

culture in motion

FY 2013-2014



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SECTION 1
INSTITUTIONAL
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 premier cultural institution dedicated to creating an enabling environment for the development, conservation and accessibility of culture in all its diversity.

VALUES

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | SENIOR MANAGEMENT

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

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- MS. DIANE C. HAYLOCK, CHAIRPERSON

MS. ROSITA MAY, BOARD MEMBER

MS. ENA MARTINEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MS. NYASHA LAING, BOARD MEMBER

MR. LYNN YOUNG, BOARD MEMBER

MR. OMAR ORTIZ, BOARD MEMBER

DR. FILIBERTO PENADOS, BOARD MEMBER
- MR. GIL WILLIAMS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

MS. TRACY PANTON, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

- SENIOR MANAGEMENT
- MS. DIANE C. HAYLOCK, PRESIDENT

MR. GIL WILLIAMS, ADMINISTRATOR

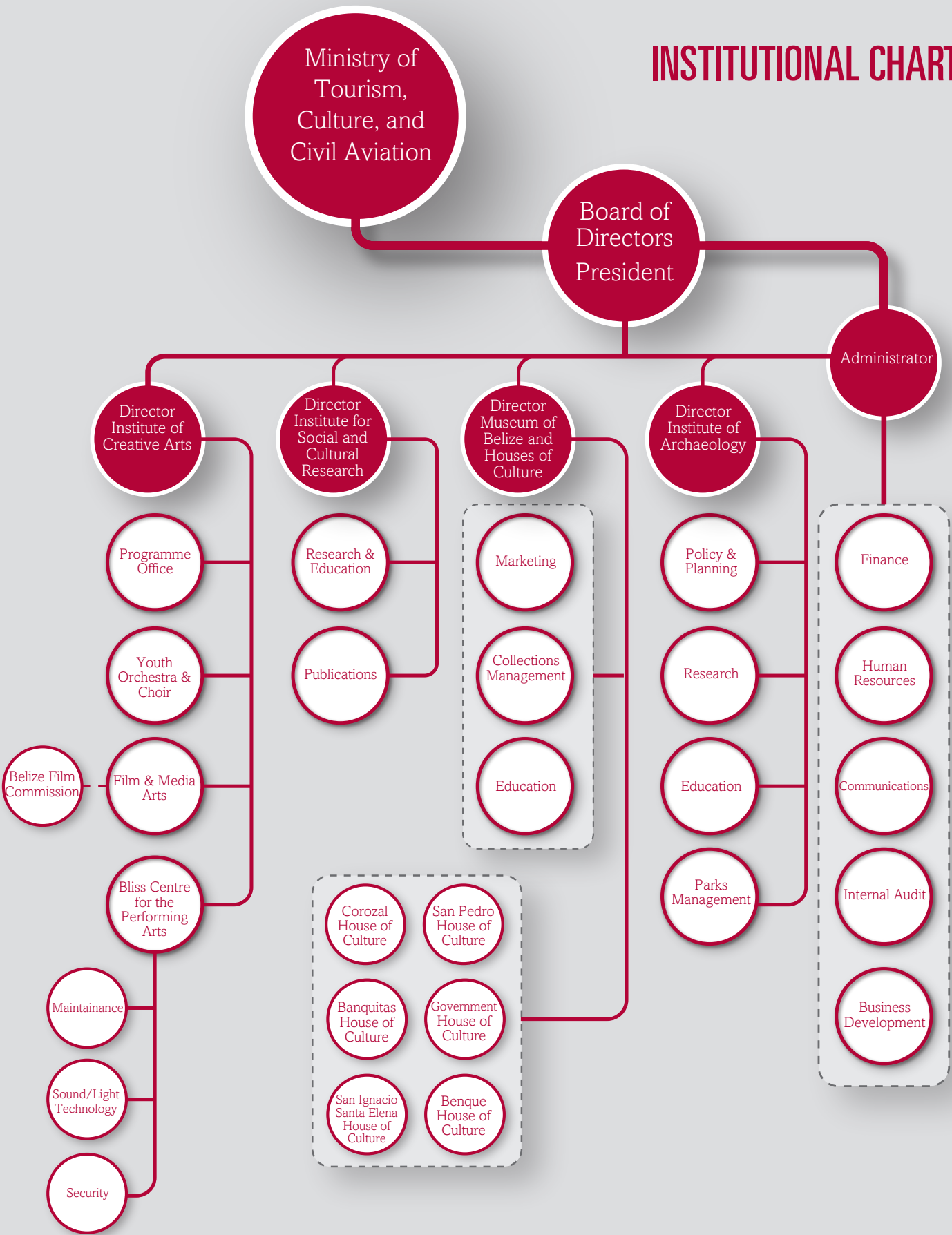
MR. GREGORY VERNON, DIRECTOR (ICA)

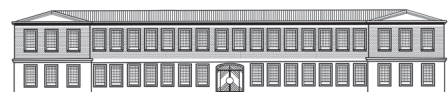
MR. NIGEL ENCALADA, DIRECTOR (ISCR)

MS. SHERILYNE JONES, DIRECTOR (MOB/HOC)

DR. JAIME AWE, DIRECTOR (IA)

INSTITUTIONAL CHART





**Museum of Belize
and Houses of Culture**

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 instil 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.

MOB is dedicated to the promotion, documentation, exhibition and understanding of Belize's culture and history.

HOCs are dynamic community centres that are meant to inspire and uplift all through the various cultural areas.



