

Artefacts

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society | July 2020

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Recently at the Museum

On May 18, the Museum launched a project - **Our Stories, Our Museum**, where the museum's three permanent exhibitions on natural history and history will be re-conceptualized, redesigned and revitalized. The museum allowed the public to submit their feedback and suggestions on what they would like to see in the newly designed exhibitions.

Throughout the month of June, in honour of **Windrush Day (June 22)**, the museum highlighted many Caribbean migrants who made an impact on Britain and the region.

July 12, 2020 marked the **50th Anniversary** of the **Reed Boat RA II** arriving in Barbados. the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society** partnered with **The Kon Tiki Museum** to commemorate this historic event. On July 12, the BMHS hosted a commemoration event at the **Careenage** in **Bridgetown**.



Pictured above: attendees at the commemoration event



Pictured from left to right: William Burton, BMHS President Sir Trevor Carmichael, BMHS Director Alissandra Cummins, Gercine Carter, Suleiman Bulbulia, Sabir Nakhuda and BMHS Deputy Director Kevin Farmer

On July 13, the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society** hosted a webinar discussing the arrival of RA II in Barbados. The webinar was moderated by **BMHS Deputy Director Kevin Farmer** and featured the following panelists: **Hon. Kirk Humphrey, M.P., Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy**, **BMHS President Sir Trevor Carmichael**, **BMHS Director Alissandra Cummins**, **Historian Dr. Abdullah Hakim Quick** and from **The Kon Tiki Museum**, **Curator Reidar Solsvik**. During the webinar, the panelists were joined by the son of one of the original builders of the RA II from Peru. He was then asked to join the webinar and share the family story of continuing that tradition of boat building with the audience.

On July 16, the Genealogy Group hosted a Genealogy Talk by **Sabir Nakhuda** on the topic - **"Muslims of CARICOM"**

The Enigma of Arrival Exhibition

Did you know that Windrush Day (June 22nd), was officially recognized in 2018?

Windrush Day honours the contribution of the Caribbean people who aided in rebuilding Britain after World War II. The first of these Caribbean immigrants arrived on the *HMT Empire Windrush* on June 22, 1948.

On June 21, 2019, the *Enigma of Arrival: The Politics and Poetics of Caribbean Migration to Britain* exhibition debuted at the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society**. The travelling exhibition on Caribbean migration was launched by the **University of the West Indies, Cave Hill** and **EU-LAC Museums**. *The Enigma of Arrival: The Politics and Poetics of Caribbean Migration to Britain* aimed to create awareness about Caribbean migration to Britain from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Using **interpretive panels** and **interactive audio-visual materials**, visitors were introduced to the history of the Caribbean post-World War II migration to Britain, its impact on those who experienced it and its effect on later generations.

At the BMHS, the exhibition was open from June 21 -

October 31, 2019. Throughout those months it attracted many visitors who had the opportunity to share their experiences of Caribbean migration.

As a travelling exhibition, the *Enigma of Arrival* was also hosted by **Goldsmiths University of London** (who hosted a digital version), the **University of the West Indies Museum (Mona Campus)**, **Reading Museum (UK)** where the physical exhibition was made virtual to allow greater access and interactivity by patrons. Lastly, the **2nd Generation of Barbadians and Friends Association (Birmingham)**.



The Junior Curators Programme

Every summer, the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society** invites young adults between the ages of 16 and 25 to participate in the **Junior Curator Programme**. These young individuals hail from several secondary schools and from tertiary institutions such as the **Barbados Community College**, **Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute** and the **University of the West Indies**.

During the six-week programme, the JCs (as we like to call them) engage in different learning activities to boost their skills and enhance their knowledge of Barbados' history and heritage. To prepare for their various tasks, the JCs participate in workshops which include **Business Etiquette**, **Object Handling**, **3-D Photogrammetry** and **Archaeology**.

Additionally, they learn how to give quality tours of the Museum's galleries, which is important as the summer season is busy! The JCs also attend tours to historic locations which further enhance their practical experience in the field.

The tasks of the Junior Curators are many and varied. Some include:

- Guiding tour groups through

galleries

- Assisting curatorial and or library staff with several tasks including:
 - Removing, reprinting, dry mounting and replacing labels
 - Assisting at archaeology digs
 - Conducting research for special projects and much more.

The Museum's **Education and Outreach Officer, Kaye Hall**, facilitates the programme and the late **Malissa Porter-Farmer** was its coordinator. The facilitator and coordinator consulted with various departments to ensure that the programme provides an enriching and varied introduction to heritage centered activities.

Upon completion of the programme, the JCs participate in the **Junior Curators Showcase**, which gives them the opportunity to show what they've learnt and the skills they've developed.

Successful JCs receive a certificate of completion as well as a referral letter which details the skills they have developed/learnt during the Summer period!



Pictured above from top: **Malissa Porter - Farmer** during her speech at the 2019 Junior Curators Showcase and 2019 Junior Curators receiving their certificates. Below: JCs' showcase attendees viewing projects the JCs completed.



Museum Mingles

Want a chance to meet other like-minded people and learn more about the Museum and its staff? Our Museum Mingle is where you need to be!

At the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society**, we hope to get to know you—our members, donors and volunteers better.

As you enjoy foodstuffs and beverages provided by local vendors you'll meet and interact with other like-minded members, donors and volunteers. You also get the opportunity to see what we're all about as we engage with you and listen to your feedback in an open and welcoming atmosphere.

Interested in attending our mingles? Stay tuned to your weekly emails for upcoming information!



