

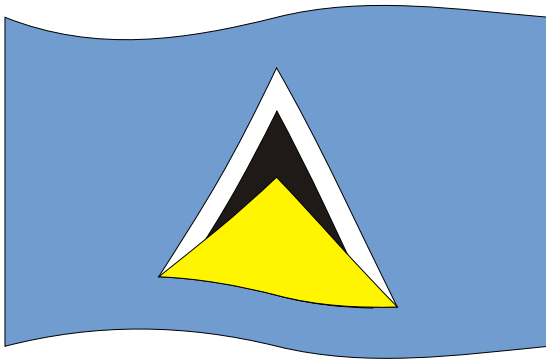


Saint Lucia

National Cultural Policy



**NATIONAL CULTURAL
POLICY
OF
ST. LUCIA**



National Cultural Policy of St. Lucia

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Foreword

Publication of a National Cultural Policy for Saint Lucia is most timely, as it coincides with the rebirth of interest in things Saint Lucian and the manifested pride of citizens in the progress this country has made since attaining national independence in 1979.

While in recent years Saint Lucians from diverse social and economic backgrounds have demonstrated, to varying degrees, their identity with and pride in 'things Saint Lucian', there has hitherto been a void as far as a formalized definition of our uniqueness and cultural identity is concerned.

This National Cultural Policy sets forth the broad philosophical and policy framework within which activities geared at harnessing and promoting our practices, customs and value systems will be pursued.

The comprehensive nature of this document reflects the tenacity and hard work of scores of individuals and institutions that were involved. Hon. Damian Greaves, as former Minister of Culture, took a personal interest in this production, from conceptualization to production stage. So too did the officers of the Ministry of Culture, the Cabinet-appointed Interim Management Board for Culture and the many public-spirited individuals who freely gave of their time and expertise.

The published document is a product of which all Saint Lucians can be proud. It lays the foundation for a focused and managed takeoff of activities designed to promote those characteristics and features of our being and of our society that make us unique and which guarantee balanced development of our country.

Hon. Menissa Rambally
Minister for Social transformation,
Culture & Local Government

MESSAGE

This comprehensive national policy for culture paves the way for placing culture as a pivot for development.

A team of cultural activists with hands-on experience, common goals and beliefs in cultural development for Saint Lucia offered guidelines which cover short, medium and long term goals and objectives for the national development of Saint Lucia.

The CARICOM regional cultural policy, which was designed to be used as a guide for each Caribbean country to create its own policy, was the basis for Saint Lucia's own national cultural policy. The team recognized, however, that to create a policy without the institution to achieve the goals of cultural development was to create yet another document for the shelves.

To this end, the Cultural Development Foundation was not only identified but also legally established as the umbrella institution for cultural development in Saint Lucia with the mandate to implement Saint Lucia's national cultural policy.

Having sown the seeds, we the members of the Interim Management Board for Culture look forward to the country's cultural harvest.

Mrs. June King-Frederick
Chairperson
Interim Management Board for Culture
November 1999 - July 2000

THE CONTEXT FOR CULTURAL POLICY

Cultural Policy is to be seen as an instrument that aims at empowering people to be liberated to their creativity and self-development. In the Caribbean Community this Policy is to be located within the framework of the struggle for the democratic society.

The ideal of a democracy here refers to principles rather than form: to a system of government in which there are realistic, accessible political mechanisms for the people, whether as majority or minority, to have power and responsibility in the major and minor decisions which shape their lives, both as individuals and as members of a community. It is this view of democracy which is referred to throughout the document.

Locating the meaning of culture within the context of creating a democratic society is not simply a possible theoretical approach. It is the approach that has emerged out of the historical experience of the Region over the last 500 years.

During this time, the majority of Caribbean people have been pursuing an ongoing struggle for liberation against forces that sought to actively impose upon them those dimensions of powerlessness that inhere in enslavement, indenture and colonialism, the systems of domination by which they were ruled.

CULTURAL POLICY

It is essential if we are not to risk oversimplifying the nature of the Caribbean challenge to recognize that there have been beneficiaries of these systems and that these beneficiaries have been separated from the victims by race and in some instances by colour. This has placed dimensions of racial consciousness, racial antagonism and racial suspicion at the centre of the Caribbean experience and at the heart of the challenge facing us today.

Fortunately, the frankly racist structure of colonial society has been substantially dismantled and the old co-relations of race and class are not as applicable as they once were. Economics, more than race, is a greater determinant of social and individual well-being. Nevertheless, there is a legacy of attitudes surrounding race which has to be taken into account if we are to benefit from the richness of our racial and ethnic diversity.

