

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN
29th Annual General Meeting
November 9th, 2018
Bridgetown, Barbados

ATTENDANCE

MAC Board (Present)

Natalie Urquhart (President)	<i>National Gallery of the Cayman Islands</i>	Institutional & individual
Joanne Hyppolite (Vice President)	<i>National Museum of African American History & Culture</i>	Individual
Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke (Secretary)	<i>University of Amsterdam (present via Skype)</i>	Individual
Kevin Farmer	<i>Barbados Museum & Historical Society</i>	Institutional
Dr. Sherene James-Williamson	<i>University of the West Indies Geology Museum</i>	Institutional & individual
Lee Jolliffe	<i>University of New Brunswick</i>	Individual

MAC Board (Absent with apology)

Lauren Christie (Treasurer)	<i>Berman Fisher</i>	Appointed
Arminda Franken-Ruiz	<i>Fundacion 1403</i>	Individual
Anne Lennard	<i>Ministry of Education & Culture, British Virgin Islands</i>	Institutional
Jacques Martial	<i>Memorial ACTe</i>	Institutional
Yvonne Tang	<i>Lord Cultural Resources</i>	Individual

MAC Membership (Present)

Alex Martinez Suarez	Museo Fernando Peña Defilló	Institutional & individual
Alissandra Cummins	Barbados Museum & Historical Society	Institutional
April Min	University of South Florida	Individual
Ariana Curtis	National Museum of African American History & Culture	Individual
Auntaneshia Staveloz	National Museum of African American History & Culture	Institutional
Chenzira Davis Kahina	Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center/University of the Virgin Islands	Institutional
Cristal Clayton-Wallace	National Gallery of Jamaica	Individual
Daniella Carrington	Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, Trinidad & Tobago	Individual
John Franklin	National Museum of African American History & Culture	Individual
John Angus Martin	Independent	Individual
Karen Roberts Franklin	Independent	Individual
Katarina Jacobson	Musee Edgar Clerc	Individual
Laurent Christian Ursulet	Collectivité Territoriale de Martinique	Institutional
Lorna Abungu	-	Individual
Marie-Hélène Leontin	Collectivité Territoriale de Martinique	Institutional
Mariel Quinones	Museo Universidad de Puerto Rico, Cayey	Individual
Mariel Vickles	Perez Art Museum Miami	Institutional
Melva Lowe-Goodin	SAMAAP; West Indian Museum Society of Panama	Individual
Melvina Walsh-Leslie	Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Dominica	Individual
Michelle Banks	African American Firefighter Museum	Individual
Michelle Joan Wilkinson	National Museum of African American History & Culture	Institutional
Michelle Torres-Carmona	Smithsonian Institution	Individual
Ramona La Roche	African American Research Library and Cultural Center	Individual

Ruth Linton	Museum of Parliament	Institutional
Shani Roper	Liberty Hall: the Legacy of Marcus Garvey	Individual
Sue-Shantely Lourens	Savonet Museum Carmabi	Individual
Tara Inniss	The University of the West Indies	Individual
Thierry L'Etang	Mémorial ACTe	Institutional
Veronica Forte	West Indian Museum of Panama	Individual
Wendy Wolf	Vizcaya Museum and Gardens	Institutional

MAC Membership (voting by proxy)

Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke	University of Amsterdam	Proxy: Joanne Hyppolite
Adrienne Chadwick	Perez Art Museum Miami	Proxy: Natalie Urquhart
Amanda Coulson	National Gallery of the Bahamas	Proxy: Natalie Urquhart
Arminda Franken-Ruiz	Fundacion 1403	Proxy: Lee Jolliffe
Amalia S. Levi	The HeritEdge Connection	Proxy: Natalie Urquhart
Deborah Mack	National Museum of African American History & Culture	Proxy: Auntaneshia Staveloz
Yvonne Tang	Lord Cultural Resources	Proxy: Lee Jolliffe

Observers

Catherine Cole	Commonwealth Association of Museums
Charlene Drakes	Caribbean Tourism Organization
Jennifer Zazo-Brown	National Museum of African American History & Culture

Call to order and welcome: Natalie Urquhart, President at 13:10 (AST)

Apologies were made for Lauren Christie, Arminda Franken-Ruiz, Anne Lennard, Jacques Martial, and Yvonne Tang.

