



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC)
Annual General Meeting held in Belize

Belize City, Belize
November 6, 2013

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of the Caribbean, was held in Belize from 27 to 31st October, 2013, under the theme *"Pooling Resources: Collaborations, Connections & Partnerships."*

The Ministry of Tourism and Culture, National Institute of Culture and History, under the auspices of the Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture hosted this year's conference. The Honorable Manuel Heredia, Jr., Belize Minister of Tourism and Culture gave the keynote address at the official opening of the conference. Over the course of the four-day conference, papers were presented by museum professionals from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, Canada, Michigan, and Florida. A highlight of this year's conference was the participation of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, represented by the Secretary General, who outlined ways in which both CAM and MAC could collaborate in the future.

Participants enjoyed field trips to the Garifuna Museum, where the interesting history, customs, and language of the Garifuna people of Belize was displayed, followed by a tour of the Government House, the official residence of the Governor General up until 1998, Traveller's Heritage Center, and Fort Street Tourism Village, which provided an opportunity for perusal and purchasing of Belizean crafts. A special treat on the last day of the conference was a visit to the ancient city of Lamanai via boats on the New River. Lamanai, an ancient Maya site, is located in the northern part of Belize and conference attendees were able to climb excavated temples, view remains of an Old Sugar Mill and learn about the culture of the peoples who built them.

With over 50 participants, this year's conference and Annual General Meeting was the best-attended conference in the past decade.

An important aspect of the conference was the MAC Annual General Meeting. Elections were held during the conference and the following museums were elected to the Board of Directors:

Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture (represented by Sherilyne Jones)

Barbados Parliament Museum and National Heroes Gallery (represented by David Best)

Jamaica Military Museum (represented by Staci-Marie Dehaney)

St. Maarten Heritage Foundation (represented by Diendonnee Ostiana)

Lord Cultural Resources (represented by Lisa Wright).

Nimah Muwakil-Zakuri was elected to the Board as an associate member.



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Existing members of the Board are:

University of West Indies-Mona Geology Museum, Jamaica (represented by Sherene James-Williamson)

St. Croix Archaeological Society (represented by David Hayes)

Le Pavilion Royal, St. Lucia (represented by Cyril Saltibus)

Lee Cook, Florida, Associate Member.

The Board of Directors elected the following Executive Committee:

President - Sherilyne Jones, The Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture

Vice President - Sherene James-Williamson, UWI-Mona, Geology Museum

Secretary - Lee Cook

Treasurer - David Hayes, St. Croix Archaeological Society

Immediate Past President, Cyril Saltibus of Le Pavilion Royal was applauded for his efforts in guiding the organization during the past 2 years.

MAC was formed in 1987 to allow museums and related organizations and societies in the Caribbean to share experiences and skills. Membership is open to any organization or individual with an interest in preserving the heritage of the Caribbean.

Contact:

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