What this tells us is that for the powerlessness to be overcome it must go far beyond the granting of political enfranchisement. It lets us know that the ongoing struggle for democracy requires, as an indispensable component, the healing of wounds and the liberation of our people from both guilt and victimhood and confusion. Our people must become full, unapologetic, self-confident, sovereign human beings, capable of embracing and accessing the wealth in our diversity in language, religion, art and technology. We must also recognize the tremendous value of the cultural assets we possess, such as the extended family, the tradition of mutual co-operative labour, or *koudmen*, and other aspects of our cultural heritage which we may take for granted because they seem so natural to us.

Perhaps the greatest danger we shall have to combat is the idea slyly taking root in the Caribbean once more, that full democracy is incompatible with economic prosperity. However, while recognizing the influence and exigencies of the world order, we must consciously and realistically nurture in ourselves the

counter-balancing idea of a negotiation with that order, not a submissive acceptance of it. We accept the necessity and welcome the positive value of foreign expertise and investment. But we insist on the capacity of our own imagination to develop ourselves, beginning with re-imagining the very concept of development itself.

In addition, pressures in the global economic situation, the movement towards mega-blocs in the area of trade, the stringencies and social dislocations often attendant on the job market, the uniformity of thought and life-style engendered by mass communication media, are some of the factors which have a negative impact. Further, the plethora of images in our media and hence in our imagination that suggest wealth, grandeur and accomplishment as unattainable by communities like those of the Caribbean, is creating a Caribbean person who has less and less loyalty to, feeling for and identification with his or her history and environment and little belief in his or her ability to create economic prosperity in an authentic, many-faceted culture.

Formal independence in many Caribbean countries is a little more than 30 years old. Not surprisingly, the institutions that foster intellectual exchange and criticism are very much in their infancy. The education systems, arts policies, media policies, cannot be said to foster the self-confidence needed for creativity in the people of the Region.

In St. Lucia, while we have seen an expansion and deepening of education and a dawning recognition of the role of the arts and media in development, there is still a critical dearth of imaginative approaches and honest self-reflection in dealing with our problems.

But none of this can negate the central truth that we have resources and advantages, material, intellectual and spiritual. These resources however must be put in the service of a goal and that goal must emanate from a vision of

social living. That vision in turn must be translated into a plan of action which is not only desirable, but practical. This is the intention of this policy: to be a catalyst which will help bring our resources into inter-action. The policy, it is hoped, will stimulate in our people an awareness of our strengths and an enthusiasm and confidence in dealing with the challenges facing our country.

When we use the word “culture” we are referring to the distinctive ways in which a particular grouping of people - whether classified by ethnicity, nationality, religion or some other category - has responded to, reflected on and expressed their historical and presently continuing experience of life.

These ways are explored and expressed in everything from clothing and cuisine - from the dimension of biological survival - to dance, painting, story-telling or any of the other art-forms, which have no apparent immediate survival value. This response to life and reflection on life seeks and finds expression in myriad ways, so that even our basic actions of biological survival become imbued with wider meaning. Even in the simple necessary act of eating, this response and reflection are revealed in the design of utensils, in the practice of communal meals, (in some Caribbean societies, a communal pot), in prayers before meals, significant positions at a dining table and so on. In our simplest actions we reflect the values we live by as a people, the understanding that we have of life. Our need to explore and express the meaning of existence seems ineradicable.

The sum total of intricately connected ways of being, worked out by a people in relation to a particular environment and with a particular legacy of ideas, beliefs and practices, is what gives a people a sense of cohesiveness, a sense of having a particular irreplaceable value in the world. It is this we refer to in our usage of the word “culture” and, on the really human plane - as opposed to the biological one we share with the rest of nature -

we need this sense of a distinct, authentic way of understanding and expressing our being alive, as much as we need food. It is our culture which makes it possible to bond ourselves meaningfully to our physical and social environment and to each other. It is our culture that makes us a people.

But we need to be careful that we do not come away with the idea that this distinctiveness is the sum total of culture. All people have that culture which is afforded them by their political and economic power. When their political and economic power is limited, their culture is limited. However, their arts, while also being affected by the limitations, remain the most potent liberating force.

The central challenge of the society is to provide the democratic framework and an informed cultural policy so as to enable people to overcome these limitations, find their place at the centre of their own development and devote their creativity to developing themselves and their society, and to contributing to the world.

The Caribbean is a tremendously significant area because, for better or for worse, the civilizations of the world have met here. Out of their confrontation and mutual adaptation, both deliberate and inadvertent, the lineaments of a Caribbean Person have begun to emerge. In each country, from the Bahamas to Guyana, from Barbados to Belize, the Caribbean Person has come into being with his or her unique national influence and expressive style. Thus, affirming our diversity within unity, we may without contradiction speak of a St. Lucian Caribbean Person, who is the brother and sister of the Trinidadian or Montserratian Caribbean Person.

This St. Lucian Caribbean Person has a distinct presence, embodies a distinct set of influences, a distinct combination of beliefs and practices and therefore has a distinct contribution to make to the world.

