

A large tree with bright red flowers stands behind a stone wall in a lush green landscape. The tree has a thick trunk and many branches with small, vibrant red blossoms. The stone wall is made of irregular, greyish-brown stones and is partially covered with green grass and small plants. The background shows rolling green hills under a blue sky with light clouds.

Integrated Cultural Policy Framework of St. Maarten



Principal of the project



**THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
THE ISLAND TERRITORY
OF ST. MAARTEN**

*Carried out with the financial
support of UNESCO*



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Symbols of Inspiration

The slave wall, as depicted on the cover of the Integrated Cultural Policy Framework, is symbolic of the interlocking of the humblest of man to the most sophisticated man in this small knitted community of St. Martin.

Despite being ravished by many hurricanes and earthquakes for centuries, today the slave walls are still rooted in the soil from which they sprung and speak volumes in their indivisible solitude. They conceal symbolic mysteries of a people, proclaiming triumph and victory in the face of adversity.

Obscure to the naked eye are the individual rocks in the center and behind the slave walls. They remind us of the intricate nature of the cultural fabric of current day St. Martin. To the casual observer it may not be clear who and how everything is related to each other, but like the rocks, the St. Martin culture exists! It lives! It needs to be understood. And it must be brought to the forefront of national development.

The rocks can become unraveled, and when they do, the walls weaken. They may work at cross-purposes and, as result, the walls may become fragile. The small knitted community of St. Martin can also be unraveled, especially when segments within the community work at cross-purposes. This must be avoided by all means. Like the closely webbed rocks, the St. Martin community must foster and encourage close civic interaction between the communities.

The green hill tops, turquoise waters and white sandy beaches are part of our natural and cultural heritage. For this reason, these natural assets must be guarded like a mother guards and nurtures her child. By protecting the slave walls we are in essence shielding our hills from erosion, the lagoons and ocean from run off water and maintaining clearly defined land boundaries. Spiritually and physically the slave walls are catalytic in the restoration and preservation of our patrimony.

Like the flamboyant tree, deeply rooted in the soil, standing strong in full regalia and splendor, continually giving light to mark its birthday annually on July 1, so the people of St. Martin stand as a beacon, giving meaning to the words “semper pro grediens,” always moving forward.

Now, on the eve of becoming a country, the people of St. Martin exemplify the likeness of the flamboyant tree – freedom tree. Homage is given to a nation in birth through these two symbols that embrace spirit, endurance, resilience, power, dignity, renewal, hope and unwavering faith in God.

Neville C. York
Chairperson of the Steering Committee
Head of the Social and Cultural
Development Department



Integrated Cultural Policy Framework of St. Maarten

Unanimously ratified by the Island Council of the Island Territory, June 4th, 2007

Presented by the Cultural Policy Steering Committee of Saint Martin, May 30th, 2007

**Commissioned by the Commissioner of Culture,
Labor, Census, Transportation and Social Affairs,**

Mr. Louie E. Laveist

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Foreword

The Arts and Culture are Public Goods

The arts and culture are public goods that create cultural vitality and national identity. This cultural policy is formulated from the point of view of the citizen. Active civic awareness within our community should be encouraged by ensuring that people are able to influence their environment and the society they live in.

Culture can simply be defined as the sets of values, traditions and ways of life which unite a group, a population or a community in a social entity. In our democratic society, culture is characterized by respect for those differing opinions.

Cultural heritage is important both for identity and for a sense of belonging. Cultural heritage also provides a base on which broad forms of integration can be built. It is important to work for an expanded knowledge of and a feeling for the society in which the individual citizen lives, and the historical events which have shaped our island-nation.

We live at a time when the conditions affecting the majority of activities are under constant change. This policy paper will guide us in a strategic manner in promoting a rich artistic life of high quality within the nation; to expand our nations' cultural competence; to give priority to cultural activities and events including those involving children and the young; to stimulate active creativity; to strengthen interest in our cultural heritage; and the further creation of an attractive living environment for all.

Commissioner responsible for Cultural Affairs
Louie Laveist



Message

The National Integrated

Cultural Policy Framework of Saint. Martin is a comprehensive document that emphasizes that culture impacts on all segments of society including education, health, spirituality, tourism, environment, sports, sustainable development, youth, gender, media, laws, and technology. The policy framework is highly interactive in that it promotes and encourages growth and dialogue within the society to empower all the districts/ communities to contribute to shared ethics and an inclusionary vision of the future.

Two years of public consultation and research have revealed a series of challenges facing the future development of cultural life in Saint Martin. There is more to be done to increase Saint Martiners' appreciation of the value of their natural and human heritage. Saint Martin's cultural life will best flourish if it is sustained by an awareness of the importance of this heritage.

Though the process was a tedious one it was a most rewarding experience that afforded all stake – holders a platform to publicly voice some of their deep rooted concerns and views and to participate in a national cultural debate while maintaining the utmost respect for each other.

The issue of identity was of primary concern and was one that provoked a sense of uneasiness considering the rapidly developing multi cultural nature of our island.

The Tangible Cultural Heritage, such as our historic buildings and monuments, depicts a vivid picture of life in the past, a period of profound cultural significance that is part and parcel of the reconstruction of our cultural DNA. The protection and preservation of our tangible cultural heritage such as our national monuments helps to retrace our past, and bridge that past with our future which is so fundamental in the further development of the Saint Martin people's identity and integrity.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage often called 'living culture'. Because of



its dynamic nature and its constantly evolving character it is continually being created anew. As such it belongs to all times and to every place. Its source lies in cultural and social traditions, in the life of societies and the cultural exchanges between and within them. It bears witness to the creative genius of communities and groups. It is handed down, for the most part orally, through the generations and provides its depository community or group with a sense of identity and continuity.

St. Maarten has developed over the years into a mini metropolis and as such it is imperative that we try to maintain a form of equilibrium between progress and our core cultural values; however it must be clearly understood that "No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive". (Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi 1869 – 1948).

The accelerated march towards a new constitutional status provides a window of opportunity for the host society to embrace its diversity of cultures and find unity within them but also realizing that this can only happen if, and only if, self preservation is our first priority.

To this end, I leave you with this final quote from Gandhi:

".... I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any".

Neville C. York

Chairperson of the Steering Committee

**Head of the Social and Cultural
Development Department**

Introduction

The Integrated Cultural Policy Plan is based on the assumption that tourism is the **engine** of the **economy** and culture is the **fuel** that **moves** the people of Saint Martin **forward**.

The Integrated Cultural Policy Plan was developed after more than twelve months of public consultations, research and discussion. This report sets out a framework that will ensure that Saint Martin's cultural heritage flourishes, while it is protected and preserved.

It is the first comprehensive review of Saint Martin's cultural policy since a collaborative report by Camille E. Baly and Louis L. Duzanson in 1986. In the intervening 20 years, the Island Territory of Saint Martin has acted upon the vast majority of recommendations contained in the resulting report of "*Eilandsverordening, regelende de toekenning van subsidies aan instellingen en particulieren*" (*Island Ordinance, regulating the approval of grants to institutions and individuals*). Saint Martin's culture and cultural landscape have changed considerably since 1986. This report updates the cultural policy of the southern part of Saint Martin, officially referred to as the Island Territory of Sint Maarten or Dutch Saint Martin.

What is Culture?

Saint Martin's Integrated Cultural Policy Plan adopts the view that "culture comprises the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs." (*Information Kit on the 1994 Decade Theme: Culture and Development by the World Decade Secretariat of UNESCO*)

The Integrated Cultural Policy Plan adopts a broader view that defines culture as "a way of life of a people." (*Caricom Regional Model Cultural Policy*)

Last, but certainly not least, the plan adopts and views culture as "a social group's design for surviving in, and adapting to its environment." (Bullivant, 27 – 29)

Raison d'être

The need to establish a national cultural policy is obvious. A cultural policy is the catalyst of creativity and the means to preserve the tangible and intangible national heritage, which consists of the cultural and natural heritage. While ensuring the free circulations of ideas and works, a cultural policy must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries, organizations, institutions and individuals at local and global levels. It is for each island-state, with

due regard to its political situation and its international obligations, to define and implement its cultural policy through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support and or appropriate regulations.

An Integrated Cultural Policy emphasizes that culture impacts on all segments of society, among others education, health, spirituality, tourism, environment, sustainable development, youth, gender, media, laws and technology. The policy also promotes development and dialogue within a society to empower all communities to contribute to shared ethics and a vision of the future.

There are many sectors, departments and statutory bodies responsible for integrating culture into the general

The components of people-centered development

PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS	PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES	
	EMPOWERMENT	CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
Development of people	Develop people's capacities	Ensure access to opportunities, services, assets, resources, credit, markets
Development by people	Let people decide, participate in decision-making with gender equality	Ensure people-centered governance: rule of law, democracy, partnership, civil society
Development for people	Seek the common good or the well-being of all people in perpetuity as the core goal of development	Create equitable social, economic, political orders and distribution systems that ensure sustainability in a holistic approach

development of the St. Martin that manages different aspects of the society. The execution of an Integrated Cultural Policy is a responsibility of all partners on social and governmental levels.

Historical background

The southern part of Saint Martin is part of the Netherlands Antilles and has a landmass space of 16 square miles; the northern 21 square miles constitute part of the French Republic.