(Top: End of Year Staff Celebration (L); National Service Day at Queen Street Baptist School (R));

Bottom: Staff from Banquitas and Benque HOCs (L); NICH Team in La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge, 2014 (R))



SECTION 2

STRATEGIC

ACHIEVEMENTS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 — CONSOLIDATE INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

The National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) commemorated its tenth anniversary with an Industry Presentation and an open-air luncheon on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. The event was hosted at the Bliss Centre for Performing Arts and chronicled the past decade with the statutory body at the helm of the promotion and preservation of culture, history and the arts in Belize. The anniversary celebration was held under the theme “Igniting a Cultural Renaissance.”

In 2003 the NICH Act was signed into law, formally amalgamating several government departments under NICH. These departments included the Arts Council, now the Institute of Creative Arts and the Department of Archaeology, now the Institute of Archaeology. The successful creation of NICH allowed for the harmonization

of efforts and the introduction of the Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture, and the Institute for Social and Cultural Research.

The Industry Presentation, which was the main event on the official anniversary celebration calendar, featured a video presentation on the first ten years of NICH and was complimented by reflections from the institution’s President, Diane C. Haylock. The day’s activities concluded with a snapshot of the institution’s future through the presentation of the draft Belize National Culture Policy.

Notably, this historical milestone allowed the NICH staff from all divisions to come together and celebrate its achievements over the last decade.



(Above: Technical and administrative staff of NICH at the 10th anniversary Industry Presentation)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NICH

INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT: The institutional audit, completed in late 2013, underscored opportunities for improvements in NICH’s operations and development strategy. These opportunities will enable the institution’s

sustainability in the immediate and long-term while supporting its continued growth. While the institution has maintained a healthy financial performance, and is recognized as a leader in producing dynamic and high

(Right: ISCR Staff participating in intangible cultural inventorying activity in Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District)

caliber artistic and cultural performances, exhibitions, and lectures there are various developmental milestones that need to be reached. A priority area for improvement is in establishing a formal capacity building strategy for the institution that takes into consideration succession planning and proper job fit to ensure continuity in producing the quality work that has become our trademark.

Specific initiatives developed as a result of this audit were incorporated into the institution’s next fiscal year.

PROMOTE STAFF LEARNING AND GROWTH: During the 2013-2014 fiscal period NICH continued to ensure that its staff received training and development opportunities to support optimum employee performance and ultimately improve the institution’s capacity to fulfill its legal mandate.

The Institute for Archaeology continued to develop its

“the institution has maintained a healthy financial performance...”

cadre of Park Rangers to equip them with the right skills set to manage the archaeological reserves countrywide. As a result of this initiative, 12 rangers were trained as special constables through the Belize Police Academy. This type of training has become essential to the work of the IA since some reserves are remotely located and most are still plagued by looting and illegal activity nearby. Therefore, the Park Rangers who receive training are better able to address any safety concerns that may arise. The institution takes great strides to ensure that all park visitors and its staff are safe while exploring and



caring for our archaeological wonders. Additionally, a representative from the IA along with the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation and Rev. Dr. Rudolph Anthony, Secretary General of Belize to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), attended an UNESCO Meeting in Lima, Peru on Underwater Cultural Heritage Protection for Latin America and the Caribbean. The outcomes of this meeting include a Caribbean Sub-Regional Plan to foster the establishment of a steering committee to further the development of underwater cultural heritage management and enable a project to underscore the importance of shared underwater cultural heritage management; one such consideration includes exploring the underwater trail of the transatlantic slave route. Two members of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) unit participated in a two-day workshop, “Issues on Copyright and Related Rights” hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Belize intellectual Property Office

(BELiPO). This workshop included an introduction to copyright, the national legal framework, challenges and opportunities for right holders, and the management and use of digital intellectual property. The opportunity to expand the ISCR's knowledge of intellectual property and copyright is especially beneficial to their process of producing publications and providing guidance to cultural organizations on this topic.

The Institute of Creative Arts (ICA) focused its capacity building initiatives for this fiscal period in developing its theatre management. The Theatre Director of the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts spent two weeks training at the Old Town Temecula, a state-of-the-art proscenium theatre. The Theatre Director was able to build on her existing knowledge of managing the theatre, its staff and developing an audience.

The Museum of Belize continued to develop its staff's capacity to manage and curate the National Collection of Arts and Antiquities. Staff members engaged in specialized training in object handling, documentation, and packaging; and gained archaeological field and laboratory experience.

While the institution is mindful of the need to support the professional development of its staff, it is also aware of the process that must inform this type of support. The

Employee Performance Management process was improved with the introduction of a revised approach to measuring employee performance and enabling capacity building at the personal, organizational and institutional levels. This revised approach allows for an objective evaluation of staff performance based on their expected and actual work deliverables throughout the evaluation period. This revised employee management process also supported the commencement of a complete revision of job descriptions and job classifications to align the work that employees perform and the work that is required for the institution to operate effectively and sustainably. Even though the institution has an impressive history of financial performance, the need for cultural development often times outweighs the institution's resource availability. It has become incumbent on NICH to seek other revenue generating streams to not only support national development through culture, but also to ensure the viability of these efforts in the long-term. During this reporting period, NICH undertook the introduction of a Business Development function into its operational structure and further sought grant funding for various initiatives that could not be completed properly without external collaborations.

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

CARIFESTA: Preparations for the eleventh Caribbean Festival of Arts and Culture in Suriname began months before the 34-member contingent left Belize. The Belize delegation included artists representing a wide spectrum of artistic and cultural genres like music, theatre, fashion, visual and literary arts, and art and craft. One of the many impressive features of the delegation was the

young artists who ably presented their talent alongside the more seasoned international performers, without question this key factor will be significant in nurturing our young artists and will be integral in honing their talent.

