



Fondasyon konesans ak libète
Fondation connaissance et liberté

ANNUAL REPORT | 2022

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Annual Report

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I. Fondation Connaissance et Liberté

Created in 1995, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), FOKAL, is a national foundation within the Open Society Foundations, OSF, a worldwide network of foundations and initiatives created by philanthropist George Soros for the promotion of the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values. FOKAL also receives support from other funders, among which the Kellogg Foundation, the European Union, the French Agency for Development (AFD), and Lawyers-Without-Borders Canada. FOKAL offers to local communities throughout the country and to civil society organizations a large spectrum of activities and support in the fields of education, human rights, civic engagement, arts and culture and sustainable development.

Since its creation, FOKAL chose to support sectors in Haitian society that are likely to contribute to positive change for the country; by targeting issues involving children and youth, civil society associations and historically marginalized sectors. Our actions and support revolve around five main themes: access to information, youth and civic engagement, art and education, human rights, and environment. This last point includes the project on the creation, management, and civic outreach of the Martissant Park, made possible with the support of the Haitian government, the Open Society Foundations, the Kellogg Foundation, the French Agency for Development, and the European Union.

1. Our mission

FOKAL aims to promote the implementation of structures necessary to the emergence of a just, democratic, and inclusive society; to support individual and collective autonomy by encouraging critical thinking, creativity, responsibility and cooperation through education, training, and communication and finally to reinforce organizational processes to increase the active implication of the Haitian people in their country's cultural, social, and political life.



Ray-Ginald Louissaint Jr/FOKAL



II. Letter from the Executive Director

The year 2021 was a turning point for Haiti on several accounts and 2022 bore the consequences of the catastrophic natural and man-made events of the previous year: corrupt, illegitimate governance, extreme gang violence, misguided international interference, and economic collapse aggravated by the major earthquake of 2021. Such crises test our beliefs as well as our strategic choices, and I am comforted to report that FOKAL's compass held forth in the tempest.

At FOKAL we were able to navigate those troubled times in our country, while downsizing and adapting to budget cuts, and doing so with care and attention to staff and beneficiaries, while staying true to our mission and with a vision for the future that should keep our institution the unique national Haitian foundation that it is.

The most perilous future among our programs remains that of the Martissant park and community project where FOKAL invested all its talent and know-how since 2007. The accelerated deterioration of security conditions forced us to close to the public and remove staff. We watched in anguish as extreme violence caused forced displacements and many tears in the social fabric of this engaged community. We continue to monitor security conditions and to manage responsibly the human and material potential left dormant. We have made contingency plans for a possible complete shutdown in the future as well as for a possible reopening of activities in partnership with other Haitian associations and institutions.

Deeply grateful and proud of FOKAL's management, program and support staff who have been exemplary throughout the year 2022, incarnating in so many ways the Haiti we are building, the one we dream of, I am also thankful to our Board for their advice and guidance and for Pedro Abramovay's strategic wisdom and support from our main funder OSF.

Lorraine Mangonès

III. Ayiti Demen

Letter from Ayiti Demen's executive director

In 2021, we were mobilized in Haiti to provide emergency relief and to assess the damage caused by the deadly earthquake that struck on August 14, 2021. Over 23,000 families received emergency support through 35 grassroots, peasant and women's organizations and institutions like Le Centre d'Art. In 2022, we continued to provide modest support for rebuilding in southern Haiti. We worked with artists in the Haitian capital, which was plagued by gang violence.

The disaster in 2021 sparked an extraordinary outpouring of generosity. However, this momentum did not continue as we had anticipated to support the rebuilding effort in 2022. We have seen a sharp decline in the number of donations and grants received. However, we are grateful to those who supported our efforts in 2022.

Thanks to them, six sustainable projects have been initiated in the areas affected by the earthquake and subsequent tropical cyclone. Ayiti Demen has also stepped up its efforts to reach out to the Haitian Diaspora in the United States, the main source of remittances supporting Haitians living in Haiti.

Following the community meetings, the Haitian national foundation, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL), whose programs we support, launched the construction of community centers at the request of local organizations, this was the cornerstone of the second phase of our joint intervention. We joined this campaign, which is now part of our long-term strategy for supporting communities after the 2021 earthquake. This strategy also includes two other areas: promoting a solidarity-based economy and supporting small social enterprises.

