For these reasons our park rangers were trained and sworn in as Special Constables at the Police Training Academy in May 2011. They are now better able to manage illegal activities taking place in our national parks.



Conservation works done at Cahal Pech Arch Park

368,068  
visitors

#1  
caves branch  
131,050

#2  
altun ha  
84,020

#3  
xunantunich  
53,341

### MARCO GONZALEZ PARK ESTABLISHED

In April 2011, a co-management agreement for the Marco Gonzalez Park was completed between NICH’s Institute of Archaeology the Non-Governmental Organization, Marco Gonzalez Maya Site Ambergris Caye, Ltd. of San Pedro Town. Both parties have agreed to coordinate activities together including the daily management of the park and the establishment of a park financial system which has already been put in place.

This archaeological site was first recorded in 1984.

# Safeguarding Our Cultural Heritage

While the Archaeological Park Rangers were trained and sworn in as Special Constables this past year, and in spite of their consistent efforts to prevent looting at the sites, this illegal activity remains a growing concern in safeguarding of our cultural heritage.

In this past year, the most prevalent cases of looting of archaeological sites occurred in the Toledo and Cayo Districts where illegal logging and xate harvesting are commonplace. When looting occurs, Belize loses a piece of its cultural heritage, as these pieces are not documented by the proper authorities, the IOA, and quite possibly, its story is lost. These stolen artifacts are typically exported.

And rarely, if ever, do these pieces of our history find their way back home. Fortunately, however, this was not the case for an early classic period ceramic bowl that was returned to Belize in October, 2011 by the United States Government. The bowl was seized by US Customs and Border Protection, who had it examined by a Professor of Archaeology, who was able to determine that the bowl is an authentic Mayan artifact, and based on its style, was most likely from Northern Belize. Through the Hold Harmless Release Agreement between the United States of America and Belize, the bowl was turned over to NICH for its safe return to its homeland.

## BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE USA

The USA is one of the most lucrative markets for the sale of antiquities; therefore, in June 2011, NICH submitted a dossier to the US State Department requesting a Bilateral Agreement between the two countries to make the importation of antiquities from Belize an illegal activity, punishable under US Law.

Incidentally, when the ceramic bowl was turned over, NICH was delivering a presentation to the US Government to impose import restrictions for the protection of archaeological and ethnographic objects under the 1983 Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act.

This matter is still being negotiated.

## LICENSING OF ANTIQUITIES

The IOA also records and issues licenses for artifacts held in private collections. Under the NICH Act, individuals can apply for licenses to keep antiquities in their possession. However, they cannot sell, bequeath, or take these artifacts out of the country. Recording these antiquities ensures that the pieces in the national inventory are properly documented. During the 2011-2012 period, antiquities held by at least eight individuals were registered and licensed so that these objects can be kept in their possession legally.



Evidence of looting



Repatriated ceramic bowl



Some licensed antiquities

# MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND

Only weeks into what has been universally recognized as the Year of the Maya, construction workers uncovered one of the most sensational archaeological finds in recent Belizean history. As drainage works were being carried out to improve the downtown infrastructure of San Ignacio Town, Cayo, workers discovered pottery and sherds buried far beneath the town's main street, Burns Avenue.

When Antonio Berdall, a staff member from the Institute of Archaeology arrived on the scene, several pots and pieces of shell had already been unearthed. At IOA's prompting, the Police issued an official stop order, after which an impromptu archaeological dig proceeded in the middle of this bustling town.

The IOA Staff, along with students from Galen University and Sacred Heart College carried out an official excavation. Belizeans and tourists alike also had the opportunity to participate in the excavation process, which in the end produced more than twenty whole and partial vessels, stone tools, shells, as well as both human and animal remains.

Naturally this discovery has ignited imaginations and many have wondered about the origins of the remains and vessels found deep beneath this centuries old town. Dr. Jaime

Awe, Director of the IOA and a respected archaeologist, believes that this discovery supports the theory that this section of Burns Avenue was previously a settlement of small households on a small rise that was possibly established in the B.C. era and was inundated by a flash flood around 400 A.D. causing its inhabitants to abandon their homes and move to higher ground. These households were most likely never re-occupied.

The artifacts uncovered beneath Burns Avenue will be prominently featured in the San Ignacio Welcome Center, and have been documented and are now a part of the National Collection of antiquities.



Images from the Burns' Avenue Dig



IOA Booth at 2011 Cacao Festival

### EDUCATION & OUTREACH EFFORTS

An important part of the Institute’s work is to engage in education and outreach initiatives through various mediums. One of which is a public lecture series that reached out to more than **five thousand** primary, secondary and tertiary level **students** at institutions across the country. While students may not gravitate naturally to learning about our ancestors who live many centuries ago, they soon become fascinated and eager to learn more about archaeology and the Maya.

The IOA also disseminates information at community fairs and festivals; their booth is consistently acclaimed as the most interesting and informative.



### BELIZE ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The Belize Archaeology Symposium is another medium through which the Institute ensures that information reaches a broad cross section of those working in cultural tourism or those who are interested in learning more about archaeology. Those who have done archaeological research in Belize are invited to present their findings at this annual event. Now in its 9TH Edition, the Symposium was held in San Ignacio, Cayo under the theme *"Trade and Exchange in the Eastern Maya Lowlands"*.

Some of the findings assert that the Maya of Belize began trading in exotic objects around 1000 B.C., importing materials like jade, obsidian, and marine shell. Other findings also suggest that the Belize Maya were major exporters of salt and other

commodities found in the Caribbean Sea.

A total of thirty-five participants presented papers during the three-day event. Like the previous year, the symposium was a great success, attracting more than a hundred Belizeans, including students, tour guides, and aficionados from across the country. In conjunction with the symposium, Volume 8 of the Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology was completed on time and all printed copies were quickly sold.

### RESTORATIONS

Conservation remains a priority for the Institute. This year extensive work was done to restore sections of the Government House of Culture and its grounds, including a complete restoration of the Sea King. Works were also done to sections of the Cahal Pech Archaeological site.

Late in 2011, the IOA also partnered with Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture, and the Belize Tourism Board to begin working on the Historic Trust legislation, and on the establishment of a historic building data base.



Restoration of the Sea King

### WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN THE WORLD BEGINS ANEW?

In anticipation of December 21, 2012, marking the end of the Maya Long Count calendar and potentially the beginning of a new era, a series of events that pay homage to Maya cultural traditions was launched in January 2012. The calendar was presented to the public during an official ceremony that included the introduction of the '2012 Passport', and a lecture from noted Maya expert Dr. Mark Van Stone, who discussed what the Maya actually prophesied about 2012 and b'ak'tun 13.

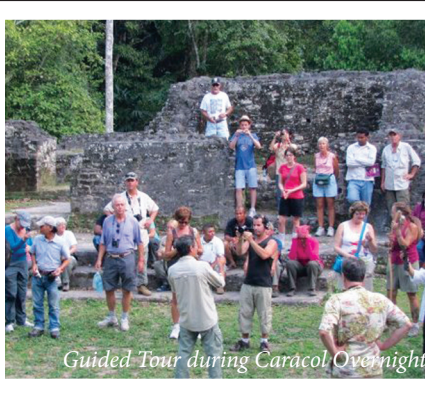
As Belize proudly asserts itself as the Maya Heartland, boasting a multitude of Mayan archaeological sites throughout the country, the 2012 Passport allows visitors to collect stamps from each site visited, a unique keepsake.