The relatively peaceful co-existence and intermingling of cultural traditions which obtain here, while by no means ideal or un-endangered, are of vital significance in affirming the principle of diversity within unity which is so necessary in today's world.

As beings who seek to understand our mysterious existence, who seek to experience life as a harmonious unity, the arts have a special place in our lives. We celebrate or lament or fear or wonder in the languages of bodily gesture, sound, colour and shape. And so, our inner life (our emotional response and intellectual reflection) is made known to us most vividly in dance, music, theatre, painting, sculpture, oral and written literature.

The arts then, and therefore the artists, have a role which cannot be over-estimated or over-emphasized. As we struggle to shape the democratic society within which the St. Lucian Caribbean Person will flourish, it is the arts which will keep us in touch with our deepest feelings, so that we can know, by the "images" provided for us, in the different art-forms, when we are shaping truly and when we are not. This places a responsibility on the artist to have integrity and high technical standards, and on the society, especially its political directorate, to help provide the context within which the artist can carry out his/her function.

The nexus of artist, culture and political directorate in the creation of community was well understood and expressed by A.J. Seymour in the following words:

"In the protection and development of this fragile sense of national cultural identity, the leaders of Third World countries are finding that there are two main agencies of power and support: the mass involvement of the people in understanding their cultural heritage and realizing that it is in themselves that the roots of

their people's culture will be found and, secondly, the role of the creative artist in capturing a vision of the people and mirroring that vision for the people to see themselves and to realize their personal and national worth."

The arts help us to understand and constantly remind us what it is to be human. It is when we understand the value to our development of thought, of a sense of values, of an ethical standard by which our society guides itself that we approach an appreciation of the arts and hence the artist, whose freedom and well being must therefore be fiercely guarded.

In this context then, the arts must be understood as being concerned not only with entertainment but also as embodying thought, reflection, analysis, criticism and the holding up of a mirror to the society.

To sum up, then: the culture of a people refers here to the distinctive inter-connection of its inherited ideas, beliefs and practices (the traditional aspect of culture), the use and modification of these in the present and the developing of new ideas, beliefs and practices as the people attempt to fashion a new meaningful life. In the light of the above, it may be said that all peoples of the world are always making and remaking their culture as tradition and adaptation are both brought into play in coping with the present.

Further, the basis of this process, in the final analysis, is the ineradicable human need to experience life as meaningful and harmonious at both the personal and the collective level.

In this regard, we affirm what many others have increasingly recognized, that there is no hierarchy of cultures in the world. There are differences certainly, but these differences are rooted in the same essential process of people interacting with their environment and each other and reflecting on this interaction.

The culture of the Caribbean and that of St. Lucia therefore is as valid as that of any other cultural region

Finally, it must be acknowledged that this emerging Caribbean civilization in St. Lucia must find its highest expression in people. The purpose of the development of a democratic society is to allow for the creation of the St. Lucian Caribbean Person who is at the centre of his or her development.

But who is this person? And what is the process by which he/she is to be brought to the centre of his/her development?

What qualities do we see when we envision this man, this woman?

We cannot name them all, but we passionately desire that the St. Lucian Caribbean person:

- Will be imbued with a respect for human life since it is the foundation on which all the other desired values must rest;
- Of whatever particular ethnic group, religious or other adherence, will accept and respect the existence of persons of other ethnic groups, religious beliefs, other ways of being; will indeed see this diversity as a source of potential strength and richness;
- Will be aware of the importance of living in harmony with the environment;
- Will have a strong appreciation of family and kinship values in all their various forms, community cohesion and moral issues in general;
- Will have an appreciation of and respect for the elders in our society not only as repositories of past knowledge,

but as persons who can continue to contribute to the present shaping of ourselves in new and vital ways;

- Will have an informed respect for the cultural heritage, for the beliefs and practices of the past and for persons who have helped to create and maintain our sense of ourselves as a people;
- Will nevertheless value independent and critical thinking and be sufficiently analytical to question the beliefs and practices of past and present;
- Will value the creative imagination in its various manifestations and nurture its development in all areas of life.

We believe that these qualities of personhood are desirable not only in the St. Lucian Caribbean Person, but universally.

We further believe that the manifestation and living out of these qualities in a St. Lucian context is what defines the St. Lucian Caribbean Person. This St. Lucian Caribbean Person is the final goal of our cultural policy.

One of the significant features of this St. Lucian Caribbean Person is multi-ethnicity, which upholds the value for people to have and maintain access to the cultures of their ancestors. All St. Lucians must feel themselves as having a right to the democratic ideal, having a place at the centre of their development, and participating in the building of St. Lucian Caribbean culture.

This cultural policy will bring us a step nearer to seeing this St. Lucian Caribbean Person come into being, particularly among these critical standard bearers of culture, our youth.

