



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 premier cultural institution dedicated to creating an enabling environment for the development, conservation and accessibility of culture in all its diversity.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Respect, Integrity, Tolerance and Excellence are our hallmarks	Culture contributes positively to building social cohesion and fostering national identity
Culture is central to the overall development of our country	Alliance building is essential for developing our cultural potential
Education is fundamental to understanding and appreciating culture	Promotion of culture, nationally and internationally is an integral part of Belize’s development
People have a right to cultural expression and benefits	

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Minister of Tourism and Culture, Hon. Manuel Heredia, Jr., Ambassador of the United States of America, Vinai K. Thummalapally



NICH President, Ms. Diane C. Haylock

The 2012-2013 reporting period was a game changer for the cultural sector in Belize. Through the successful execution of groundbreaking cultural initiatives like the empowerment of young fashion designers, the first World Indigenous Music Festival and the launch of the process to design and implement a Culture Policy, the country's social and cultural development road-map is forever changed.

Among our notable achievements is the renaming of the country's major western and northern highways in recognition of our national heroes Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price and Philip Goldson, respectively. This single action is perhaps one of the more practical ways in which we can pay homage and

enshrine the legacies of these two heroes. Even as we acknowledge the history that continues to shape our present social consciousness, we have also been paying keen attention to that which will shape our future social and cultural fabric. During this fiscal period we focused significant resources in solidifying programs that will enable our youths to cultivate their passions and become more in touch with the arts, history and culture.

One youth program that is fundamental to this approach is the National Youth Orchestra and Choir of Belize. The NYOCB, launched in the previous reporting period, received a powerful boost through the formal partnership with the Youth Orchestra

of the Americas and a financial contribution from the Jay and Jeannie Schottenstien Foundation.

Partnerships with other arts and cultural institutions, regional and international agencies are essential in the fulfillment of our mandate. We are also thankful for the continued kindness and support from our diplomatic corps, and especially from the Embassies of China (Taiwan), Mexico and the United States of America. We have endeavored to engage and maintain our regional and international counterparts to promote meaningful cultural exchanges.

We invite you to share in our accomplishments and ongoing programs in the following

pages. The 2012-2013 annual report has been segmented to reflect the institution's composition and strategic focus. While our mandate is fulfilled through the work of our four organizations, we are one institution working with a singular vision and toward a common goal. As such, the institution's major accomplishments and financial summary are highlighted through their corresponding strategic and operational objectives.

MINISTER - HON. MANUEL HEREDIA, JR.
CEO - MS. TRACY PANTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

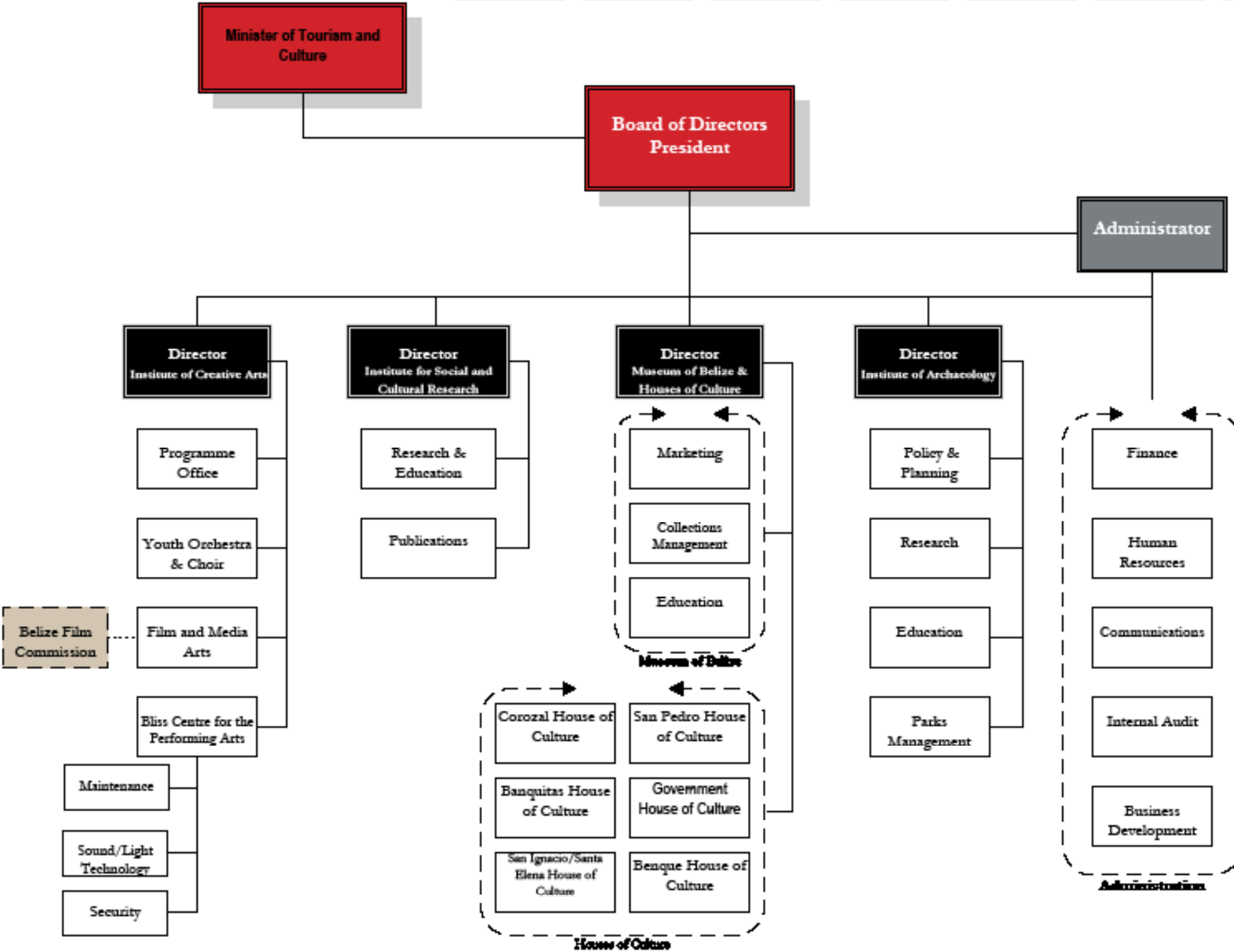
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MS. ROSITA MAY, BOARD MEMBER
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MS. NYASHA LAING, BOARD MEMBER
MR. LYNN YOUNG, BOARD MEMBER
MR. OMAR ORTIZ, BOARD MEMBER
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MR. NIGEL ENCALADA, DIRECTOR (ISCR)
MS. SHERILYNE JONES, DIRECTOR (MOB/HOC)
DR. JAIME AWE, DIRECTOR (IA)



ABOVE (L - R): Dr. Jaime Awe, Rosita May, Lynn Young, Dr. Filiberto Penados, Ena Martinez, Nyasha Laing, Hon. Manuel Heredia, Jr., Omar Ortiz, Diane C. Haylock, Sherilyne Jones, Gil Williams, Nigel Encalada, Gregory Vernon





national institute of culture and history

The National Institute of Culture and History is a statutory body which seeks to encourage Belizeans and persons interested in Belize to better understand our historical and ethnic roots and instill pride in ourselves about our country's unique cultural heritage and shared national identity.