In addition, with the support of the William Talbott Hillman Foundation, we continue to support Haitian artists and craftspeople and the reinvention of Le Centre d'Art. This 80-year-old institution is preserving Haiti's visual arts heritage despite the destruction of its facilities in the 2010 earthquake. Ayiti Demen's new challenge is to help rebuild the center by 2027 to match its prestige and history.

The Haitian people deserve our long-term support to help them take their destiny into their own hands and begin to rebuild. It is going to take time, but with your generosity and patience, we'll get there! Thank you for your continued support.

Yvens Rumbold

From Ayiti Demen's 2022 annual report, p6. Please see the [full report here](#)





IV. Program objectives and progress.

1. GOAL 1: Civic engagement, democratic exercise, and social justice

i. Sustainable Development

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance (Economic Equity & Justice)

FIELD: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance

Description of proposed work: Through small economic investments, we aim to assist rural grassroots organizations who have demonstrated capacity to become micro entrepreneurs. This in turn aims at increasing their revenue, reinforcing their skills, for activities that have a triple scope: economic, social and environmental. The most promising small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the sector should grow and reach larger fair-trade markets. We also aim to contribute to the creation of a federation of small farmers capable of working on national advocacy for food security and related political action. This process is underway and showing positive improvement.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Smallholder farmers are the backbone of Haitian economy and of Haitian culture. Yet they are the most marginalized and poorest sector of society. FOKAL accompanies their struggle for recognition, access to basic services and participation in democratic construction. On August 14, 2021, a devastating earthquake followed by a hurricane hit the rural South of the country. A very heavy toll: over 2200 dead, close to 1.4 million people directly affected. After a first phase in 2021 Over 30 organizations benefited from the emergency funds impacting close to 40,000 families. FOKAL continued to help collect data for their advocacy campaigns. The second phase was to provide funding for relaunching food production and water management, to continue to fight against food insecurity while protecting the environment. In 2022, FOKAL continued the building of 5 community resource centers for strong smallholder farmers organizations in rural regions particularly affected by the 2021 earthquake. Ayiti Demen FOKAL's 501c3 in the US also contributed to this phase through their fundraising efforts. While the program concentrated on the South, the smallholder farmers organizations that work in other geographic areas and are members of our network also benefited from our support. Experiments were made with municipalities to start building more sustained connections with local governments.

In 2022, FOKAL's program supported and accompanied 17 organizations, 3 social enterprises and 3 partner institutions sharing our vision and values.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge remains the situation of political instability and insecurity that forces us to find new ways to maintain a constant relationship with the organizations. Communication technologies were shared and appreciated. In coming years, the community centers will be fully operational and will be used as places for training, income generating, and the necessary alliance in building national advocacy for food security and related political action.

NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

Our program has gained momentum despite major contrary trends imposed by US and international community policies on Haiti. Our outreach to the Haitian diaspora will intensify for a better understanding of the challenges ahead and our mutual commitment to face change together. In February 2022, FOKAL was the co-recipient of the prestigious Zayed Award for Fraternity. A significant amount of this prize will help continue our sustainable development activities.



ii. Martissant Park

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

CONCEPT : Preservation of Martissant Park through civic engagement and community outreach.

Description of proposed work: Martissant Project has proved its resilience capacity to provide safe spaces to support transformative and regenerative processes for urban populations living under high political and economic stress. A 36% decrease from the Economic Equity & Justice category is imputable to the removal of the Martissant project from OSF funding thanks to the tie-off.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2021, this program received support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation 's Catalyzing Community Giving program, whose main goal is to create a large range of mutually reinforcing associations in the neighborhood and build internal self-reliance. This groundbreaking initiative was cut short in mid-2022 because of the intensifying gang violence in the neighborhood.

- We were able to award 146 scholarships to bright children whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. Seven schools in the neighborhood receive these scholarship holders and benefit from school improvement support. Despite the increasing gang violence, 85% of grantees succeeded for the school year.
- FOKAL's Information and Communication Technologies training program reached eight schools that met criteria to be outfitted with a computer laboratory.
- Since 2008 FOKAL launches bi-annual (July and December) bids for small projects from the local associations in the communities. This year, the gangs war which broke out in June 21 forced us to cancel. Since 2008 we have funded more than 300 projects in 14 communities grouped in 4 categories (training, sports, cultural activities, small infrastructure, and community outreach)
- The Katherine Dunham Cultural Center was forced to close to the public during 2021. The staff applied to the voluntary severance package in February 2022.