Minutes: Minutes of the 28th annual general meeting held on October 26th 2017 were reviewed with the membership. A motion to accept the minutes was moved by Kevin Farmer and seconded by John Franklin.

The President, Natalie Urquhart, thanked Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke as outgoing Secretary for her contributions to the MAC Board. She acknowledged the MAC Board members present here, Joanne Hyppolite, Lee Jolliffe, Sherene James-Williamson, and Kevin Farmer, and thanked them for their efforts in organizing the conference, as well as MAC Administrator Kerri-Anne Chisholm. She welcomed Auntaneshia Staveloz and thanked the National Museum of African American History & Culture's Office of Strategic Partnerships for their support.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-2018

Natalie Urquhart, the President, delivered the President's Report for the year 2017-2018. It is noted that the President welcomed Catherine Cole of the Commonwealth Association of Museums and our Smithsonian colleagues from the National Museum of African American History and Culture. She also expressed appreciation to the EU-LAC-Museums project, the University of the West Indies, and Alissandra Cummins and her team from the Barbados Museum & Historical Society for co-organizing the conference. She thanked Kerri-Anne Chisholm and Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke for their work as MAC's Secretariat.

A full copy of the President's report is attached to the end of these minutes.

There were no questions or comments from the membership.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2018

Natalie Urquhart presented the financial report of the year 2017-2018 on behalf of the treasurer, Lauren Christie. She noted that MAC relies on conference funds to support MAC to function in the following year, something which changes dramatically from year to year based on the conference. A major goal for MAC is therefore to seek new grants to be able to sustain the organization. In this regard, she thanked the National Museum of African American History & Culture's Office of Strategic Partnerships again for supporting this year's conference.

In discussing the financial report, the President noted that 2017 was a very successful conference, in part due to the accessibility of the conference location (Miami), and also due to the success of the local host committee in securing local sponsorship. As a result, MAC was able to receive a profit from the conference. However, this is not the usual annual revenue, where historically MAC has mainly benefitted only from membership fees and silent auction proceeds.

Natalie Urquhart thanked Lauren Christie for her work in facilitating the paperwork and other work necessary for the change in banks from St. Lucia to the US.

The financial report as summarized is copied below:

"The annual conference held in October 2017 was financially very successful with a profit of \$7K and driving \$2.3K in membership revenue. The profitability of the conference was made viable due to the amount of overall sponsorship the host committee obtained for this event, which enabled significant funds to be spent on the 2017 conference and enabled a small balance to be able to be built up in the Wells Fargo bank account (c\$11K). In contrast, the sponsorship gained directly by MAC for the 2018 conference has been considerably lower at \$21.5K, which has meant expenses have been cut back accordingly.

Balance Sheet Notes:

'St. Lucia Bank Account' shows the final funds to be transferred from the St. Lucia National Bank account to the Wells Fargo account upon closing of the former account. A Board resolution to close the account is to be signed at the MAC Board Retreat.

'PayPal' shows conference registrations and membership dues being paid into PayPal and then transferred to Wells Fargo.

'Accounts Receivable' are aged balances and may have to be written off.

'Website' costs have been capitalized and will be depreciated over a three year period.

MAC – Looking Forward:

The priority is to look forward regarding the future of MAC and initiate ways to make sure that MAC can perform on a profitable basis going forwards. Ideally MAC needs a few profitable years like 2017 to enable it to build up a cash fund which will put MAC in a much better position to be able to take some risks. A key element of being able to move forward is having a main sponsor of the annual conference. We should also try and monopolize on the conference to bring in alternative revenue streams, as has been done with memberships. Outside of the conference, time and resources need to be focused on grant writing to support special projects and the funding of an administrator, which is considered crucial to the success and growth.”

A copy of the full financial statements are added to these minutes.