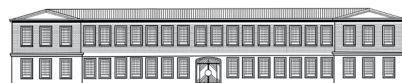
ICA is the catalyst for creative, artistic and professional excellence in Belize. It supports and promotes dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing.



ISCR aims to promote, retrieve, supervise, document and carry out historical, social, cultural and anthropological research for educational purposes, social planning and human resources development.



IA protects, preserves and promotes the rich cultural heritage of our country. Through research, education, planning, policy and marketing, we effectively manage all archaeological and cultural resources in the country.



**Museum of Belize
and Houses of Culture**

MOB is dedicated to the promotion, documentation, exhibition and understanding of Belize's culture and history. HOCs are dynamic community centres which are meant to inspire and uplift all through the various cultural areas.



Shari Williams
Communications
Officer
NICH



Xochitl August
Administrative
Assistant
ICA

performing
above
expectations

positive attitude

integrity



David Griffith
Technician
IA

dedication



Yvette Torres
Coordinator,
Banquitas HOC

motivated



Rolando Cocom
Research Assistant
ISCR

thank you!

cultural highlights 2012

National
Culture Policy

april

Naming of the
George Price
Highway and
Philip Goldson
Highway

september

World
Indigenous
Music Festival

october

Caracol
Solstice

december



Above: NICH Annual Evaluation and Planning Retreat, 2012.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

01

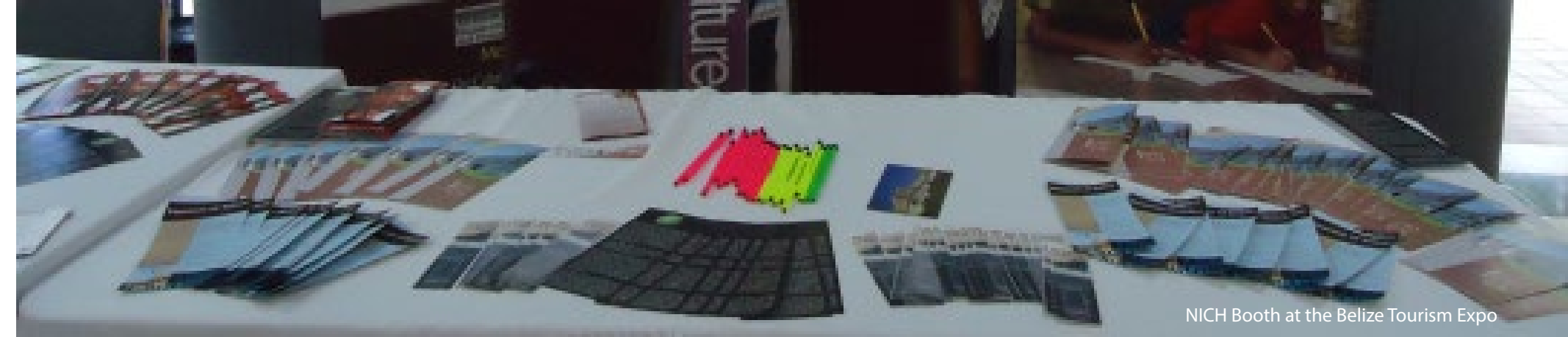
CONSOLIDATE INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY



In the course of designing its five-year strategic plan, the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) defined itself through its institutional vision, mission, and guiding principles. It was imperative that the institution define itself clearly at the outset of its strategic journey to establish the basis on which it fulfills its legal mandate. NICH boldly declared itself as Belize's "premier cultural institution" committed to creating the conditions that support the conservation, development and promotion of culture. The premise is that achieving these ideals successfully will result in "a Belize that embraces its diverse cultural heritage, its people and ensures their growth and development in a global community."

NICH boldly declared itself as Belize's "premier cultural institution"

An important component in this strategic journey is institutional branding that standardizes the graphical representation of the institution. NICH is guided by a graphic manual that was designed to ensure the consistent use of the approved logos for the institution and its four organizations, and the institutional colors. At a minimum, the institution takes care to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this manual. Internal documents have been standardized to reflect both the institutional brand and the operational needs of each organization in carrying out their strategic initiatives.



NICH Booth at the Belize Tourism Expo

In the production of public information and promotional materials our designers and producers are encouraged to be as creative as possible but to portray authentic representations of Belize's history and culture. We believe that featuring images from our rich and varied history and culture is fundamental in connecting our stakeholders with our initiatives.

While it is important to sustain an institutional brand, it is essential to determine that our mandate meets both our current and future needs. NICH has commissioned an institutional audit that will evaluate our operational effectiveness and efficiency;

identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and risk factors.

The findings of this audit will inform future initiatives to enable the sustained growth of our institution.

These strategic results enable institutional practices grounded in consistency, creativity and excellence.




Above: Sylvia Batty, Archaeologist, deep sea diving training.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

02

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND
SUSTAINABILITY OF NICH



As the nation's premier cultural institution that is working to create an enabling environment where the arts and culture flourish, it is essential that the staff who carry out this important work perform at their best. It is a basic requirement, indeed, it is expected that our people are capable of leading the industry in sustainable growth and development and that they are equipped with the necessary resources and knowledge required to do so. NICH ensures continued staff development by providing capacity building opportunities and learning resources that are aligned with the needs and strategic initiatives of the institution.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year the institution broadened its scope of capacity building workshops provided to its staff.

"NICH ensures continued staff development..."

The Museum of Belize (MOB) is the general caretaker of our National Collection which includes art pieces in a wide array of mediums and antiquities uncovered from our Maya and Colonial history. This vital organizational function requires that its staff is adept at caring for delicate pieces that are representative of our nation's rich culture and history. This organization also engages in Educational Outreach and Marketing of its programs and services.

The MOB staff received training in the following:

- Customer Service and Museum Interpretation
- Caring for Yesterday's Treasures Today Webinar Series
- Archaeological Field Experience
- Object Handling Basics

"This year, the Institute of Archaeology focused on strengthening its capacity to lead cultural management initiatives..."

- Business Writing
- Marketing and Sales Promotion
- Getting Assertive

This year the Institute of Archaeology (IA) focused on strengthening its capacity to lead cultural management initiatives, and as such staff members attended workshops and conferences in Guatemala, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Santo Domingo and the United States of America.

In particular, the IA identified the need to improve the institution's capacity to protect and manage our underwater cultural heritage. Underwater Archaeology is a novel area for the IA, and with Belize having numerous shipwrecks and potentially significant findings located off our coastline it is incumbent that the IA become proficient in this branch of archaeology.

Additionally, a subsequent group of Park Rangers was trained at the Police Training Academy to allow them to be more adept at monitoring, and where possible, preventing illegal activities in the archaeological parks. The IA plans to provide similar training opportunities for its field staff who support the work of the IA and the Park Rangers.

The Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR), tasked with safeguarding our intangible cultural patrimony, has a small staff who is challenged to fully utilize all available resources. This staff has to be skilled in a broad cross section of fields. This year, another staff member received training in graphic design and publication layout to facilitate the in-house production of public information materials and major publications. As this division continues to grow its small resource center, training was provided to

staff in records management to enable the proper cataloging of resource material acquired. This will eventually contribute to a well rounded and fully developed resource center with local and regional publications that is accessible to teachers, students, and other interested persons.