Shaman Interview with Great Belize Productions



Caracol Mayan Site



Guided Tour during Caracol Overnight



Fire Ceremony at Caracol Maya Site



Undeniably, the highlight of the year’s events are the extraordinary full access passes during the Spring, Summer, Vernal and Autumnal Equinox at the Caracol Maya site in the Cayo District. Guests are given a special tour of the site by the IOA’s Maya experts and camp under the stars in its main plaza, and at sunrise, awake to experience a traditional maya fire ceremony performed by a shaman.

A mass wedding is also planned for December 12 at the Cahal Pech archeological site.

The year’s events conclude with the highly anticipated festival following the Autumnal Equinox.

# INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RESEARCH

The Institute for Social and Cultural Research is charged primarily with the collecting, conducting and publishing of research on all areas of Belize’s historical, socioeconomic, cultural and anthropological aspects of Belizean life. These areas of responsibility require that the ISCR contributes to the education of the people of Belize as well as contribute to the understanding and appreciation of Belize’s heritage.

## EXHIBITS

**Heroes and Benefactors Exhibit and Tour:** To coincide with the March 9 Public and Bank Holiday named National Heroes and Benefactors Day – formerly known as Baron Bliss Day, ISCR organized an exhibit and re-enactment in honor of some of Belize’s heroes and benefactors. In particular, the 2012 exhibit included both named National Heroes: Hon. George Price and Hon. Philip Goldson and those who remain unnamed like Samuel Haynes, Cleopatra White, and Benefactor Baron Bliss. It also featured Maya men and women who have made contributions to Belize’s development. These included contemporary Maya leaders such as Dr. Angel Cal, Don. Eljio Panti and Julian Cho. .

This exhibit was first introduced to the public on March 8, 2010 at the San Ignacio, Santa Elena House of Culture and continues to grow with the addition of Belize’s national heroes and benefactors every year. The intention behind this annual exhibit is to create awareness and to stimulate appreciation about those persons who have made a significant contribution to the country. The exhibit is hosted at the various Houses of Culture throughout the country.

In a one month period, daily visitation averaged approximately 150 students.

**A History of Slavery and Emancipation in Belize:** Belize has seldom done anything to commemorate the anniversary of the end of slavery in the British Caribbean Territories. In this regard, ISCR researched and set-up an exhibit to coincide with the August 1st anniversary. The Exhibit featured aspects and stories of the experience of enslavement in Belize. It was designed to create awareness about what appears to be a forgotten history. Nigel Encalada, Director of the Institute, is quoted as saying, “the exhibit is created with the view that people must recall the injustices in our history in order to understand the social areas that should be given emphasis for the

development of a national Belizean identity.” 5000 students visited and viewed the exhibit at the various Houses of Culture countrywide. It is intended that this exhibit will continue to tour annually.

A small publication was published to coincide with the exhibit.

**Belize: A Story of Resistance:** As part of ICSR’s education function this Resistance exhibit was researched and set-up to chronicle the events and periods of resistance in Belize’s history. It looked at four resistance themes: Maya Resistance, Resistance to Slavery, Workers Resistance and Resistance to Colonialism.

This exhibit opened in October 2011 at the Banquitas House of Culture. In its first month it averaged 50 student visitors daily. This was also accompanied with a brochure that highlighted the key events of resistance in Belize’s history. It was designed to stimulate the understanding that resistance in its many forms allowed for the growth of Belize into its current state.



Primary School children taking manual notes at Heroes and Benefactors Exhibit



High schooler taking digital notes on iPad at Heroes and Benefactors Exhibit

## THE PRIME MINISTERS' FORUM

ISCR also sits on the National Celebrations Commission with responsibility for history. As a result, a forum which was to feature all of Belize's Prime Ministers since independence was organized through the ISCR team. The Rt. Hon. George Price was unable to attend due to his fragile health. However, former Prime Ministers the Rt. Hon. Manuel Esquivel and the Rt. Hon. Said Musa as well as current Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow participated in the forum on the evening of September 14th. It was designed as a reflective exercise in which the leaders were asked to talk about Belize's experience with Independence over the past 30 years. Its success was measured by its viewership but more importantly by the fact that the Prime Ministers conducted themselves as statesmen on the occasion of Belize's 30th anniversary of Belize Independence. The forum was moderated by Mr. Dylan Vernon and was broadcast on all major television and radio stations in Belize.



L-R: Rt. Hon. Manuel Esquivel, Rt. Hon. Said Musa, Hon. Dean Barrow, Mr. Dylan Vernon



## FLOWERS BANK FESTIVAL

This festival is in honor of the Flowers Bank 14, the 14 men who on June 1st, 1797 participated in a historic public meeting and whose vote carried the margin on the question of whether to stay and defend the settlement in the face of an impending Spanish invasion or evacuate. ISCR collaborated with the Flowers Bank Village Council and the National Kriol Council to organize the 2011 Flowers Bank Festival on May 28th and 29th. This included a wreath laying ceremony and re-enactment of the 1797 Public Meeting. Its success was measured through the attendance and participation of over 100 persons from other River Valley communities as well as members of the Flowers Bank Community. It was projected that in order to increase awareness about this fundamental piece of history, a semi-permanent exhibit would be set up in the community in 2012 so that schools and members of the general public would be able to visit and learn more about the Flowers Bank 14.

Left: Cultural dance at the Flowers Bank Festival

## MOU SIGNED

In September 2011, ISCR was instrumental in coordinating the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion and Conduct of Research in Belize among five like-minded organizations. These included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize National Library Service and Information System, Belize Archives and Records Service, St. John's College, and the University of Belize. This MOU identifies areas for possible collaboration in relevant cultural, anthropological and historical fields. Furthermore, it suggests that standards for the promotion, conduct, and dissemination of research in Belize be established.

Right: Signing of MOU with partners



## ANNUAL RESEARCH COMPETITION

So that tertiary level institutions and their students should be encouraged to conduct research on social, cultural and historical issues relevant to Belize, ISCR organized its third research competition based on the topic: Migration and Development. All thirteen Tertiary level institutions in Belize were invited to participate and a small grant was offered to students who submitted proposals as an incentive to encourage participation.

Schools whose students responded to the Call for Papers include: St. John's College Junior College, Corozal Junior College, Ecumenical Junior College, University of Belize and Galen University. Unlike the previous year the number of proposals increased from 5 in the previous year to 8 in the current year. Seven of the proposals were accepted and the students were provided with the aforementioned grant to continue with their research.

These final research papers will be presented at the end of October 2012.



Right: Cultural dance by women of Flowers Bank during Flowers Bank Festival

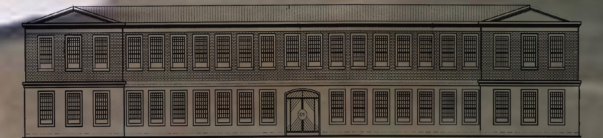


*Our museum is one of a kind...a former prison that now safeguards Belizean treasures !*

The Museum of Belize is dedicated to the promotion, documentation and preservation of Belize's cultural life. The goals of the MOB are to educate, inspire our Belizean citizens and visitors alike in an effort to create a meaningful society. These goals are met through planning, policy, marketing, outreach, exhibitions, tours, lectures and art classes.

