

# National Treasures of St. Vincent & the Grenadines Proposal Document

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	The establishment and setting up of National Treasures of St. Vincent & the Grenadines
<b>PROJECT:</b>	The establishment and setting up of a non-profit organisation to record and preserve and disseminate aspects of the history, cultural heritage and traditions of St Vincent and the Grenadines.
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	The Board of Directors of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines.
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	P. O. Box 397 Kingstown St. Vincent & the Grenadines  <i>Telephone</i> 784- 4969421 <i>E-mail: ms.c.daniel@hotmail.com</i>
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>	Carlita Daniel
<b>LEGAL STATUS:</b>	Non-Profit Organisation
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Incorporated
<b>DURATION:</b>	The setting up phase should take place over a three to six month period; thereafter the organisation will continue its work. Once established, National Treasures is expected to continue indefinitely.
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING/FINANCING:</b>	National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines- in addition to various fundraising activities and events- will apply for funding from regional and international bodies- such as UNESCO, World Heritage etc. It will seek financial assistance/support from local businesses/organisations; and donations primarily from Vincentians in the Diaspora and also from interested individuals and Vincentians in SVG; as well as any monies available through central government.

## THE CONTEXT:

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is comprised of 32 islands, located in the Eastern Caribbean. The mainland, St. Vincent is 18 miles (29 km) long and 11 miles (18 km) wide and the Grenadines have a total area of 17 sq miles (27 sq km). The population of the nation state was estimated to be 103, 537 in 2011. The capital city is Kingstown which is located towards the southern end of the island. St. Vincent gained Independence from Britain on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1979 and is governed with a Westminster style parliamentary democracy, with two main parties forming the Government and the Opposition.

St Vincent and the Grenadines' geographical features and history are reflected in its people, traditions, culture and lifestyles. Geographically the nation state is known for its chain of islands, marine life, and the volcano: La Soufriere; the resulting black sand as well as golden and white sand beaches; verdant hills, numerous rivers, rain forests, abundant plant life and fertile soil.

St Vincent was named '*Youloumain*' by the *Kalinago* (commonly known as the Caribs) who are the indigenous people of St Vincent. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, formerly enslaved Africans, who had either been shipwrecked or who had escaped from Barbados, Saint Lucia and Grenada and landed on mainland Saint Vincent, intermarried with the 'Caribs' and became known as *Black Caribs* or *Garifuna*. The French then the British came as colonisers and brought Africans as slaves to work on the plantations. After the abolition of slavery, indentured labourers were brought in from Madeira (the Portuguese) and East India, and small numbers of other nationalities also came to St Vincent. All these different peoples had varying degrees of input and/or influence on the ethnic makeup of the population, the culture, the heritage, the history, the language and the traditions of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Another significant factor in the evolution of the cultural heritage of St Vincent and the Grenadines has been the migration of its people, who did so primarily for employment opportunities. In the 1950's to the 1960's many people went to England and prior to this the migration had been largely, within the Caribbean- Aruba, Curacao, Cuba, Panama and Trinidad being the main destinations. Later (from about 1970's up to present day), the USA and Canada became the main destination for Vincentian migrants.

Although the UK, the USA, Canada and the Caribbean account for the larger concentrations of Vincentian migrants, the Diaspora includes countries further afield such as Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Taiwan, Japan and Australia. The resultant widespread Vincentian Diaspora contributed and still contributes to the continuing evolution of Vincentian cultural heritage. And while Vincentian cultural heritage has been impacted on in varying degrees by the countries in which Vincentians have visited, lived or settled; they have taken 'pieces' of the cultural heritage from their years of living in St Vincent and the Grenadines with them and preserved them and/or adapted them to the new environment.

One other factor which is contextually relevant is that many of those who left St Vincent and the Grenadines for the UK, the USA and Canada in particular, began to '*return home*' for various reasons- the main one being retirement. This started around the 1980's and has gained momentum in the new millennium. Those who have come back to live in St Vincent and the Grenadines have become known as '*returnees*'. Many have bought or built houses, some to come back immediately; others to return within two to ten years. Some younger Vincentians have also '*come home*' to start businesses, having married local Vincentians, to take up jobs, due to family circumstances or in search of a different way of life.

Many '*returnees*' have a picture of life in St Vincent and the Grenadines as it was when they left, and have held onto the cultural heritage as far as they could while living abroad.

Some Vincentians- both at home and in the Diaspora- realise that things are not the way they used to be; and that some things have faded or are fading out of existence.

## **ABOUT THE ORGANISATION- BACKGROUND:**

National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines is intended to address the need to capture, collect, acquire, collate and/or document the less tangible aspects of our cultural heritage.