The art and craft selection was collected from artisans countrywide and were presented at the festival's craft



(Above: Opening of Community-Based Inventorying of Belize's Intangible Cultural Heritage Workshop, Banq'itaa HOC.)

market by two craft persons from the Toledo District. The opportunity to showcase Belizean made art and craft alongside other diversified and high-end products made

72 students directly impacted through the Youth Orchestra and Choir

by artists throughout the Caribbean Community proved extremely beneficial to our artisans. Belize's visual and literary arts also featured prominently during the festival, in fact, many pieces and publications were sold.

The Belize Dance Company and the Galen Eagles Band collaborated brilliantly in representing our broad cultural spectrum, enchanting audiences with Creole, Garifuna and Mestizo music and dance. The theatre production, *My Body is Precious*, was modified for a 4-member cast and was featured at various venues throughout Suriname. To say that this educational drama which brings awareness to sexual abuse and sensitizes young audiences to good touch-bad touch was well received is an understatement. The message is a powerful one that

resonates deeply with audiences.

All in all, our country was represented beyond the institution's expectations. Putting together a delegation of artists from different artistic and cultural genres and varying age groups could be a daunting undertaking but all indications were that this was one of most impressive contingents to represent Belize. Still, we welcome the challenge of surpassing the talent, charisma, and energy displayed by this contingent when we participate in CARIFESTA XXII to be hosted in Haiti in 2015.

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR: Since the inception of the National Youth Orchestra and Choir of Belize, this young music program has received an outpouring of support, enabling the extraordinary growth, social impact and capacity development of its members. During this reporting period, the program was able to increase the number and variety of equipment for student training through donations and loans from key sources including the following: donations from the Jay and Jeannie Shottenstein Foundation, John and Linda Searle, MusAid, and equipment loaned through the Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence.

Belizean Violinist, Courtney Gillett was privileged to participate in the Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA) 2013 Summer Tour; Ms. Gillett, who is also a music instructor with the NYOCB, was selected from among

hundreds of hopeful applicants. Belize was equally privileged to host the final concert of this tour at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts, where 750 patrons clamored to see the 37 Belizean musicians who graced the stage along with 90 other international musicians. Senior NYOCB members played alongside the members of the YOA in ‘Capriccio Espagnol’; and the NYOCB presented its first public performance of the Gypsy Overture.

The closing concert of the YOA Summer Tour was a phenomenal experience, the energy was electric for those fortunate to attend, and certainly there was a feeling of great national pride to see our young musicians featured so prominently in one of the most renowned orchestras worldwide. At the conclusion of this tour, Ms. Gillett was invited to participate in the YOA’s Leaders’ Mission, where she received first class training in conducting music instruction.

Schools have reported an upsurge in students who are interested in playing musical instruments; this program directly impacts as many as 72 students from various schools.

(Below: Intangible cultural inventoring activity in Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District)



DEVELOPING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IMPLEMENT ACTION PLAN FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKSHOP: The Institute for Social and Cultural Research collaborated with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Japan-Funds-in-Trust to host a follow-up workshop to support the implementation of the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Six district-level and one national-level workshops were hosted with the direct involvement of at least 100 persons, representing 48 cultural organizations from 29 communities countrywide. The national-level workshop included participation of NICH staff from the Houses of Culture, Institute for Social and Cultural Research and the Institute of Archaeology.

These workshops ultimately resulted in the Banquitas Action Plan that gave impetus for a 6-month pilot project to inventory 7 major cultural celebrations. The inventorying process comprised direct involvement of at least 30 persons from 12 communities during the pilot project.

The cultural celebrations inventoried include the following:

- **Yurumein** – the re-enactment of the arrival of the Garinagu people in Belize in 1832; celebrated annually as Garifuna Settlement Day on November 19th
- **Los Finados** – also known as Dia de los Muertos or Hanal Pixan; religious celebration of the return of departed souls to their homes.
- **Las Posadas** – celebration of Mary and Joseph’s quest to find lodging and the birth of Jesus in a manger.
- **Christmas Bram** – Kriol celebration held in Gales Point Manatee, which originally marked the homecoming of log wood cutters after long periods away at camp.
- **Ox’lajun Ba’aktun** – the 13th calendar cycle, celebration of thanksgiving and includes paying homage to Maya gods.

- **Carnaval** – three days of revelry prior to the start of Lenten Season; celebrated in the Northern communities.
- **La Semana Santa** – re-enactment of Christ’s arrival in Jerusalem, His death and resurrection; held in Benque Viejo del Carmen.

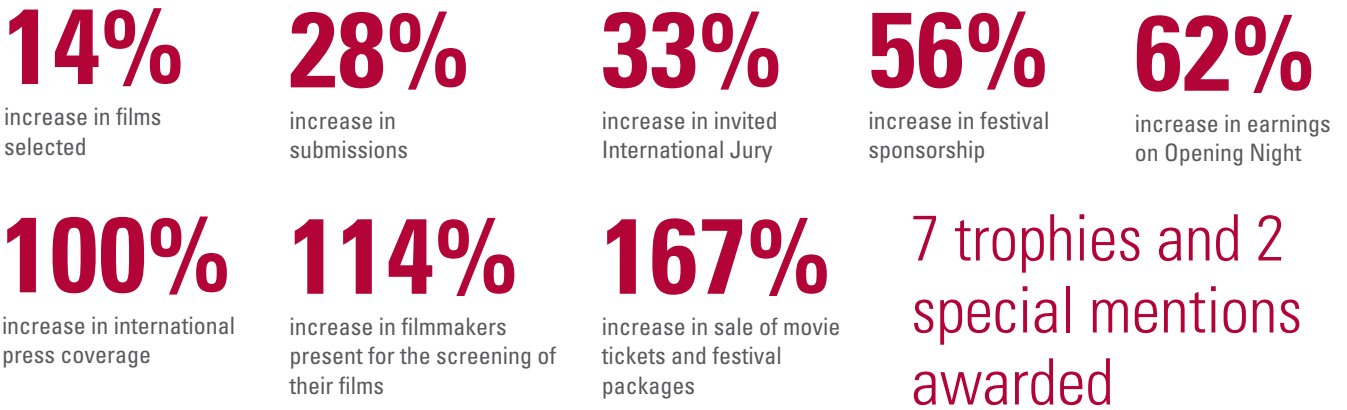
The information collected during the inventorying of these celebrations will be used to create learning tools for students.