9:15 PM

11/07/18

Accrual Basis

Museums Association of the Caribbean
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2018

	Sep 30, 18	Sep 30, 17
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Bank of St. Lucia	58.52	6,695.62
PayPal	181.00	0.00
Wells Fargo - USD	11,598.13	0.00
Total Checking/Savings	11,837.65	6,695.62
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	711.56	1,214.17
Total Accounts Receivable	711.56	1,214.17
Total Current Assets	12,549.21	7,909.79
Fixed Assets		
Website (FA)	1,842.10	0.00
Accumulated Depreciation	-511.70	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,330.40	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	13,879.61	7,909.79
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	17,567.20	17,567.20
Retained Earnings	252.94	-8,654.48
Net Income	-3,940.53	-1,002.93
Total Equity	13,879.61	7,909.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	13,879.61	7,909.79

9:16 PM

11/07/18

Accrual Basis

Museums Association of the Caribbean

Profit & Loss

October 2017 through September 2018

	Oct '17 - Sep 18	Oct '16 - Sep 17
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Sponsorship	55,125.00	0.00
Conference		
Silent Auction Proceeds	682.00	0.00
Conference (members)	0.00	880.00
Conference (non members)	0.00	600.00
Conference (students)	0.00	150.00
Total Conference	682.00	1,630.00
Memberships		
Membership dues - Institutional	3,491.14	300.00
Membership dues - Individual	0.00	700.00
Membership dues - Students	0.00	76.00
Total Memberships	3,491.14	1,076.00
Auction	0.00	171.00
Calender	0.00	66.00
Total Income	59,298.14	2,943.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Conference Expense		
Venue	18,791.50	0.00
Sponsored Reception	7,880.00	0.00
Program Booklet	6,595.31	0.00
Hotel	3,847.40	0.00
Support Staff	3,013.13	0.00
Flights	2,764.51	0.00
Other Expenses	2,045.00	0.00
Keynote	1,926.02	0.00
Registration	875.00	0.00
Bank Charges	385.25	0.00
Total Conference Expense	48,123.12	0.00
Total COGS	48,123.12	0.00
Gross Profit	11,175.02	2,943.00
Expense		
Bank Service Charges	300.64	160.45
Communications	1,560.00	0.00
Dues and Subscriptions	94.90	0.00
	511.70	0.00
Interest Expense		
Finance Charge		
Depreciation	511.70	0.00
Total Finance Charge	511.70	0.00
Total Interest Expense	511.70	0.00
Professional Fees		
Admin Support	1,565.00	0.00
Total Professional Fees	1,565.00	0.00
Travel	1,033.96	799.94
Website	139.00	142.45
Total Expense	5,205.20	1,102.84
Net Ordinary Income	5,969.82	1,840.16
Net Income	5,969.82	1,840.16

3. ELECTION

Sherene James-Williamson informed the membership that nine persons would be continuing on the MAC Board and that one individual position was open for election. She further explained the election process while all members were given their institutional or individual ballots. She clarified that the elections would be for Board positions and that the new Board would meet the following day to appoint an Executive Board.

Three nominations for the open individual position on the Board had been received beforehand. There were no additional nominations. Sherene James-Williamson read the biographies of the three nominees:

- Adrienne Chadwick - Pérez Art Museum Miami
- Chenzira Davis-Kahina - Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center & University of the Virgin Islands
- Ruth Linton - Museum of Parliament

After the votes were counted by the MAC Board, the votes were independently confirmed by Jennifer Zazo-Brown.

One individual member was elected by the membership: Adrienne Chadwick.

4. 30th AGM

Joanne Hyppolite shared the bid process for MAC's conference and AGM. She noted that the MAC Board had received a bid for the 2019 Conference already last year at the 2017 Conference in Miami. The Board has accepted this bid and Joanne Hyppolite invited the representatives of the host committee from Martinique, Marie-Hélène Leontin & Laurent Christian Ursulet from the Collectivité Territoriale de Martinique to read the following letter of invitation:

"Dear President and members,

It is with great honor that Martinique proposes to host, from 12 to 16 November 2019, the 30th General Assembly of the Museums Association of the Caribbean. Our joy is all the greater as this meeting will constitute a major event in the life of the association, knowing that the first meeting of the constitution of the MAC was held in Martinique, in the presence of the founding members: Alissandra Cummins, Anita Ebanks, Lyne-Rose Beuze, and Madeleine de Grandmaison. Since 1989, the date of the creation of this association in Dominica, Martinique has always supported the actions of the MAC, striving to participate in all its General Assemblies.

In November 2019, we will seize with joy this new opportunity to discuss the following theme: *The Museum: Identity Marker and Actor of the Economic and Cultural Development of the Caribbean*. We will be able to take stock of thirty years of the association working for the enhancement of museums and our common history, in a dynamic of openness and development.