The Cultural Policy focuses on the responsibility of the artist as well as on cultural institutions, such as libraries and museums, for enhancing the quality of living. It emphasizes the value of support for these, as well as for trained people in the arts and other areas of cultural activity, for research and documentation through grants, incentives or other forms of support. The value of such support will be seen in what will be produced by the people, whether they work as artists or craftsmen, designers or agricultural workers, in industry, as well as in the quality of health care, care for our aged and the training and education of children.

This document seeks to:

- Outline some general principles which, it is felt, are of value in determining the practical measures that can be taken by the public and private sector to integrate culture into the process of nation-building;
- Make specific and practical recommendations concerning cultural activity in different areas of life;
- Indicate some specific considerations relevant to the role of particular aspects of culture in national life.

Recognizing that any listing of areas of cultural activity must to some extent be debatable and certainly incomplete, the following are presented as some of the essential components which we should consider in determining and framing an action plan for culture in development. This requires a shift in our present perception of development, which is based on a restrictive economic model, to a developmental model in which culture is a critical component.

The Policy Framework is therefore presented under the following headings:

- A. Cultural and Artistic Promotion and Development;
- B. Cultural Heritage - Preservation and Protection;
- C. Culture and Development;
- D. Cultural Relations;
- E. Cultural Financing and Administration.

A. Cultural And Artistic Promotion And Development

Policy Goals

- A cadre of persons trained in the arts, other areas of culture and cultural administration.
- The establishment, continued survival and upgrading of cultural institutions.
- Proper management of cultural institutions.

Policy Framework and Objectives:

There can be no doubt that cultural and artistic activity needs to receive the same kind of attention, incentive and support that other areas of national development traditionally have received. Given the philosophical view of culture outlined above, the standard arguments of first seeing to the economic framework and then dealing with a supposed cultural superstructure are not relevant. Culture is not only the fruit but the root of development and must be considered in every phase and aspect of the development process. Indeed it may be more accurate to say that culture - the way of life of a people - and the physical and social

environment are in a constant dialectic, shaping and reshaping each other. Given this critical relationship, education about culture, what and how it affects and is affected by, should be far more emphasized than it is now. Our development model must be culturally framed and culturally based if we are not to subvert our own good intentions.

In the light of the above, action is necessary in the following areas:

1. Training
2. Sectoral Activities/Institutions

1. Training

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Recognizing and endorsing the value of training in cultural research (such as anthropology, ethnomusicology, etc.), will support efforts which will increase national expertise in this area, drawing where necessary from regional and international resources;
- Will recognize and endorse the value of training in the field of art and culture to the same extent that this is recognized in the traditional professions;
- Acknowledge the value of formal institutions which carry out this training function. In this regard, it is noted that there are formal institutions which should be perceived as performing a training function in cultural activity e.g. libraries and theatres. The capabilities of all institutions which can play this role will be enhanced;

- Endorse the value of non-formal processes and institutions in their own right and as vehicles for imparting training (e.g. in traditional craft) and will support these in appropriate ways;
- Recognize that training should involve more than a passing on and refinement of techniques; it should address itself to the passing on of a vision, as it were, of the place of art and culture in Caribbean life and in existence generally;
- Recognize that training must encompass not only developing the skills required to produce the artistic/cultural product, but the skills of management, marketing etc., to ensure that the product reaches the widest possibilities and appropriate audience and market. Thus not only practitioners but all persons related to the growth of cultural endeavour (e.g. lawyers and the issue of copyright) should receive the necessary training, appropriately devised to allow interested and capable persons from all walks of life to benefit from such training. In this regard, short and part-time courses are particularly critical since many of the needed personnel will not have been employed full-time in cultural activity;
- Will support existing organizations which can carry out the various aspects of the work and will support the development of new organizations devoted to this purpose;

2. *Sectoral Activities/Institutions*

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Recognizing and endorsing the value of Sectoral and

Inter-Sectoral activities among institutions and informal group networks, will give active and concrete support to them;

- Recognize that in the training of all sectors, special, though not exclusive, emphasis will be placed on research in experimentation with forms that are indigenous to the nation, with traditional forms as a base;
- Recognize that national institutions and universities of the region can play a strong role in generating and promoting debates on cultural and artistic issues which confront us, and will take steps to develop and refine a vigorous, independent critical tradition of high standards, steeped in knowledge of our historic reality and cultural forms;

Recognizing their potential for setting high standards, developing a Caribbean ethos and fostering regional unity, will recognize and endorse the value of the following institutions and events and provide moral and practical support for their development: the CARICOM Foundation for Art and Culture, CARIFESTA, Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) and any other regional cultural institutions which emerge in the future.