The Institute also spearheaded and participated in a national workshop on the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Through funding from UNESCO and the Japan-Funds-in-Trust, training was provided to almost 30 persons including staff from the Houses of Culture, members of various cultural councils and community organizations countrywide. The training enabled them to play a more active role in the safeguarding and documentation of key cultural forms in their respective communities. Additionally, two members of the ISCR staff were selected

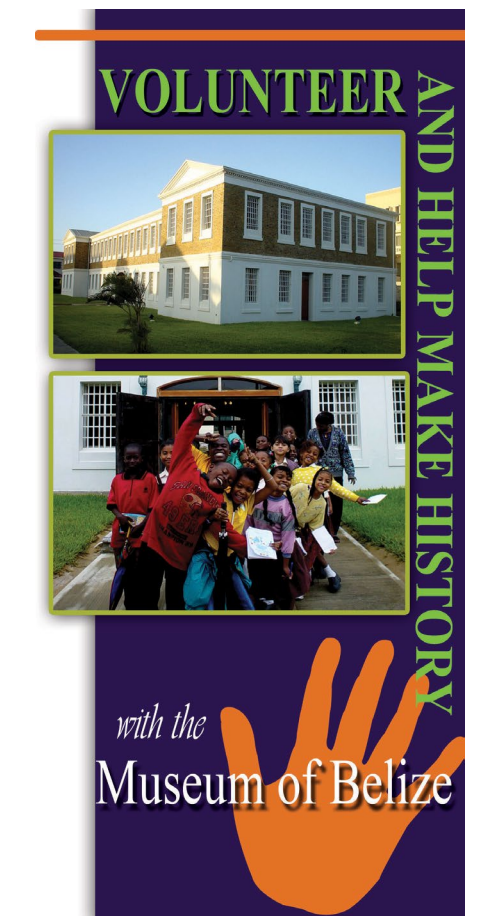
by UNESCO to participate in a Caribbean Intangible Cultural Heritage Youth Forum in Grenada. Having gained both experience and knowledge in the national ICH workshop, these staff members were able to share valuable insight about the cultural heritage models in Belize as well as contribute to the drafting of a youth action plan during the forum.

The Institute of Creative Arts (ICA) manages and executes various artistic and cultural programs and projects throughout the year. While these programs and projects are essential to our nation's social and economic development, they are costly initiatives and complete funding is not always available from NICH alone. For this reason, ICA provided training in Grant Proposal Writing to two Program Officers in an effort to empower them to seek support funding from relevant external sources.

“two members of the ISCR staff were selected by UNESCO to participate in a Caribbean Intangible Cultural Heritage Youth Forum”

Even as we focused on strengthening the technical capacity of our staff to continue working towards the achievement of the institution's mission, we are cognizant of the time constraint our staff face when seeking growth opportunities. The IA has established an electronic library with relevant journals and other media resources to support staff research, learning and growth.

Most importantly, NICH has recognized that its staff is comprised of a unique mixture of the very experienced professionals and the very young and passionate. It is clear that a strategic balance between our multi-generation employees has to be crafted to enable the institution's objectives. A key expected result of the institutional audit is that data will be generated to inform an institution-wide succession plan and subsequently inform a long term institutional training plan.



Above: Public Information Brochure on the Museum of Belize's Volunteer Program.



Above: Bruce Henry speaking at the Comic Book Clinic.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

03

GROW, EMPOWER AND SUSTAIN A DYNAMIC
CULTURAL INDUSTRY



NICH recognizes that youths are the primary stakeholders in the effective growth, empowerment, and the sustainability of our cultural industry. The programs executed under this objective focus on providing an enabling environment where our youths can explore and cultivate a passion for culture and the arts.

National Festival of Arts Exhibit Piece



National Youth Orchestra and Choir of Belize

The formation of the National Youth Orchestra and Choir of Belize (NYOCB) is a key milestone in our quest to promote and enable cultural and artistic growth. Through our partnership with and technical support from the Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA), the NYOCB was initiated with just over 20 members.

The YOA has been instrumental in working with our orchestra's music director and program manager to create and implement a strong foundation to support its growth into a full fledged 100-piece symphonic orchestra.

In early 2013, YOA Global Leader - Maggie Gould, began a 5-month teaching position with the NYOCB. During her term with our orchestra, the NYOCB was able to improve the structure and organization of its rehearsals; create a 2013-2014 work plan that included concert and workshop plans and expansion of instruction; and improve the technical and communication skills of the strings section.

Additionally, the YOA has been training and preparing our orchestra members to participate the YOA's 2013 Summer Tour.

Our youth orchestra and choir is funded through NICH and its program partners.



National Festival of Arts

The National Festival of Arts (NFOA) is one of our longest running creative arts programs and remains a primary conduit for youths to express their creativity through a variety of artistic genres and connect with culture. The Festival begins at the district level and includes the participation of all primary and secondary institutions in their respective categories. Performances earning gold entry stratus (highest recognition) are invited to showcase at the national level during the NFOA week.

The week’s festivities start with a parade through the principal streets of downtown Belize City and feature a wide array of entries from each district. Gold entry performances grace the Bliss stage throughout the festival week. A visual arts exhibit is mounted in the Belisle Art Gallery at the Bliss Centre and features works from all three festival levels and works from professional and renowned artists. This year the NFOA expanded its repertoire beyond the visual and performing arts, and successfully integrated the culinary arts.

Summer Arts Institute

The Summer Arts Institute (SAI) is hosted annually and nurtures the creative spirit, encourages cultural appreciation, and develops the artistic talents of our youths. The workshops offered each year target both the classic and contemporary genres in the visual and performing arts. This year’s workshops included the following:

- Music - Garifuna drumming, steel pan, guitar, piano, and vocal training;
- Visual arts - painting, photography, crafts;
- Performing arts - dance and theatre.

Workshops are held in partnership with local and international art and cultural institutions and are delivered by professional and experienced artists. In some instances, the workshops are offered at beginners, intermediate, and master levels to accommodate varying degrees of competency.

This program, organized through the Institute of Creative Arts, Museum of Belize and the Houses of Culture, is consistently growing in popularity. Its reach averages a few hundred participants each year. Of note, youths who excel at the NFOA are invited to participate in their genre’s SAI workshop.



Below: Opening Ceremony of the National Festival of Arts; Visual Arts Program at the Museum of Belize



Above and Below: 20th Night Fireworks in Belize City



The National Celebrations

The National Celebrations Commission is co-chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr. and the President of NICH, Ms. Diane C. Haylock. NICH also serves as the Secretariat for the Commission and as such is responsible for organizing and coordinating all the major official and programmed events.

NICH has been able to draw on some events as strategic opportunities to stimulate artistic growth and cultural appreciation, especially as these relate to our youths. One such opportunity is the [National Song Competition](#) which is grouped by junior and senior entries for Carnival and Patriotic categories.

While no junior entries were received in the Carnival category, the patriotic entries that have placed over the years represent not only a growing interest in the competition and the local music industry, but also

represent the progress made in effecting artistic growth and development. Past National Song Competition winners of the Junior Patriotic category have excelled at the National Festival of Arts and in some instances, have received artistic training through the Summer Arts Institute.

Another event that has proven to be an ultimate platform is the cultural entertainment leading up to the Official Ceremonies on [“20th Night”](#), the eve of our political independence. This performance showcase is always historic and cultural in context and grand, in fact, it is a spectacle.

This year’s cultural program was a music production dubbed *20th Night: Celebrating Belize*, a Kolcha Fyooshan featuring a contemporary twist on traditional favorites. A cross section of Belizean artists remixed decades-old “September Celebrations” pieces into popular genres, making it more relatable to today’s youth.