*The Houses of Culture are located throughout the country and feature activities that inspire and uplift through culture. The HOCs are dynamic, creative community centres where neighbors, residents, and students come together to learn, teach, and pursue their cultural passions.*

Children drawing on Museum of Belize floor



The goals identified in The Museum of Belize's Mission Statement are met through the following program objectives: planning, policy, marketing, and outreach via our lecture series, exhibitions, tours and art classes.

This is done by encouraging Belizean students and visitors to tour the museum and attend the ongoing lecture series.

At The Museum of Belize (MOB) we are dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of objects of scientific, historical or artistic interest. A member of REDCAMUS-a network of Central

American Museums- since 2005, NICH's MOB has been working diligently along with its Central American counterparts on a Policy document for the Museum Sector of Central America that will be included in the overall SICA, the organization for Central American States, cultural policy for the region.

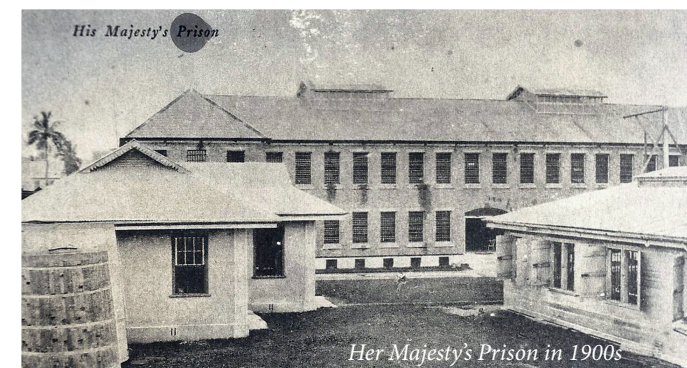
In November, the spirit of regional collaboration continued when MOBe was voted a member of the board for MAC, the Museums Association of the Caribbean, at a meeting held in Antigua and Barbuda.

As a member of the board of MAC, an association that recognizes the

importance of museums as centres of conservation and preservation of natural and cultural patrimony as well as the vital role which museums play in the conservation, education systems, scientific research and tourism of Caribbean States.

The MOB has voting rights on the directions, programs and activities that MAC presents to its members, including scholarship opportunities and training exchanges.

The MOB is also a member of the American Alliance of Museums, and the Commonwealth Association of Museums.



Construction on Her Majesty's Prison was started in 1855 and completed in 1857. The structure was built with bricks, known as "London Stocks" brought from England and used as ballast on ships. The Institution was called "Her Majesty's Prison" (HMP). Each window in the building marked where there was a cell originally built for one man.

In 1998, the Belize Government handed over the Old Prison to NICH and the Museum of Belize. For the next two years the old prison building was fully refurbished with the financial assistance from both Mexico and Taiwan. On February 5th, 2002, the Museum of Belize was officially declared open.

# celebrating 10years of service

The Museum celebrated its 10th anniversary with ten activities, including a special appearance by the Jade Head for a one day exhibition. This rare exhibit of the Jade Head allowed visitors to view this historic and well know artifact.

The activities included a Family Open Day in an effort to increase the museum’s visibility and to share information about the museum. On that day, visitors learned much about our history and culture through guided tours and educational games.



Visitor capturing photo of Jade Head

Below: Inside the MOB, The People Who Carved the Jades of Belize Exhibit



new expanded exhibit will also have a small booklet accompanying the exhibition.

## Museum Exhibits

This year, an exhibition featuring the People who carved the Jades was opened. In conjunction with the Jades of Belize exhibit, this new exhibition tells the story of the people, instead of just objects. It will put a human MAYA/BELIZEAN face on the entire display, taking the exhibit to another level. The

## Hurricane Hattie - 50 years later

The Museum of Belize in collaboration with the Craig family collection and the National Archives and Records proudly presented a new exhibit - the Eye of the Storm, Hurricane Hattie 50 Years Later. It was very important to look back at the passing of this historic milestone, fifty years after the devastating Hurricane Hattie. This exhibition opened in October of 2011 and because of its popularity remained up past its 6-month period.

## PROMOTING, DOCUMENTING & PRESERVING

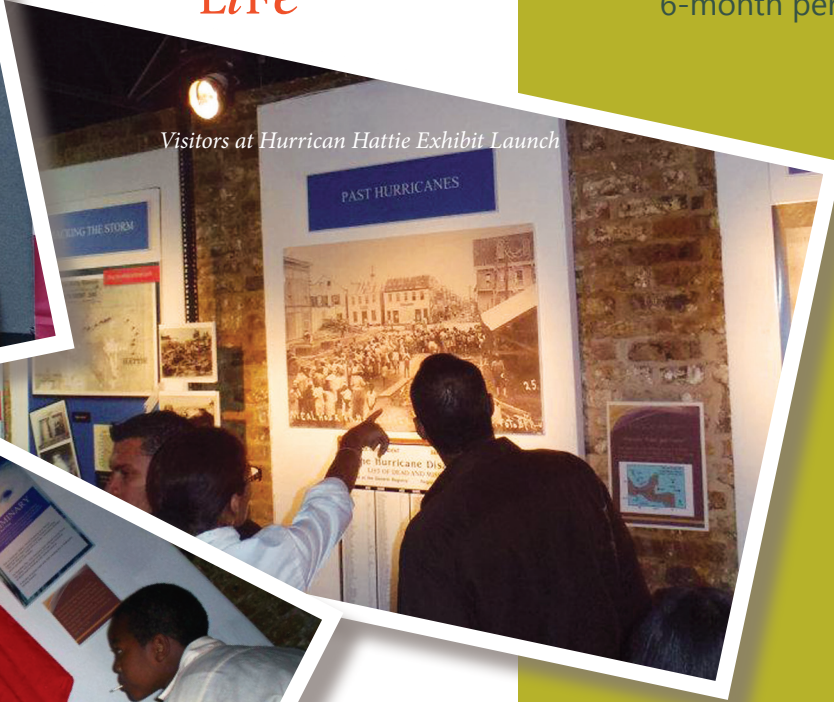
## Belize’s cultural Life

Below: Students viewing MOB Video during Outreach initiative



Student viewing MOB Exhibit

Visitors at Hurrican Hattie Exhibit Launch



Visitors singing "Happy Birthday" Song on Museum's 10th anniversary

Children coloring Museum image

Students visiting Museum

## COROZAL HOUSE OF CULTURE

With a **flourishing cultural and artistic community**, it was a high-priority for NICH to create a dynamic and creative space for the Corozal community. With Funding from the Belize Tourism Board, Belize Sugar Industries, the Corozal community and NICH, the town's historic Market building was refurbished completely, with keen attention paid to conserve the historical integrity of the structure. On February 24, 2012 the Corozal House of Culture, Museum of Belize was officially opened. The Corozal House of Culture was originally built in 1886 as a Market for Corozal Town. After serving it's original purpose for more than a century, it was abandoned for a

decade, before being refurbished in 1996 and reopened as the Corozal Tourism and Cultural Centre until its closure in 2003. Due to it's historical importance to the Town, the building was transferred to the Institute of Archaeology's management and remained unused, until the idea was born to convert it to a House of Culture. The Corozal House of Culture works alongside local cultural and artistic organizations to uplift and inspire all who take part in its activities and events. Initiating and facilitating artistic, cultural and educational exhibits and festivals, the House of Culture also offers workshops, lectures and functions as a meeting space.