HANDY CRAFT TRAINING: Under the Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites (MTBCAAS) Project a training program was developed to enhance artisan business skills and diversify their products to develop a market for the sale and distribution of authentic Belizean crafts.

Through this program 60 artisans were trained in Small Business and Product Development. Additionally, one of the sustainability components of the program enabled 16 artisans and 4 officers from cultural organizations to train in facilitating these training sessions; and a Facilitator’s Training Manual was developed.

CREATIVE VILLAGE: Through the Institute of Creative Arts 12 artisan booths were featured over two days at the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s EXPO. This initiative was first introduced at the 2012 EXPO and proved to be a successful platform to showcase the remarkable crafts made in Belize. In 2013, the creative village was expanded to allow for the participation of more artisans and fashion designers. A platform such as this, with a wide audience, has impacted positively on Belizean artists’ profile.

Belize International Film Festival by the numbers



Best Feature Narrative
Toomelah
Special Jury Mention
Home Again
Best Feature Documentary
The Abominable Crime

Special Jury Mention
Separated
Best Short Film
Cebu
Best Short Doc
Agape: Story of A Dream

Best Music Video (Tie)
Come Away
My Ex-Boyfriend
Most Notable Belizean Film
Maroons: Africans on the Move

(Below: National Festival of Arts promotional material, Puppet Theatre (L) and Festival Opening (R))



ARTIST REGISTRY: The Belize Artist Registry was introduced in June, 2013 and is being piloted through the Creative Industry desk of the Institute of Creative Arts. This registry is meant to be not only an international marketing tool for Belizean artists and cultural workers but also to provide official certification of their body of work and skills. This tool will be applicable across the creative industries to include music, dance, film, and other cultural workers who provide technical support like sound and light technicians, and so forth.

NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS: The 2013 National Festival of Arts featured participation from all six districts, the first festival jamboree, first “Be the Next Super Star” High School Competition, and sparked a renewed interest and participation of professional visual and literary artists. This year’s festival also featured an “Old Timers Folk Concert” at the Cayo Welcome Centre, which was well received by the community.

- 1,500 students showcased on the Bliss Stage;
- 3,000 students attended showcases from all six districts;
- 6 professional visual artists featured in Festival Exhibit.

SUMMER ARTS INSTITUTE: Each year the institution seeks to encourage cultural exploration, develop artistic skills of the youths and nurture the creative spirit through its expressive arts program, the Summer Arts Institute. This program is hosted countrywide through the divisions of NICH and through the collaborations with social and cultural organizations. This year the institution partnered with RESTORE Belize, the youth arm of the National Garifuna Council (Belize City Chapter) and various artistic groups to provide training for youths during the summer months.

Classes under the 2013 SAI included Kriol dance, puppet theatre, steel pan, violin (master class), voice and stage, and basic arts appreciation through the Ministry of Education. The SAI also supported the reformation of the Ebo-lites dance group (Punta Gorda Town), drumming and maracas (Stann Creek) and steel pan (Belmopan City).

- 95 students enrolled through the Bliss Centre;
- 75 students impacted through the classes in the districts;
- 16 scholarships awarded for a variety of SAI classes.

The SAI also featured a Summer Bram Concert with brukdong artists and violinist, William Harvey from The Julliard School of Music. Mr. Harvey conducted outreach visits to community music programs including the Benque Youth Marimba Academy, Belmopan Steel Pan Programme, Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence, and the National Youth Orchestra and Choir of Belize.

The 2013 SAI closed with a multi-discipline showcase on the Bliss Stage.

RESEARCH COMPETITION: Eleven student researchers from four tertiary level institutions received one-on-one training in research methods to enable their participation in the research competition hosted through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research. Research papers were completed and prepared.

FESTIVALS promote the development of the arts, expression and exploration of culture in all its forms, and foster social cohesion.

BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: The Belize International Film Festival (BIFF) is the signature event of the film and audiovisual industry. Now in its 8th year, the festival continues to show growth both nationally and internationally.

BOOK WEEK: 15 poets and writers featured during the 2013 Book Week; audience of 1,500 persons.

FLOWERS BANK FESTIVAL: The Flowers Bank Historic Park and signage for the village were completed in time for the 2013 festival. Two guides were trained to provide community tours to the 400 plus visitors over the two days of the festival.

STREET ART FESTIVAL: The 4th Street Art Festival in Downtown Belize City featured 28 art booths, 16 culinary arts, Kids Zone, Youth Stage and introduced a Sidewalk Chalk Competition and a Carnival Street.

The Youth and main stages featured 75 performers in music, dance and theatre. The Sidewalk Chalk Competition featured 30 artist in junior and senior categories; both new features – youth stage and sidewalk chalk competition – were popular highlights of the 2014 Street Art Festival.