Current archeological research recognizes that about 2000 BCE the Amerindians were the first inhabitants of Saint Martin and called the island Soualiga. Evidence suggests that the Arawakan-speaking Amerindians were coastal dwellers who depended largely on their coastal environment and the land for food, such as fish and cassava. Starting in 1492, a series of European occupations began in the region. The Dutch were the first to colonize the island in 1631, by which time the island was already known as Saint Martin. Within two years, the Spanish invaded the island and the settlers evacuated. The Dutch failed in an attempt to regain the island in 1644, but four years later the Spanish abandoned the island. In 1648, the island was resettled and divided between the Dutch and the French; however, complete control of the island was seized numerous times in a series of conflicts. The British became involved as well, taking power for six- and ten-year stints. Finally, in 1817, the current imaginary partition line between Dutch and French was established. The island flourished under a slave-based plantation economy throughout the 17th to mid 19th centuries, until the abolition of slavery *de facto* in 1848 and *de jure* in 1863.

Subsequent migration by force or by consent from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe started roughly around the 18th century and has continued to this day. This migration period has two distinct phases: By the first half of the 20th century, the primary ethnic groups of Saint Martin were of African and European extracts. At about that time, the word “S’maatn” came into usage

to refer to both sides of the island, as well as to the language spoken by the inhabitants, thereby reflecting the unity of the northern and southern communities.

Since the mid-20th century, the constant interchange of cultures and technologies with its close island neighbors and distant acquaintances has resulted in a rich cultural tapestry. The development of the tourism economy, which was heavily dependent on imported laborers, has impacted both halves of Saint Martin further over recent decades.

The evidence of this is tangible in Saint Martin’s culinary arts, customs, architecture, language, artifacts and people. In contrast to Europe and regions shaped by European influence, where the broad field of cultural heritage is often dominated by its tangible manifestations, the situation is quite different in other parts of the world. In these areas, there are the living and intangible aspects of heritage which are felt to be essential or predominant. In Saint Martin’s case, there is much at stake with the accelerated pace of development in the community at the expense of traditional cultural norms and values.

The Context

The over arching concern coming out of the first consultative meeting with the public on October 31, 2005, was the definition of Saint Martin’s core cultural values and the status of longstanding Saint Martiners, as opposed to those of recent arrivals. It was recognized that before the emancipation period, Europeans -mainly Irish, Scottish, British, Dutch, and French- lived and interacted with enslaved Africans. The post emancipation period brought persons from the neighboring islands to work in the salt industry. At the same time, people were leaving for the wider Caribbean region in search of work. Since the beginning of the 20th century, many persons have been returning. The economic boom of the 1980s brought many newcomers to the island territory. Today, Saint Martin is an international and global society, where appreciation for and the acknowledgement of the core culture are not

highly accentuated. It was, therefore, suggested that the general public at the various consultations discuss this issue in detail.

Challenges

One year of public consultations and research has revealed a series of challenges facing the future development of cultural life in Saint Martin. There is more to be done to increase Saint Martiners’ appreciation of the value of their natural and human heritage. Saint Martin’s cultural life can best flourish if it is sustained by awareness of the importance of heritage.

The uncertainties and fears of moving toward a more self-reliant state of self-awareness and self-governance are realistic ones, which call on all Saint Martiners to move as a collective group toward common goals of country with respect for the individual. Therefore, the “Cultural Citizen” by birth, heritage and/or adoption respects everyone and fosters a community that is socially cohesive. Saint Martiners need not be apologetic for loving themselves, because they have an understanding that loving self does not equate to hating others.

Tourism and culture are inseparable. However, tourism is not a rationale for supporting culture, but a welcome reward for nurturing a dynamic cultural life. Saint Martin’s culture will continue to develop; however, this growth cannot happen unless all of the partners in cultural development are willing to address these challenges with cooperation and creativity.

Saint Martin’s Cultural Strategy

The strategy focuses on strengthening Saint Martin’s cultural activities by refocusing the considerable resources that have already been allocated. The strategy includes a new mandate for the Department of Culture, an articulation of its key principles, a statement of its basic cultural objectives, and the priorities that will be used to achieve these objectives.

The Cultural Approach

Adapted from Jan J. Loubser ('Holistic People-Centered Development: A Conceptual Vision'. Bangkok, June 1996 p 29)

The Management of Saint Martin's Cultural Portfolio

The management of Saint Martin's cultural activities is currently distributed across six sectors and more than thirty-one departments, agencies, boards, committees, advisory bodies and working groups dealing with interdepartmental matters. Because the more than thirty-one departments and agencies report to different standing committees of the Executive Council, there is lack of coherence of the decision-making bodies when it relates to culture.

Given the broad scope of culture identified in this report, Government's involvement in culture could never be consolidated within the mandate of a single directorate, standing committee, or department. The national Integrated Cultural Policy Framework is an inter-departmental effort. However, the responsibility for implementing the policy objectives rests primarily with the Department of Culture.

Implementation

In the future, implementation will take place under general supervision of the Minister of Culture, mainly through the Department of Culture, the Cultural Council and a Cultural Youth Forum.

The Minister

- is politically responsible for all matters that pertain to



culture.

- ensures that culture is reflected in the vision of all national development.
- supports all efforts to promote culture as a tool for social cohesion and fostering a single national identity.

The Secretary General

- is responsible for the translation of the political vision/ manifesto of the government.
- is responsible for the service, accountability, effectiveness and continuity of the Department of Culture, and is additionally responsible for a proper budget (financial resources) for the Department of Culture.
- is responsible for staffing (human capital) of the Department of Culture.

The Department of Culture

- is responsible for developing, monitoring and evaluating the Integrated Cultural Policy.
- will guide research, documentation and dissemination of information on culture coming out of the Integrated Cultural Policy.
- implement national programs and projects derived from the Integrated Cultural Policy.
- approves an appropriate system of financing for the programs in order to secure the necessary resources for the benefit of those requesting assistance from the program.
- is responsible for marketing, promoting and co-ordinating artistic and cultural activities, including festivals, overseas exchanges, celebrations, products and services

The Cultural Council

- is co-responsible for policy-making and guiding the Integrated Cultural Policy.
- translates the needs and ideas of the man on the street into programs that reflect his reality.
- reviews and assesses achievements on the basis of

implementation and project evaluation reports and defines the basic areas requiring increased attention.

- reviews ways and means for the cultural field to participate more effectively in the execution of projects.

The Cultural Youth Forum

- encourages the participation of young men and women in the Cultural Council and in partner organizations to open opportunities for all to listen to and engage in dialogue with them.
- encourages partnership with the Cultural Council and young people to solicit and integrate their views and priorities and collaborate with them in setting up projects and programs in the areas of the Integrated Cultural Policy.
- integrates the concerns of the youth into the policy agendas of the Cultural Council under the twelve headings of the policy in order to create spaces and opportunities for empowering young people and give recognition, visibility and credibility to their contributions.

The National Cultural Development Foundation

- is responsible for the execution of the national cultural programs and projects derived from the National Cultural Policy, which are the main responsibility of the Department of Culture.
- is established for the promotion, development and execution of arts and culture programs and projects.
- is responsible for the advancement of the arts and culture in the society.
- is responsible for preparing periodic action plans using arts and culture to affirm a Saint Martin identity within a local, regional and international context.
- is responsible for undertaking research into a various aspects of the arts culture.
- is responsible for ensuring that training opportunities are made available in all aspects of the arts and culture.

Saint Martin and its people must ensure that the infrastructure of the Department of Culture is sound and well serviced, within a stable financial framework, and it must provide effective cooperative leadership on multi-jurisdictional issues.

In recognition of the size and breadth of the Cultural Department's portfolio, the Executive Council will establish the Cultural Council. To execute the program, the Island Council will establish a National Cultural Development Foundation. Because there has been no arena for political or staff consideration of broad cultural matters, there has been no forum to ensure Government's cultural programs are complimentary, coordinated and consistent with the cultural strategy.



THE CULTURAL BODIES: DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL, YOUTH FORUM AND NATIONAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The Cultural Department, Council, Youth Forum and National Cultural Development Foundation will be established in January 2007 to further the goal of integrating the cultural policy and play an important role in the implementation of this document. The framework outlined in the Integrated Cultural Policy Framework has been prepared to guide Government's cultural portfolio for the next five years. Given the financial constraints faced by Government, many of the initiatives discussed will, by necessity, be implemented in stages. The abovementioned cultural bodies will be well positioned to provide leadership, continuity and public input during the implementation period. The board of the National Cultural Development Foundation will be presided by the director of the Department of Culture. Nomination for the members will come from the field and the recommendations of the Department of Culture.

Scope of the Cultural Council

In keeping with the scope of the Integrated Cultural Policy Plan, the Cultural Council will provide the Executive Council with advice on cultural policy issues relating to the cultural development of Saint Martin in the broadest sense of the word. The Council will also advise on program formulation, based on the policy, to be implemented by the Department of Culture.

Scope of the Cultural Youth Forum

In keeping with the scope of the Integrated Cultural Policy Plan, the Youth Forum will provide the Cultural Council with advice brought in by their chair who sits on the Cultural Council. It will also advise on program formulation, based on the policy regarding the youth, to be implemented by the Department of Culture.