### **Review of what exists:**

In St Vincent and the Grenadines there are a number of organisations, bodies, Government departments, groups and individuals that in some way work to preserve the cultural heritage of St Vincent and the Grenadines. These include the Department of Culture, The Department of Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services, The St Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust, The Garifuna Heritage Foundation, The Indian Heritage Foundation; Dr. Edgar Adams, Dr Adrian Fraser, Blazer Williams, Dinks Johnson and Oscar Allen. As well as the writers of plays, poems, stories; the calypsonians, the soca artistes and the song writers who have documented aspects of Vincentian life.

### ***The Department of Culture***

The fundamental objectives of the Department of Culture, in carrying out the policy mandate of the Government, are: to establish appropriate institutions; to instil national pride and as a corollary, develop greater social discipline and commitment to nation building; to stimulate our creative potential; to inculcate an appreciation for, and understanding of, the cultures of the Caribbean; to inculcate an appreciation of, and respect for, the aesthetic and functional value of our surroundings; and to preserve and conserve our cultural heritage.

The programmes are developed and implemented in the following broad areas: *research*, **documentation** and publication of cultural information; *providing training* in areas of the performing arts and the creative industries; *organizing* and **managing events** (shows, festivals, lectures, etc.); *providing technical advice and assistance* to groups and institutions; and, *channelling financial assistance*, (for national cultural institutions).

The work of the Department is also facilitated by the programming of the statutory and quasi statutory bodies which fall under the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture, (as presently constituted). These are as follows: *National Cultural Foundation, SVG National Trust, Peace Memorial Hall and the Carnival Development Corporation.*

It should be appreciated that most cultural interventions are of a sociological nature and require a great deal of time and resources to achieve long lasting behavioural changes.

### ***The Department of Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services:***

This department consists of Libraries, Archives and the Documentation Centre. They comprise of approximately 250,000 volumes, which include books, pamphlets, periodicals, theses, manuscripts, maps and non-print material. The National Archives has a mandate ‘*to preserve the history of the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines, and to encourage pride and awareness of the national cultural heritage of such Patrimony*’. The collection comprises a wide range of Vincentian material in both print and electronic formats. The collection includes newspapers, magazines, journals, maps, stamps, books; government official publications; government department files; photographs, paintings, private papers and other paper based textual records. The National Archives is a research facility where the collection is available for consultation by researchers.

### ***The National Trust:***

“Established in 1969, The National Trust is charged with the preservation of the natural, historic, cultural and built heritage of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on behalf of its people.

The National Trust owns several historic sites and cares for many more. It has a membership of several hundred and aims to be active in the cultural life of the nation.”

A special mention must be made of Dr. Earle Kirby and his work in archaeology, uncovering various sites and artefacts with which he helped us to understand the distant past of St Vincent and the Grenadines and its indigenous people. In the 1960’s he was one of the founding members of the St. Vincent Archaeological and Historical Society and later a stalwart of the National Trust.

### ***The Garifuna Heritage Foundation***

“The Garifuna Heritage Foundation (TGHF) is a non-profit organisation formed in June 2001; it is dedicated to rebuilding and retrieving the Garifuna Heritage and is geared towards the identification and promotion of the Garifuna Culture and Heritage in St Vincent and the Grenadines.”

### ***The Indian Heritage Foundation***

The SVG Indian Heritage Foundation was established in 2006 to promote cultural and social links with India. In St Vincent and the Grenadines there has been a revival of interest amongst the people of Indian descent in their Indian heritage and various activities, including a re-enactment of the first landing of Indians in June 1861 at Indian Bay, St Vincent. The 1<sup>st</sup> June has been officially declared as Indian Arrival Day and 7<sup>th</sup> October as Indian Heritage Day.

## **Definition and Conceptualisation:**

The idea for an organisation of this nature and the work that needs to be done emerged from conversations- over a twenty year period- with older Vincentians (in their 70's to 90's) and from listening to their oral histories both personal and general. Initially the focus was to be primarily linguistic and etymological: looking at words, phrases, sayings, meanings, origins, Creole dialectal variations, stories, etc. However, over time it became clear that not only were 'things' changing, but that there were few records of many aspects of our cultural heritage. Not only were the knowledge and oral histories being lost with the death of older Vincentians, but the younger generations would not have been exposed to many aspects of our cultural heritage, which would, unless some initiative was taken, eventually disappear.

The tangibles such as flat irons, drum ovens, photographs, written or printed materials are being preserved and can be used to illustrate how we lived etc., but what about the sayings, e.g. “*guava can't bring lime*”; the stories, the songs; the ways in which different communities, families, individuals lived, prepared foods, celebrated festivals etc.? What about oral histories? There is definitely a gap in the preservation of our cultural heritage in this regard. The concept of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines is intended to begin the process and capture some of the trove of knowledge, experiences, memories which are a vital part of our cultural heritage. We need to preserve some of that which still exists before it dies with our older citizens and is lost forever.