WOMEN IN ART: The 2014 Women in Art opened in March with the theatre presentation of “The Evolution of the Belizean Wombman” produced by Maryam Abdul Qaiwyy, followed by the opening of the 54-piece art exhibit from 15 female artists, curated by Briheda Haylock.



(Above: Celebrating Diwali in San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye (L); Drumming in Flowers Bank Village, Belize District (R))

DANCE X BELIZE FESTIVAL AND FORUM: Four-day dance event that included a forum, dance workshops, and performance showcase featuring dance companies from Belize, Mexico and the United States of America.

CARIBBEAN FASHION WEEK: Once again Belize participated in the 2013 Caribbean Fashion Week in Jamaica. Belizean fashion designer, Joris Hendrik and jewelry designer, Khadija Assales presented their Collections on the runway alongside other noted and respected Caribbean designers and had the opportunity to interact with regional designers to exchange ideas, best practices and industry information. The Creative Industry Officer, who also had the opportunity to accompany these designers, was able to attend the business forum and learn about product branding and marketing using technology. Partnerships were established with fashion agents and business support organizations.

THE BLISS CENTRE: The Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts hosted 80 bookings, and 7 exhibits, a 28% increase over the 2012-2013 fiscal period.

MOONLIGHT SERIES: Full Moon Concerts are hosted by the Houses of Culture and provide the opportunity to underscore the artistic and cultural vibrancy of our communities. These concerts predominantly feature performances in music and dance from around the country. In 2013 the six Houses of Culture hosted concerts for an estimated audience of 8,000 persons. These concerts are one of the more popular events hosted by the Houses of Culture.

COMMUNITY FESTIVALS: The Houses of Culture typically host traditional and cultural festivals for their respective communities. These community festivals serve to promote cultural expression, social cohesion, and safeguard cultural traditions.

The Banqitas HOC hosted an Altar Competition for Los Finados; collaborated with their community in honoring their culinary notoriety with the 3rd annual Tacos Festival; and celebrated Garifuna Settlement Day with performances by staff, students and volunteers.

The Benque HOC hosted Los Finados, participating in creating traditional sawdust tapestries. This HOC also participated in Las Posadas.

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS: Two of the more artistic and culturally charged events during the National Celebrations are the National Song Competition and the 20th Night entertainment.

NATIONAL SONG COMPETITION – audience grew to 1,000 plus persons; 3 winning artists were TR Shine (Carnival category), Nello Player (Patriotic category), and Jael August (Junior Category).

20TH NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT – drama presented on the Memorial Park Stage added historic value to the celebrations, and served as a reminder to the audience about the importance of our political independence.



(Above: Summer Arts Institute, steel pan class)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 SAFEGUARDING OUR TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

INVENTORYING AT FIDO'S: Existing and additional artefacts were inventoried at Fido's Bar on San Pedro, Ambergris Caye.

MTBCAAS: The execution of the Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites (MTBCAAS) Project continued into this fiscal period with the opening of the Visitor Centre at Xunantunich Archaeological Site, capacity building initiatives and upgrades to archaeological site facilities.

The Visitor Centre at the Xunantunich Archaeological Site was retrofitted with interactive information displays about this site so that guests have an enhanced experience at the sites. Capacity building initiatives are being carried out to support both the implementation of safety and health standards and the artisan component of the project. Park Rangers have been trained in conducting visitor satisfaction survey and will be trained in cave rescue in the upcoming fiscal period. Artisans have been trained in small business development, marketing, branding, and product development. Through this project statistical data

on visitor satisfaction at the archaeological parks has been gathered. This data has been used to establish a baseline for visitor satisfaction and will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation process to measure the impact of the project initiatives and any other subsequent initiatives on visitor satisfaction at the archaeological sites.

This project is being executed through the partnership

of the European Union, National Institute of Culture and History and the Belize Tourism Board.

SANTA RITA REVEALED: Conservation works at the Santa Rita Archaeological Site in the Corozal district were completed during this reporting period. During the conservation of the four structures, two burials in the post classic style were uncovered. The architecture uncovered on temple 7 exceeded the expectations of the archaeologists and conservationists working on

this project. The main plaza was landscaped as well, essentially restoring the site to its former grandeur.

The modern town of Corozal is built on top of Santa Rita which some archaeologists believe to be the ancient city of Chactemal. What we call Santa Rita today is only the main ceremonial center or administrative buildings of the once sprawling city. The site opened with much fanfare including a re-enactment of the marriage between the Spaniard Gonzalo Guerrero and the daughter of a Maya chieftain.

The conservation of this site was possible through grant funding

from the United States Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

OTHER CONSERVATIONS/RESTORATIONS: The stabilization of archaeological monuments at the Altun Ha and Lamanai Sites began during this fiscal period; however, torrential weather conditions delayed completion. Considerable conservation and upgrades were done at the Cahal Pech Archaeological Site

Santa Rita initially gained importance as a late post classic site that was inhabited up to the Contact period with the Spaniards in the early 1500s. The discovery of burials over the years at Santa Rita contain items dating back to the Pre-Classic and Classic Period, making it one of only three known sites in Belize showing constant occupation from as far back as 950 BC up to today.

including the refurbishing of the guest facilities, visitor's center, eastern triadic structures, structure B4, and the base of structures in Plaza C.

SALVAGING OF ARTEFACTS: As the nation continues to develop and communities expand, artefacts are often uncovered during the excavation and land clearing process. Developers are required to notify the Institute of Archaeology who dispatches an archaeologist to the area to conduct a salvage exercise so that any artefacts found in that vicinity are recovered and available for analysis to inform about the history of that area. During this period, the IA conducted 16 salvage expeditions.