In these difficult times for human fraternity, Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon and Edouard Glissant, all prophets of respect for singularities and differences, builders of individual and collective emancipation, founded the world heritage treasures. Openness to others, that we will come together to work collectively. Dear members of the MAC, counting on your presence in number, we are looking forward to this crucial meeting of the year 2019."

Joanne Hyppolite expressed that MAC is enthusiastic to begin planning for the 30th Annual General Meeting and Conference in Martinique, noting that it will include a special fête as well as for the first time an award ceremony. The conference will be bilingual (English/French).

5. MATTERS ARISING

- The membership asked whether it would be possible to share the conference presentations online with conference delegates. Natalie Urquhart responded that indeed this could be arranged, for instance via Google Drive.
- The membership asked whether it would be possible to share the results of the survey conducted at the conference with the membership? Natalie Urquhart responded that the results will be shared with the membership in the form of a report.
- Alissandra Cummins wondered about the award ceremony at the 30th Annual General Meeting and Conference and how this may be supported through sponsorship partners. Natalie Urquhart clarified that next year MAC will put out a call for nominations to the membership for multiple award categories.

NEXT AGM: 12-17 November, 2019 in Martinique.

Termination: Natalie Urquhart, President, terminated the meeting at 14:06 (AST).

Approved:

* with amendments

* without amendments

Date: _____

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN
29th Annual General Meeting
President's Report

Natalie Urquhart
10 November 2018

I'd like to open by welcoming our Members and Guests and to thank all of you for contributing to what has been an inspiring few days of presentations, discussions and networking. Before I summarise our year I'd like to say a few words about the Museums Association of the Caribbean for our new members.

MAC was formed in 1987 to allow museums and related organizations and societies in the Caribbean to share experiences and skills. Recognizing the importance of museums as centres of conservation and preservation of natural and cultural patrimony and of our common heritage, as well as the vital role which museums play in the conservation, educational systems, scientific research and tourism of Caribbean States, the Association established the following objectives:

1. To develop a common policy on the role of museums and duties of curatorial staff with common practices on exhibitions, conservation, preservation, legislation and regulations for the protection of national patrimony.
2. To act as an advisory board to governments and public and private institutions on matters pertaining to museum development.
3. To identify technical and financial resources at national, regional and international levels and to share information on needs and sources of assistance.
4. To serve as a forum for exchange of information and ideas to create a framework for ongoing communication on a regional basis through annual meetings, publications, museum exchanges and programs.
5. To develop links with international and other regional and national museum-related organizations and agencies.
6. To strengthen museums so that they may foster and promote an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our heritage through education and related programs.

Member organizations include a variety of regional cultural organizations including traditional 'national' museums; art museums; heritage facilities; university museums; cultural academics; along with members of the wider global museum community in its many forms. Recent past conferences have been held in Miami (2017), the Cayman Islands (2016), and St. Lucia (2015). Over the last 29 years, the MAC Board has been comprised of representatives from organizations throughout the region which have included museums in the Dutch, English, French, and Spanish speaking Caribbean. MAC's impact also stretches beyond the Caribbean. It has had representation at ICOM meetings as an affiliated organization and it has contributed to projects like the UNESCO Slave Route Project for example. We have recently engaged in several international partnerships, which I will speak to further below.

Who is on the MAC Executive Board (2018)

- President: Natalie Urquhart (National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands)
- Vice President: Joanne Hyppolite (National Museum of African American History & Culture, USA)
- Treasurer: Lauren Christie (Berman Fisher, Cayman Islands)
- Board Secretary: Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
- Kevin Farmer (Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Barbados)
- Arminda Franken-Ruiz (Fundacion 1403, Aruba)
- Anne Lennard (Ministry of Education and Culture, British Virgin Islands)
- Sherene James-Williamson (University of the West Indies Geology Museum, Jamaica)
- Lee Jolliffe (University of New Brunswick, Canada)
- Jacques Martial (Mémorial ACTe, Guadeloupe)
- Yvonne Tang (Lord Cultural Resources, Canada)

Publications

Following our 2017 conference in Miami, MAC was invited to participate in the *International Review of African American Art (IRAAA)*, a publication that focuses on the visual art of African-descended people throughout the Americas. The paper was entitled *A history of Connections, a Future of Collaborations* and it explored the organization's 30 year history. You all received copies in your welcome bags and I encourage you to read the article on MAC, as well as the paper on the 2017 MAC Conference, held in partnership with the National Museum of African American History and Culture's Office of Strategic Partnerships and the African American Association of Museums in Miami that was authored by Auntaneshia Staveloz and Marion McGee.