Scope of the National Cultural Implementation Bureau

In keeping with the scope of the Integrated Cultural Policy Plan, the National Cultural Development Foundation will implement the national projects and programs coming out of the Integrated Cultural Policy Framework.

Membership of Cultural Council

The Cultural Council will consist of citizens and representatives of cultural organizations appointed by the Executive Council: approximately 12 members. The citizen members must have knowledge gained through professional training or work experience in any of the twelve headings of the Integrated Cultural Policy Framework. The citizen members must demonstrate a longstanding commitment to the cultural life of Saint Martin and represent the broad interests of Saint Martin's society. The organizations represented in the Cultural Council must have the support of the particular sector that they are representing. The Cultural Council will meet in regular plenary session twice a year. Extraordinary sessions may be convened, as specified in the Council's Rule of Procedure.

Membership of the Cultural Youth Forum

The Youth Forum will consist of youth actively involved in issues relating to culture. The member in the Cultural Council charged with gender and youth specific issues will recommend five persons that will give content to the forum. Members of the Youth Forum must demonstrate passion, love and commitment to the preservation and development of a healthy Saint Martin cultural life.

Support Services

The Department of Culture will provide primary staff support for the Cultural Council through its staff. The Director of the Department of Culture is the President of the Board of the National Cultural Development Foundation and will be supported in this function by the staff of the Department of Culture.

Partnerships

The Island Government is not alone in supporting the cultural sector. Although it is the primary agency that invests in Saint Martin's cultural life, foundations, corporations, small businesses and individual patrons also play an important role. While the Cultural Department benefits from relative financial stability, cultural organizations must contend with a wide range of expectations, priorities, criteria and required documentation on the part of potential funding sources. Within government, the reallocation of resources devoted to culture is inevitable, given reductions in government expenditure. There has never been a more significant time for government departments to coordinate their activities. There is an obligation on the part of all resource providers to ensure that changes in priority are made in the context of the overall support system.

Government, school boards and the business community play a significant role in the development of Saint Martin's culture. This means that government should not act unilaterally on cultural issues and that cooperation and coordination with its partners is essential. The Island Government's involvement in culture varies from the funding of the plastic/visual and performing arts to the conservation of national heritage properties. The private sector's leadership in the cultural sector includes investment in commercial cultural activity and support for non-profit organizations. Support for non-profit organizations includes charitable donations and sponsorships. In the last ten to fifteen years, corporate support for culture has shifted from donation budgets to marketing budgets, and, as a result, those cultural activities with high profile marketing opportunities, such as carnival and festivals, have benefited at the expense of the less commercial aspects of culture, such as research and development activities.



INTEGRATED CULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Mandate

Saint Martin and its people will:

Recognize that culture plays an essential role in the nation-building process and sustains a diverse community that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy. Culture enriches the lives of its residents and fosters civic pride and community identity.

Saint Martin's Integrated Cultural Policy is designed to provide a framework for future national development. It includes a new mandate for the Department of Culture, an articulation of its key principles, a statement of basic cultural objectives and the priorities that will be used to achieve those objectives. It will establish policies and programs to ensure that Saint Martin will continue to have a vibrant, active, and rich cultural life.

Vision

The vision of Saint Martin and its people is to further strengthen and cultivate the necessary sustainable development that will ensure an atmosphere which enables all citizens to achieve the highest quality of life by experiencing, practising and developing artistic, cultural and environmentally wise activities.

Mission

The purpose of Saint Martin and its people is to provide high quality, affordable and accessible cultural services and activities that respond to the needs of its citizens. The rights of individuals must be balanced with the interests of the community as a whole. A sense of partnership, built on the effective

participation of all sectors of the community, must be fostered through its citizens, elected representatives and public servants.

Principles

1. The high quality of service to Saint Martin and its people must be delivered in the most effective, efficient and affordable way possible.
2. Those who provide such services must be accountable to Saint Martin and its people and must base those services on equal access.
3. There should be excellence in the performance of all activities.

Objectives

1. To create a cultural policy for all citizens of Saint Martin.
2. To ensure that the necessary legislation is put into place to protect and to recover the heritage.
3. To provide the proper management and conservation of Saint Martin's cultural heritage.
4. To research, compile and make accessible the cultural heritage of Saint Martin.
5. To understand the importance of cultural expression and diversity as essential elements of cultural development.
6. To ensure the integration of the economic, social and educational aspects of culture in all governmental policies.

Priorities

Saint Martin and its people will achieve its cultural objectives by emphasizing the following priorities by:

1. embracing the arts, heritage, libraries, creative industries and the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society.
2. nurturing and integrating culture into the complete range of programs and policies of the country.
3. involving the public, including cultural producers and

consumers, in pursuit of its cultural objectives.

4. adopting a clear and proactive position on cultural issues when dealing with other governments, educational institutions, media, business communities and the general public.

The Cultural Citizen

The question on the definition of who is a Saint Martiner is one that cannot be addressed solely in a cultural policy, because it borders on legal issues, such as constitutional rights, obligations and privileges. A sound definition of who is a Saint Martiner is extremely important in the formation of a national identity. Considering the march towards a new political status, the Constitutional Bureau, General Affairs and the Legal Department will address the issue of who is a Saint Martiner in due time. The position on the Cultural Citizen is taken up in the following paragraph, which may be useful as a point of reference for the Legal Department and Constitutional Bureau in their debate on who is a Saint Martiner.

The individual is a member of society and, as such, is influenced by cultural expressions and social structures. S/he creates and enacts the cultural expressions that further the social and cultural identification processes in that given society. For this reason, the national cultural policy must seek consensus on the Cultural Citizen who has evolved and continues to evolve out of a rich, colorful, fluid and dynamic past.

One may be considered a Cultural Citizen by:

- (i) birth: being a son/daughter of the soil, regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or political persuasion; or
- (ii) heritage: tracing one's heritage and genealogy to successive transfers of family land that form an integral part of one's identity; or
- (iii) adoption: absorbing and immersing oneself into

the Saint Martin way of life, thereby adopting Saint Martin as one's home and/or feeling a sense of belonging and/or acceptance that attaches one with passion and zeal to Saint Martin with the same passion as to one's original country.

However, at all times a Cultural Citizen ought to:

- a) take responsibility for and be committed to the goals of human, national and regional development in context of Saint Martin's history, social structure, national goals and present day realities.
- b) understand the nature of Saint Martin's society and the region.
- c) be aware of the history and culture of Saint Martin and recognize oneself as a Saint Martin.
- d) possess communicative competence and/or respect for the Saint Martin language, and/or speak any other language that makes one competitive in a global economy, with special consideration to languages spoken in neighboring countries.
- e) recognize how each one contributes to the unity within the cultural diversity of Saint Martin and therefore practice tolerance, respect for others and peace in communities.
- f) understand and appreciate the norms and values of Saint Martin society.
- g) recognize the necessary relationship that should exist between the host and new arrivant and foster the mutual respect that contributes to a cohesive and productive society.

THE POLICY

1. CULTURAL HERITAGE

1.1 Language

Language plays a critical role in shaping cultural identity, including the ability to use language for various purposes, such as concept representation, reflection, expression and communication.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.1-1 recognize and encourage the use of the S'maats language as equal to all other languages.
- 1.1-2 recognize the value of the S'maats language as a vehicle for research and publication.

1.2 Religion

Spiritual awareness guides the way of life of each society. It influences how people approach life; therefore, it plays a significant role in the cultural and human development of a country.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.2-1 recognize the prominence of Christian religions within the core values of Saint Martin, especially where religious holidays and festivities are concerned.
- 1.2-2 encourage and support all attempts to promote dialogue and mutual understanding among people of different faiths and belief systems.
- 1.2-3 encourage civic responsibility for all citizens with respect to all religions
- 1.2-4 encourage research into beliefs and practices on Saint Martin.

1.3 Agriculture

Agriculture has been a main economic activity of Saint Martin since pre-historic times. Along with it a system of beliefs, attitudes, practices and relationships with the environment were developed.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.3-1 recognize the way of life and the systems surrounding agricultural activities.
- 1.3-2 encourage research into scientific assessment of such beliefs and practices.
- 1.3-3 recognize the importance of these beliefs and practices in designing and implementing agricultural programs
- 1.3-4 support and encourage the revitalization and understanding of agricultural practices which

have become dormant.

- 1.3-5 commit to the safeguarding of the unique flora and fauna of the island.



1.4 Archeology

Through archeological research, scientists provide evidence of the pre-historical, colonial and modern occupation of the island. Such evidence gives value to the past and the activities carried out by the early inhabitants, thereby allowing people to appreciate the contributions made by their ancestors in the development of Saint Martin.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.4-1 actively promote and support all efforts aimed at the preservation and restoration of the Saint Martin's heritage.
- 1.4-2 create and strengthen legislation to support efforts in preservation and restoration, including the division of artifacts and cultural property.
- 1.4-3 promote and support educational efforts aimed at developing an active appreciation for the national heritage.
- 1.4-4 recognize that all archeological finds are of the property of the government and people of Saint Martin.
- 1.4-5 ensure that archeologically significant artifacts and properties be entrusted to a government-identified entity for safe keeping.
- 1.4-6 ensure that attention is given to the prevention the trafficking of cultural goods.