Pictured: Deputy Director, Kevin Farmer addressing mingle attendees who were seated in front of Meadows in the Sun wine table (top left)



Bottom Left: Attendees gathered around the Wyndham's Coffee table during the Coffee and Cheesecake Mingle

Top right: Zuwena Perry leading a karaoke session

The Children's Gallery: Then and Now

In February 1941--with the support of Sir Frank Stockdale, Chairman of the Colonial Development and Welfare Commission--the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society** applied for a grant under the Colonial Development Welfare Act to establish and maintain a Children's Museum. This museum would be geared toward "helping children in Barbados to a fuller understanding of the world in which they live and of things around them." In the article "**Confronting Colonialism: The First 60 years at the BMHS**", Alissandra Cummins stated that "specially developed models, collections and exhibitions combined with lectures in history, geography and natural history as well as art demonstration classes were offered in an activity-oriented program for elementary and secondary school children" for five years."

Between 1942 and 1945, the pilot phase of the Children's Museum was met with much reluctance from the Government and the Education Director, Mr Howard Hayden, who stated that from his experience, children's museums were of no value. Despite this, the Museum continued to pursue its plans for the Children's Museum. In 1945, the Children's Museum came to be and proved a success among children and teachers.

Throughout the pilot phase, between 1946 and 1951, many

classes at the Museum were taught by various appointed guide teachers. The subjects included topics relating to art, natural and social history as well as classes that taught skills such as lacemaking.

As the wider Museum made changes to aid in its growth, the Children's Museum also underwent a redesign. The permanent exhibition, titled **Yesterday's Children**, opened in May 1992. In the article "**From Digs to Doll: The Pedagogical Design of The Barbados Museum's Children's Gallery**", Wendy Donawa stated that the educational design for **Yesterday's Children** was as consciously factored into the design process as the artefact selection or the construction materials.

Yesterday's Children interpreted the social history of Barbados for children. It was an informal learning environment for 6-13-year-olds. The new design consisted of individual exhibits that displayed different aspects of social history, **Children at Work**, which displayed child labour and living standards of the century following Emancipation; **Children at Play**, which housed the Museum's doll collection and a model plane and boat collection; and **Traditional Crafts**, which was a hands-on exhibit set in an old workshop honouring the artisans who practised those disappearing skills. Each exhibit was created in its alcove-like environment, which did not allow the entire gallery to be seen from

one standpoint. This layout allowed the child to explore and discover each exhibit as they wandered.

Presently, 28 years since the opening of **Yesterday's Children**, the **Barbados Museum & Historical Society** has obtained funding from **The Maria Holder Trust** to redesign and develop an interactive space for children on the island. The present gallery has been decommissioned and work began on the new Gallery this month. With its new design, based on the constructivist theory of learning which emphasizes that a learner's knowledge and understanding is constructed based on their own experiences in the world. The new gallery is to be interactive and immersive while catering to both able and challenged children from preschool to first form (secondary education) aged (approximately 3- 12 years).

Are you interested in following this exciting journey? Stay tuned to our **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter** pages using the handle **@BarbadosMuseum** for **bi-weekly** updates!

Whats On In...

The Development Department spearheaded a campaign inviting Barbados Museum & Historical Society members to send in photos which bring them joy during these tough times.

We decided to share the photos we received in our weekly emails and in our newsletters in hopes of bringing joy to others.



This photo was submitted by Lisa Bowen. It shows a Cannon Ball tree in bloom.

This photo was submitted by Patricia and Geoffrey Gauge. It shows their garden full of primroses!



This photo was submitted by Reverend Sheldon Hamblin. It shows a window view from Historic Albemarle Terrace in the Flatbush Section of Brooklyn, NY.



Meet Our Team

COUNCIL

Sir Trevor Carmichael
President

Dr Justin Robinson
Senior Vice President

Ms Maureen Davis
Junior Vice President

Ordinary Members

Dr Henderson Carter
Mr Charles Holder
Ms Denese Nichols
Mr Justin Oran
Mr Lloyd Powlett
Mr Geoffrey Ramsay

Government Appointees

Ms Nicole Alleyne
Ministry of Tourism and
International Transport

Ms Andrea Wells
National Cultural Fundation

MUSEUM STAFF

Ms Alissandra Cummins
Director

Mr Kevin Farmer
Deputy Director

Commercial & Marketing

Ms Leshay Drayton
Marketing and Events Officer

Ms Andrina Cadogan
Events Co-ordinator (a.g)

Ms Zuwena Perry
Administrative Assistant -
Marketing and Events

Ms Kandacey Rollock
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms Aliah Rose-Taitt
Receptionist/Shop Assistant
(Part-Time)

Ms Myka Payne
Receptionist/Shop Assistant
(Part-Time)

Ms Klebere Perry
Senior Tour Guide

Ms Melanie Bynoe
Tour Guide (Part-Time)

Curatorial

Ms Allison Callender
Curator - Art/Art History

Ms Natalie McGuire-Batson
Curator - Social History and
Community Engagement

Ms Angela Boyce
Registrar

Mr Dario Forte
Researcher

Development

Ms Rhiannon Estwick
Administrative Assistant -
Development

Ms Donisha Watson
Administrative Assistant -
Management

Education

Ms Kaye Hall
Education and Community
Outreach Officer

Finance

Mr Errol Clarke
Finance Officer

Ms Jaqueline Cumberbatch
Administrative Assistant -
Accounts

Library

Ms Harriet Pierce
Librarian

Technical & Maintenance

Mr Prince Leonce
Maintenance Supervisor

Ms Movita Baptiste
Support Staff

Ms Merna Bryan
Support Staff

Ms Sandra Brathwaite
Support Staff

Mr Leon "Junior" Walters
Support Staff

Mr Shaquan Inniss
Artisan

Mr Akeel Clarke
Support Staff

At the Exchange

Mr Brian Batson
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms LeJade Alleyne
Tour Guide