The Caribbean Museums journal, edited by Sherene James Williamson, publishes MAC's conference proceedings. It is accessible on MAC's website and via a limited print run, and are available for free download. In 2016, the first volume of Caribbean Museums was published and in 2018 the second volume. A next volume is currently being prepared for publication drawing from MAC 2017 conference papers and related submitted papers from MACs membership.

We will be following up with delegates from this conference about a future publication and would encourage you all to consider submitting your papers. We also wish to upload content and presentations to the MAC website in order to continue to grow platform as a 'go to' resource for our members.

Membership

Throughout 2018 MAC has been working to expand and diversify membership, particularly in terms of discipline, language and geographic representation. From the beginning, MAC was envisioned to be an organization that would have broad membership which crosses linguistic barriers, and includes museums professionals across the diaspora, and from a wide range of disciplines.

One of our goals for 2018 has been to increase our membership and to revitalize our committees in an effort to expand and strengthen the important work we do. We are very keen to encourage MAC Members to become more actively involved with the organization by volunteering for one of our 6 committees: Communications, Conference, Membership, Fundraising, Education & Training, and Disaster Planning & Preparedness. Detailed descriptions of each committee can be found on our website Please contact us if you are willing to serve and to indicate which committee you would like to join. MAC Board members have already volunteered for each committee and will be working with you to implement the committee's work.

Strategic Partnerships 2018

In 2017 MAC partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) to host MAC's 28th Annual General Meeting and Conference in Miami, Florida. The conference was hosted in the U.S. for the first time in the history of MAC. The partnership with MAC was also the first Caribbean based collaboration for the Association of African American Museums. The tri-organizational partnership brought together the largest concentration of African American and Afro-Caribbean museums to share in the exchange of ideas on museum best practices. The conference theme, *Breaking Boundaries: Transcending Geographies, Disciplines and Identities*, encapsulated the spirit of the conference and explored the transcendent power of cultural institutions to connect people and ideas.

I am delighted to report that this partnership has continued in 2018 with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture's Office of Strategic Partnerships continuing their support for MAC's 2018 conference. This year funds were identified for travel scholarships, improving the language accessibility of conference information through translations, inviting a keynote speaker, and supporting our AGM luncheon today which is a key component of the annual conference. Keeping this gathering accessible, affordable and representative of our diverse memberships is a high priority, and these travel scholarships are vital in ensuring opportunities for emerging, mid and need-based museum professionals across the Caribbean territories.

NMAAHC staff were also actively involved on the 2018 Conference Programme Committee for this conference showing their commitment to providing resources to MAC, in this period of the organizations expansion in multiple ways. I'd like to take a moment to identify committee members Auntaneshia Staveloz and Marion McGee, and to extend our sincerest thanks to their team for support this year. We look forward to continuing to develop our partnership.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize our seven travel fellows, who were supported by the Smithsonian grant, and thank them all for their contribution to the last few days discussions: Alex Martinez-Suarez (Dominican Republic); Mariel Y. Quinones Velez (Puerto Rico); Cristal Clayton-Wallace (Jamaica); Sue-Shantley Lourens (Curacao); Katarina Jacobson (Guadeloupe) Melvina Walsh-Leslie (Dominica); and Melva Goodin (Panama).

We heard from Catherine Cole yesterday about the Commonwealth Association of Museums' work and we are currently exploring ways to connect Caribbean museums with their internship program and online resources. In addition, we are exploring a collaborative afternoon symposium for ICOM's Triennial in Kyoto next year. Thank you Catherine for reaching out to MAC to instigate this collaboration.

As you are all aware, MAC has also collaborated with the University of the West Indies and the EU-LAC-Museums project, through this 2018 International Museums Conference partnership. Its objective is to directly meet the challenge of fostering EU-CELAC relations by studying the close connections between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in the field of community museology. To address this challenge, EU-LAC-Museums has had a team of leading academics, museum professionals and policy makers working with regional partners over the past two years and many MAC Members may have first-hand experience with the project as it has moved through the region. It has been informative to learn about their project's progress over the past few days and I am sure you'll agree that our conference collaboration has provided an important platform through which to continue growing networks for our regional museums.