Short/Medium Term Action Required

- That Government identifies formal institutions involved in cultural activities and extend financial and logistical support to them;
- That Government liaise with the national and regional tertiary institutions to develop, by the year 2005 within relevant faculties, modular courses which are of benefit to cultural practitioners and institutions;

- That Government undertake to have within ten (10) years at least one person trained in each of the following areas: Art, Culture, Anthropology, Museum Studies, Archaeology, Conservation and Ethnomusicology;
- That by the year 2000 a Cultural Development Foundation be fully established and operational.

B. Cultural Heritage - Preservation and Protection

Policy Goals

- Legislation put in place to protect and recover our lost patrimony;
- The cultural phenomena of the State properly researched, documented and archived;
- Proper management and conservation of the Nation's cultural heritage.

Policy Framework and Objectives:

Cultural heritage, which constitutes the traditional aspect of culture, is the aspect with which culture is most commonly identified, and it forms the matrix of the people's cultural identity. The cultural heritage is the collective memory, in various forms, of the people's response to life and reflection on life, going back several generations. And just as no individual can hope for a whole sense of self and authentic action in the world without his or her personal memory, so is it also futile for a people to hope for social harmony and true civilizing achievement without their collective memory, embedded and expressed in many forms (museums being a particularly striking and critical example) which show us the positive and negative

aspects of ourselves, both of which we must know in order to build truly. With this in mind, Government will initiate actions aimed at retrieving the patrimony of the State and at preserving, analyzing and disseminating knowledge of the traditional, historical and natural aspects of our culture. The recommendations are made under the subsequent headings:

1. Ethnicity
2. Language
3. Religion
4. Archaeological and Historical Sites and Artifacts
5. Oral Tradition
6. Traditional Technologies
7. Research, Documentation and Archiving
8. National Days

Ethnicity

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Recognize and respect the equality of the different ethnic groups which constitute our St. Lucian heritage; consequently urge affirmation of and support for the national and local specificities of this multi-ethnic heritage;
- Recognize the inestimable value of the synthesis of the strands of heritage where it occurs.

Language

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Given the critical role of language in shaping cultural identity, recognize officially, support concretely and help to promote the St. Lucian Creole language;
- Recognize the value of and encourage research into and preservation of the St. Lucian Creole language (Kweyol);
- Actively promote multi-lingualism in the major international languages generally used in the region.

Religion

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Recognize and give due consideration to the religious pluralism which exists in St. Lucia;
- Encourage and support all attempts to promote dialogue and mutual understanding among people of different faiths and belief systems.

Archaeological and Historical Sites and Artifacts

The Government and People of St. Lucia.

- Actively promote and support all efforts aimed at the preservation and restoration of the national patrimony and create or strengthen legislation to support such efforts, including the repatriation of artifacts and other cultural property;

- Promote and support educational efforts aimed at developing an active and felt appreciation of the national and regional patrimony;

The Oral Tradition

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Recognize the incalculable value of the oral tradition as a living and endangered repository and transmitter of information, beliefs and values;
- Develop and support all efforts to preserve and disseminate knowledge of the traditions;
- Support and encourage research into and analysis of the body of folk wisdom for the insights it may provide into present individual and social issues.

Traditional Technologies

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Research, evaluate and document aspects of traditional and indigenous technology which provide relevant alternatives to imported technology;
- Disseminate by popular means information which may promote the use of culturally relevant technology and techniques in production and other aspects of everyday life.

Research, Documentation and Archiving

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Encourage and develop at all levels, through the fostering of museums, galleries, theatres and other facilities, the documentation - in the audio-visual and print media - of historical and current events, practices, processes, groups, institutions etc;
- Encourage and actively promote by diverse means the dissemination of information and issues arising from such documentation;
- Provide where possible, assistance with monitoring and control of data-gathering on the culture of the St. Lucian people with special attention to ethno-medicine, arts and craft and providing protection for their rights relative to Intellectual Property.

National Days

The Government and People of St. Lucia

- Devise ways and means to ensure that days of national and regional significance are given to reflection on, discussion of, and - where appropriate - celebration of events and phenomena in our heritage which have influenced or continue to influence our development.

Short/Medium Term Action Required

- That St. Lucia should adopt the policies and procedures recommended in the Report on the Status of the Caribbean Museums to International Conference on Museums (ICOM) standard, including adoption/adaptation of ICOM definition of Museums,

endorsement and support for the activities of the Museums Association of the Caribbean; adoption of minimum standards for Caribbean Museums; establishment of regional and national standards of Museum Practice; adoption of national policy on museums and museum management; inclusion of museums on the national emergency priority list.

- That St. Lucia becomes a signatory to the relevant international conventions concerning patrimony, and enact the relevant local legislation;
- That St. Lucia has in place legislation for the protection and recovery of the national patrimony and intellectual property in the shortest possible time;
- That within the next five years government ensures membership and participation in the international organizations and regional training and conservation facilities devoted to the preservation and documentation of cultural phenomena;
- That, notwithstanding any existing arrangements with NGO's for research, government employs a research officer in the relevant cultural institution;
- That St. Lucia enact up to date and effective legislation to protect and foster the growth and development of intellectual property in the state;
- That St. Lucia sign and ratify the appropriate international conventions to facilitate the reciprocity upon which effective administration of copyright depends.