1.5 Oral Tradition

The island of Saint Martin possesses a rich oral tradition, which represents an essence of the intangible cultural heritage.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.5-1 recognize the incalculable value of the oral tradition, including storytelling, as a living and endangered repository
- 1.5-2 preserve the transmission of information, beliefs and values through oral history.
- 1.5-3 develop and support all efforts to preserve and disseminate knowledge of oral traditions.

1.5-4 support and encourage the use of research results for the insights they provide into present-day social issues.

1.5-5 stimulate and ensure the continuity of storytelling traditions on Saint Martin.

1.6 Recreation and Games

Throughout history, the St. Martin people have entertained themselves with the creation of games and pastimes, many of which are fast disappearing. These games were accompanied by particular techniques developed by St. Martiners themselves.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.6-1 recognize the vital role that recreation and games have played in the formation of an island character and in giving a sense of a collective cultural identity.
- 1.6-2 stimulate research and identification of endangered games and activities.
- 1.6-3 support and encourage revitalization of these games and leisure activities.

1.7 National Days

National days help reinforce a sense of national pride and dignity among the citizens, while fostering unity and singleness of purpose. These days are meant for reflection, enabling both nationals and non-nationals to pay homage to Saint Martin.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.7-1 devise measures to ensure that days of national significance are given to reflection on, discussion and, where appropriate, celebration of events and phenomena in a heritage which have influenced or continue to influence the development of the citizens of Saint Martin.
- 1.7-2 establish an annual date in honor of the people of Saint Martin, on which particular attention is paid to their role in the development of the island.

1.7-3 install a representative commission for the identification of potential additional national days, including a National Heroes' Day.

National days important to pay attention to are:

- January 1st
New Year's Day
- Second Sunday in January
National Day of Prayer
- March 23
Treaty of Concordia
- March/April
Good Friday
- March/April
Easter Monday
- April-May
Carnival
- May 1st
Labor Day
- May
Ascension Day
- July 01
Emancipation Day
- November 11
Saint Martin Day
- First Sunday in December
Saint Martin Thanksgiving
- December 25
Christmas
- December 26
Boxing Day

1.8 Folklore

Folklore comprises the core cultural values of a country, which include such areas as music, craft, belief, systems, proverbs, storytelling, language, agricultural practices, medicinal traditions and other traditions. In light of the impact of globalization, the influence of international media and the modernization of society on such traditions, concerted efforts must be made to ensure their preservation for present and future generations.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 1.8-1 ensure documentation and preservation of such traditions through research inventories, publication, audio visual recordings and textbooks.
- 1.8-2 encourage the promotion of Saint Martin folklore by supporting exponents of folklore.
- 1.8-3 encourage the establishment of an annual Saint Martin Folk Festival to celebrate the folklore.
- 1.8-4 encourage the incorporation of folklore into the Community Schools program.

2. CULTURAL LEGISLATION

2.1. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Copyrights and intellectual property rights need to be adhered to in accordance with the laws of the country.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 2.1-1 recognize the need to enact modern and effective legislation to protect and foster the development of intellectual property on Saint Martin.
- 2.1-2 recognize the need to ratify the appropriate international conventions, such as Berne and TRIPS, to facilitate the reciprocity upon which effective administration of copyright depends.

2.2 Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage

The unique landscapes and seascapes of a country are part of its natural and cultural heritage. For this reason, these attributes must be protected by law.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 2.2-1 urge greater recognition of the significance of the environment in the national context and the significance of cultural beliefs and practices in their preservation.
- 2.2-2 recognize and encourage sensitivity to cultural considerations and implications in attempting to work out solutions for environmental problems.

2.2-3 reserve the right to free and constant access to beaches as part of the natural heritage of Saint Martin.

2.2-4 create and strengthen legislation to support the preservation of the tangible heritage such as museum collections, including the repatriation of artifacts and other cultural property to Saint Martin

2.2-5 research and document traditional bush medicine practices of Saint Martin.

2.2-6 commit to enacting legislation for the impact evaluation of natural and culturally significant areas prior to development.

2.3. Ratification of International Conventions

The Government of Saint Martin should ratify those treaties and conventions that are of importance to the citizens and environment of Saint Martin, especially those that impact on the cultural level.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 2.3-1 recognize the need to follow developments closely on Kingdom and international levels and lobby for the ratification of international conventions, in harmony with the Saint Martin culture.

2.4 Treaty of Concordia

The island of Saint Martin has been administered by two distinct entities situated on 37 square miles for more than 350 years. The Treaty of Concordia is based on the free movement of persons, goods, services and usage of natural resources to the benefit of the people living on both sides of Saint Martin.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 2.4-1 support and encourage mechanisms to foster exchange of products and mobility of persons in the cultural realm through entering into specific cultural agreements, which give form and focus to the intentions of the Treaty of Concordia.

2.5 National Anthem, Pledge, Coat of Arms and Flag

With the march toward a new political status for Saint Martin, consideration will be given to the adoption of a national anthem, pledge, flag and coat of arms that reflect the achievements and aspiration of the people of Saint Martin.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 2.5-1 consider the adoption of the aforementioned symbols through a transparent and democratic selection process.
- 2.5-2 continually promote a sense of love, respect, honor and duty through the display of such symbols, along with other cultural elements, in public places, electronic and print media.

3. CULTURE AND EDUCATION

3.1 Culture and Education

In this case, education refers to the development of a human being besides processes such as those in the formal education system. Education plays a critical and irreplaceable role in the development of the creative imagination, not only in the artistic sense, but also in the general field of creative thinking, innovation and problem-solving as whole. Education is also of importance in the development of self-reliance and self-realization of each individual.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 3.1-1 recognize the importance of ensuring educational content and curricula that represent the aspirations of the government and of the people of Saint Martin, and therefore should endeavor to implement the required changes as soon as possible.

3.2 Training in the Arts and Cultural Industries

Capacity-building in the field of cultural and creative industries is an essential requirement for competing in

a globalized environment. Despite the natural talents that exist among Caribbean persons in the arts, formal training and solid knowledge of the industry and its modus operandi are vital.

Saint Martin and its people will:

3.2-1

will build capacities and provide training opportunities in the arts, in recognition of the fact that professionalism, modern management techniques and training are critical ingredients for a healthy life cycle for cultural development of young people in and out of schools.

3.3 Training of Cultural Officers

The availability of trained Saint Martin cultural administrators is essential for the efficient delivery of cultural programs and the implementation of the cultural policy.

Saint Martin and its people will:

3.3-1

recognize the need for training cultural officers and support all efforts to bring them into existence within an established institution, selected by the Saint Martin government, with programs aimed at delivering short term courses in cultural administration and programming.

3.4 Cultural Information

Access to cultural information (training opportunities, events, significant developments, etc.) is essential to the creation of a culturally vibrant and artistically conscious society.

Saint Martin and its people will:

3.4-1

recognize and value the non-formal as well as the formal modes of disseminating information and fostering traditional Saint Martin values.

3.4-2

support a special focus by government and private sector to develop programs, both within and outside the formal system, which nourish this orientation to creativity, self-reliance and self-realization.

3.5 Culture and Arts in Education

Education processes have strong cultural implications; one cannot be divorced from the other. Linking the two ensures a more holistically educated individual, who is not only academically savvy, but also has a clear sense of self and of his/her Saint Martin social environment.

Saint Martin and its people will:

3.5-1

recognize that the culture that one inherits teaches him or her spiritual and communal obligations; therefore, support will be given to efforts aimed at making the link between culture and arts in education, both in theory and practice, in and out of schools.

3.5-2

develop educational material on culture and arts

3.3-3

ensure that cultural and arts educational materials are included in all of Saint Martin's schools.

3.3-4

recognize the need for scholarships for young people.

3.6 Research

Research must be recognized as an essential, continuous activity, clarifying the past to explain the present. It is a vital component in the effective functioning of a Department of Culture and within the academic and artistic communities. The management of government's cultural portfolio will benefit from the development of cultural indicators for planning purposes. These would include information on employment, output, consumer spending and participation in cultural activities.

Saint Martin and its people will:

3.6-1

foster scientific, technical and artistic studies, as well as research methodologies, with a view to effectively safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, in particular as it relates to the way of acquiring knowledge.

3.6-2

recognize the importance of University of Saint Martin, not only as a formal educational institute, but also as an active collaborator in research and documentation and as a laboratory for ideas in the field of culture.

4. CULTURAL DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION

4.1. Archives

Archives are among the oldest forms of retrievable documentation, with a special role in conserving and distributing recorded knowledge.

Saint Martin and its people will:

4.1-1

recognize that documentation/registration and conservation have played an integral role in enhancing and celebrating core cultural values and disseminating information to the public.

4.1-2

recognize that the conservation of cultural documentation is a contributor to understanding of the past and the formation of present-day society. Cultural documentation in this respect will help residents understand their neighbors, environment and history.

4.2. Libraries

Libraries are among some of the oldest forms of cultural organizations, with a special role in conserving and making all forms of knowledge accessible through publications, audiovisual material and documents.

Saint Martin and its people will:

4.2-1

recognize the importance and support of Philipsburg Jubilee Library as the national library of St. Martin for the collection, preservation and promotion of literature, with an emphasis on St. Martin.