Another outcome of this partnership with the University of the West Indies is our MOU relating to the establishment more comprehensive training opportunities for established and emerging professionals in the region – which we heard about this morning.

Disaster Liaison

In the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria, MAC through its Facebook page established a public group ([Hurricanes Irma & Maria - Museum & Cultural Heritage Support](#)) as a post-disaster community of support for museums, archives, collections and cultural institutions in the greater Caribbean region. Relevant information was posted here, as well as a link to submit status reports to MAC of damages to cultural heritage in the region. The board of MAC is now exploring avenues for funding research, study and training for disaster preparedness, management and recovery in the region and is planning a disaster response panel discussion at the MAC Annual Conference in 2018.

Following this meeting we are exploring the opportunity to closer align with ICOM Latin American and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency so that we can better disseminate information and resources to members and to explore ongoing disaster preparedness workshops between the annual conference.

MAC Grant 2018 Applications

I have mentioned that we were the successful recipient of a grant from the NMAAHC Office of Strategic Partnerships, which provided support for this conference. Moving forward, in alignment with MAC's expansion plans for 2019/20, we are exploring additional grant opportunities that will fund a part time administrative position and support the other projects that we are hoping to roll out.

Establishment of MAC's US Chapter

Following the 2017 conference, MAC re-incorporated as a US-based entity with headquarters in Miami, FL in order to maximize its growing international reach. We also explored banking options that were more flexible for an organization such as MAC and its digital office, specifically a bank that provides digital banking options - accessing the accounts, online payment options, and standard and monthly banking fees etc. Wells Fargo was selected as the bank and we successfully set up the account and now have online capacity. Thanks to Vice President Joanne Hyppolite for all her work establishing this account and to MAC Treasurer Lauren Christie.

Future plans

Following the successful 2017 AGM and Conference, the MAC Board met in Miami to develop a three-year Strategic Plan that sought to build on recently expanded networks and to advance MAC's mission. The outcome of the meeting was a vision statement that seeks to position MAC as the "go-to resource for Caribbean museums and the global resource about Caribbean Museums." This goal will be achieved via a stronger on-line presence and an expanded communications strategy; the development of professional training and resources, including disaster management resources that are specific to the unique museum environments of the region; expanded membership; the relaunching of the Museums Exchange Program; and the development of new regional and international partnerships.

MAC's website revitalization was considered a priority in order to for MAC to remain accessible outside of the annual conference gathering. The new website went live in October 2017. In addition to general news and information pages, new features will include a password protected members area with profiles, a regional map of member institutions, and other resources. The site has been developed with a blog page tied to MAC social media platforms, which will feature regular interviews with member organizations along with other interviews and updates from the global museum sector. We encourage our Members to share news for these platforms throughout the year.

While education and training have played a central role in annual MAC conferences, in 2019 the MAC Education and Training Committee hope to launch a series of online resources and knowledge exchange opportunities via the website. The MAC Museums Exchange Program will be expanded to include global exchange partners to enable professional development opportunities for regional members, and a chance for international partners to experience the unique Caribbean museum environment.

The development of disaster management and mitigation resources for regional museums is considered a vital part of MAC's responsibly to its members. In the wake of the 2017 hurricanes in the Caribbean region MAC created a Facebook group to provide a post-disaster community of support for museums, archives, collections and cultural institutions in the region. MAC plans to centralize information and contacts for emergency support organizations on our website and we

are exploring avenues for funding research, study and training for disaster preparedness, management and recovery in the region.

We are also excited to announce the hosts of the next AGM later in this meeting.

In closing, on behalf of the MAC Board I would like to express our sincere thanks to both UWI and the EU-LAC-Museums Project for co-hosting our 2018 conference on the theme *'Itinerant Identities: Museum Communities / Community Museums'*. Special thanks to Alissandra Cummins and local committee co-hosts Varsha Persaud and Kevin Farmer and to their team of volunteers and students for their extensive work. A special thank you must also go to Joanne Hyppolite – MAC's Vice President and head of the Conference Program Committee, with support from Csilla Ariese-Vandemeulebroucke (MAC's Communications Manager) and Kerri-Anne Chisholm (MAC's Administrator). And finally, to all of you gathered here today for your inspiring contributions to the past few days and for your ongoing commitment to moving our regional museum sector forward. Thank you.