This Kolcha Fyooshan included a Rock ‘n Roll rendition of the Belize National Anthem (Delmar Lanza); Jazz/Funk rendition of Tribute to the Baymen (Richard Pitts); Dancehall rendition of Ya Da Fu We Belize (Mr. Program).

The message is the same - love of country and our people - but communication, very much like culture, is dynamic; and if we do not keep up with our cultural trends we will not remain relevant.

Cultural Festivals

Festivals are not only an integral way in which we celebrate our culture and heritage, but also they are drivers of growth and empowerment in Belize’s cultural industry. Cultural festivals are an important source of income for many professionals engaged in creative fields like performing artists, musicians, sound and light technicians, event managers and promoters. Even as

the cultural industry continues to struggle to be recognized not only as economic in nature but also as a key contributor to the local economy, festivals are becoming increasingly popular throughout Belize.

Certainly there are numerous festivals around the country at the community and national levels, some novel and others long-standing. NICH tries to ensure that these festivals are structured and organized to enable the continued representation of our heritage. And while we cannot provide support to all festivals, we have provided logistical, technical and financial support to some including the [Tacos Festival](#) hosted in Orange Walk Town; [Cacao Festival](#) hosted in Punta Gorda; and the [International Costa Maya](#) Festival hosted in San Pedro Town.

NICH also spearheads annual festivals that promote varied aspects of the industry.

The Belize International Film Festival (BIFF) is the signature event for the film and audiovisual industry. The festival hosts local and international filmmakers, industry professionals, film enthusiasts and features narratives, documentaries, and music videos. Now in its 7th Edition, the 2012 BIFF opened with *Kurse A Di Xtabai*, directed by Matthiew Klinck of Make-Belize Films. This film, shot in Belize and featuring numerous Belizean actors, was done entirely in Kriol. For the first time, this year's festival awards was juried entirely by international filmmakers. BIFF also features an audiovisual symposium, Show Me Competition, and community screenings.

Dance X showcases dance companies from across the country and typically features internationally acclaimed dance companies. This year's line-up included companies from Belize, Mexico and the United States of America, and featured a wide array of dance genres.

The first of its kind for Belize, [IndigeNOW](#) (© Bronintsky and Associates), a World Indigenous Music Festival was one of the highlights on the Maya 2012 Calendar of Events. The festival included renowned indigenous performers from Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Undoubtedly, one of the fastest growing festivals is the [Street Art Festival](#), which celebrates the country's multitude of cultural activities and artistic forms. In 2013 this highly anticipated event featured two performance stages, live art, crafts, fashion and an impressive food court. The NYOCB was prominently featured in the Children's Corner this year. Music instructors from the orchestra were on-hand to answer questions about the program and the instruments that were on display. The kids were encouraged to try out different instruments to peak their curiosity about music and the program.

"Cultural festivals are an important source of income for many professionals engaged in creative fields..."

And while we celebrate cultural diversity, we also underscore the importance of our historical and cultural roots. The annual [Flowers Bank Festival](#) pays homage to the 14 men from the village of Flowers Bank who paddled the Belize River to cast what would be the deciding votes on the question of defending the settlement against impending Spanish invasion in 1797. This single question was the starting point for what we now recognize and celebrate as the Battle of St. George's Caye. NICH through its Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) has been working over the past years to not only grow this festival, but also to feature the rich history of this village and its importance to the shaping of our national identity.

ISCR in collaboration with the Flowers Bank Village Council mounted a permanent exhibit in the Community Center entitled "The River and its People". The exhibit features historic and cultural implements and highlights the history and usage of the Belize River, the 1797 Public Meeting and the culture of the river valley area.

The two-day festival includes an opening ceremony in remembrance of the fourteen men, cultural entertainment, traditional Kriol games and local cuisine. Works have begun to establish a Historic Park in the village is expected to be completed in time for the 2013 Festival.

Master Workshops

A principal component in enabling the growth and sustainability of the cultural industry is to support the professionalization of those working in the industry. As such, NICH provides opportunities for advance training in varied artistic and cultural disciplines. Those who receive advance training in their disciplines share their newly acquired knowledge with their companies, students and other industry affiliates.

2012 Master Workshops were provided in dance, theatre, film, and photography.

The cultural industry extends beyond the creative disciplines to include other knowledge areas that support the industry's development in the long term. Therefore, as NICH works to promote and enable sustainable industry development, our master workshops extend to these other disciplines.

During this reporting period, the Institute of Creative Arts focused its industry capacity building initiatives on cultivating business development and management skills for creative entrepreneurs.

ICA partnered with the Youth Business Trust Belize to host the Creative Business Cup Competition at the national level. Entrepreneurs in the creative industries were invited to participate in a 4-week training program to learn how to develop, write and present a business plan. The Luna Maya Dance Group and the record label, Determined to Hussle were recognized for successfully completing the training program and completing a business plan for their creative products.

Similarly, the Institute for Social and Cultural Research collaborated with the Belize National Commission for UNESCO to facilitate a training session on the benefits and importance of implementing the Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. The one-week training session targeted cultural experts from communities countrywide and created the impetus for the inventorying of cultural heritage.

“The Caribbean is highly competitive in cultural production and many of its artists and events have a global reach that extends well beyond the region.”

Nurse, K. (2006). Culture as the Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development. Paper prepared for the Commonwealth Secretariat. London, Commonwealth Secretariat.



Above: Conservation works at the Santa Rita Archaeological Site

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

04

SAFEGUARDING OUR TANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE



After 40 years, the ferry crossing to the Xunantunich Site in the Village of San Jose Succotz was replaced. This replacement is expected to improve the visitor's experience to this site.

Institute of Archaeology field workers on newly installed ferry to Xunantunich Archaeological Site

Conservation and Archaeological Site Enhancement

Archaeological Parks and Reserves are managed through the Institute of Archaeology (IA). The IA conducts and facilitates excavations and conservation works at the archaeological sites countrywide in addition to managing site visitation.

Through a grant from the United States Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, extensive conservation works at the **Santa Rita Archaeological Site** began during this fiscal period.

Of great significance, two burials and unique artifacts were uncovered during the conservation works. In total four structures were conserved and the main plaza was landscaped beautifully to revitalize the site.

This site, located in the Corozal district, is believed to be where the historic marriage between the Spaniard, Gonzalo Guerrero and the daughter of a Maya chieftain took place in the early 1500s.

The conservation and development of this site not only ensures the preservation of an integral part of our cultural heritage but it is expected to positively impact tourism profile of the Corozal District. Works are expected to be completed in May, 2013.



Efforts to access funding for the rejuvenation of the **Government House of Culture in Belize City** continued throughout this fiscal period. Through the continued collaboration between the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and NICH, project support is being sought from the (Taiwan) International Cooperation and Development Fund.

The Government House which currently functions as a House of Culture and hosts key administrative functions within NICH will be restored to its former grandeur. This rejuvenation project, which is a component of a wider initiative to restore and highlight the historic and cultural resilience of the

Belize City downtown area, will transform the Government House into a living museum. Our young people will have an opportunity to experience a critical part of our history in a tangible and meaningful way.

Another significant undertaking for the institution during this reporting period was the **Loan Agreement with the Science Museum of Minnesota**. Just over 160 pieces of Maya artifacts from our National Collection were selected for loan to the SMM as a part of the *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* Exhibit. This Exhibit will feature the Maya of Belize and will be hosted at several museums across the United States of America.