## **MISSION:**

National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to the procurement, preservation, protection, promotion and dissemination of that which encompasses the intangible 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.

## **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 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.

## **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.

## **THE 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:

**Linguistic/Etymological** e.g. proverbs, sayings, stories, songs.

**Sociological/Antropological** e.g. customs, religions, festivals, music. dance, drama.

**Lifestyles- Home** e.g. architecture, houses, modes of transportation.

**Nature** e.g. plants, flowers, herbs/herbal remedies, uses of plants.

**Food and Drink** e.g. foods, drinks, recipes.

**Past times** e.g. games, toys, pastimes.

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

## **RESULTS/OUTCOMES:**

- Once sufficient data has been gathered, the findings (as many as possible), will be disseminated and/or made available to the public in a variety of accessible forms and in a timely fashion.
- The findings will be collated, catalogued and stored or archived with a view to being available when needed; as well as to preserve them for future generations of Vincentians in particular.
- The dissemination of findings to be done- especially on national holidays or during festivals such as Independence, National Heroes' Day, Carnival and Nine Mornings- through various media: television, radio, newspapers, exhibitions, via the Internet: YouTube and a website; dramatic, dance and musical presentations.
- The work and activities of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines will become a part of the national calendar of events.

## **COLLABORATIONS/AFFILIATIONS:**

The 'National Treasures' will be stored, archived and disseminated in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, The Department of Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services and the National Trust. National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines would also work closely with the aforementioned entities as well as private sector organisations and interested individuals to succeed in its mission, purpose, objectives and in achieving the desired results/outcomes.

## **COMPONENTS:**

1. The establishment/setting up of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
  2. Setting up the office of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
  3. The ongoing work of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
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1. The establishment/setting up of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
    - Setting up steering committee and holding meetings
    - Writing project document and budget
    - Selecting Board members
    - Company name search – CIPO
    - Drawing up of Articles- ZHE Chambers
    - Requesting 'non-profit' status- Attorney General's Office
    - Applying for Company Registration and payment of registration fees
    - Drawing up a 'start up budget'
    - Seeking Cabinet endorsement – Ministry of Culture
    - Commission the design and production of National Treasures' logo
    - Management and Supervision
    - Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines
    - Appoint Executive Director of National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines
    - Job descriptions for posts of Administrative/Research Assistant and IT and audio/visual Technician
    - Arrange meetings with funding/sponsorship/donor organisations/bodies
    - Meetings with collaborating organisations
  2. Setting up the office of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
    - Executive Director in place to oversee the process

- Identify suitable space for physical location of the office
- Apply to telecommunications' providers re: telephone- landline and mobile and internet connections
- Furnish, equip and decorate office space
- Advertise, interview and appoint personnel for posts of Administrative/Research Assistant and IT and audio/visual Technician
- Set date for the office of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to open and staff to begin work

### 3. The work of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- **Research:**
  - (1) work plan and schedules
  - (2) selecting methodologies,
  - (3) identifying subjects,
  - (4) collecting background information,
  - (5) initial contact,
  - (6) preliminary interviews,
  - (7) collecting and collating data,
  - (8) sourcing photographs,
  - (9) verifying validity and credibility of sources/information.
- **Documentation/Recording:**
  - (1) establish protocols,
  - (2) select programmes and formats,
  - (3) 'data' entry,
  - (4) audio/video recording,
  - (5) backing up files etc.,
  - (6) create indices.
- **Storage & Archiving:**
  - (1) short term with National Treasures using external hard drives and 'cloud storage';
  - (2) long term with The Department of Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services and the National Trust.
- **Dissemination of Findings:**
  - (1) via various media- newspapers, radio, television, the Internet- YouTube, National Treasures website and social media.
  - (2) through exhibitions, seminars, workshops; classes, children's holiday clubs and events- street fairs, re-enactments, dance/dramatic performances.
  - (3) Long term- publishing of books of sayings, vocabulary, recipes, herbal remedies and stories; and via a cultural heritage television channel.

The following are the areas that will be the main focus of the research, documentation and recordings:

- (1) **Linguistic:**  
Oral and written 'data': sayings, proverbs, words phrases, idioms, names, place names, slogans, stories, plays, skits, songs and poems.
- (2) **Seasonal:**  
Festivals etc. - what they were, their components, how they were spent, celebrated or commemorated.  
**October to January:** Independence, Guy Fawkes, Nine Mornings, Christmas, Old Year's Day, New Year's Day and Discovery Day.  
**February to May:** Lent, National Heroes' Day, Carnival (pre- 1980), Good Friday, Easter and Common Entrance Exams.

