

# Artefacts



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

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Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society



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Cover photograph: Sandra Brathwaite sanitises the door to the Museum Shop.



## Recently at the Museum...



The **Museum** reopened on August 17 and allowed visitors to enter on suggested donation with COVID safety protocols in place including the mandatory wearing of masks, temperature checks, contact tracing and the placement of sanitisation stations across the grounds.

We continued our **Museum Minutes**: bite sized, information packed videos to teach people about Barbadian heritage and culture. They are featured on our social media platforms to maintain the Museum's goal of education despite the distance.

In June, the **Genealogy Group** went virtual! Most recently, on September 17, Sir Paul Altman spoke about the **Barbados Jewish Connection**.

On September 26, we hosted our first bus tour since the pandemic. Our **Flora and Fauna Bus Tour** explored the beautiful areas of Coco Hill, Andromeda Gardens, Bathsheba and Cherry Tree Hill. We encouraged picnicking and all COVID-19 protocols were recognised.



The Museum is **documenting the COVID-19 pandemic!** Do you have any flyers, posts, masks, objects, etc. that you created? Share them with us by emailing: [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb) and play your part in preserving history.

# The Black Presence

**The Black Presence: Activism and Agency in a Different Age** is the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS)'s most recent (temporary) exhibition and has been in the Cunard Gallery since 5th February. It was originally scheduled to remain on display until June but due to popular demand, its closing date has been postponed indefinitely.

**The Black Presence** displays prints, paintings and engravings from the collections of Father Charles Card-Reynolds and, of course, the BMHS.

The exhibition uses Black Portraiture from the 18th - 20th centuries to empower persons of African and Caribbean heritage as well as to promote further conversations about colonial influences. The variety of pieces on display invites local engagement and encourages

the consideration of fresh perspectives regarding historical Black Portraiture.

In addition to displaying pieces from the collections mentioned, **The Black Presence** also features some well-known artists giving their take on the exhibition and its concept.

Contributing to its appeal is **The Black Presence's** interactive aspect. As shown in the image below, visitors are able to take selfies with one of the Museum's most prominent pieces, the New York Hairdresser, as well as share their thoughts via the reflection board.

So, if you have not as yet, make sure to come and check out The Black Presence! You won't regret it! ●

“This exhibition aims to further facilitate conversations regarding Black Portraiture for shared heritages of African, Caribbean and European regions. Barbados, in particular, has been at the center of debates regarding colonial representations, retentions and revisions, cultures that have been submerged, and those that have been perpetually hyper visual.

By incorporating engravings and prints from a private British collection, with prints and paintings from the BMHS Fine Art collection, **The Black Presence** invites local engagement and consideration of multiple narratives within art historical Black Portraiture.”

Natalie McGuire-Batson, Curator  
Social History and Engagement



# Investing in Our Youth

Over the years, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society continues to play a huge part in the development of Barbadian youth. In addition to the Heritage Champions, Lil Heritage Champs and Junior Curators programmes, the Museum assists young people with professional development through internships and volunteer opportunities. Below, we introduce you to one former and two current interns.



**Name:** Nanyamka Burnett

**Age:** 18

**Department:** Development

**Internship Period:**  
September - December 2020

Nanyamka's tasks include updating and creating membership files, creating content for the weekly emails and quarterly newsletter, and proofreading documents that pass through the Development Office. At the end of each day, she is encouraged to make a short presentation breaking down the day's tasks. This urges her to pay attention to her posture, projection, and other presentation techniques so she can, in the future, present herself in a well-articulated and confident manner. She believes this particular aspect of the internship will definitely be beneficial as she pursues her career in foreign language translation.

**Name:** Tyuh Manning

**Age:** 18

**Department:** Administration

**Internship Period:** September  
- December 2020



During her research-oriented internship, Tyuh has had the pleasure of working on exciting projects such as an investigative study of the Jewish art history of Barbados. She has also worked on an exploration of the life of Robert MacLeod, one of Barbados' pioneer artists. Tyuh hopes to attain a double major in International Relations and Jewish Studies, a goal for which her internship is uniquely preparing her. Finally, as a member of the BMHS team, she's been inspired to think critically and constantly analyse information received.