Corozal Town Market



Corozal House of Culture

## SAN PEDRO HOUSE OF CULTURE

This **new cultural space** in San Pedro is one of the newest additions to the group of Houses of Culture. It's activities are meant to inspire and uplift the community it serves through the various cultural areas. Presently, the HOC is housed within the Belize Tourism Board's office on the island, however, plans are underway to acquire a more suitable location.

One of this HOC's first activities was to revive and share the origins of *El Carnaval de San Pedro*, where various *comparsas* groups of San Pedro Town were invited to perform during *Sabado de Bando*. The performance was presented in the form of a play with live music, *comparsas* and the narration of the history of carnival. *During this initiative organizers were pressed to find members of the community*

*who could remember the lyrics of the carnival songs. It is evident that we are on the brink of losing some of our history and the meaning behind our traditions as these are not being documented and shared with our youths; this issue is currently being addressed through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research.* This festivity is also celebrated in the Northern districts and is also known as *Juan Carnival*.

## BANQUITAS HOUSE OF CULTURE

Banquitas celebrated it's **ninth year** of serving the Orange Walk community by honoring this district's Heroes and mounting an impressive collection of antique coins. This HOC, like its counterparts, makes every effort to keep traditions alive and enable cultural diversity. This year, it coordinated the revival of Juan Carnival, Dia del Paisano, and opened a cultral display entitled, The Herbal Heritage Exhibit.

In collaboration with the Garifuna Community members, Banquitas celebrated **Garifuna Settlement Day** by reenacting this cultural groups arrival through the New River, ending on the bank of the Banquitas Grounds. The re-enactment included live Garifuna drumming and the John Canoe dance by the Trial Farm Gov't School. The all-day festivities included a Mass, which was performed in both Garifuna and English.



Celebrating Garifuna Settlement Day at Banquitas HOC



Student in OAS Culture of Peace Program



Las Posados procession

## BENQUE HOUSE OF CULTURE

The **Organization of American States Culture of Peace Program** facilitated an avenue for the growth and development of Arts & Culture free of cost for over one hundred and seventy-five students from Belize and two hundred and fifteen students from Guatemala. Lessons were facilitated at the Benque House of Culture over a 6-month period for many young and adult artists who have never had the opportunity to express themselves in color.

Other programs offered through this project were guitar lessons, vocals and piano.

**Las Posados**, a nine-night reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for refuge at the time of Jesus' birth, was first introduced in the Benque area by the Petenero Mestizo who settled along the banks of the Mopan River in the mid 1800's. and is still celebrated annually. The Benque HOC was honored to host one of the nine nights where the pilgrims sang traditional songs and offered prayers. After the formalities, a grand celebration took place with traditional sweets, syrups and a pinata for the children. This year almost two hundred and eighty people participated in the HOC's night of las posados.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE OF CULTURE

The important historical and cultural landmark was opened to the public and designated as a House of Culture in 1998. It is a vibrant **community centre** that welcomes all residents and visitors to Belize City for social and cultural events. This HOC hosts cultural and historical displays, music concerts, art exhibits boasts and an open-air theatre on its grounds, among numerous other attractions.

The **Horizons Photo Exhibit-Sights of the Holy Land**, featured both ancient and modern scenes of Israel taken by distinguished aerial and landscape photography artist, DUBY Tal. This photo exhibit, done in partnership with the Embassy of Israel, was well received by the exhibit visitors, who numbered more than eight hundred.

The Government HOC partners with HelpAge annually to host a **Christmas Party** for the senior citizens in the community. A festive environment is created with cultural entertainment, live music, food, drinks and gifts for over one hundred senagers. This is only a small gesture of gratitude for our forebearers, who have given so generously to the shaping of our national identity.

## SAN IGNACIO/SANTA ELENA HOUSE OF CULTURE

The SISE HOC, in partnership with several corporate donors completed two **community murals** as a part of its mission to transform public spaces as representations of our cultural identity. During this period, the HOC also hosted a Kite Making Train-the Trainer Workshop, Full Moon Concert Series, as well as the Heroes and Benefactors Exhibit.

The **Cayo Art Festival** was held in the Columbus Park area and featured both visual and performing artists. There were no lulls with back to back dance numbers, musical renditions, and leading up to the main attraction: Nuru. Throughout the festival, artists displayed their works and several organizations promoted their services while performers entertained the crowd with the rich cultural dances and drums.



Cayo Art Festival 2011

Nello Player performing at Ninth Night Soca Concert



# INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE ARTS

The vision of the Institute of Creative Arts (ICA) is to be the catalyst for creative, artistic and professional excellence. It supports and promotes dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing while maintaining links with the Ministry of Education in order to encourage training in and the showcasing of each of the disciplines within the creative arts.

## THE BLISS CENTRE

The Bliss Centre is the flagship for the performing arts in Belize City. Not only is this ICA's administrative headquarters, it is also the preeminent host to a multitude of local and international cultural events, art exhibitions and festivals, welcoming thousands of visitors and performers annually.

## 200+ artists

### STREET ART FESTIVAL

Only in its second year, the Festival has grown to envelop Albert Street from its junction with the Belize Bank to its junction with Prince Street. The Street Art Festival is designed to draw attention to the wide range of cultural activities offered through the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts. As Belize's premier performing arts venue, the Bliss plays an important role in showcasing Belizean artists and exposing the Belizean public to quality performances. The street festival is an opportunity for the public to celebrate our culture under the theme, *The Bliss!* – Come pARTy with us!

Special features included two performance stages, food court, kids' zone and the Artist display areas for jewelry makers, sculptors, painters, bamboo artists, butterfly art, tattoo artists, makeup artist, books and cd displays, kite workshops, face painting and games for the kids kept visitors entertained and intrigued.

The festival was executed in partnership with the *Friends of Bliss Committee*.

## art exhibits

The Belisle Art Gallery hosts several exhibitions throughout the year, and has been the preferred choice for both maverick and virtuoso visual artists including these 2011-12 exhibitors:

- Melody Sanchez Wolfe
- Melissa Quan
- The National Festival of Arts
- The Embassy of Honduras
- Man at Work (Terry Godoy)
- Creation: The Belize Sculpture Symposium...Sculpting the Vision
- Stacey Rodriguez
- Women in Art



**I**s an annual performance arts event where the more proficient dance companies in Belize and international dance troupes are invited to participate in a grand showcase at The Bliss Centre. Through this medium, dance in

Belize is presented to a broad cross section of art enthusiasts and gives the companies the opportunity to exhibit their diverse talents in various dance genres.

Dance X was first introduced in November of 2009 and has grown consistently over the years. So much so that its format was revised in 2011 to allow the showcase to run over the course of the whole month of November.

The Belize National Dance Company performed in the first week, while two international dance companies, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Ballet de Quintana Roo, performed in the second and third weeks, respectively. The fourth and final week featured a cadre of local dance companies in an impressive finale.