CHALLENGES

- The socio-political instability that has raged in the country since 2018 has resulted in Martissant in the worst gang war to date which forced us to close the Park to the public.
- Restructure our teams to better adapt to an uncertain future
- Since 2021, funding for initiatives come from third parties: either fundraising efforts from Ayiti Demen or the WW Kellogg Foundation.
- In addition to funding issues, we are working on an exit strategy for Martissant. Since there was concrete information about an imminent international force, this exit strategy has been put on hold.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

- We do support civil society organizations engaged in the defense of human rights and advocacy for a solution to the crisis but cannot control the extreme violence affecting the capital and most of the territory.
- Since 2020, we have considerably reduced headcount for this project and this process continued in 2021-22. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is now our main funder for Martissant.
- If the situation persists and conditions for reopening the park are not met, we will begin to apply our exit strategy.

OSF TIE-OFF FUNDS ENABLED US TO ACT RESPONSIBLY.

FOKAL is contractually responsible for the Martissant Project with the Haitian public authorities and morally responsible in close relation with a community of over 60,000 people in one of the most stigmatized and underserved areas in the entire country. Under extremely adverse conditions, we have not only maintained this project but developed it and secured new support for it. We have already held our promise to the OSF Global Board to decrease OSF funding to Martissant significantly, and the tie-off funds in 2021 helped move us as securely as could be hoped to a complete disengagement of OSF funds.

If the security situation is resolved by 2024, the program can continue with a renewal of current WK Kellogg Foundation funding, an increased capacity of the Martissant Park and Neighborhood project to conduct fundraising, some Haitian Government funding and some income generating activity. If the security situation is not resolved, FOKAL will apply its exit strategy.





iii. Heritage project

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

CONCEPT: Preserving and rehabilitating culturally significant neighborhoods

Description of proposed work: The Dufort House today is a fully equipped space with a business plan to serve as a center for the promotion of Haitian art and heritage with a pedagogical perspective and a social change ethos. It is a place for training, fundraising and income generating activities, collaborations with museums, galleries, the Centre d'Art, and regional cultural institutions such as the Ludwig Foundation in Cuba, the National Gallery in Jamaica and other institutions in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

The Dufort House has served through 2022 for exhibits and cultural events with a heritage preservation aspect. We had three major exhibits with Centre d'Art (visual arts): "Vives" (curated by Régine Cuzin) showcasing women artists from the Centre d'art's prestigious collection; *Archipelago*, the result of cross residencies by women artists of the Caribbean financed by UNESCO and curated by Belgian-Jamaican art critic Veerle Poupeye; and finally, an exhibit curated by renowned contemporary Haitian artist Mario Benjamin with the artworks resulting from grants from the Swiss Embassy. In addition, there were joint events with Cultural associations and foundations Explor'art (art fair), En lisant (theater) and with Nway (iron craft). We held workshops for the security of journalists, workshops on traditional dance and rhythms and we hosted conferences with the State University UEH - IERAH-ISERSS. Walking tours to the main Gingerbread Houses with architecture and engineering students also took place. The Chenet house has been used for the BMC Library debate Club weekly meetings from April to December.

CHALLENGES

FOKAL decided to relocate the BMC at Chenet House, which will necessitate some additional light construction. Since December 2021 an architecture firm has been hired to produce the plans.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

The architecture and engineering plans are finalized. Construction will begin in 2023, after the proper procurement proceedings.

2. GOAL 2: Access to information and public awareness to rights

i. Human Rights and Civil Society

Theme: Human Rights Movements & Institutions

Subtheme: Human Rights – General

FIELD: Human Rights Movements & Institutions

Description of proposed work: We are committed to nurturing and reinforcing new tendencies in the Haitian human rights movement exemplified by the dynamic new Bureau des Droits Humains en Haiti (BDHH) and by the new leadership emerging in Haitian feminist organizations. We are also committed to accompanying a healthy transformation process of RNDDH, the largest national human rights defense network and learning a better understanding of the sector. While we continue our granting to several human rights institutions and initiatives, we will also continue to develop dialogue with chosen funders and with regional voices in order to build alliances on key issues.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

FOKAL gave 22 grants in this area focused on: -

- Support the local judicial struggle against impunity through technical assistance and funding
- Support academic research in areas related to democracy / the rule of law
- Funding for publishing, film, conferences, events, etc. on those issues
- Funding technical assistance, advocacy, networks, and training, strengthening civil society organizations to achieve their goals as key actors in the democratic process.