4.2-2

encourage Philipsburg Jubilee Library to further develop library branches, particularly in districts and schools.

4.2-3

facilitate the use of libraries as learning and information centers, including the availability of Internet usage and computer retrieval systems.

4.2-4

recognize the importance of librarians and encourage studies in the area of library and information sciences among the St. Martin population, particularly the youth.

4.3. Museums

National museums have traditionally played a significant role in conserving the tangible cultural heritage, artifacts and objects, while educating the general public on the history of their country. Museums also have an essential role in displaying collections, as a form of an educational tool for transmitting information on cultural heritage.

Saint Martin and its people will:

4.3-1

encourage the establishment of a national museum according to professional standards, with capacity-building among museum workers.

4.3-2

integrate the national museum and other museums into the tourism product.

4.4 University of Saint Martin

University of Saint Martin plays a central role in the

academic and intellectual life of the society as a seat of teaching, research and analysis. It is an essential component in the processes of researching, transmitting, preserving and teaching Saint Martin culture.

Saint Martin and its people will:

4.4-1

strengthen the relationship between the Department of Culture and University of Saint Martin.

4.4-2

encourage the expansion of cultural studies and the integration of cultural approach in the USM curriculum.

4.4-3

encourage research into Saint Martin's culture.

4.5 Databases and ICT

In this modern world, where ICT forms a basic part of communication, the use of ICT is essential in the transmission of cultural information and networking with the wider cultural community, including the Saint Martiners in the Diaspora, and for documentation and registration.

Saint Martin and its people will:

4.5-1

encourage communication and networking through the use of internet.

4.5-2

develop databases and registration retrieval systems, focusing on cultural information and cultural activities.

4.5-3

create a cultural website for the transmission of information

4.5-4

provide access to the general public for discussion and retrieval of information through forums, cultural agendas, etc.

5. CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The visual and performing arts are key components in culture's life cycle. The creation of an idea is a product of the human imagination through instinct, insight, inspiration and skill. It then moves on to production, with which the general public comes into contact. The realization process turns the creative idea into a cultural product or performance.

5.1. Plastic/Visual Arts

Plastic/Visual arts include all tangible artistic expressions such as paintings, sculptures, photography, installations and modern visual media, computer-generated art and graphic art.

Saint Martin and its people will:

5.1-1

support the development of plastic arts and training in schools through subsidies, grants and scholarships to specialized art institutes.

5.1-2

facilitate the development of regional and international marketing of Saint Martin's plastic/visual arts and the participation artists in major international events throughout the world.

5.1-3

recognize the importance of art exhibitions for the general development.

5.2 Performing Arts (Music, Theater, Dance)

Performing arts refer to performing activities in formal and informal settings, including all kinds of music, dance, theater and drama based presentations.

Saint Martin and its people will:

5.2-1

encourage the performing arts as important expressions of the soul and spirit of the people of Saint Martin.

5.2-2 support the development of the cultural/creative industries as a vital form of economic activity, beneficial to both the individual artist and the country as a whole.

5.2-3 support and participate in international and regional festivals to ensure cooperation and the formation of associations and networks.

5.3. Literature

St. Martin literature refers to all literary productions and publications relevant to Saint Martin.

Saint Martin and its people will:

5.3-1 encourage and develop a Saint Martin literary tradition through training in schools and the provision of scholarships.

5.3-2 support the publication of books and the improvement of their distribution locally, regionally and internationally (including participation in book fairs and literary festivals).

5.4 Architecture

Building practices in Saint Martin reflect the history and culture of the country. The reconstruction of historical buildings and the preservation of traditional features in new buildings reinforce a sense of dignity among citizens.

Saint Martin and its people will:

5.4-1 encourage the conservation of historical buildings in urban and rural settings and the maintenance of traditional architectural features in restorations, as well as encourage the use of traditional architectural features in new buildings.

5.4-2 create legislation for the preservation of historic sites

and buildings, while ratifying relevant conventions for their protection and promotion.

5.4-3 establish a system of zoning for the protection of historic buildings and sites, with particular consideration given to issues such as views and vistas in close proximity to buildings, churches and places of worship, the natural environment and the specific purpose to which new buildings are to be put.

5.4-4 establish a distinction between restorable architectural monuments and archeological monuments to be stabilized.

6. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

6.1. Expressions of Ethnic Groups

The Saint Martin social fabric is interwoven with a great number of cultural influences. Culture is the vehicle and mirror which depicts the passion of each individual. Saint Martin culture is predominantly a beautiful mixture of the African, Asian, European and indigenous peoples.

Saint Martin and its people will:

6.1-1 foster and promote opportunities for the various communities to tell their stories and to have these stories/expressions recognized and included in Saint Martin's cultural development

6.1-2 recognize ethnic diversity as an element important to humanity as is biodiversity to ecology.

7. CULTURE AND MEDIA

7.1. Promotion of Culture and the Arts by the Media

Modern technology has rendered the media the most powerful means of communication. The mass media play a vital role in the formation of public opinion,

political thought, consumer trends, morals, values and attitudes.

Saint Martin and its people will:

7.1-1 work in close collaboration with electronic and print media professionals to ensure that culture and lifestyle of the island are preserved and presented with pride and dignity at all times.

7.1-2 provide training opportunities for media workers and support the creation of modern facilities to support the publication and promotion of print and electronic material and their dissemination.

7.1-3 introduce training programs in journalism and radio and television production for young people in schools, as well as in non-formal settings in communities, in order to create more careers in this field.

7.1-4 seek to promote the positive and educational aspects of the mass media in shaping perceptions and values and influencing actions.

7.1-5 ensure and enforce the freedom of the press.

7.2. Documentation of cultural activities in cooperation with the Media

The impact of audiovisual, print and electronic programming on the culture of a country is one of the most important areas of interest where the preservation of traditional lifestyle is concerned. The cultural values presented and perpetuated by the media should, therefore, receive the careful attention of those who control the media and those who are influenced by it.

Saint Martin and its people will:

7.2-1 create an enabling environment, conducive to and facilitating of universal access to information

and knowledge, including setting standards, raising awareness and monitoring progress in the achievement of universal access to information and knowledge.

7.2-2

participate in national, regional and international networks and associations, with a view toward supporting efforts in information and cultural exchange programs and cooperative initiatives.

7.3. Culture and Art programs by the Media

Cultural and art programs and print material should be an essential part of the productions and publications through the media. To guarantee a structured and efficient use of the media in the distribution of information on culture, the creation of a media policy should be addressed urgently.

Saint Martin and its people will:

7.3-1

establish a Communication Council that will monitor standards according to a media policy.

7.3-2

actively promote and support efforts to utilize the media to foster a spirit of Saint Martin unity, including joint productions in the area of film, music, theater and dance.

7.3-3

support and encourage the use of mass media to present a positive portrayal of Saint Martiners and to encourage honest reflection and discussion on overall direction and goals.

7.3-4

encourage the use of the mass media to more widely disseminate the knowledge of the work of Saint Martin artists.

7.3-5

support methods to improve the capacity to critically assess the media product among audiences.

7.3-6

through discussion with media workers and cultural

authorities, decide on clear percentages of local material (music, television programs, etc.) to be broadcast weekly via the electronic media and eventually in cinemas.

8 CULTURE AND TOURISM

8.1. Cultural Presentations

Cultural presentations have been at the center of Saint Martin's socio-cultural development, and, as such, a number of traditions have been preserved and new areas have been developed. It is well known that culture presentations contribute significantly to the promotion of tourism.

Saint Martin and its people will:

8.1-1

encourage measures to ensure that the development of tourism does not impact negatively on the integrity of the cultural identity of Saint Martin in all its manifestations.

8.1-2

encourage measures that contribute positively to the development of local artistic potential and artistry.

8.1-3

encourage the development of programs which are more oriented toward the cultural heritage and contemporary cultural activity; as part of this orientation, standards will be improved through training, increased performing spaces and up-graded facilities with a view toward general improvements in the performing arts and tourism-linked programs.

8.2. Festivals

Festivals portray to a wider public a number of artistic activities that were once confined to a small village or group.

Saint Martin and its people will:

8.1-1

encourage and support small communities with

specific ongoing festivals to integrate them onto the national stage.

8.1-2

support the development of festivals in recognition of the intrinsic value to communities and their mutually beneficial relationships with tourism.

8.3. Heritage Tourism

Considering the enthusiasm to share some of the sites and buildings considered as jewels and gems of the heritage of Saint Martin, caution has to be taken to conserve and/or reconstruct the precious and fragile heritage.

Saint Martin and its people will:

8.3-1

seek to strengthen the contribution of culture to the economy and its potential for the development of a good of heritage tourism.

9.CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9.1. Creative Industries

The cultural industry has been recognized as the fastest growing sector in the world today. Because of its ability to create jobs and generate income, vibrant programs must be developed to nurture and support it. .

Saint Martin and its people will:

9.1-1

foster and develop workshops, symposia, training and apprenticeships programs to further develop the sector.

9.1-2

support initiatives in the field of arts and craft, such as woodcarving and the creation of miniatures and traditional instruments, toys and dolls.

9.1-3

encourage and support the development of a vibrant film industry.

9.1-4

support designers and models in the development of the fashion and glamour industry for the promotion of clothing productions carrying a strong design line in keeping with Saint Martin culture.