One of the proudest moments in this year's dance festival was the participation of Belizean born Jamie Thompson who presently dances with Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Belizeans flocked to the Bliss to see our boy perform!

The dance companies also engaged in technical training workshops offered through the international participants.

## MR PEETAZ BROKDONG BRAM

**P**ays tribute to the ultimate King of Belizean Brokdong music, the late Mr. Wilfred Peters, and recreates the unique experience of the traditional Creole Christmas celebration – the Bram. Brokdong is more than a musical genre it is a predominant historical representation of how Christmas, which coincided with the end of the logging season, was celebrated during our British Colonial period.

This year's organizers took a different approach in presenting the festival to the public. Firstly, it was taken back to its birthplace - the Belize River Valley - where there still exists the most appropriate ambiance. Secondly, ICA partnered with the Music Industry Association of Belize (MIAB) and the Black Orchid Resort, both of whom hold the objectives of the Bram as pivotal to the revival of this fading cultural trademark.

Some of the festival's achievements include:

- **FACES OF THE MUSIC**, a profile series, featuring the Old Timers and performers who took part in the Bram as well as a glimpse of the history of brokdong.

- **97 + CHILDREN** from the river valley and surrounding areas enjoyed the storytelling and games organized by the Kriol Council at the KIDS' CORNER.

- **CULLINARY ARTS FAIR** where over **200+** persons feasted on Belizean cuisine and delicacies.

- **MAIN STAGE** featured a broad representation of brokdong artists who have mastered the craft and youth performers who are ensuring the continuity of the brokdong rhythm.

- **RUM YAAD**, which created a true village dance ambiance, evoking a true Kriol Krismus Bram.

## CARNIVAL

**I**ndisputably, carnival is a fundamental element in Belize's annual festivities that is highly anticipated by the tens of thousands of people who actively participate in it's calendar of events. Now in its thirty-seventh year, Carnival has evolved into a Season, opening in July with the Instigate Fete, and includes highlights like the junior and senior pageants, King and Queen Competition, and the Motorcade, which all build up to a fever pitch by September with the Jouvert and Road March, and finally concluding with the Award Cermony.

As Carnival continues to evolve and attract more revelers and supporters, it is presenting itself as a leader in the cultural and creative industries, even as it strives to claim recognition as a notable contributor to the Belizean economy. A reality that is manifested through the sizeable investment made through the Carnival Commission (the governing body) and the numerous bands who participate in the activities coupled with the commercial activity it influences through its tens of thousands of supporters over the course of the three months of revelry.

At the forefront of this evolution is the Institute of Creative Arts, chair of the Carnival Commission, who also provides extensive administrative support throughout the Carnival Season and guides its development.

To cope with the growing demands of this emerging industry leader, ICA is ensuring that the carnival groups receive training in business acumen, costume design and construction, and accessing financial support.



Carnival reveler in 2011 Road March

# BIFF

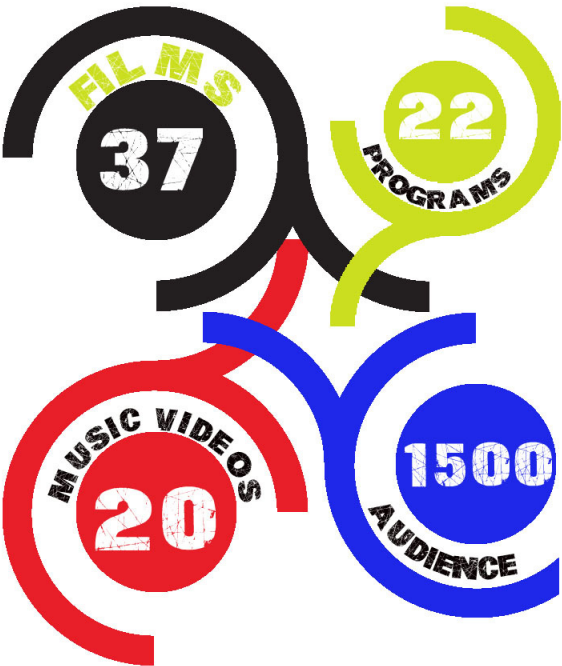
and Media Arts Unit, the Belize Film Commission and in collaboration with many industry partners and sponsors.

The festival's signature event is it's Opening Gala which prominently features a red carpet, a brief ceremony, followed by the presentation of the opening film. The Road to Damascus was the film featured at the 2011 Opening Gala and festival screenings countrywide.

Other festival events included the Belize Comedy Tour featuring well recognized actors and comedians like Faizon Love, Rodney Perry, Damon Williams, and Tony Roberts.

Rounding out festival activities were a series of industry events that showcased youth talent through SHOW ME, a video competition for high school students facilitated by the Belize Audiovisual Industry Association, a two day workshop for emerging filmmakers called FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN facilitated by filmmaker and Professor Yao Ramesar from the BA Film Program at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine campus in Trinidad and Tobago and a dynamic AV Industry Symposium attended by local and international filmmakers.

The Belize International Film Festival is recognized as the hallmark event of the Belize film industry that stimulates production and showcases Belizean films and filmmakers in a global context. This annual initiative takes place through the joint efforts of ICA's Film



# A HYMN TO BELIZE

With 2011 marking Belize's 30th anniversary of Independence, Master Francis Reneau wrote a unique musical piece for his country, 'A Hymn to Belize'. This extraordinary piece debuted at the official Independence Day Ceremony in Belmopan for a wide cross section including the Prime Minister of Belize, the Governor General, other Government Ministers and Dignitaries, and was carried live on numerous local stations. The composition required one of the largest orchestras and choirs ever assembled in Belize. The choir was invited to do a special encore performance at the official state funeral for the late Hon. George Cadle Price.

## 2011 BIFF WINNERS

**BEST FEATURE FILM AUDIENCE AWARD: *HABANA EVA***

A Cuba, Venezuela, France co-production directed by Venezuelan, Fina Torres which tells the story of a Cuban seamstress working in a clothing factory who dreams of designing her own dresses.

**BEST SHORT FILM AUDIENCE AWARD: *EL CORTEJO***

Directed by Marina Seresky from Spain, this is a bittersweet story of unrequited love for a gravedigger.

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD: *TU PUM PUM***

A reggaeton single from a local music group, directed by Rubio JosueTzib aka Josh the Code from San Ignacio, Belize.

**BEST BELIZEAN FILM AWARD: *WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF BELIZE: A GREEN DAY ARISES***

An artistic commentary on the current state of poverty and crime in Belize that looks at a green economy as a way out of poverty, directed by Belizean Director Clyde Gillett.

**BEST ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AWARD: *WHERE HAVE OUR SHARKS GONE?***

Carol Farneti Foster & Richard Foster of Belize

## THE BELIZE FILM COMMISSION

The Belize Film Commission's primary function is to develop the film industry and attract film makers to Belize. NICH, through ICA's Film and Media Arts Unit, plays a vital role in assisting the Film Commission to meet its objectives. The FMA facilitates the processing of film permits and has been working with a legal consul to draft a policy paper to legalize the Commission.

Even as production companies become more selective in choosing their locations, more than sixty applications from foreign companies were processed in 2011, which resulted in just over one million dollars (BZ) being spent in Belize.