C. Culture and Development

Policy Goals

- Established incentives and support systems for cultural phenomena which contribute to the national economy;
- Education programmes in the arts;
- Recognition of the value and importance of traditional health practices and promotion of the study of these practices with a view to incorporating the findings in other spheres of national life such as education and industry;
- Preservation and proper management of the environment;
- Gender equality at all levels;
- Community awareness of the significance and potential of traditional technology

Policy Framework and Objectives

The connection between these two generative concepts, culture and development, is at the heart of this document. Development should be the *raison d'être* of government and its policies. In every plan proposed and decision taken, there is the implied proposition that these will lead the community or nation or region closer to the optimum state of development possible at a given time. The various agents of development - formal organizations, informal networks, social institutions, etc. - are assessed by the political directorate (itself a social institution but with an overall coordinating function) in order to enhance the role that each can play in a given situation.

What is being attempted in this section is to bring considerations

of culture into the assessment of the roles of these various agents of development. This section therefore looks at some of the main issues and areas of activity which engage the attention and efforts of the political directorate. An attempt is made, without going into detail, to indicate the present status and potential of culture in each case. It must be pointed out that the list is by no means seen as exhaustive, nor does the order indicate a suggested priority. But they are all areas which can only benefit from a greater sensitivity to the cultural dimension in both their policy formulation and implementation.

1. Culture and National Planning

National planning is focused largely on the economic aspect, not taking sufficient account of the cultural context within which this planning must be realized.

Noting that this has implications both for the culture of the people affected by such planning and the ultimate success of the plans;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Support the establishment of mechanisms to address this and will ensure that cultural considerations become a normal element of national planning.

2. Culture and Economic Development

There is a perception among planners that cultural activity is not economically significant. As a result of this perception, its contribution to the national economy is under-rated, despite the evident economic significance of music and festival arts such as Carnival. This negative perception is reflected in a severe lack of infrastructural and other support which is given as a matter of course to the traditional areas of private sector activity.

In the light of the above;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Support research into quantification of the economic contribution of cultural phenomena (e.g. major festivals) to the State.
- Establish and encourage infrastructural and other support to allow for the development of cultural industries;
- Devise strategies for existing resources to be rationalized and brought into greater service.
- A clear case in point - and an urgent one, requiring immediate and special attention - is the need to establish the infrastructure for a Caribbean steelband manufacturing industry, thus minimizing the present trend of inadvertently exporting our expertise in this field to countries which evidently value it more.

3. Culture and Education

Noted with emphasis is the critical, irreplaceable role of education in developing the creative imagination, not only for artistic interests but problem-solving in general and the importance of education in developing self-reliance and an awareness of the possibilities of the cultural heritage for stimulating self-reliance and self-realization.

Noting too that some of our educational content, methodologies and structures are no longer relevant to our present aspirations, the Government and People of St. Lucia will ensure that measures are set up to secure greater relevance in all these areas. (There are implications here for the philosophy and methodology of teacher training)

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Recognize and value the non-formal as well as the formal modes of disseminating information and fostering desirable values;
- Support a special focus by government and private sector to develop programmes both within and outside the formal system, which nourish this orientation to creativity, self-reliance and self-realization.

4. Culture and Health

Given that nearly all aspects of social activity depend on good health and given that our foreparents had some knowledge of health practices by which many maintained good health;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Recognize and evaluate the philosophy and medical and health practices of previous generations;
- Support research in those areas and scientific development of them for more widespread use where feasible; it should be noted here that the economic aspect of this may have some significance, both in terms of saving on imported medicine and in terms of generating economic activity at home;
- Recognize the importance of traditional cultural beliefs and practices and seriously take them into account in designing and implementing programmes to deal with health issues and problems.

5. Culture and Agriculture

- Noting that agriculture has been the main economic

activity of the majority of Caribbean People for centuries and recognizing that beliefs, attitudes and practices have grown around it.

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will encourage research into and scientific assessment of, where possible, the values of such beliefs and practices;
- Support the recognition of the importance of these beliefs and practices in designing and implementing agricultural programmes.

6. Culture and the Environment

Attention is called to the pivotal importance of the Caribbean environment in the global environmental system and the role played by our cultural environmental practices in determining our environment and therefore that of Mother Earth.

Recognizing however that not all traditional environment practices are beneficial;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Urge greater recognition of the significance of micro-environments in the national context and the significance of cultural belief and practice in their preservation;
- Urge greater sensitivity to the cultural considerations and implications in attempting to work out solutions to environmental problems; in so far as is feasible, the solutions should be culturally accommodating.