9.2 Entertainment Industries

There is a perception among planners that cultural activity is not economically significant. As a result of this perception, its contribution to the national economy is underrated, despite the evident economic significance of Carnival, the Heineken Regatta or the Summer Festival. This negative perception is reflected in a severe lack of infrastructure, cultural management and other support, given as a matter of course to the traditional areas of private sector activity.

Saint Martin and its people will:

9.2-1

encourage and support research into and quantification of the economic contribution of cultural phenomena such as media festivals through evaluation, survey and economic impact assessment.

9.2-2

establish infrastructure and other support mechanisms to allow for the development of cultural industries.

9.2-3

recognize the importance of Carnival and other festivals within the tourism product and provide incentives and support mechanism for their further development.

10. CULTURAL EXCHANGE

10.1 French Saint Martin

The people of Saint Martin have shared the common history of free movement from one side to another, and both sides have preserved a common culture. In order to continue the close relationship between the populations of both sides, cultural exchange plays a vital role.

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.1-1

support and undertake to put in place mechanisms to foster exchanges of products and enhance mobility of persons in the cultural realm through entering into specific cultural agreements that give form and focus to the intentions of the Treaty of Concordia.

10.2 Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

Since Saint Martin is still part of the Dutch Caribbean, together with the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, cultural exchanges will give the opportunity to continue to share common values and experiences.

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.2-1

continue to promote closer cultural relations between the Netherlands Antilles and its respective island territories and Aruba.

10.3 The Netherlands

As part of the Dutch Kingdom, Saint Martin will maintain the constitutional relationship with the Netherlands; therefore, cultural exchange between both territories will be further developed on an equal and parallel basis.

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.3-1

will maintain the strong bonds which exist with the Netherlands in the field of culture, as a means to better understand and deepen cooperation between the two parts of the Kingdom.

10.4 Caribbean Region

It is recognized that there is a need to strengthen cultural relations with the wider Caribbean in the interest of regional unity, understanding and corporation.

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.4-1

seek to foster stronger cultural links with the governments and people of the Caribbean and recognize their joint history, with a view toward cooperation and exchanges in the field of culture.

10.5 Latin America

Acknowledging the historical, geographical and cultural links and affinities that already exist between Saint Martin and Latin America,

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.5-1

seek to foster stronger cultural links with the governments and people of Latin America and recognize their joint history, with a view toward cooperation and exchanges in the field of culture.

10.6 International

The Saint Martin Tourist Bureau has offices in a number of countries and is responsible for informing potential visitors about Saint Martin, including its history and culture.

Saint Martin and its people will:

10.6-1

establish and expand further cultural links within the international community, which will safeguard and consolidate Saint Martin's standing on the world stage.

10.6-2

acknowledge the global trend toward international power blocs of managing culture and seek membership in such global cultural organizations.

10.7 Diaspora

Saint Martiners who have migrated to various parts of the world and their offspring constitute a dynamic resource that can support the ongoing cultural development of their homeland. Such persons in the Diaspora are usually anxious to contribute to the welfare

of the country and seek opportunities to do so.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 10.7-1 network with Saint Martiners in the Diaspora to promote the culture of Saint Martin and to contribute in meaningful ways to the development of cultural programs and the creation of opportunities for training and exchanges in particular at the international level.
- 10.7-2 utilize the internet as the main means of implementing such networking.

11. CULTURE, GENDER AND YOUTH

11.1 Gender Relations

Caribbean culture has also shaped the way in which males and females of the region relate to each other. Consideration of cultural context should therefore be taken into account for current or future developments in this area.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 11.1-1 encourage special attention to gender issues in all areas of development.
- 11.1-2 support the creation of all legislation which ensures equity among men and women.
- 11.1-3 urge recognition of the particular contribution that the relationship between male and female makes to the process of culture bearing.
- 11.1-4 support all research which provides information on the contribution of men and women in the economy.
- 11.1-5 support all projects that actively engage men in

position of role models.

11.2 Youth Specific

Young people are not actors only of the future. There is much they can contribute as young people to the cultural development of a country. Youth represents at the same time a target and valuable partner in cultural activities in general and for the promotion of cultural diversity in particular.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 11.2-1 promote and actively support efforts aimed at the maintenance and development of cultural activities geared specifically toward youth.
- 11.2-2 involve young people in planning and decision-making processes in the cultural field that have a direct impact on their lives.
- 11.2-3 support initiatives such as the eventual creation of a youth wing to the Cultural Council in cooperation with the Youth Council.

12. CULTURAL FUNDING

Public subsidy of cultural activity is required since, left to its own devices, the market will fail to provide the diversity, range and innovation that are the hallmark of a mature culture. The cultural endeavor is to develop the carriers of culture to their fullest potential; therefore, funding will be required. Although there are already some funding agencies that fund cultural projects, other means for funding have to be located.

Saint Martin and its people will:

- 12-1 undertake to harness the resources of relevant national, regional and international agencies, such as the Prins Bernhard Fonds, AMFO, SUNFED, UNESCO and Dutch and international cultural funding agencies for the continued development of

cultural initiatives and ongoing programs.

12-2

provide, through the Department of Culture, assistance to persons and organizations with professional guidance in the writing of application project proposals to cultural funding agencies.

12-3

undertake to publish, for the benefit of artists and cultural workers, directories of funding agencies, websites and addresses and information on the criteria and procedures for applying for financial support from such agencies in the field of arts and culture.

12-4

recommend to members of the business community that they create opportunities for funding of cultural activities.

12-5

recommend the establishment of agreements with companies receiving tax holidays that a percentage of the savings accruing from such incentives be donated to the development of art and culture.

“... I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”

Mohandas ‘Mahatma’ Gandhi
(1869 – 1948)

Abbreviations

AMFO-Antilliaanse Mede Financiering Organisatie
BCE - Before Common Era
CARICOM - Caribbean Community
CARBICA - Caribbean Regional Branch of
International Council of Archives
CARIFESTA - Caribbean Festivals of the Arts
ICA - International Council of Archives
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
SUNFED - Saint Martin United NGO's Federation

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Appendix I

THE PROCESS

The process maintained to develop an Integrated Cultural Policy for Saint Martin contains the following involvement with the cultural field:

- I Discussion
- II Inclusion
- III Analysis
- IV Consensus

I Discussion Phase

- Preliminary discussion with Government (Commissioner of Culture and others) to assess Government's priorities and general approach to cultural issues. (April 19, 2005).
- Discussions with the director of Social Services, Head of the Social Cultural Development Department, and with team/council/board/staff where applicable. (April 19, 2005).

II Inclusion Phase

- Two days' consultative meetings with stakeholders to produce a draft paper defining broad areas and proposed actions. (October 29 & 31, 2005).
- Summit exhibition "Memories Worth Sharing: meeting of stakeholders involved with cultural and historical heritage of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba." (January 15 – 16, 2006).
- One-day conference on culture as it relate to language, John Larmonie Center. (March 23, 2006).
- Meeting on culture as it relates to sports. (August 10, 2006).
- Meeting on culture as it relates to gender. (August 28, 2006).
- Meeting on culture as it relates to religion. (August 30, 2006).
- Meeting on culture as it relates to environment. (August 31, 2006).
- Meeting on culture as it relates to the media. (August 31, 2006).

III Analysis Phase (June 01, 2006 – August 2006)

- Feedback on preliminary ideas from the general public through town hall meetings in communities, service organizations, NGOs, etc.
- Steering Commission's meetings to assess feedback and refine working document.

IV

Consensus Phase (August – September 2006).

- General public consultation on draft integrated cultural policy framework. (September 01, 2006, John Larmonie Center).
- Small working group to formulate a concept document for presentation to the commissioner of culture.
- Feedback from the Commissioner of Culture and final adjustment.

V

Implementation Phase

- Presentation of the document to the Island Council for adoption as the National Cultural Policy of Saint Martin. (September – October 2006).

Saint Martin's Cultural Policy Steering Committee

In April 2005, Commissioner in charge of culture for Saint Martin Mr. Louie Laveist assigned Head of the Department of Social and Cultural Development Mr. Neville York to set up a cultural policy for Saint Martin. In addition to this, a Cultural Policy Steering Committee was established to plan and develop an Integrated Cultural Policy.

The Saint Martin Cultural Policy Steering Committee consists of the following persons:

Chairperson:

Neville York, Head of Social Cultural Development

Vice-chairperson:

Claudette Forsythe-Labega, Acting Director of Social Services

Members:

Pedro de Weever, Government Information Service
Marcellia Henry, UNESCO Representative NUC - Antilles
Maria van Enckevort, University of Saint Martin

Nominal members:

Regina Labega, Head of Tourist Bureau
Clara Reyes, Dance Instructor
Urmain Dormoy, Cultural Worker

The Saint Martin Cultural Policy Steering Committee was assisted by:

Cultural Policy Officer of the Ministry of Labour, Culture and Sports of Aruba
Mrs. Ruby Eckmeyer and Senior Programme Specialist/ Advisor for Culture of the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Jamaica Mr. Alwin Bully.