Efforts continue to attract bigger-budget films to Belize while also working to strengthen the industry's capacity to facilitate larger scale productions.

Nigel Miguel has been serving as the Film Commissioner since his appointment in 2008.

The Belize Film Commission was established in 1998 with Emory King serving as the first Film Commissioner, until his untimely passing in 2007.

## ICA DISTRICT COMMITTEES

In order to fully impact the country through it's initiatives, the Institute must have tangible representation in the districts. The conditions have been created to enable a voluntary committee in each district that will stimulate and influence creative, artistic and professional excellence.

One initiative that has been exceptionally successful is the *Art in the Park* programme. Painters, handicraft makers, and musicians and other artists display their creative and artistic products in the park at least once every month. It is no longer unusual to see dancers, singers and visual artists sharing their passion for their art form on a park stage or sidewalk.

The committees are also instrumental in ensuring that their communities remain informed on cultural activities and other industry happenings, including training sessions available in the different art forms.

The committees are encouraged to work closely with the Houses of Culture on activities that are external to the HOCs and will have greater impact in the villages, thereby amplifying NICH's impact at the district level.

During this reporting period, the active district committees were Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo and Stann Creek.





This annual cultural exhibition, held in March - Women's Month - pays homage to female artists of varying genres and ages through a number of artistic mediums, and usually includes an art exhibit, \*public forum and performance showcase.

2012, recognized as the year of the Maya, inspired the theme for the visual arts exhibit that exalted the Mayan Goddess Ixchel in her transitory roles as Maiden, Mother and Healer.

The Belize Dance Company choreographed a dance interpretation of these three stages of her life for the opening ceremony, which featured the Belize Zoo's Boa Constrictor, Balboa. This year's exhibit included fashion ensembles, painting, sculpture, embroidery, and photography from female artists across the country.

*A Night of Cabaret*, a jazz performance showcase, incorporated fifteen performers including two veterans, one newcomer, an international guest, and five seasoned vocalists. The first half of the show featured jazz standards performed in an intimate setting filled with soulful and impassioned rhythms. The next half featured high energy jazz interpretations culminating with a tribute to the late Whitney Houston. The show was well received, and ICA continues to receive queries as to when an encore presentation will be done.

\*Due to limited resources, a public forum could not be accommodated under this year's Women in Art calendar of events.



## A September Spectacle

A musical production entitled, *A September Spectacle*, commissioned by the National Celebrations Commission, in honor of the country's 30th anniversary of Independence, was written and directed by Kimberly Vasquez of the Institute of Creative Arts, and debuted at the Memorial Park on the eve of independence.

The production captured the essence of the celebration's theme, "Honoring our History, Celebrating our Cultures, Uniting in Peace", as it creatively weaves together a tapestry of symbolism of unity, history, culture and shows how these connect with our nation's present and future state. It's dynamic and entertaining plot was vividly brought to life through its main characters.

It's debut was so well received that an encore of the production was presented to a captivated audience at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts.



Above: Debut of *A September Spectacle* on the Memorial Park stage

# BELIZE SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM

The Belize Sculpture Symposium aimed at providing practical training and exposure to sculpting in stone for professional wood carvers and novice sculptors. Over the years, Belizean artists have slowly moved away from sculpting in stone for various reasons, but especially because of the high cost of materials and tools; and over time, the skill set was lost. The symposium was organized in hopes of revitalizing this industry through the creation of sizeable pieces of public art that can be appreciated and inspiring to all Belizeans. The symposium took place over the period of one month and included six renowned international sculptors, one Belizean sculptor, nine apprentices, and a sculptor consultant who managed the symposium's work site.

The international sculptors and the pieces created included

- Anthony Vacario (Belize) - *The Mask*
- Curl Gordon (Belize) - *Breaking of a New Dawn* (Mr. Gordon was initially invited to this project as an apprentice, but had progressed so well that he was able to create a piece in half the time allotted to our international guests.
- Florin Strejac (Romania) - *Caribbean Wave – A Momentary Lapse*
- Roland Mayer (Germany) - *The Course of History*
- Canan Sonmezdag (Turkey) - *Beyond the Waves*
- Petre Petrov (Bulgaria) - *Communication*
- Colin Figue (England) – *Smoking Mirrors Return*
- Caroline Ramersdorfer (Austria) – *Inner View*

Below is a list of activities and achievements executed under this initiative:

- **Creation: Belize @ 30...Sculpting the Vision Exhibit** which demonstrated the creativity and talent of 7 established Belizean sculptors working in various mediums outside of stone.
- **Hunting with Hunger Lecture Series:** 50 participants attended the two-part series showcasing works of our participating sculptors and discussed the future of stone sculpting in Belize. Facilitated by Gilvano Swasey of the Image Factory.
- **Educational Site Visits**, which provided a general overview of symposia, and accommodated approximately 125 students from 5 institutions who visited the site over a two-week period.



Sculptor Caroline Ramersdorfer with apprentice, Lesley Codd



Sculptor Canan Sonmezdag with apprentice, Inga Woods



The Smiling Cloud on display in Sculpture Exhibit

# National Festival of Arts



Above: Cultural Dance at the Opening of NFOA

to both the children and adults alternately in their routines. This year’s cast included: Javier “Ozzy The Clown” Canul, Martin “Payaso Chispin” Agguire , Jose “Payaso Lucas” Mendez and The Playground Posse – Lisa Alvarez, Azizi Hoy, Shawn Saldano, and Jael August.

The National Festival has long been an annual event that our youths look forward to participating in and one would be hard pressed to find a cultural entertainer who has not participated in this performance showcase. Participation at each level continues to grow each year, and organizers have noted a marked improvement in the presentations.

This initiative is coordinated in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

The National Festival of Arts (NFOA) provides the ideal cultural spaces to a wide cross section of the community on a national level. While the NFOA encourages youths to express themselves in a creative context and stimulate a passion for the arts, it also allows them to connect with and learn about our cultural traditions.

The best Belizean talent from the District Festivals at the Preschool, Primary and Secondary levels, as well as those outside the school system was highlighted during the week of events including the Art Exhibit, Opening Ceremony, Street Parade, Youth Concert, Craft & Culinary Fair, Performing Arts Showcases, and the Closing Ceremonies with Ozzie & Friends.

The Ozzy & Friends Show was based on a mix of magic, comedy, sing-a-longs and audience interaction. The creation of the Playground Posse was a key aspect of the show’s appeal to a younger audience, while the Clowns were able to appeal

# BDW

Belize Design Week, the first of its kind, created an ideal meeting point between fashion and accessories designers, artisans and consumers and retailers. These exceptionally talented and creative minds were able to network and exchange information and ideas with respected leaders in the creative and cultural industries. This undertaking was the first tangible step in creating a Belize Design Network.

The week’s activities included a Design Forum, a two-day “Made in Belize” Market Place, and a phenomenal Runway Show featuring complete lines from Belizean designers and our guest designer from Trinidad and Tobago, Robert “The Cloth” Young.

The one-day Design Forum addressed issues that local designers currently face like accessing financing, pricing creative products and marketing them. This formal medium has allowed industry partners, Beltraide and ICA to come up with a capacity building plan to better help our creative entrepreneurs. The Market Place allowed the designers to interact with consumers and showcase their products and designs.