FOKAL also supported the publication of reports and research on human rights, the organization of conferences and participation in international conferences and meetings. FOKAL continued its support to the Bureau des Droits Humains Haiti (BDHH), a dynamic structure that is boldly tackling pretrial detention, detention conditions; litigating successfully in favor of sexual minorities and against sexual abuse; engaging law students in human rights debates. FOKAL has also been invited to discussions with major organizations in the United States, working on strengthening networks as well preserving relationship between Haiti and immigrant communities.

CHALLENGES

Civil society weakens due to many internal and external trends, including the protracted process of State collapse that has worsened since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. Generation-to-generation transmission is lacking, and younger generations are less involved or less interested in human rights issues.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

Continue to search for partnerships and donors who share our values and approach.



ii. Library Program

Theme: Information & Digital Rights

Subtheme: Information – General

FIELD: Information & Digital Rights

Description of proposed work: We assert reading as a right in a country where it is still a privilege. FOKAL has brought Haitian libraries to regional and international networks and supported strong attendance to conferences –ALA, IFLA, and ACURIL. Partnerships with international instances on concepts such as mobile libraries and online training platforms demonstrated FOKAL’s leadership and capacity to attract new funders, but such partnerships are not long term and leave us to face a continued lack of public commitment to this issue. Our program on public awareness to rights and civics education aimed at youths with our partner institution Avocats Sans Frontières (Lawyers without borders) Canada has begun since July 2017 and includes collaboration with the Library Program and other FOKAL programs. FOKAL is planning to spin-off the three community library outfits that the foundation has housed until now in addition to the technical and financial support provided by our Library Program to a small nationwide network of community libraries. The spin offs will enable us to reduce the number of headcounts by at least 17 from the current 56 on OSF funding.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Amidst the rising insecurity in Port-au-Prince gradually spreading to other regions, the libraries faced more challenges and yet found ways to transform them into opportunities by adapting to the situation and focused on resilience. In 2022 we were able to finalize work disrupted by the pandemic and several live events were organized by community libraries on women’s rights, vaccination sensibilization campaigns, and activities promoting books and reading.

While virtual activities continued for libraries in response to the rampant insecurity, more and more libraries opened their doors to the public and adapted their working hours.

Since online content was an issue, the library program initiated the creation of five short stop motion videos. Timoun San Tras is a FOKAL emotional education pilot project to raise awareness of the importance of a positive, benevolent education, respectful of children (7 to 11 years old) and their emotional needs, and the harmful effects of stress and/or violence. The Fondation de France agreed to finance the creation of five more videos. A librarian and a comedian have been trained by a specialized psychologist to do sessions for children with the videos.

The library staff directly paid by FOKAL, at the Monique Calixte Library, Centre Culturel Katherine Dunham and the mobile library (BTT) applied for the Voluntary Severance Package in February 2022.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge to date remains insecurity. Gang violence accompanied by roadblocks, street fighting and looting deeply affected libraries as well as all other sectors. Libraries no longer have access to certain services and materials. Lack of reliable internet services remains a big issue.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

Our community library network clearly expressed the need for training as an important aspect of their work. FOKAL has created its own unique adapted online learning platform. The next steps would be to have more cohorts taking the courses and content development.



iii. Media Program

Theme: Journalism

Subtheme: Journalism – General

FIELD: Journalism

Description of proposed work: FOKAL Media Program has deliberately chosen to work with young photographers and documentary filmmakers because they were a neglected group in the field, and because the visual and audio-visual language seemed potentially powerful in our context. The next year should help us assess whether this choice is gaining ground and wider support. Our mapping and assessment of the role of community radios, formerly a powerful tool for social and political movements, revealed the sector today as a fragile and partly taken over by the evangelical missionaries. We will further explore this sector's viability as a tool for social change.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

With the intensification of violence and kidnappings in the capital and beyond, training has become even more difficult to hold and online formats were not able to address all the issues at stake and were for this reason limited to a few initiatives. Reacting to the context, the Media Program reached out to different networks of experts in the field of safety for journalists and media: ACOS Alliance, IWMF, Radio Canada, Open Briefing, Freedom House. Thanks to this work, the Media program organized a training for 30 journalists from different media or collectives but also freelancers to work on safety protocols on an individual and institutional level, with the support of Open Briefing. The Media program also partnered with Internews and Panos Caribbean to build actions to analyze and counter disinformation. These collaborations around trainings and handbooks resulted in an online mini festival around disinformation including workshops for journalists and masterclass for the public, online screenings, talks around safety issues linked to disinformation and related psychological burden. We closed this mini festival with a conference reuniting different Haitian and Colombian media initiatives that put their audience at the core of the information production to tackle one of the notions at the heart of disinformation: growing mistrust of the population toward media.