Follow-up

The general public was invited to respond to the policy headings (see policy text) by suggesting action to be taken by Government. This was done by inviting individual comments and in a series of town hall meetings with communities and specific cultural disciplines or sectors. Further meetings and consultations were held to refine the document until completed to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

Appendix II

*****ER040607*****

Agendapunt: 4

Onderwerp: 'Integrated Cultural Policy Framework'

- Stukken:
- Aanbiedingsbrief - 'Integrated Culture Policy Framework', d.d. 30 mei 2007. Archief nr. 2982-07.
 - Schrijven van Eilandsecretaris aan voorzitter Eilandsraad ref. "Integrated Cultural Policy Framework", d.d. 29 mei 2007. Archief nr. 2978-07.
 - i. Corrected version page 5 of "Integrated Cultural Policy Framework".
 - ii. Original version page 5 of "Integrated Cultural Policy Framework".

Toelichting: Gedeputeerde / lid L. Laveist licht toe dat het plan is gebaseerd op de opvatting dat de erfenis van de cultuur van Sint Maarten moet worden beschermd en bewaard. Daarom ook wordt een creatieve ambitie en uitdaging in het raamwerk opgenomen op velerlei gebied binnen de gemeenschap om de cultuur te beschrijven, te ontwikkelen en te bewaren. Alle deelnemers hebben zo'n twee jaar gewerkt aan dit document. Hopelijk kan volgende jaren geld worden vrijgemaakt voor de verdere implementatie. Vragen en opmerkingen worden gesteld door de leden F. Richardson, G. Arrindell, M. Buncamper - Molanus en H. Richardson. De vergadering wordt om 14:30 u. voor vijf minuten geschorst. Gedeputeerde Laveist reageert vervolgens op de aanvullende vragen en suggesties. Er is geen behoefte aan hoofdelijke stemming, het voorstel tot aanvaarding van de "Integrated Cultural Policy Framework" wordt unaniem aangenomen.

Besluit: Het voorstel wordt met algemene stemmen aangenomen.

Uitvoering: Secretaris

*****ER040607*****



*****BC191206*****

Agendapunt: 22

Onderwerp: Draft Integrated Cultural Policy Framework

- Stukken:
- Advies van Hoofd SCO / Directeur Welzijn a.i. / Wnd. Hoofd P&O / Wnd. Hoofd Financiën / Wnd. Directeur Middelen, d.d. 9 november 2006
 - Schrijven aan Chef Eilandsecretariaat van Hoofd SCO, dhr. Neville York, d.d. 14 december 2006
 - Schrijven aan Wnd. Hoofd Financiën van Hoofd SCO, dhr. Neville York, d.d. 1 december 2006
 - Policy, Table of Contents
 - Memorandum aan Directeur Welzijn a.i. van wnd. Hoofd Financiën, d.d. 27 november 2006
 - Schrijven aan Directeur Middelen a.i. van Hoofd SCO, dhr. Neville York, d.d. 20 november 2006
 - Draft Integrated Cultural Policy Framework, d.d. 10 november 2006

Arch.nr.: 7639-06

FBB nr.: --

Opmerking: Hoofd P&O:
Budget amendment has to be made first which means either income generating measures or something else cannot be executed for same amount.

- Besluit: Conform advies:
1. Approval of the "Draft Integrated Cultural Policy Plan Framework" as presented by the Cultural Policy Steering Committee.
 2. Approval of the head of the Culture Departement working in collaboration with Hassink and Roos and the Finance Department to produce a financial picture that reflects the ideas presented in the policy framework for the new Country St. Martin.
 3. Approval of the head of the Culture Department working in collaboration with KPMG and P&O to produce an organization chart with responsibilities and tasks that corresponds with the number of personnel needed to monitor, evaluate, coordinate, guide and implement the policy plan.
 4. Approval of the use of 40% of the (incidental) subsidies of the 2007 transition budget to research and establish the core cultural values of Saint Martin.
 5. Approval of the development of a policy of cultural integration for persons requesting a work and residency permit in collaboration with Census, Labor and Governor's Cabinet to coincide with the July 1st 2007 St. Maarten becoming country within the Kingdom.
Met dien verstande dat
 6. dit beleid in de eerstvolgende Centrale Commissie vergadering zal worden behandeld.
Voorts
 7. dient SCO rekening te houden dat bij Kadaster en Burgerzaken tevens historische informatie voorhanden is.

Uitvoering: Directeur Middelen + Directeur Welzijn + Secretaris
Cc. Hoofd SCO, Hoofd Financiën, Hoofd P & O

*****BC191206*****



18 DEC 2006

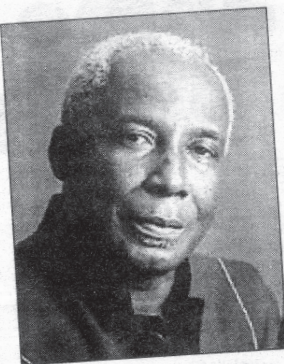
Culture Summit starts Saturday



Culture Commissioner Louie Laveist and Culture Department Head Neville York with the Culture Summit posters.

PHILIPSBURG--The Culture Summit themed "Celebrating St. Maarten's Core Cultural Values" begins on Saturday with the keynote address to be delivered by Professor Rex Nettleford, vice chancellor of University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus, Jamaica.

The summit is organised by the Island Government through the office of Culture Commissioner Louie Laveist in collaboration with United Nations Educational, Scientific



Professor Rex Nettleford

sultation forum will be held in the Philipsburg Community and Cultural Centre on

Summit will be members of the Executive and Island Councils, all Sector Directors, all department heads and two of their staff members, representatives of cultural organisations/foundations, cultural activists, business clubs and organisations, service clubs, the clergy, hoteliers and promoters.

GIS quoted Laveist as saying, "it is very important that we have those stakeholders have been invited to this summit."

He noted that society to an urban within the space generations and the had multiplied by the original population.

He said a national policy was being made to make society a dynamic one by using the many cultural assets of the society with an understanding that Maarten culture is the core and cornerstone of current and

PHILIPSBURG--A group of invited guests and speakers met Wednesday morning at John Harmonie Centre to discuss the relation between language and culture.

Ways to preserve the variation of English spoken in St. Maarten are needed, it was stated during the so-called language session in the process to come to a Cultural Policy for the

Department of Education, members of the Cultural Policy Steering Committee, school principals of St. Maarten Academy, Sundial School and Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC), and representatives of the teachers union and the Department of Constitutional Affairs gathered to listen to several speeches

and varieties of language - and drew references to language and society. "Language functions in dynamic ways. It expresses who we are," Arrindell said in underlining the importance of safeguarding the version of English spoken in St. Maarten.

Cultural Policy for Country St. Martin Successful meetings to be continued, says Neville York

by Wim Hart

Who is a St. Maartener and how do you spell the name of the Dutch side: St. Maarten or St. Martin? These were some of the topics that evoked big debates during the several core cultural policy sultative meetings within which the Draft Cultural Policy of Saint Martin "Celebrating St. Martin's Core Cultural Values" were discussed. The series of meetings will be continued in October for adoption as the National Cultural Policy of the Country St. Martin to be go line by line. It involves one of the most democratic processes ever held on the island," notes Head of the Social Cultural Development Department Neville York.

The cultural related topics that are being discussed within the framework of an Integrated Cultural Policy for the future country include: -Heritage: language, religion, agriculture, archaeology, oral tradition, recreation and games, and National Days

-Legislation: Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights, Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, and Ratification of International Conventions

-Education: Arts and Cultural Officers training, Cultural Information as an educational tool, Culture and Arts in Education and Research

-Documentation, Registration of the most persons: 180. Two days later at the same venue 140 people turned up. "Twenty years have elapsed since my predecessor Carille E. Baly put forward the 1986 draft preamble to a cultural policy. So there was a big void in the community with many pent-up emotions that came out. Some people felt more passionate, others had less strong feelings. All in all I am very satisfied with the turn-out and the intensity of the discussions," says Neville York at an interview with WEEKENDER that took place at his department. He adds, "We don't have all the answers, but we have gathered enough information for a sound framework."



Neville York showing an invitation for the Cultural Summit. (The invitation was designed by local artist Dinstirris Jamaica Alvin Bully.)

"One answer to the question 'Who is a St. Maartener?' that stands out is: 'Each individual who can trace his/her blood lines to 1848, the emancipation date of the French side of the island, in a period when there was a chance to develop cities, villages and communities where norms and traditions were established."

Maarten or St. Martin-one person jumped up and insisted it should be 'St. Maarten', regardless of the language. Another person stressed that according to internationally accepted standards in spelling, the writing of which language depends on which language is used. He said the same goes for the Bundesrepublik Deutschland, in which is Germany in English, L'Allemagne in French, and

consensus in this meeting," Neville York says. "However, there was consensus on what we drafted as St. Martin Creole. One participant said, 'growing up, we speak St. Maarten tongue. The consensus was St. Maarten/St. Martin English.'"

One-on-one meetings have been held with environmental groups, library staff, representative of sports organisations and other organisations. "At our meeting with religious organisations we spoke with a Buddhist, Rastafarian, Christian and even a Voodooist," says Neville York. He points out that the representatives of the sports organisations had been very adamant that they would have a policy of their own. "We respected this, but we explained that this gathering with them was held in the context of the cultural policy. Together, we decided that therefore, the heading 'Sports' was changed into 'Recreation and Games.'"