The Runway Show gave buyers a unique opportunity to see the fashion designs in movement. The authentic Belizean designs highlighted the trends and textiles that designers use, relative to our culture and climate. This sold-out show was very well received by the public who clamoured to purchase and order the pieces directly from the runway.



Above: Model wearing casual ensemble by Zericote.

## STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Over the last few years, NICH through ICA has taken a more strategic approach in developing the capacity of the Belizean cultural workforce, especially in the creative industries sector. It is more beneficial to strengthen the creative industries through the development and creation of legally recognized entities and to assist with policy development and economic sustainability than it is to lend assistance on an individual basis.

To date ICA has taken been instrumental in formalizing the Music Industry Association of Belize (MIAB), the Belize Audio Visual Industry Association (BAVIA), and the Belize Urban Music Association (BUMA). Additionally, it has been working to establish Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements with the previously noted associations, as well as the Belize Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers (BSCAP) of music, and the Belize Association for the Development of the Arts (BADA). It is expected that these partnership arrangements will be finalized by mid 2012.



A primary goal for this initiative is to take final samples, manufacture and present them to retail outlets both in Belize and internationally.

The next BDW is scheduled for the first quarter in 2013.

Left: Model showing designs from Maya Bags, Veda Couture Bows, and casual wear by Zericote.



Summer Arts Institute

is designed to nurture the creative spirit of our young Belizean artists by equipping them with the knowledge and skills that will allow them to be viable within their respective industries and prime them to showcase their talents professionally. The courses are facilitated by professional, dedicated and/or experienced artists who are dedicated to sharing their knowledge and respective art forms. This program is an essential conduit through which proficient and meaningful support is given for the development of the creative industries.

Below is a list of achievements under this initiative for 2011:

- 25 programs promoted under the Summer Arts Institute including Videography, Arts & Craft, Visual Arts, Keyboard Lessons, Guitar Lessons, Drumming, Dance, Music (Voice with Kellie Cadogan), Music (Piano with Francis Reneau)
- Vocal workshop with Kellie Cadogan had its largest participation numbers since the program started three years ago (over 20 participants concluded the program)
- Closing showcase was a collaboration between Belize Dance Company and the Kellie Cadogan’s Vocal Workshop students.

ANNUAL EVENTS



APR - JUN

**Research Competition**  
This competition is an annual event hosted through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research and aims to promote research.

**National Festival of Arts**  
A national performance showcase that features the top golden entries from the High School and Primary School district festivals. This week-long event also highlights the culinary arts, and typically includes a street parade and youth concert.

**Toledo Cacao Festival**  
This three-day Festival prominently features wine, chocolate, other cultural foods and a craft fair, a Cacao Symposium, and archaeological tours to the Lubaantun site. The Institute of Archaeology and the Institute of Creative Arts are main partners with the Belize Tourism Industry Association and the Cacao Growers Association.

**Flowers Bank Festival**  
Pays homage to the fourteen men from Flowers Bank whose deciding vote lead to our ancestors engaging in the historic Battle of St. George’s Caye. Traditional games and dances, and a “pit pan” dory race are only some of the activities during this festival.



JUL - SEPT

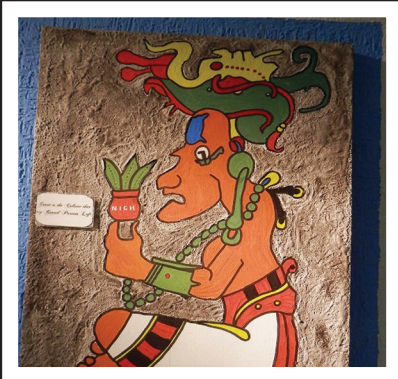
**Summer Arts Institute**  
A series of workshops and training sessions for artists and other interested persons of all ages and varying proficiencies. This programme promotes professionalization of an artistic or creative talent and is available in each district through the ICA Committees and the Houses of Culture.

**Carnival Season**  
The three-month Carnival Season kicks off with the Instigate fete, and includes a junior and senior pageant, a Disc Jockey Face Off, the King and Queen Competition, Jouvart, Road March, Ninth Night Soca Concert and concludes with the Award Ceremony.

**Belize International Film Festival**  
A week of events hosted throughout the country, including film screenings from international, regional and local film makers, industry seminars, an audio visual competition and social events.

**Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium**  
This event brings together archaeologists and anthropologists from around the world as they present results of their investigations in Belize.

**Costa Maya Festival**  
Four nights of compact cultural entertainment; the festival’s hihhlight is the Noche Internacional; events also include a Miss Costa Maya International. This festival includes representation from across Central America and Mexico.



**National Song Competition**  
An annual song contest featuring junior and senior entries in the Patriotic and Carnival Song categories. The competition is designed to nurture the musical talent of musicians and vocalists on all levels and promote excellence in Belizean music.

**National Celebrations**  
A Month of official activities to commemorate the country’s anniversary of the Battle of St. George’s Caye and Independence Day. The calendar of events is managed through the National Celebrations Commission, which has representation from various government bodies, with NICH as the secretariat, while the NICH President is the co-chairman of the Commission.



OCT - DEC

**Dance X**  
This dance festival takes place throughout November and features local and international dancers from a wide range of dance genres, from folk to modern.

**Mr. Peetaz Brokdong Bram**  
A cultural trademark, this Creole Christmas celebration, was named after the king of the Brokdong genre, Mr. Wilfred Peters. The annual festival highlights cultural traditions like storytelling, Creole delicacies from the Belize River Valley, and includes live music by the brokdong bands in Belize.



JAN - MAR

**Artist in Development Seminar**  
A programme to train and develop Belizean artists in the professional facets of the cultural and entertainment service industries.

**Street Art Festival**  
Spanning Albert Street from its junction with the Belize Bank up to its intersection with Prince Street, this festival provides a national forum for artists of all genres. Featuring live body art, street murals, handicraft, culinary art, storytelling, live music and dancing.

**Women in Art**  
A series of activities that pay tribute to established as well as novice female artists in all creative disciplines.

