

Preserving, Protecting, Promoting
Our Cultural Heritage

National Treasures of SVG
An Overview



NATIONAL TREASURES
OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Name of Organisation:

National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Incorporated

Type of Organisation

National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Incorporated is a Non Profit company which was registered in November 2014 and endorsed by the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines in June 2015.

Mission

National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines (National Treasures) is committed to the procurement, preservation, protection, promotion and dissemination of that which encompasses the intangible and tangible history, heritage and culture of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and its people.

Purpose

The purpose of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines is:

1. To fill the gap in the preservation of our cultural heritage by beginning the process of capturing some of the trove of knowledge, experiences, memories and oral histories which are a vital part of our cultural heritage in order to preserve some of that which still exists before it is lost forever.
2. To remind Vincentians about and/or raise awareness of our cultural heritage through the process of collecting or gathering the 'data' of our history, heritage and culture. This is intended to re-awaken or engender, (where necessary), a sense of national pride. Also it will help us to understand that which has made us what we are; and make us able to esteem or value ourselves as individuals, as a people and as a nation.

JUSTIFICATION:

National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines will be a vital resource in terms of the intangible history and cultural heritage of St Vincent and the Grenadines and its people- at 'home' and in the Diaspora. It will start the process of capturing the intangibles which have generally been overlooked, and preserving some of that which has not yet been lost.

The focus, the work and the activities of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines will resonate with individuals, communities and the nation as a whole, highlighting and reminding us of our shared cultural identity.

How to begin the process?

National Treasures has put together objectives, identified our focus, the sources; media and transmission/communication which are necessary.

Objectives

1. To carry out research, make collections and do any collation and/or documentation.
2. To create and operate a dynamic, interactive website.
3. To capture via audio and or video the '*Treasured Memories*' of older Vincentians recounting aspects of their lives and/or of specific events.
4. To keep written, audio and video records and to store, archive and disseminate the 'data'.
5. To publish collections of sayings, songs, stories, recipes and herbal remedies
6. To have a day recognised as '*National Treasures' Day*'.
7. To create a '*Treasure Trove*' with written biographies of Vincentians and others who have contributed/contribute to the development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and its people.
8. To broadcast a cultural heritage channel via the internet and the local cable network.
9. To involve community groups and young people in the process of collecting, recording and disseminating the 'data'.

Medium to Long Term Goals

1. To work in collaboration with the relevant entities to find and retrieve or have returned items of historical or cultural heritage which have been removed from St. Vincent and the Grenadines
2. To acquire the necessary secure storage facilities to house items which require special security arrangements
3. To work in collaboration with the relevant entities to establish a national museum in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The work will be carried out by sourcing 'national treasures' from within St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Diaspora, regional and international organisations, countries with colonial or historical links or involvement in St Vincent and the Grenadines; foreign visitors and tourists; and through existing data, collections, recordings and writings

Focus

The focus of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines will be more on the linguistic, etymological and anthropological than archaeological. That is, the intangible, constantly evolving aspects of our cultural heritage, which are often recorded primarily in the memories and oral histories of a people.

Scope

The scope of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines will include anything of relevance, wherever it may be found, utilising sources of Vincentian and non-Vincentian origin. All sources will be evaluated and as far as possible verified for accuracy and validity.

The scope of 'National Treasures' will be broad and varied including the following and much more:

1. **Linguistic/Etymological** e.g. proverbs, sayings, stories, songs.
2. **Sociological/Anthropological** e.g. customs, religions, festivals, music, dance, drama.
3. **Lifestyles- Home** e.g. architecture, houses, modes of transportation.
4. **Nature** e.g. plants, flowers, herbs/herbal remedies, uses of plants.
5. **Food and Drink** e.g. foods, drinks, recipes.
6. **Past times** e.g. games, toys, pastimes.

The scope will also encompass existing and comparative literature, information and documentation review.

Management and Supervision

National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is managed by a Board of Directors and officers of the company according to the Non-Profit Company By-Laws. A total of five Directors (one of whom is the Executive Director), and an Advisor constitute the Board.

The Board of Directors

Chairperson	Anthony Theobalds
Deputy Chairperson	Deirdre Millington Myers
Treasurer	Tony Regisford
Secretary	Carlita Daniel (Executive Director)
Director	John Horne
Honorary Member	Sir Errol Allen

Anthony Theobalds

Presently Anthony works as Chief Cultural Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture. As a young person he was involved in folk singing and as a member of a drumming group toured the length and breadth of SVG learning about the culture of the country. With a keen interest in local history he has taken all opportunities to imbibe the stories of our land and to learn from the historians. He has attended many seminars and lectures on the early people of the land and on archaeological findings in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Together these experiences have equipped him with a solid appreciation of Vincentian heritage. He brings a love of St Vincent and the Grenadines and its people to his deliberations on how to best serve the nation.

Deirdre Millington Myers

Deirdre has a long history working in the area of National Heritage in general and Built Heritage in particular. She joined the St Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust over a decade ago and has served on the Board of Trustees for most of that period. She is currently the Chair of the Board. Deirdre is trained in Architecture and has specialised in Building Conservation and has provided consultations to various owners of historic buildings in St Vincent. Deirdre has an unwavering interest in the history of St Vincent and the Grenadines and has grasped every opportunity to visit and learn about our rich heritage. She possesses a growing collection of photographs of buildings and other areas of interest in St Vincent, the Caribbean and international destinations.

Anthony Regisford

Anthony Regisford is currently the Executive Director of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Chairperson of Invest SVG. He worked for an extended period of time as senior management in the telecommunications industry. He has a wealth of experience in the field of audio visual productions as well being a director of IKtv. He has presented a very successful current affairs talk show in St Vincent and the Grenadines as well as producing, filming and presenting video reports about the aftermath of some devastating natural disasters and election campaigning around the country.

Carlita Daniel

Carlita Daniel migrated to England in the mid 1960's and returned to live in SVG nearly thirty years ago. She trained and worked as an English and Drama Teacher and for many years has had an interest and involvement in of many forms of Literature, Dance, Drama and Art. Her studies in Linguistics- which included Creole- fuelled an interest in Vincentian/ Caribbean sayings, proverbs, idioms and the language in general. This, coupled with a love of listening to 'older folks' recount their stories and talk about the past; germinated the idea to record/document these oral histories. That idea, twenty years later; has evolved, been developed and grown into National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

John Horne

John Horne's professional life has spanned the areas of International Banking, National Politics- and Private Business Enterprise. He has served as Minister of Education and Culture for twelve years.

His extracurricular activities include Sport at the levels of player and administration; arts and culture specifically Music, Dance and Drama. He is a long standing member of the Kingstown Chorale and in the field of amateur theatre he has been actively involved in every country in which he has lived: St Vincent, St Lucia, Barbados and Bermuda.

As a member of St. George's Cathedral Mr. Horne is intimately involved in Church activities and is a member of the Cathedral choir.

Sir Errol Allen

Errol Allen is a former Deputy Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. He has an interest in Art and drama. He has organized exhibitions of St Vincent and the Grenadines Art in St Kitts and Nevis and his own collections include Afro-Caribbean Art. He is actively involved in community service activities. He has served on the Board of Special Olympics Caribbean and is currently Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics St Vincent and The Grenadines. As a Rotarian he is the recipient of a double Paul Harris Fellow Award for his distinguished service to Rotary International.