7. Culture and Gender

Given that fifty percent (50%) of St. Lucia's population is female, the concerns addressed under the various headings of this document automatically address some aspects of their situation. However, it should be recognized that women have special needs which are rooted in the issue of gender relations, and that any constraints on the development of their potential results in a loss of contribution to the entire society.

Additionally, Caribbean culture has also shaped the way in which men and women of the region relate to each other and any attempt to change these relations will have to take the cultural context into account.

The Government and People of St. Lucia :

- Will pay special attention to gender issues in all areas of development;
- Will support the removal of all legislation which discriminates on the basis of gender;
- Will recognize the particular contribution that women make to the process of culture-bearing;
- Will support and encourage research on the contribution of women to cultural development.

8. Culture and the Mass Media

Recognizing the overwhelming potential of the mass media for both good and ill in shaping perceptions and values and influencing action;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will support and encourage the use of the mass media to present a positive portrayal of ourselves and to encourage honest reflection and discussion of our overall direction and goals;
- Encourage the use of the mass media to disseminate more widely the knowledge of the work of St. Lucian and other Caribbean artists;
- Support efforts to develop among audiences the capacity to critically assess the media product;
- Actively promote and support efforts to utilize the media to foster a spirit of national pride and identity and Caribbean unity, including joint production of regional cultural products.

9. Culture and Sport

Recognizing the vital role that sport has played in integrating the Caribbean and in giving a sense of a collective cultural identity at home and internationally;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will support all efforts to promote and develop a high standard of sporting activity nationally and regionally, bearing in mind the personal and social benefits of discipline, co-operation, etc. engendered in playing to the highest standard;
- Support and encourage research into and promotion of sporting, recreational and leisure activities traditional to St. Lucia and the region, which are in danger of disappearing (e.g. warri/ wawee)

10. Culture and Tourism

Recognizing the significant contribution of tourism to the economy and its potential for the developing of good international relations, but bearing in mind its potential hazards in the cultural sphere;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will encourage measures to ensure that the development of tourism does not impact negatively on the integrity of our cultural identity in all its manifestations;
- Will encourage and urge the development of programmes which are significantly oriented toward our cultural heritage and contemporary cultural activity;
- Will seek to ensure, as part of this orientation, that more space be made available within conventional touristic activities for such programmes.

11. Culture and Technology

Recognizing the importance of technology for preservation of our heritage and for further development and enhancement of cultural activity;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Undertake to initiate steps to secure the expertise and technology necessary in this regard;
- Will support efforts to develop the creative imagination which can foster creative technological solutions to our problems;
- Recognize and accord value to the tradition of

indigenous technology in St. Lucia and the Caribbean and support research in this area, especially for possible adaptation.

Short/Medium Term Action Required

- That St. Lucia remove all barriers to the movement of artists, cultural workers and cultural services within the region, to facilitate the growth of a viable market for cultural products and to provide cultural workers with opportunities for sustainable income.
- That St. Lucia undertake, by the year 2005, to collate quantifiable data on the economic contribution of cultural phenomena to the national economy.
- That St. Lucia participate in any regional study on the economic importance of the cultural sector to regional development.
- Persons, Companies and Institutions developing cultural infrastructure, products and services will be provided fiscal incentives in accordance with existing policy and legislation.
- That Government ensures that by the year 2002, arts education programmes are fully established within the curricula at all levels of the school system.
- That government undertakes to disseminate the ideas in the opening section of the document “The Context of Cultural Policy” and to popularise them by using communications strategies appropriate to the various target groups.
- That St. Lucia supports networking mechanisms which will facilitate the collation and dissemination of information on traditional medicine and medical

practices.

- That the Government of St. Lucia becomes a signatory to the relevant international conventions concerning the cultural environment where it is in its interest to do so.
- That the Cultural Development Foundation undertakes to have a full inventory of traditional games and that this information be made available to the education sector.

D. Cultural Relations

Policy Goals

- The cross-fertilization of the Caribbean cultural experiences.
- Closer cultural relations between St. Lucia and the Caribbean and the wider world.

Policy Framework and Objectives:

1. Intra-CARICOM Relations

- In the spirit of the Treaty of Chaguaramas which includes cultural relations as a vital aspect of regional unity;

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Support and undertake to put in place mechanisms to foster exchanges of services, products and persons in the cultural realm through entering into specific cultural agreements which give form and focus to the intentions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas in the area of culture;
- Support utilization of the universities and other relevant institutions of the region, with special emphasis on their creative arts centres, to facilitate such exchanges and to

- promote combined work among artists of the region;
- Undertake to harness the resources of relevant agencies (e.g. UNESCO and the OAS) to promote such exchanges.