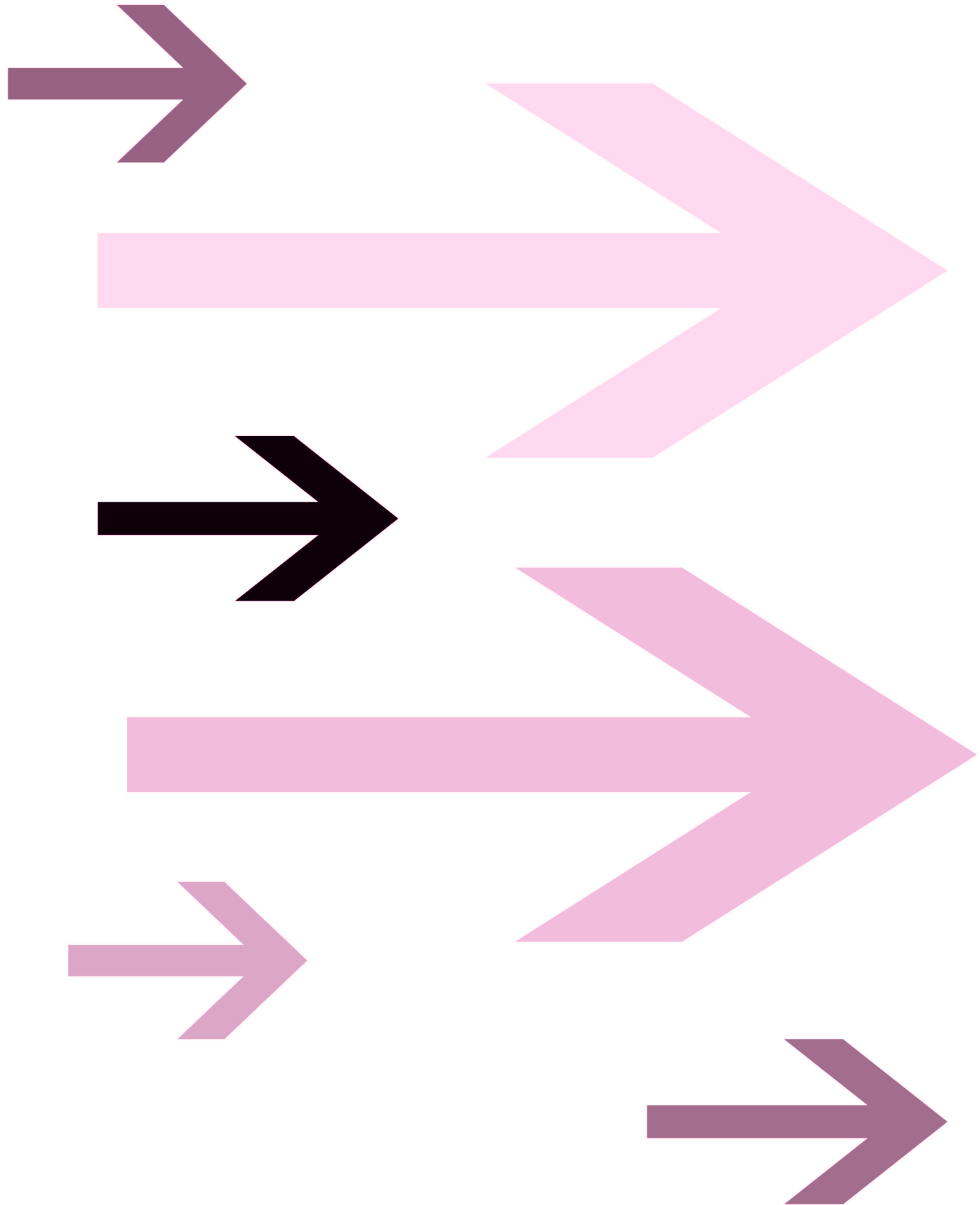
**Heroes and Benefactors Day**  
Formerly recognized as Baron Bliss Day, this National Holiday now recognizes all heroes and benefactors of Belize. The ceremony is organized through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research.



Throughout the Year

- Art Exhibits • Cultural Displays • Outreach & Education
- Lecture Series • Training for the Creative Sectors • Festivals

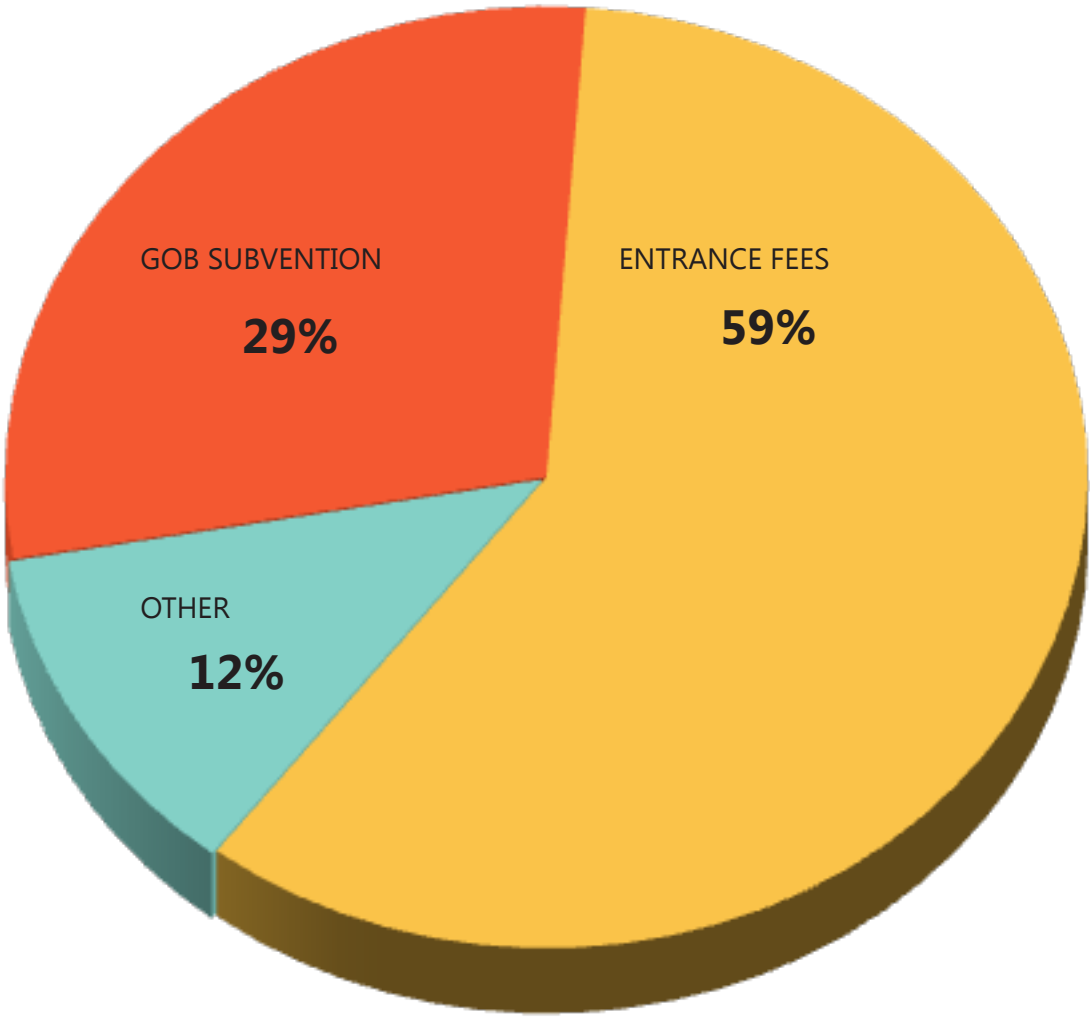




# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

SOURCE	AMOUNT
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE SUBVENTION	\$1,963,810.00
ENTRANCE FEES	\$4,022,426.00
OTHER :	
NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION	\$500,000.00
GRANTS	\$101,146.00
RENTAL INCOME	\$159,765.00
GIFT SHOP SALES	\$40,098.00
TOTAL	\$6,787,245.00



EXPENDITURE

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,675,547.00
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY	\$2,434,308.00
INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE ARTS	\$1,555,121.00
MUSEUM OF BELIZE/HOUSES OF CULTURE	\$787,145.00
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RESEARCH	\$247,640.00
TOTAL	\$6,699,761.00

NET REVENUE: \$87,484.00



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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