Are **you** interested in **volunteering** or **interning** at the Museum? Email [educate@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:educate@barbmuse.org.bb) (or [info@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:info@barbmuse.org.bb)) to find out more! ●

**Name:** Melanie Bynoe

**Age:** 22

**Department:** Curatorial

**Internship Period:** Summer  
2019

A familiar face at the Museum, Melanie had a number of duties during her time interning in the Curatorial Department.



These often included processing incoming objects/artefacts and helping set up exhibitions. Her experiences allowed her a "glimpse at what museum work life will be like." She finds this valuable in her pursuit of becoming a social history curator.



## COVID-19: Safety First!

In March, with the first signs of COVID plaguing the island, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS) stepped up. In the interest of maintaining the health and safety of BMHS visitors, new policies were implemented. Galleries were limited to 20 persons at a time and all guests had to comply with the Museum's sanitation regulations by using the units provided to sanitise their hands. Cleaning procedures to the galleries and surrounding areas were also increased.

By the end of March, Barbados was under lockdown and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society announced closure to the public - inclusive of The Museum Shop - until further notice. Despite these challenges, the BMHS used its social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram

and YouTube to continue its mission.

Following the Government regulations, the BMHS didn't reopen until it was safe to do so. Upon reopening on August 17th, we did so with COVID-19 protocols in place to ensure the safety of museum visitors.



Above: The thermometer in the Museum Shop.

### Museum guests must:

- Enter on a discretionary donation
- Wear a mask on entry
- Leave contact tracing information.
- Practise social distancing

### While the museum in turn:

- Made schedule changes to accommodate cleaning between tours
- Instituted curbside pickup at The Museum Shop.

How did your company handle the COVID-19 pandemic? Send any information, posters, flyers, etc. to [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb) for documentation! ●


Top picture: G4S Security Guard, Ms Petal Porter, takes the temperature of Mr Prince Leonce, Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor, as he enters the Museum.


# Celebrating Local Artistry

Barbados is full of amazing, talented artists and craftsmen! The Museum Shop strives to promote and support our very own by only selling locally made items. Featured below are two local brands that you can find in the Museum Shop: **Hummingbird Soap Studio** and **Banz**.

## Hummingbird Soap Studio

[hummingbirdsoapstudiobim.com](http://hummingbirdsoapstudiobim.com)

 /hummingbirdsoapstudiobgi

 @hummingbirdsoapst

About 8 years ago, Julia-Ann Holder started **Hummingbird Soap Studio**. When asked about her motivation behind starting the company, she simply responded, “my daughter”. Their after-school soap-making classes started as mother-daughter bonding sessions but soon developed into a business.

In addition to soaps, they now produce many other hand-crafted skin care and a few household products including lotions, body scrubs, body butters, deodorants, and candles. Their products aim to depict all things Bajan. Take for instance their **Bajan Pride Soaps**, which are made with locally sourced coconut oil and vibrantly coloured to represent the national flag.

Over the years, Julia has encountered “dead ends, cliffhangers and potholes” on her path to success but has found several ways to combat these and use them as stepping stones to a thriving business.



Julia-Ann Holder, Hummingbird Soap Studio



Hummingbird Soap Studio products in the Museum Shop



Nadja Soodeen, founder of Banz



This person models a gold Banz necklace

## Banz

[banzbarbados.com](http://banzbarbados.com)

 /BanzCaribbean

 @BanzCaribbean

**Banz** was established 2 years ago by Nadja Soodeen. The company was born from her desire to create and offer a memento- a piece of Barbados- to both locals and visitors.

**Banz** designs include necklaces and bracelets with their signature Bim maps, 246 motifs and Barbados coordinates, that are perfect for layering with other pieces of jewelry. All pieces are 316L stainless steel, plated with 18k gold.

After discussing some of the challenges associated with running a small business in Barbados, including limited resources and the harsh effects of local weather conditions on the jewellery, Nadja stated, “I love it though, with all its ups and downs, it is all a learning process and an experience I would never change.” ●

Come visit the **Museum Shop** to collect your very own handcrafted jewellery and skin care products.

Remember, curbside pickup is available and Members get 10% off! For more information, call 538-0201 or email [info@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:info@barbmuse.org.bb).