Maya 2012

NICH along with its counterpart agencies organized a calendar of events in recognition of the widely publicized belief that the Maya predicted the world would end on December 21, 2012. This particular date is actually the end of the long count Maya calendar. Therefore, Belize celebrated this significant date under the theme “Where Will You Be When the World Begins Anew?”

To mark this historic event, NICH hosted the **Winter Solstice** at the Caracol Archaeological Site. Visitors from all over the globe participated in the educational

tour by the esteemed Archaeologist, Dr. Jaime Awe, dined on Maya cuisines, and camped under the stars in the site’s main plaza. Visitors also experienced a Maya Fire Ceremony performed by a Maya Priest.

The winter solstice was the last of four to be hosted at Caracol throughout 2012 and was without question the most sought event in the calendar of events which included the country’s first World Indigenous Music Festival and other cultural festivals.



Above: Nim Li Punit Archaeological Site
Below: Artefacts being packed for shipping to SMM

Winter Solstice at the Caracol Archaeological Site

Improving the Visitor Experience

Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites Project

is a joint venture between the IA/NICH and the Belize Tourism Board. Through the joint efforts of the IA and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, the European Union approved grant funding to improve the monitoring systems, health and safety provisions and infrastructure at nine archaeological sites.

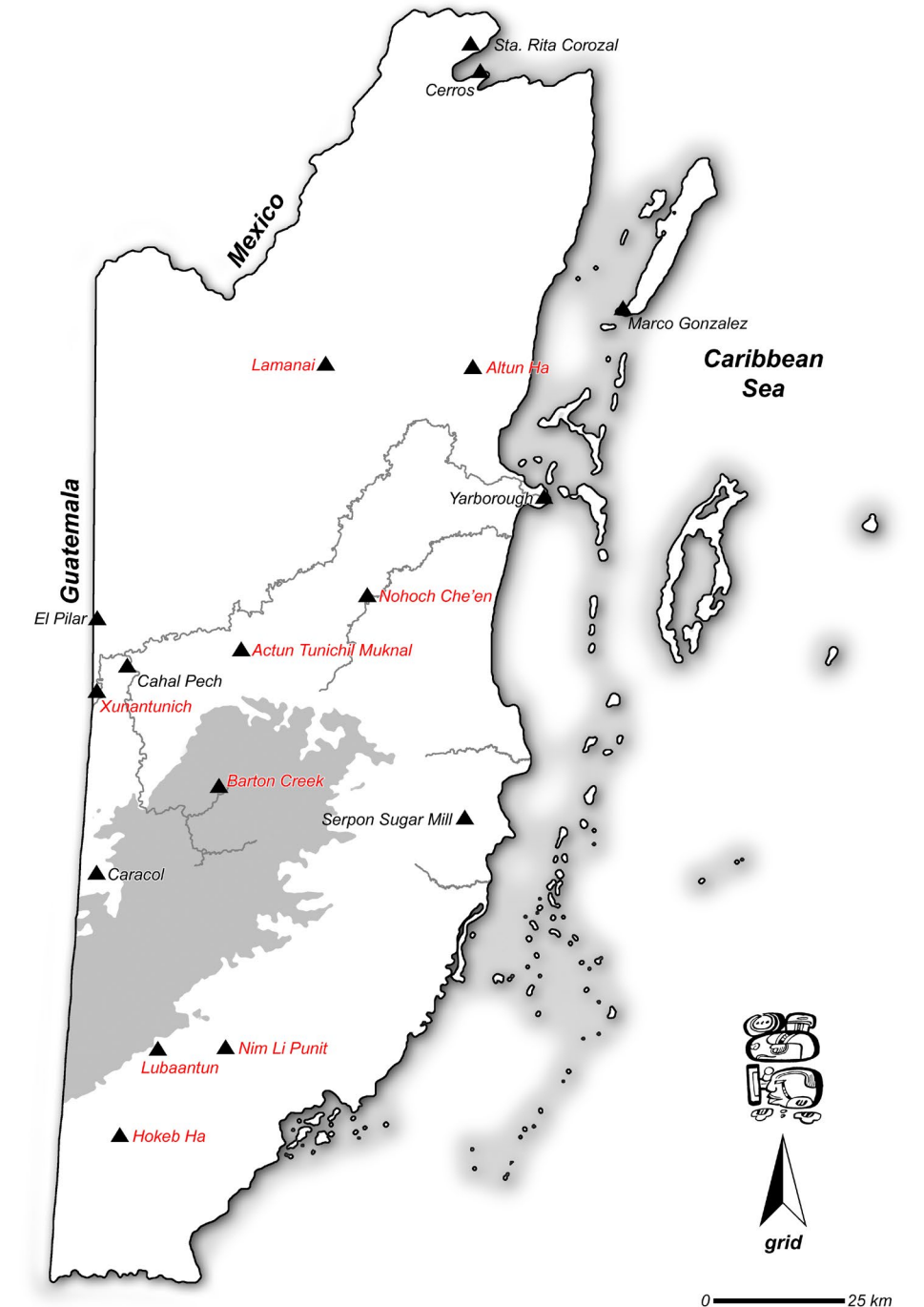
This project also seeks to enhance and diversify the community based tourism products and services offered at and near the archaeological sites in Belize. The Institute of Creative Arts is also lending support to this project to improve the quality and selection of the arts and craft created and sold in the communities adjacent to these nine sites.

The sites included in the project are listed below.

- Xunantunich
- Nohoch Che'en (Caves' Branch)
- Nim Li Punit
- Barton Creek
- Altun Ha
- Lubaantun
- Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM)
- Lamanai
- Blue Creek

Map of Archaeological Sites

Sites included in the MTBCAAS Project are noted in red text.





Above: Jade Head on Display at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

05

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS



Thousands of students across the country participate in NICH's outreach and education initiatives annually. It is crucial that our children interact with our history and dynamic culture to have a richer appreciation for we are as a people.

Symposiums and Forums

NICH uses mixed formats to disseminate information to the public including lectures, symposiums and forums. These forums and symposiums are sometimes conducted during cultural festivals to take full advantage of the opportunity to reach a broad cross section of our stakeholders. The institution is also keen on ensuring that these information exchanging sessions are based on the industry's needs and focus.

The institution's first Anthropology Symposium was hosted alongside the 10th Belize Archaeology Symposium. The **Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium** (BAAS) featured research presentations of archaeological and anthropological papers on Belize. This symposium enabled the improved dissemination of information-based research to a wide cross section of industry stakeholders especially those in research, education, and tourism.

The Belizean Audio Visual Industry Association (BAVIA) collaborates with the institution to host an annual **Audio Visual Symposium** during the Belize International Film Festival. This symposium brings together professionals and other interested persons in the audiovisual and film industry to discuss topics influencing the industry.

A second **Traditional Healer's Forum** was hosted through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research. This forum served a dual purpose. Firstly, it considered the importance of emphasizing the benefits of traditional medicines and healing approaches; and secondly, the stakeholders from this social and cultural sector participated in a consultation session to inform the National Culture Policy draft.

50 papers were presented on archaeological and anthropological research on Belize



Exhibitions and Trade Shows

The Institute of Archaeology, the Museum of Belize and the Institute for Social and Cultural Research are predominantly tasked with mounting exhibitions of social, cultural and historical context. Annually, the ISCR mounts the **National Heroes and Benefactors Exhibit** which features the most noted personalities in Belizean history. Each year, two national figures are incorporated into the exhibition, which is toured countrywide

and in most instances hosted through our various Houses of Culture.