(Above: MTBCAAS Ceremony, NICH Headquarters, Belmopan City (L); Inventorying cultural material at Fido's in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye (R))

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY: Another integral component to the development of archaeological research is uncovering underwater treasures. The IA participated in the Valley of Peace Underwater Archaeology Project, which is only one of three underwater archaeological projects being conducted in Belize. Archaeologist, Sylvia Batty dove 80 feet underwater inside a mature cenote where fossils and structures were found surrounding the cenote. During this dive, bones of a large mammal were found and thought to be possibly 10,000 years old. This area was demarcated in hopes of investigating this archaeological find further.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

BUILDING AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE TO SAFEGUARD OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE:

The Institute of Archaeology (IA) and the Museum of Belize have begun populating an electronic database with objects from the National Collection of Art and Antiquities. This extensive collection includes pieces from our Maya, Colonial, and pre-independence heritage that are managed through these two divisions of NICH. This electronic database will enable the proper standardization of data and increase the efficient and effective management of the national collection.

The IA completed inputting all 625 surface sites card files along with recording global positioning system coordinates. The IA also entered 1,629 articles into the electronic database.

WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY DAY: The IA celebrated World Archaeology Day by hosting an open day in Belmopan City. Students were invited to participate in this interactive outreach initiative where rarely displayed artefacts and antiquities were attractively presented. Visitors also had the opportunity to engage in educational games about Belize's archaeology.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HOSTED: NICH through the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) and the Museum of Belize (MOB) hosted two major international conferences during this reporting period.

NICH through the ISCR hosted the 45th Annual Conference for the Association of Caribbean Historians in May, 2013 which included the participation of 99 foreign researchers and 135 conference attendees. Students from the History and Anthropology Programs

at the University of Belize and Galen University also participated in this conference.

NICH was recognized as a regional academic entity for historical research through the presentations delivered by several of its staff members. The conference also featured presentations from persons who have done

research on Belize. A key output of hosting this international conference was the birth of the movement to form a National History Commission of Belize.

In October NICH through the MOB hosted the 24th Annual General Meeting and Conference for the Museums Association of the Caribbean which included participation from 17 member countries. NICH was recognized as a regional leader in organizing this

event, particularly for the creation of an informative conference registration site that has since been adopted for the next AGM. Additionally, the MOB received considerable recognition as a leader in innovation for museum displays during the launch of its All Aboard Exhibition, which doubled as the closing event for the MAC Conference. Of great importance, Belize also assumed the Presidency of MAC.

ALL ABOARD - Belize in Motion Through the Years:

This exhibit opened in October, 2013 and chronicles the history of transportation in Belize, featuring the various modes of transportation used to travel the land, air and waterways. This interactive exhibit, which underscores the means of supporting the movement and exportation of logwood and agriculture, features 3-dimensional models and activities. Within the first 3 months of its opening over 8,000 persons visited the exhibit.

LECTURES AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

Thousands of students visit archaeological sites every year.

31 archaeological lectures and exhibits conducted countrywide; 4,672 students reached.

BELIZE ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: The second year of merging the presentation of archaeological and anthropological research papers proved even more successful than the previous year. The Institute of Archaeology and the Institute for Social and Cultural Research jointly hosted the 2013 symposium under the theme – Ancient Maya Household and Social Identity in Belize – a total of 48 papers were presented over 4 days to an audience of 350 persons. Interest in the BAAS continues to grow both in the presentation of papers and interest in attending the symposium. The research papers presented at the symposium are based on research conducted in Belize which is regulated through the ISCR and IA.

SOCIAL MEDIA: The institution maintains a strong online presence via social mediums, namely Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram. The institution’s combined Facebook likes number in the thousands.

(Below: All Aboard - Belize in Motion Through the Years Exhibit; Museums Association of the Caribbean Annual General Meeting (R))



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6- IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH: Throughout the year international researchers submit proposals to the Institute of Archaeology (IA) who conducts a review of each proposal and either requests revisions or approves a permit to conduct archaeological research in Belize. The IA monitors each project to ensure that proper protocols are carried out in the field. Archaeologists who conduct research in Belize are required to submit a report on their findings and present such findings at the Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD PROJECTS: In the 2013-2014 fiscal year about 20 research permits were issued to various archaeological projects including the University of Texas at San Antonio to excavate the pre-classic Group E structure at the Xunantunich Archaeological Site over a 2-week period. An archaeologist is typically assigned as Assistant Field Director to these research projects as it affords them the opportunity to engage in field work and research which further hones their skills and appreciation for archaeology. Since the IA staff typically carries out the administrative function required

to manage this division of the institution, they don't often have the opportunity to engage in field work other than on these research projects. The IA also had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day field research at the Copan Site in Honduras, where the assigned archaeologist had the opportunity to review the site plans and layout and engage in field research outside of Belize.

EXPORTS: During archaeological research projects, artefacts that are found in Belize and cannot be analyzed in country are allowed to be exported for further analysis. These artefacts can only be exported legally with the written permission of the IA. Extensive testing may be done on these artefacts. Following the analysis of these artefacts, archaeologists are required to return them to Belize within the approved period. In rare instances, where the testing required to analyze the type of artefact found is destructive, then that artefact is not returned as it would have been destroyed during testing. Usually, exports are done for small artefacts or pieces of artefacts and not for complete objects discovered.