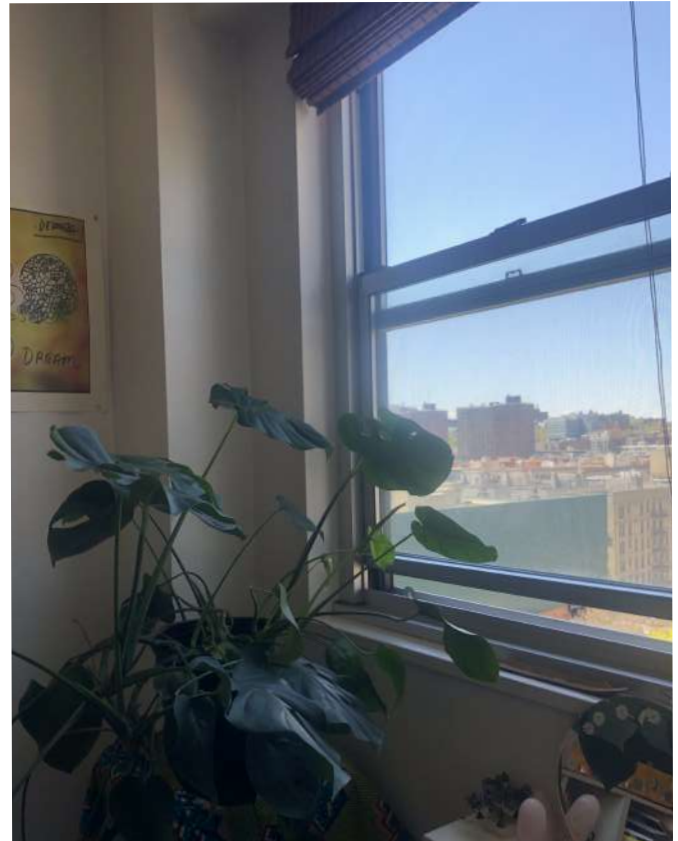
# What's on in...

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During quarantine, shelter-in-place, and other restricted movements, we asked you, our members, to send photographs of your surroundings or things that made you happy. Here are a selection of your photographs!

Clockwise from top left:

**Brian Talma** sent this photograph of him surfing. At the time, he really wanted a sea bath--we hope he got it. **Aliyah Blackmore**, in Brooklyn, New York, sent this photograph of the view from her window in quarantine. **Bill Hern**, in Yorkshire, UK, showed off the bluebells in spring. And lastly, **Shanice Lovell** sent this photo from near Oistins across from Massy Supermarket.



# Meet our Team

## COUNCIL

Sir Trevor Carmichael  
President

Professor 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 Foundation

Dr Tara Inniss  
University of West Indies

## MUSEUM STAFF

Ms Alissandra Cummins  
Director

Mr Kevin Farmer  
Deputy Director

### Commercial & Marketing

Ms Leshay Drayton  
Marketing Officer

Ms Andrina Cadogan  
Administrative Assistant -  
Marketing

Ms Zuvena Perry  
Administrative Assistant -  
Marketing and Events

Ms Kandacey Rollock  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms Klebere Perry  
Senior Tour Guide

### Curatorial

Ms Allison Callender  
Curator - Art/Art History

Ms Natalie McGuire-Batson  
Curator - Social History and  
Engagement

Ms Angela Boyce  
Registrar

### Development

Ms Rhiannon Estwick  
Development Coordinator

### Education

Ms Kaye Hall  
Education and Community  
Outreach Officer

### Finance

Mr Errol Clarke  
Finance Officer

Ms Jacqueline Cumberbatch  
Administrative Assistant -  
Accounts

### Library

Ms Harriet Pierce  
Librarian

### Technical & Maintenance

Mr Prince Leonce  
Facilities & Maintenance  
Supervisor

Ms Movita Baptiste  
Support Staff

Ms Merna Bryan  
Support Staff

Ms Sandra Brathwaite  
Support Staff

Mr Akeel Clarke  
Support Staff

Mr Leon "Junior" Walters  
Support Staff

Mr Shaquan Inniss  
Artisan

### At The Exchange

Mr Bryan Batson  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms LeJade Alleyne  
Tour Guide