At all times, the Draft Cultural Policy states: "A cultural policy for the island, when it has obtained its desired separate status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

development, understand the nature of the society and region, be aware of the island's history and culture and recognise oneself as St. Martin, Caribbean and global citizen. She should speak and understand one or more of the languages St. Martin Creole, English and Dutch, plus French and Spanish, given St. Martin's proximity to so many countries where these languages are spoken. She should practise tolerance, respect for others, live in peace and understand the norms and values of St. Martin's society."

"In my Father's house are many homes. If it weren't so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you into my home; that where I am, you may be there also." This reference to the Bible, John 4:2, says UNESCO Representative Marcella Henry, is very appropriate when looking at the joint venture to draw up a sound framework to build a St. Maarten/St. Martin House, or

From left: Inspector of Education Jane Buncamper and talk show host Lloyd Richardson with linguist Rhoda Arrindell writing down some keywords on the board during her speech.

Experts promote use of St. Maarten English

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Ways to preserve the variation of English spoken in St. Maarten are needed, it was stated during the so-called language session in the process to come to a Cultural Policy for the

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and varieties of language - and drew references to language and society. "Language functions in dynamic ways. It expresses who we are," Arrindell said in underlining the importance of safeguarding the version of English spoken in St. Maarten.

THE DAILY HERALD, Saturday, August 26, 2006

Cultural Policy Group to discuss gender, behaviour

PHILIPSBURG--Head of the Department of Culture Neville York and the Cultural Policy Steering Committee will have a series of meetings with representatives of various organisations this coming week. The first meeting with the topic "Culture, Gender and Behaviour" will take place Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The meetings are meant to discuss issues previously considered by the Department of Culture. "The Cultural Policy Steering Committee has constructed a first draft policy to be submitted for their consideration. This will stimulate the active participation of the public and the general public in an interactive cultural policy and support the development of the Department of Culture. The Cultural Policy Steering Committee has constructed a first draft policy to be submitted for their consideration. This will stimulate the active participation of the public and the general public in an interactive cultural policy and support the development of the Department of Culture.

THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT OF ST. MAARTEN
Commissioner of Culture
Mr. Louie E. Laveist

in collaboration with UNESCO & Oranjestad Committee St. Maarten
Cordially invites you to the Cultural Summit:
"Celebrating St. Maarten's Core Cultural Values"

Keynote Speaker:
Professor Rex Nettleford, OM, FU
University of the West Indies, Jamaica

The views expressed on this opinion page are not necessarily those of Today Newspaper.

Open letter to commissioner Laveist Sxm rejects modus operandi for cultural-policy

Dear Editor

Perhaps, Commissioner Laveist, the 'All walks of Life' does not understand that 'any culture' neck deep in 'modus operandi' will not get it back with a 'signature' on a 'better' 'policy'.

Even many 'non-St. Martiners' themselves do not understand such a policy, where a Government does not show respect for its own indigenous people by giving them due privileges and priority to establish the groundwork for the cultural policy, BEFORE involving others!

not a 'United Nation's Day'; it is not a multi-cultural day; it is pure and simple St. Martin's Day. We would like to extend that thinking to EVERY single aspect of our existence, development and culture.

Yes by all means, add your FLAVOUR to our

Ferrier used to meet with to the Control Unit staff.

ExCo approves draft Cultural Policy

GREAT BAY—The Executive Council on Tuesday approved the draft integrated cultural policy of St. Maarten, said Commissioner Louie Laveist in yesterday's Executive Council press briefing. Laveist said that the draft of the cultural

policy would now go to the Central Committee for approval and the Island Council for public debate and ratification.

"I am extremely proud to inform the public that we are entering the final stages of the draft integrated cultural policy," Laveist said.

"Additionally... the department of culture has been in consultation with (the department of) finance in collaboration for the implementation of the cultural policy. So we are looking at the financial aspect of adjusting the budget so we can comply with the cultural policy."

Cultural report presented to stakeholders

PHILIPSBURG--The preliminary report on the first raised during the summit to come to a National Cultural Policy for St. Maarten was submitted to stakeholders for their personal, feedback, comments and recommendations. The first consultation was held at the end of October during the Cultural Summit "Celebrating St. Maarten Core Cultural Values." During this summit, organisations, artists and workers in the field of culture and the general public were consulted regarding the establishment of a National Cultural Policy.

"A number of topics were in several consultations that will lead towards the development of a National Cultural Policy. In taking this decision a Steering Committee was installed to supervise the process and develop the policy. This Steering Committee consists of Chairman Neville York, Vice-Chairperson Claudette Forsythe-Labega, Head of the Education Department, and Head of Tourist Bureau Regina Labega, Pedro de Weever of the Government Information Service, UNESCO representative Marcella Henry, Maria van Eek-Martin, dance instructor Clara Reyes and cultural worker Urmijn Dormoy. The need to establish a national cultural policy is obvious. It is for each (island) state with due regard to its own cultural activities. The general public will be invited to respond to the plans to establish a cultural policy. This will be done through individual town hall meetings with communities and a series of consultations with specific disciplines or sectors. Further meetings and consultations will then be held to refine the document until it is completed to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Once this exercise is completed government is expected to provide the necessary resources to facilitate the required organisational support for the Policy of St. Maarten. effective implementation of the National Cultural Policy of St. Maarten.

ADC transfer now set for January

PHILIPSBURG--The long-awaited transfer of the Analytic Diagnostic Centre (ADC) Laboratory to St. Maarten Laboratory Services (SLS) is now set for January 2006, Health Commissioner Franklin Meyers says. Meyers told reporters during last Wednesday's Executive Council press briefing that the transfer would take place early in the new year.

Diversity keyword during cultural summit opening



Dr. Francio Guadeloupe (left) and Professor Rex Nettleford. He pointed to the relevance...

leading. "The 'multi' could well speak to a pluralism that secures for each ingredient in the mix an unassailable corner of exclusivity. ... "Instead, it is one of the surest ways of maintaining a status quo of gaping gulfs of difference between people whose forebears might have come from a variety of places, a situation in which the powerful remain powerful and the weak remain powerless," he said. In his speech, Dr. Guade-

How many cultures does St. Martin have?

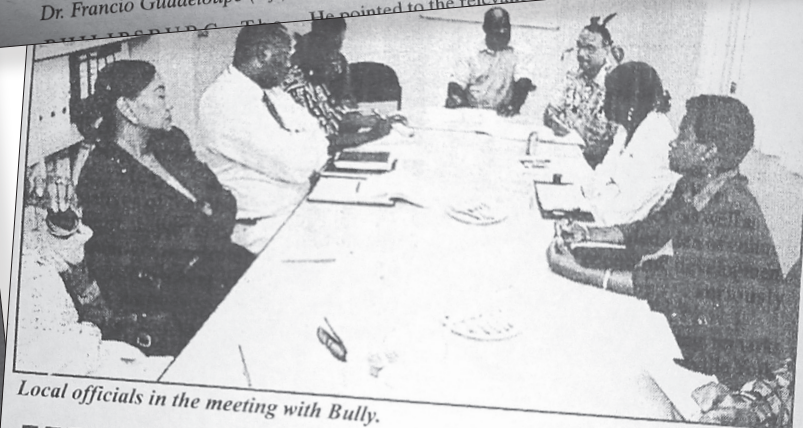
—Shujah Reiph questions island's cultural status—

GREAT BAY/MARIGOT— President of Conscious Lyrics Foundation, Alex Shujah Reiph, was rather pleased that Professor Rex Nettleford of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, addressed the issue of multiculturalism, especially in light of Reiph's concern as to how many cultures St. Martin has? "Prof. Nettleford, considered by many as the practical dean of Caribbean something called 'multiculturalism.' But this piece of jargon can be very misleading. The 'multi' could well speak to a pluralism, which secures for each ingredient in the mix an unassailable corner of exclusivity. So, you stay in your small corner and I in mine. "This is no way of building bridges... Lasana M. Sekou, is used instead of the traditional or nationalist spelling of "St. Martin" (But in some Constitutional Affairs documents the traditional spelling is popping up more and more). In the same slogan, the term "core cultural values," popularized here by Reiph said. "And has anyone been noticing lately? It looks like there is a spiteful resurgence in the media and by politicians of the use of the words "French" and "Dutch" to describe St. Martin's people.

Editorial

FASHIONING A CULTURAL POLICY FOR ST. MARTIN

The "Cultural Summit" that is scheduled for this weekend is a very important initiative. One of the main objectives of the summit is the drafting of a cultural policy. Culture, even though a government portfolio, has been largely left to the private sector to develop. Of course, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. However, it is obvious that such development requires some guidelines that should



Local officials in the meeting with Bully.

UNESCO cultural adviser on courtesy call

GREAT BAY (GIS)—On Tuesday, Mr. Alwin A. Bully paid a courtesy visit to representatives of the island government departments and some non-governmental organizations regarding the potential of a future working visit to the island to give

addition, to ways and means of being able to fund the project, besides what the island government could do. He said that though there was emphasis on Cultural activities and festivals as a means of were essential components in the development of a cultural policy, as well as the intermingled idea of culture and economic development must be seriously considered. Some opening remarks were made by Neville York,



Produced by:
The Island Government Cultural Policy Steering Committee.