LIDAR PROJECT: A Lidar Survey, which captures images of elevations under canopies, was conducted from the Caracol Archaeological Site to El Pilar. Surveying the archaeological terrain with this type of technology increases the potential to discover new sites that have not been unearthed using traditional means like ground surveys.

Lidar has many applications in the field of archaeology including aiding in the planning of field campaigns, mapping features beneath forest canopy, and providing an overview of broad, continuous features that may be indistinguishable on the ground.[19] Lidar can also provide archaeologists with the ability to create high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs) of archaeological sites that can reveal micro-topography that are otherwise hidden by vegetation.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidar#Archaeology>)



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7 NATIONAL IDENTITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

ARCHIVAL RETRIEVAL FROM JAMAICA: NICH in partnership with the Belize Archives and Records Services conducted a fact finding mission to Jamaica to retrieve archival material. The team found a large quantity of outgoing communication from Belize (then British Honduras) to Jamaica including the text of Burnaby’s Code and an early 18th Century Census. Additionally, legal documents proving the administration of the British were retrieved and may have some relation in respect of the Guatemalan Claim on Belize.

NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY – CONSULTATIONS ON POLICY DRAFT: The draft of the National Culture Policy was released at NICH’s 10th Anniversary Industry Presentation and thereafter circulated for commentary and review. This draft release marks the completion of a period of countrywide consultations and introduced a period of gauging whether or not the document reflects the national reality. Radio and media commentaries have labeled the document as a positive effort.

(Above: Archaeological display and lecture at Corozal HOC; Ox’lajun Ba’aktun celebration in Maya Centre Village, Stann Creek District (R))



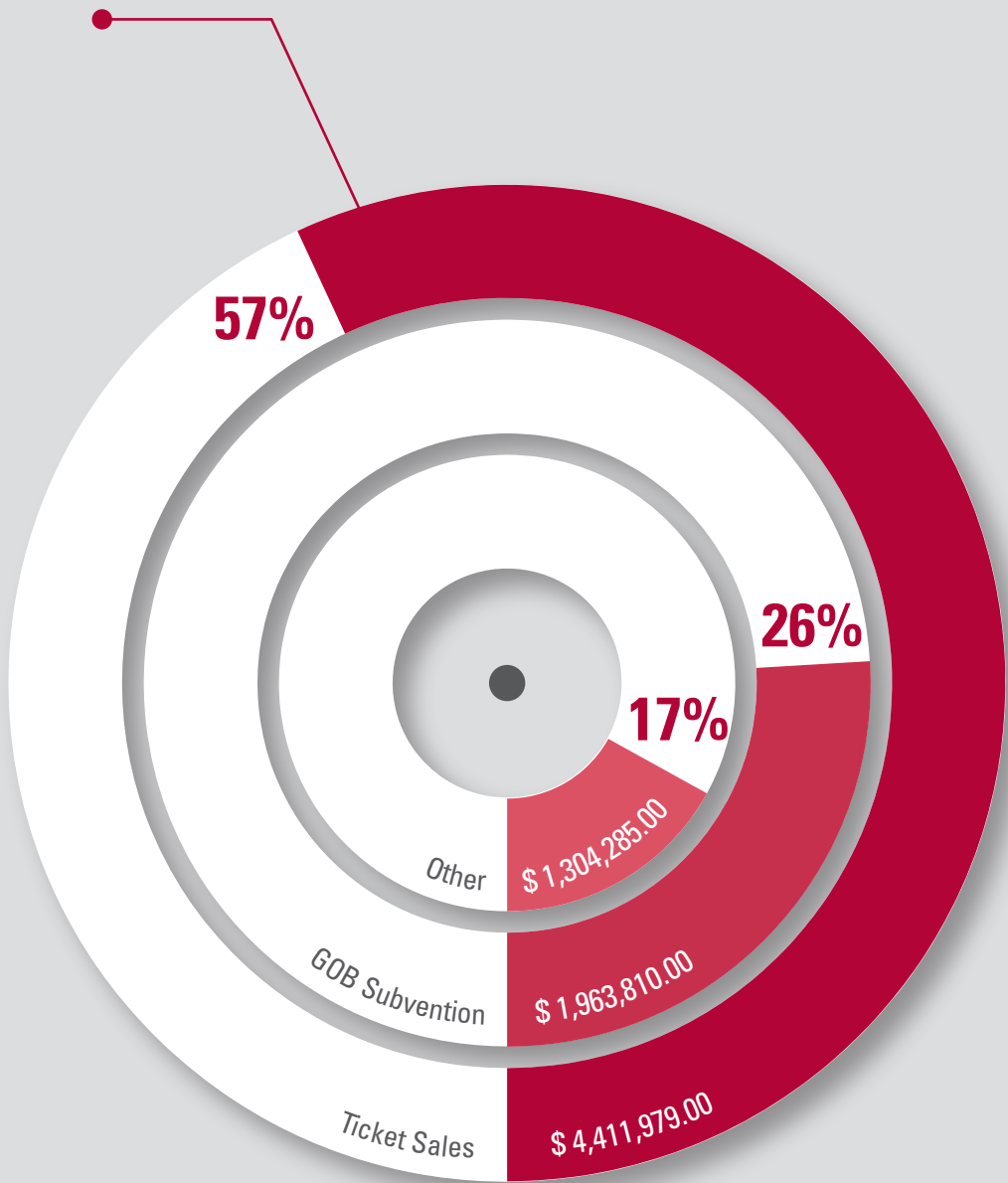
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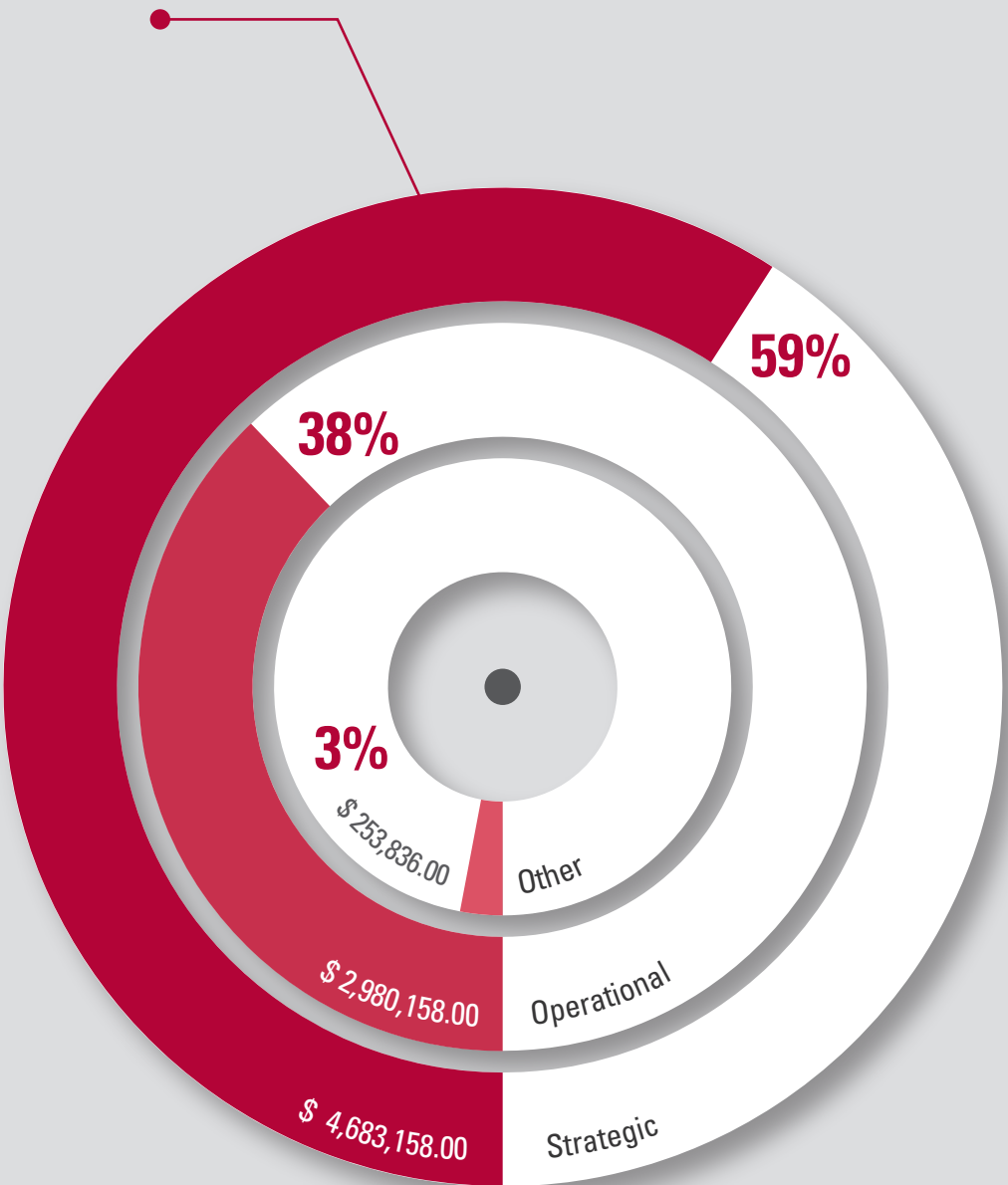
SUMMARY



