

MINISTRY OF THE ARTS AND MULTICULTURALISM

REPORT:

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF STAKEHOLDERS
DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR MULTICULTURALISM &
THE DRAFT NATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY**

Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies, Trinidad
Monday 5th November, 2012
&
The Art Gallery, Tobago
Thursday 8th November, 2012

SUBMITTED BY:

**CULTURE DIVISION
MINISTRY OF THE ARTS AND MULTICULTURALISM**

DATE SUBMITTED: NOVEMBER 9th, 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Rawle Gibbons, founding Director of the Department for the Creative and Festival Arts, University of the West Indies, offered to convene a roundtable for stakeholders to provide opinions on the policy documents tabled for discussion at the first public consultation on October 29th, 2012 at the Centre of Excellence. Mr. Gibbons felt that this process would produce additional suggestions for ideas to help the process of policy development. Mr. Tomlee Roberts attended the session in Tobago on October 30th 2012 and also felt the need to coordinate a session between us and artists resident in Tobago. The following arose out of these two sessions.

Some expressed that view that the policies were well done and voiced their support for it. Significant areas for amendment to the policy documents included:

1. Mechanism or Framework for convergence of disparate state actors needed
2. Exploration of policy on creative industries
3. Identification of political ideology of the policy position
4. Education and community development needed amongst the pillars
5. Need a cultural policy that emphasises the multiculturalism of the society
6. Change 'pillars' to guiding principles inclusive of decentralisation, local content, independence
7. The act for the Orisha Council of elders needs to be added to the Legislative profile of the sector
8. Insert 'Indigenous' in the Multiculturalism Policy amongst the list of races

There was some expression of dissatisfaction with the documents and the process. A minority expressed the view that there should be one statement, not two.

Perennial concern over funding for the arts arose consistently as did institutional support for matters related to intellectual property rights. The need for civil society to place pressure for sound policy and practise by the state was voiced strongly at the roundtable in Trinidad. This was seen as indispensable for the development of sound policy by the public officer.

COMMENTS FROM THE ROUNDTABLES

ISSUE/STATEMENT	RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT
Mr. Dennis Hall, Adviser to the Minister	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expressed dissatisfaction with the separation of the policies into two documents 2. Policy statement is that of the Ministry and as such, cannot really be national in scope without input of national community 3. Consistent funding criteria needs to be established 4. Sectoral institutions are not as operational as they need to be. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need to include and popularise fiscal measures that are in place and that are connected to the Ministry of Finance. 2. Collusion of all parties like Tourism and Education is important for policy to be more than a Ministry of Culture policy.
Dr. Suzanne Burke, Lecturer, UWI	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has sussed out that the policy is a framework that allows for movement. The policy raises more questions than it answers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy needs a clearly articulated political ideology for the Ministry re. its policy position as a facilitator, architect, engineer etc. 2. Policy needs to set the framework for the convergence of the state initiatives in the sector with the Ministry taking the lead in this rationalisation process. 3. The Pillars needed expansion to include Education and community development. 4. A separate policy on Cultural Industries will be needed.
Mr. Marvin George, Arts-in-Action, UWI	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the policy reconcile itself with actual current state on the ground. 2. What of funding and criteria for same? 3. Use of douglarisation in the document: what is the philosophy here? 	
Ms. Sunity Maharaj, Head, Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil society needs to increase its activism to create the support for sound public policy making. 2. The mandate from the National Cultural Council of the 1970s was well done and needs to be revisited. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 'Pillars' in the policy document should be changed to 'guiding principles' 2. The guiding principles should include <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Decentralisation: establishment of model similar to local government for implementation. b. Independence: separation of activities from direct ministerial intervention. c. Local content: quotas for broadcasters.
Dr. Merle Hodge, Lecturer, UWI	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historic focus on the performing arts needs to be revisited in light of expanding focus to other artforms. 	
Mr. Laurie Ander, Steelbandsman	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Querried whether the politician was ready to give 	

ISSUE/STATEMENT	RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT
<p>the culture a space to develop their systems in lieu of opting for a system that allowed them a photo opportunity for passing out a cheque.</p> <p>2. Expressed admiration for the work being done.</p>	
Mr. Ravi Ji	
<p>1. Congratulated the DOC on her presentation during the consultation at the Centre for Excellence.</p> <p>2. There is a trend towards commercialisation that must not trump the elements of the culture that are best kept private to maintain their authenticity.</p>	<p>1. Policy is missing out on the wider view of culture as found in the older, non-Christian cultures.</p> <p>2. The quest for monetisation and industrial development must not render the Policy blind to components of culture that cannot be commercialised.</p> <p>3. Policy statements regarding strategy need to be more explicit.</p>
Ms. Marcia Riley	
<p>1. We may not need a written cultural policy as is the case with the UK which does not have a written constitution.</p>	
Mr. Rawle Gibbons, Lecture UWI	
<p>1. The policy is a step ahead.</p> <p>2. There is a culture of ‘gimme more’ that the policy has to decide to either refute or support.</p> <p>3. The creativity of the people is what distinguished T&T from other culturally diverse states.</p>	<p>1. The Act for the Orisha Council of Elders needs to be added to the Legislative profile of the sector.</p> <p>2. The policy that is needed is one that recognises what we came here with, what we found here and gives room for new things to grow.</p>
Mr. Martin Superville, The Art Gallery	
<p>1. The policy documents are well put together.</p>	<p>1. Each island needs a bigger museum.</p> <p>2. Tax breaks are needed for artists.</p>
Mr. Richards Hadeed, Harmony Woodworking	
	<p>1. Artists to open their studios to the community for apprenticeship.</p> <p>2. Emphasis needs to be placed on education and striving for excellence.</p>
Ms. Yolande Clarke, Springs Entertainment	
	<p>1. Separate policies are needed for each island.</p>
Mr. Tomlee Roberts, Visual Artist	
	<p>1. Strategies for pillars 1 & 2 of the cultural policy should include development of creative spaces.</p>
Mr. Chris Thomas, Art Teacher	
<p>1. Declaration 1 in the policy does not cover the complete value of the arts.</p>	
Mr. Errol Phillip, Art Teacher	
<p>1. Supports the policy 100%.</p>	