In this reporting period, the MOB in collaboration with the ISCR and the Belize Archives and Records Services mounted the exhibit **Revisiting the 10th and the 21st** which highlighted the Battle of St. George's Caye (September 10th) and the our political independence from Great Britain (September 21st). A publication was also launched in tandem with the exhibit.

NICH not only hosts the annual Street Art Festival, but our organizations also take part actively in this event. Each year, the four organizations under NICH set-up a booth at the festival where they provide information that represents the work they do as well as other historic and social data. Visitors to the NICH booth are also given public information material and have the opportunity to win attractive prizes for participating in games centered on our national history and culture.

Our organizations also participate in other cultural festivals countrywide in an effort to create awareness about the work and objectives of these organizations and to discuss a plethora of topics ranging from anti-looting of national monuments and cave sites, to events of historical significance, and social practices.

Above: Revisiting the 10th and 21st Exhibit

Below: Exhibition on Archaeology; Lecture at Museum of Belize



Belize Kolcha Series

Two episodes of the ongoing series BELIZE KOLCHA were completed in this fiscal period.

HURRICANES features emotional eyewitness accounts of major storms that impacted Belize including the country's first meteorologist, Dr. Kenrick Leslie, business woman Edilia Zayden nee Burgos, Catholic Bishop Dorrick Wright, historian/politician Hector Silva, public servant Matron Cora Joseph, schoolteacher Rosaling Diego nee Lewis, and businessman Santiago Sosa who provides viewers with a window into the storm's impact in both Belize City and Stann Creek and the rebuilding efforts of our country after Hattie.

Since hurricanes of Hattie's magnitude can come any year, the episode also included an interview with Belize's Chief Meteorologist, Dennis Gonguez who discusses the current warning systems of approaching hurricanes while Belize Kolcha comedy personalities Aunt Vera and Cuzzin Catto laughingly takes the viewers through the list of supplies to be purchased and precautions to take during any hurricane season.

TIME AND THE MAYA features host Cindy Trapp and Dr. Jaime Awe, Director of the Institute of Archaeology going over the basic concepts of Maya cosmology, introduction to their mathematical system, how to count in it, as well as Maya calendrics. This episode also provides a practical session where viewers observe the dating of a stela using the math information shared earlier.

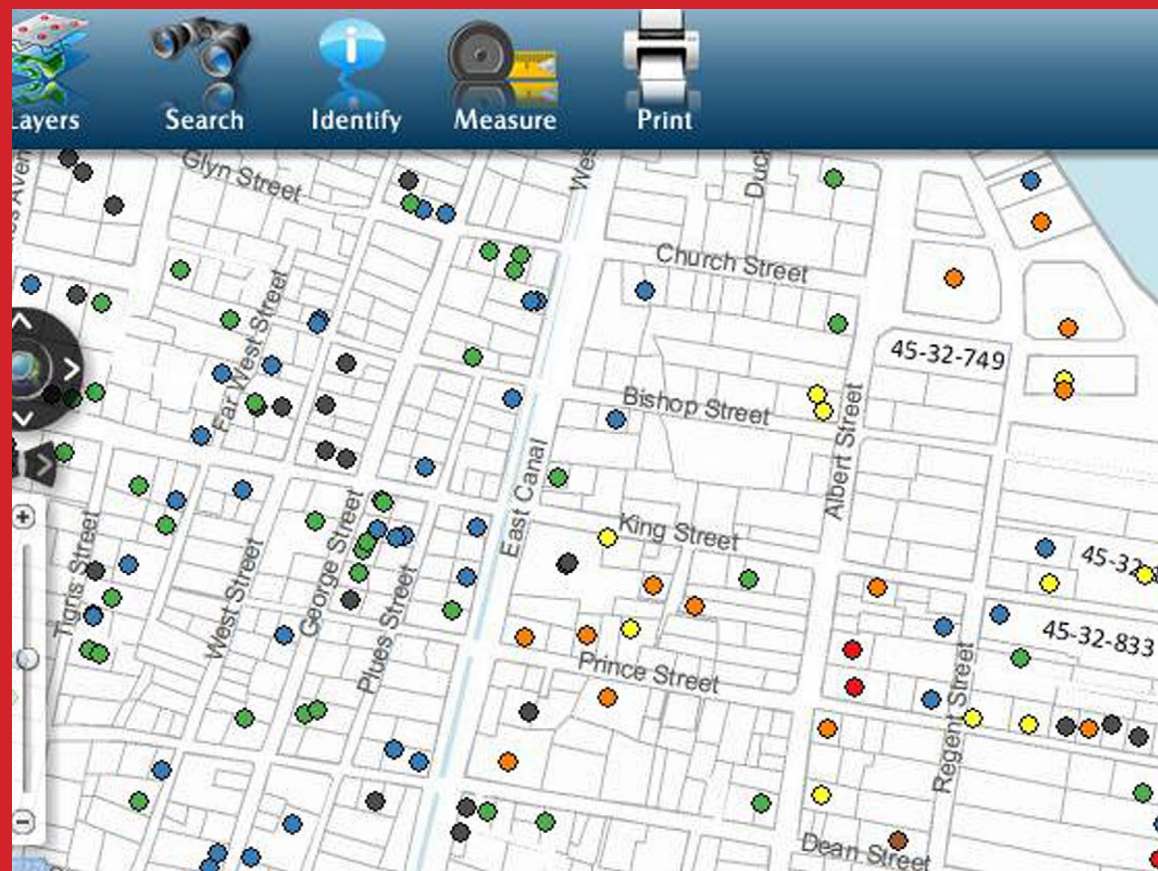
Other episodes of Belize Kolcha include:

- Christmas Traditions
- Government House Stories
- Carnival



NICH also maintains a strong online presence through its website, Facebook pages, eNewsletters, Twitter, and Pinterest.

Above: (L-R) Primary School Lecture in Archaeology; Students watching Belize Kolcha Series; Museum of Belize Outreach Initiative.



Above: Screen Shot, Heritage Trust Database, Belize City.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

06

IMPROVED GOVERNANCE



“...acknowledging the past provides the population with an enhanced sense of place, sense of belonging and sense of pride...the challenge is to protect the most valued heritage places in an evolving environment while meeting the needs of a rapidly changing community.”

PADECO. (2012) *Action Plan for [Belize] Heritage Trust.*

Frame of the Corozal Town Market

HERITAGE TRUST LEGISLATION

The Heritage Trust Legislation is meant to empower the management and preservation capacity for the safeguarding of historic and culturally significant landmarks and buildings.

The process to ensure heritage protection includes indentifying, inventorying, and researching the historic and cultural reference points in each community using the prescribed criteria. And thereafter engaging in conservation, public awareness and promtion and management of these landmarks and buildings. Ultimately, this will result in maintaing the unique character of our communities and enabling the sustainble use of heritage assets to derive economic

benefits. For instance, the Government House, which has been identified as a historic landmark in Belize City is being converted into a living museum where its historic and cultural representations of that period will be preserved and available for all to experience and enjoy.

The draft legislation to support this initiative was completed during this period. Another component of this initiative includes establishing heritage trails in each municipality that is complimented by signange and a publication outlining the historic and cultural significance of landmarks and buildings in the respective communities.