SUMMARY OF INCOME



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE



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 amongst tertiary level students countrywide.

International Museum Day

This event is celebrated through the Museum of Belize and the Houses of Culture. Activities are designed around the theme selected by the International Council of Museums and underscores how museums contribute to the community and national development.

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.

Flowers Bank Festival

Pays homage to the fourteen men from Flowers Bank whose deciding vote led to our ancestors engaging in the historic Battle of St. George's Caye. Traditional games, dances and a "pit pan" dorey race are only some of the activities held 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, Jouvert, Road March, Ninth Night Soca Concert and concludes with the Award Ceremony.

Belize International Film Festival

One exciting week in July filled with red carpet events and film screenings countrywide, presentations by visiting int'l filmmakers, an industry symposium, student competition and any number of social events all geared towards networking in this rapidly growing creative industry.

Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium

This event brings together archaeologists and anthropologists from around the world to present the results of their research findings in or about Belize.

Costa Maya International Festival

Four nights of compact cultural entertainment with the festival's highlight being the Noche Internacional. This festival enjoys participation from across Central America and Mexico and includes events such as a Miss Costa Maya International.

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, and the NICH President is the co-chairman of the Commission.

OCT - DEC

International Archaeology Day

This event is hosted annually at the NICH Headquarters in Belmopan and seeks to raise awareness about archaeology and its importance. Visitors have the opportunity to participate in archaeological activities and gain meaningful insight into the many archaeological wonders found throughout Belize.

Dance X

This dance festival takes place throughout November and features local and international dancers from a wide range of dance genres such as folk and 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 features Creole delicacies from the Belize River Valley and highlights cultural traditions like storytelling and live music by the brokdong bands in Belize.

JAN - MAR

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 and features 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 the creative disciplines.

Heroes and Benefactors Day

Formerly recognized as Baron Bliss Day, this National Holiday now honors 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

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