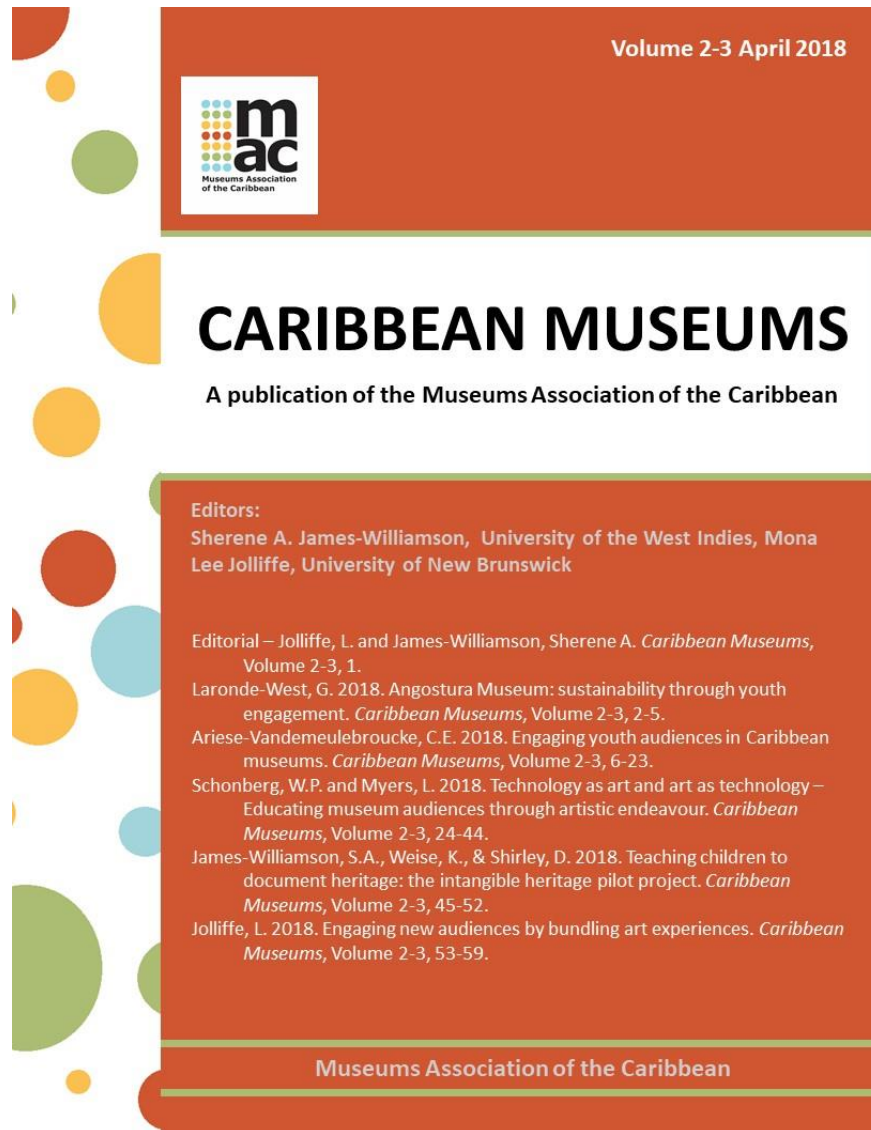


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Editorial

This combined issue of the journal *Caribbean Museums* (Volume 2 and 3) includes a total of six papers from the MAC Annual Conference held in Saint Lucia in 2015 (theme of Museums' Sustainability through Youth Engagement) and from that held in Grand Cayman in 2016 (theme of The Essential Museum: Redefining the Role of the Cultural and Heritage Sector for 21st Century Audiences).

While the papers have a focus on diverse topics all have relevance to the museums and cultural institutions within a region that is in itself made up of diversified types of cultural institutions with shared challenges. The paper topics on the theme of youth engagement include Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke's general overview of youth engagement within museums in the region (Engaging youth audiences in Caribbean museums), Laronde-West's case study of a youth engagement with a unique natural history collection and museum (Museums' Sustainability through Youth Engagement) and James-Williamson, Weise, and Shirley's report on an intangible heritage project with children (Teaching children to document heritage: the intangible heritage pilot project). Also included related to redefining the role of the cultural and heritage sector are several papers on and the use of various approaches and techniques to engage Caribbean museum audiences, in the case of the paper by Schonberg and Myers on the use of technology (Technology as art and art as technology – Educating museum audiences through artistic endeavor) and Jolliffe's paper on taking the museum into the community through public art (Engaging new audiences by bundling art experiences).

What do these diverse papers have in common? They represent, through case studies and related investigations, the sharing and dissemination of best practices between the museum and cultural heritage professionals of the Caribbean region, so that what is learned in one context is potentially transferable to others, building up through the pages of *Caribbean Museums* a relevant museological body of knowledge. By engaging both children and youth, future audiences can be developed. By taking on new approaches, such as using technology and taking the museum into the community the exhibition of arts and culture can be expanded beyond the museum, thus also contributing to the nurturing of new and expanded audiences.

The Caribbean region though diverse have a shared heritage and shared experiences. These experiences shape and transform our cultural spaces, museums and patrimony. The Museums Association of the Caribbean through the *Caribbean Museums* publication will continue to be a clearing house for the sharing and dissemination of ideas that will engender good management and practice in our museums, exhibition spaces and cultural expositions.

Dr. Lee Jolliffe & Dr. Sherene James-Williamson
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