2. The Wider Caribbean and Latin America

It is recognized that there is a need for St. Lucia and other CARICOM Governments to adopt a common position in relation to the Wider Caribbean and Latin America and also the need for pursuing cultural relationships that provide St. Lucia with benefits such as training and cultural exchanges.

Acknowledging the historical, geographical and cultural links and affinities which already exist between CARICOM countries and those of the Wider Caribbean and Latin America and noting the global trend toward international power blocs of one kind or another, as well as the formation of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS);

St. Lucia Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will continue to explore and progressively develop the common principles by which we relate to the Wider Caribbean and Latin America;
- Recognize the crucial role of culture in laying the groundwork on which full-fledged relations can be developed;
- And, given the above, will continue to takes steps to explore and develop linkages for the marketing of cultural products;
- Recognize the special importance of CARICOM countries which have a frontier with Latin American countries and the significance of Caribbean Diaspora

communities in the Wider Caribbean America.

3. *Wider World*

The need is recognized for a common position by CARICOM governments in relation to the countries of the wider world as well as the need for a closer working relationship with them. With this in mind, The Government of People of St. Lucia:

- Urge the exploration and development of the common principles by which we relate to the wider world, notwithstanding the acceptance of bilateral and other country relations;
- Recognize the role of culture in paving the way for further relations;
- Urge the close attention to be paid to the position of St. Lucian nationals and persons of Caribbean descent in the countries of the wider world especially in relation to issues of cultural identity;
- Undertake to promote information and understanding of the contributions of St. Lucian and other Caribbean persons and culture in the wider world. (e.g. Sir Arthur Lewis, Derek Walcott, C.L.R. James, Frantz Fanon).

Short/Medium Term Action Required

- That Government undertakes to facilitate at least one cultural exchange a year with another Caribbean state, beginning 2002.
- That St. Lucia puts in place by 2002, the mechanisms to give effect to the cultural components of agreements already established with other Caribbean territories, with Latin American countries and countries of the wider world.

. Cultural Financing and Administration

Policy Goals

- Financial viability and effective organization of cultural endeavours.

Policy Framework and Objectives

1. Financing

It is axiomatic that the cultural endeavour, if it is to develop its fullest possibilities, requires higher levels of financing than presently obtain. It is also axiomatic, though not recognized, that a fair amount of cultural practice is self-financed and a financial contribution is made by culture to the national and regional economy.

In light of the central significance of culture to development which is presented in this document, it is time that consideration be given to the percentage of the national budget which is allocated to cultural endeavour, as well as to quantifying the contribution of this sphere of activities to the national product.

The Government and People of St. Lucia:

- Will evaluate the contribution of the cultural sector (including arts and entertainment) to the national economy in order to quantify and acknowledge the economic significance of the sector with particular respect to investment, employment, and foreign exchange earnings;
- Will support private sector initiatives and encourage private sector investment in the sector by means of an appropriate system of fiscal and other incentives;

- Will create specific revenue mechanisms where necessary, and allocate resources to achieve the goal of adequate public financing of the sector.

2. Cultural Administration

Closely tied in to the question of financing is the issue of cultural administration. Administrative as well as financial mechanisms need to be established in order to fulfill Cultural Policy objectives, which mechanisms themselves in turn become important aspects of Cultural Policy.

The interplay of Government, the private sector, semi-public bodies, NGO's and the like needs to be harmonized so that duplication of effort is avoided and maximum use is made of resources. It is vital that responsibilities be made clear and contradictions removed, while at the same time, encouraging co-operation and linkages between cultural endeavour and other spheres of national life

The Government and People of St. Lucia will therefore seek to:

- Work towards the harmonization of regulations governing public bodies directly involved in implementing cultural policy (such as Ministries and Departments of Culture, Cultural Councils or Commissions) with those governing other institutions with which they must interact, such as Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs;
- Work towards the harmonization of activities between public and semi-public bodies, recognizing that some activities are best conducted by semi-public bodies which need clear mandates so as not to seem to be in conflict with activities of public bodies, and in order that resources be efficiently utilized;

- Promote the support of NGO's and private individuals, recognizing that they traditionally have been active in the delivery of cultural services at both the community and national levels. Support must be given to continued contributions in this sphere, recognizing that people are the bearers of culture, and that the whole society stands to gain from activity which enriches the national fabric;
- Encourage the promotion of adequate legal provisions in respect of cultural development, both at the constitutional level and in terms of specific legislation;
- Seek to have specific legislation in respect of protection of cultural heritage, copyright, public lending rights, statutory authorities or provisions, considered as an instrument for encouraging cultural and artistic development. Thought must also be given to the social position of the artist or culture bearer in respect of health, disability or retirement possibilities.

Short/Medium Term Action Required

- That Government will encourage private sector investment through, among other things, incentives to that sector.
- That Government establish by the year 2000, a Cultural Development Foundation, the objectives of which shall include the implementation and interpretation of this Cultural Policy.