The Belize Film Commission and its Policy Memo

The Belize Film Commission (BFC) is primarily tasked with attracting media productions to Belize including film, television and photo shoots. The BFC also promotes the growth and development of the film industry at the national and international levels.

In recent years, the BFC has found itself competing heavily for high budget productions with other Caribbean and Central American film location destinations that offer extremely attractive cash back rebates as standard fees available on their websites. In advocating for Belize to offer official incentives to improve its prospects of

attracting big budget productions, the BFC still found itself handicapped.

Even though its existence dates back to 1998 and it is currently recognized as a program managed through NICH, it's functions were never written into law, which is a requirement before incentives can be offered officially through it.

Consequently, NICH through its Institute of Creative Arts prepared and submitted a Policy Memo to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to advocate for the NICH Act to be amended to satisfy the requirement. This policy memo will ultimately be used to support the development of a Government Policy Paper on the structure and growth of the Belize film industry.

Improving Board Governance

In July 2012, NICH instated a new Board of Directors and improved the membership profiles to enhance the governance structure of the institution. The member profiles were created to reflect the role and contribution each Director brings to this oversight body.

Below is a list of the current member profiles and the members who provide guidance especially on these matters relating to the following:

- Music and Business Acumen (Mr. Lynn Young)
- Business Decisions (Mr. Omar Ortiz)
- Belize's Indigenous Cultures (Ms. Rosita May)
- Cultural Expressions (Ms. Ena Martinez)

- History and Culture (Dr. Filiberto Penados)
- Youth and the Law (Ms. Nyasha Laing)

The President of the institution Chairs the Board of Directors, and the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry with responsibility for Culture serve as Ex-Officio Members.

The Board will serve a two-year term.





Above: Essay Competition Winners with hosts of Open Your Eyes Morning Show, 2012.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

07

NATIONAL IDENTITY & SOCIAL COHESION



“Cultural Heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.”

UNESCO. *What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?*. p.2

National Culture Policy

Nationwide consultations began during this reporting period to inform a draft of a National Culture Policy. Consultations were held in each district and with specific target stakeholder groups.

While the impetus to formulate a Culture Policy for Belize is 20 years in the making, the importance of completing this process remains paramount in the course of establishing a development roadmap. The NCP Consultation team, which included seasoned archaeologists, researchers, historians, and cultural workers, sought to substantiate a link between our cultural development and national development.

In substantiating this link definitively, the team explored the connection between culture and education, health, and the environment. Another crucial component was identifying how culture contributes to poverty eradication.

The NCP focused on broad categories including cultural heritage, creative industries and the core arts.

The first draft of the policy will be socialized widely and review sessions will be held with specific target groups to facilitate feedback on the proposed cultural roadmap.



Above: National Festival of Arts, Primary School Category.

Financial Summary 2012 - 2013

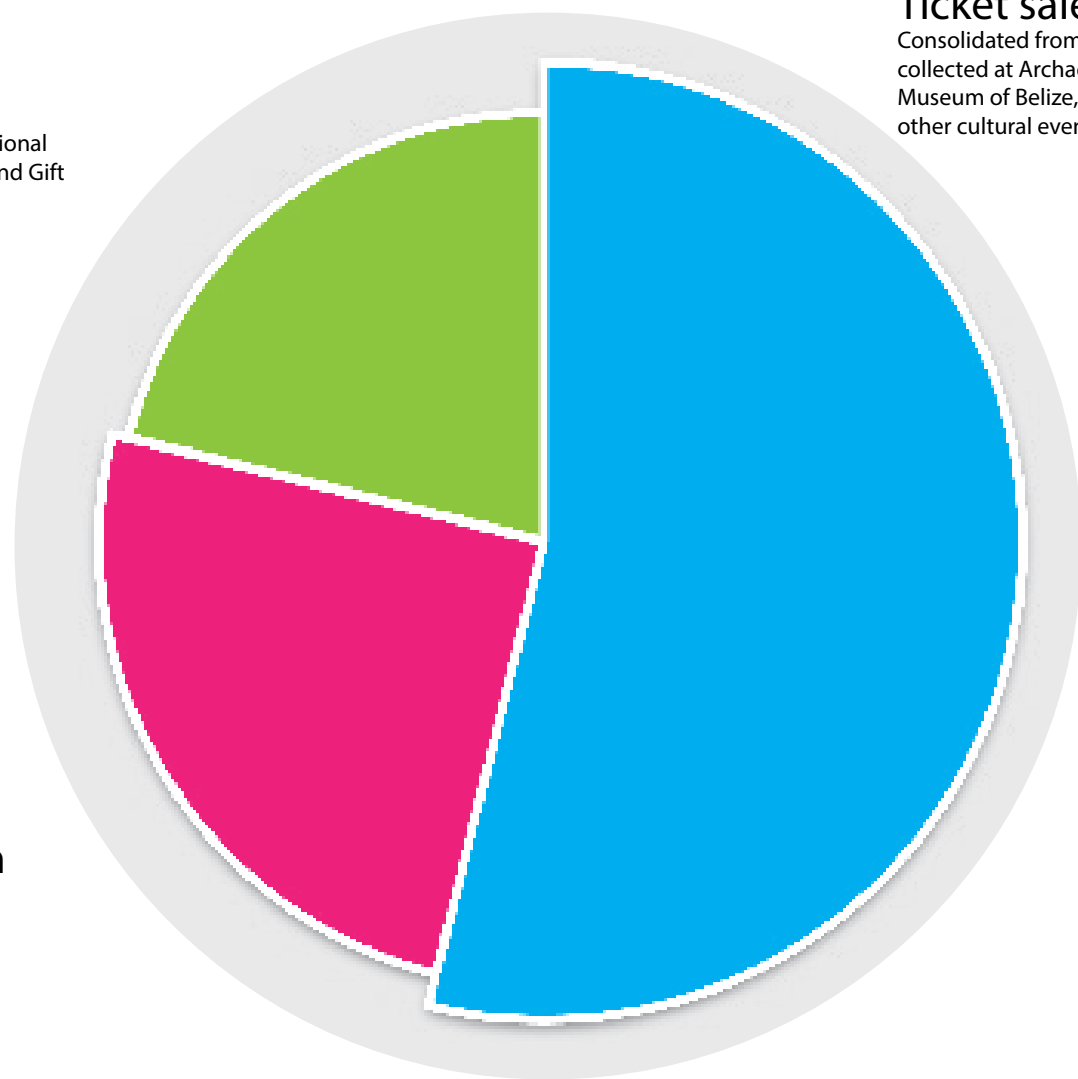




Other
Includes Rental Income, National Celebrations Commission, and Gift Shop Sales