**June to September:** External Exams, Carnival (post 1980), July/August Holidays, Emancipation Day, August Monday, Exam results and Back to school.

(3) **People:**

Older Vincentians in their 70's, 80's and 90's will be the subject of

(a) interviews: audio and or video recordings of life stories, memories of festivals, events, places, the way life used to be and the way things were done;

(b) *the Treasure Trove*: a collection of biographies and photographs of those who have selflessly contributed to national development- 'unsung heroes' both past and present.

(4) **Physical Locations and Significant Events:**

*Places* that no longer exist or have changed use or purpose or appearance will be documented and photographs sourced to show them then and now; and research will be done to collect stories and accounts related to the places and what took place there.

*Events* such as the 1979 Soufriere eruption, the Union Island Uprising, etc, will be researched and memories and stories surrounding these events documented or recorded.

(5) **Food and Drink:**

The raw ingredients, the processing, recipes, equipment, foods, dishes, drinks, juices and any related vocabulary.

(6) **Plants- Herbal Remedies:**

The names of plants, types of remedies, how they are prepared, stored, taken or applied; uses: what they are used to 'cure' or to do- both in the past and present.

## **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.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

The implementation will be in three phases:

*1) Planning- August to October*

Phase one involves a steering or advisory committee which is responsible for charting the course of establishing the non profit company, National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and legal registration of this entity; preparing a project proposal document and budget and sourcing funding. A start up budget will be the focus of seeking funding or donations necessary to set up the office and begin some of the work.

*2) Start Up- November to April*

During Phase two- over a three to six month period- the board of directors and officers of the company will be in place, and they will endeavour to get the office up and running with the Executive Director and one staff member to begin the work of National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The design and setting up of the National Treasures' Website and continuing to source funding will be priorities during this phase.

*3) National Treasures' work and activities- from November*

Phase three of the implementation will focus on beginning the work of National Treasures. The office will undertake



the planning of and start a three month work schedule, which will include research and collection of 'data' as well as video recordings of older Vincentians. Ideas for activities which will serve to disseminate findings, promote the work of National Treasures and raise funds will be put together for consideration by the Board. In addition, the website, once up and running, will be maintained and monitored.

## **MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION**

National Treasures of St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be 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 will be the Executive Director), and an Advisor will constitute the Board.

The following have agreed to serve as directors:

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

The Board will be ultimately responsible for the full accountability of the organisation and its resources. Following an initial meeting to understand its mandate and become familiar with the By-Laws and any funders' requirements and operating guidelines, the Board will meet on a monthly basis to set guidelines in accordance with organisation's objectives; and to review and assess the performance to budget in keeping the with funders' requirements and stipulations.

The day to day management of the organisation and accounting for all funds and resources will be the responsibility of the Executive Director with specific duties delegated to the Administrative Assistant.

## **FUNDRAISING:**

National Treasures will co-ordinate fundraising events and activities throughout the year. Some of these will be dedicated to fundraising while others will serve to highlight the organisation, its work and to disseminate some of the cultural heritage 'data' gathered as well as raising funds.

The fundraising endeavours will not be limited to St Vincent and the Grenadines- or to Vincentians. Indeed we recognise that it is necessary to have at least one significant event per year in each of the three largest centres in the Diaspora: England, the USA and Canada.

These events and activities will include the following as the main income generating initiatives:

- 1) Website- Advertising and online shopping
- 2) Tee Shirts and tea towels: sayings/remedies/foods/slogans
- 3) National Treasures' television channel- Advertising
- 4) Lessons in the Quadrille, Maypole Dancing and 'Bois, Bois'- stilt walking.
- 5) Heritage Walks
- 6) Heritage Tours
- 7) Quarterly Magazine
- 8) Easter Treasure Hunt
- 9) Christmas Speech Competition
- 10) An Annual Event such as Dinner and Cabaret or Dance to be held in the UK, USA, Canada and SVG.

However, for any such fundraising to succeed, National Treasures has to begin its work, it has to establish credibility and engage Vincentians, in particular, on many levels so that they become invested intellectually and emotionally in what we are doing. Then they, in turn, will see the need to invest financially in National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The National Treasures Website and social media will also provide opportunities to reach large numbers of people- including, but not exclusively, Vincentians in the Diaspora- and create fundraising opportunities through advertising.

In the work and the skill set of the staff of National Treasures, there will also be great potential for offering services and publications which can generate revenue for the organisation.

As stated earlier, traditional donors, philanthropists and local businesses will be targeted to assist with funding National Treasures of St Vincent and the Grenadines; and in addition donations will be sought from Vincentians worldwide.