GOB Subvention

Revenue

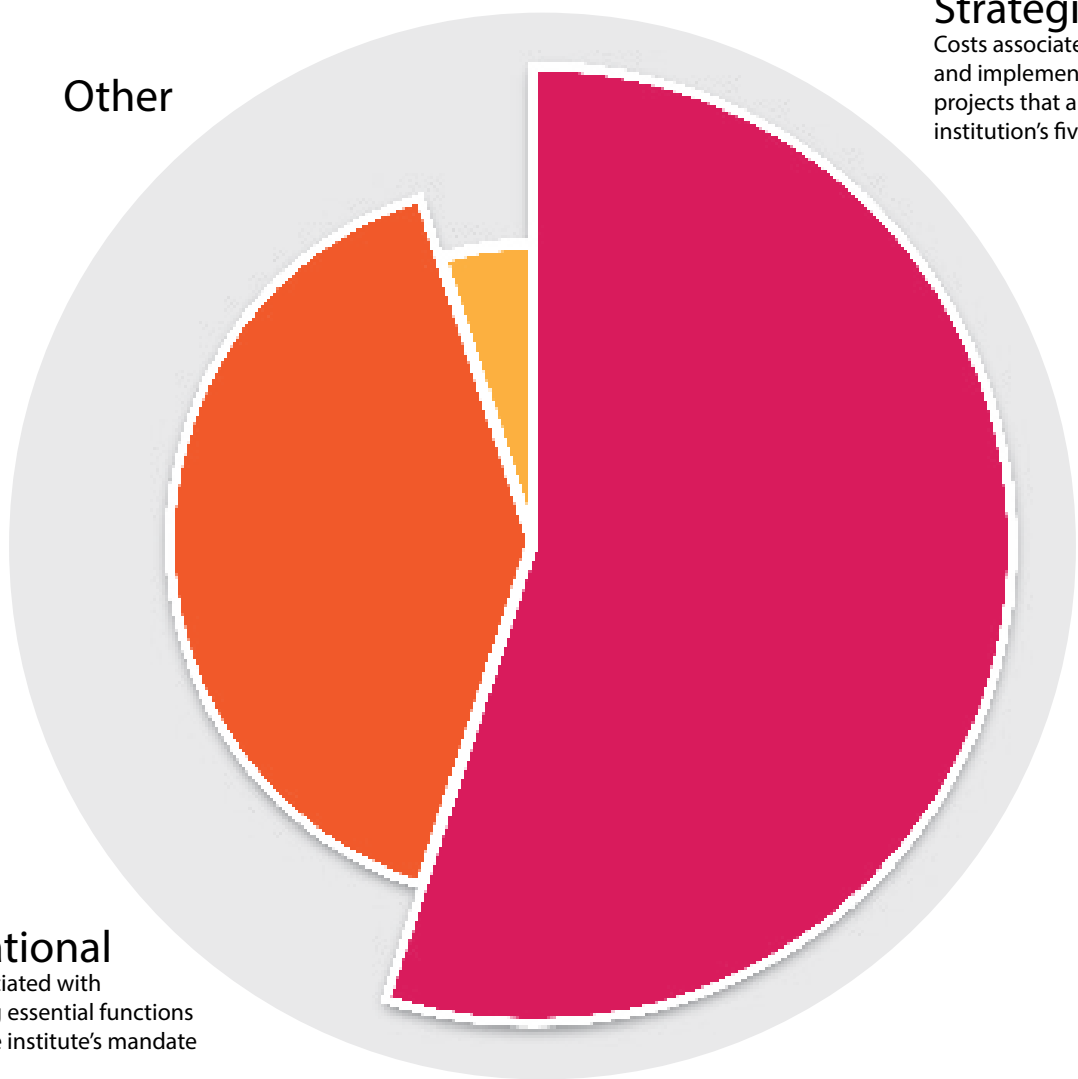


Ticket sales
Consolidated from entrance fees collected at Archaeological Sites, Museum of Belize, Festivals and other cultural events.

**financial
summary**

Total Revenue \$7,924,328

Expenditure



Strategic
Costs associated with planning and implementing programs and projects that are aligned to the institution's five-year strategic plan.

Operational
Costs associated with performing essential functions to fulfill the institute's mandate

Total Expenditure \$7,249,651

Net Profit \$674,677

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BANQUITAS HOUSE OF CULTURE

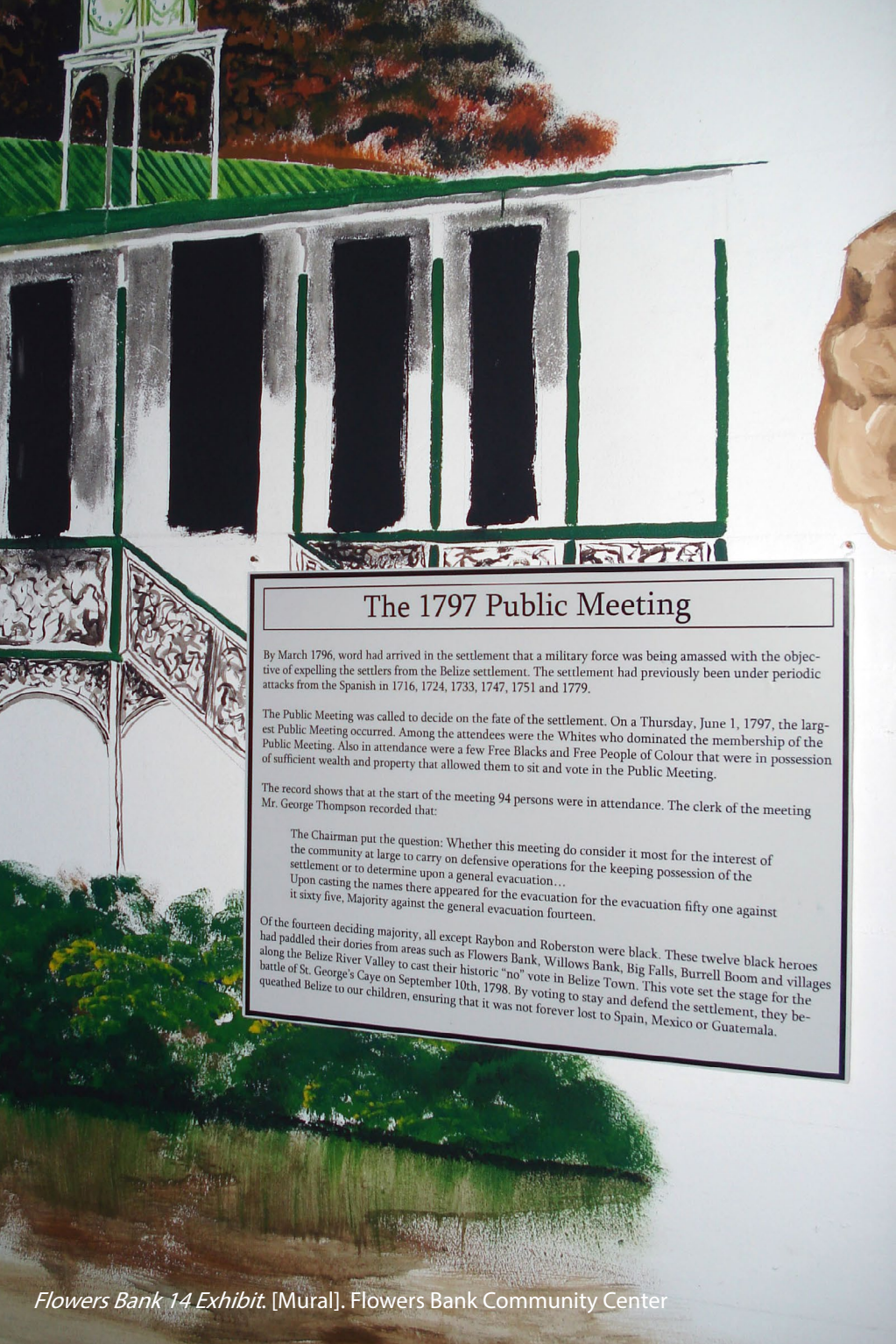
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Flowers Bank 14 Exhibit. [Mural]. Flowers Bank Community Center