In the field of documentary filmmaking, FOKAL has been able to resume its weekly screenings of documentary films MARDI.doc online, with 5 films accessible freely each month for the public in Haiti on the Eventive platform, and the production of 4 to 5 online talks around the films and their thematic on social networks, mostly in Creole, to create content around filmmaking and human rights thematic. The cycle pursued its collaboration with the local festivals : Quatre Chemins, Rencontres du documentaire, En Lisant. For 2022, we were able to propose 40 films and 40 talks with 20 directors and 20 civil society actors working in the field of human rights, women's rights, sports, migration, live arts. In partnership with the Festival Quatre Chemins whose theme this year is "Sou Lanmè" (At sea) and to commemorate, on December 12, 2022, the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first Haitian refugee boats that were not automatically turned back, the Media program offered on the Eventive platform for a year a three-part documentary: **A MAN IN TURMOIL**. From Haiti to Miami and Puerto Rico, this trilogy is an exceptional archive of Haitian migration in the early 1980s in the United States. The famous Haitian author Jean-Claude Charles leads the investigation, accompanied by a team of France Television, to realize the audiovisual counterpart of his book " De si jolies petites plages " (Such pretty little beaches).

The fellow from the media program that benefited from a full scholarship to study production at the international school of cinema and television of Cuba (EICTV) after the preselection organized in December was finally able to enter the school in September



2021. FOKAL also sought and found additional funding from the French Embassy in Haiti to support the documentary filmmaking field and support another fellow to enter the school in the documentary filmmaking section.

In the field of documentary photography and photojournalism, FOKAL with the K2D collective finalized Urgences (Ijans) the second issue of FOTOPAKLÈ, the magazine of the K2D collective in July 2022. Other funders of this initiative included Wallonie-Bruxelles-International and the technical support of MAPS et de ZONE-I. The K2D collective participated in several literary salons and exhibits in 2022, to showcase their magazines.



Within the framework of the Emergent photography fund in Haiti (FPEH), FOKAL was able to support five young emerging photographers with a one-year mentoring from photographers Henry Roy and Maya-Inès Touam with the partnership of the platform Afrique in Visu. Several brochures will ensure the visibility of the works. Regarding grantmaking, aside from some institutional supports, the annual call for proposal was able to support 12 initiatives led by individuals, media and organizations : training of female journalists on the production of podcasts, support to an threatened journalist, the printing of a magazine on creole culture, a media supporting women’s productions, a documentary film festival, , workshops on documentary filmmaking, a training for a network of citizen journalists by a community radio in Jacmel, a scientific popularization radio show in creole and a bilingual newsletter and podcast on Haitian actuality targeting the diaspora.

CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

The political, economic and security crisis that emerged mid-2018 and has worsened since has affected our activities in the field and particularly the follow-up of our grantees on the ground in rural areas and our training actions. Media and journalists need continued support on safety/security issues. The core support of media that uphold their ethics and values has never been more vital.

3. GOAL 3: Strengthening Human Capabilities

i. Art and Culture – Resource Center

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme: Democratic Practice - General

CONCEPT: FOKAL's resource center as a center for interaction and debate

Description of proposed work: The physical center itself, indoors and outdoors, with its library, atrium, multifunction auditorium and technical capacity for audiovisual production, incarnates and models the role arts and culture can play in social change. All year long, an otherwise neglected urban population mingles with local and international artists, professionals, intellectuals, activists and discovers Haiti and the world through exhibits, conferences/debates, films, performances, and workshops.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Despite financial and technical challenges, the artistic community has learned from the achievements of creation for online dissemination and tries, when possible, to combine live and online performances to reach a wider and different audience. These constraints also have the merit of promoting multidisciplinary and create the need to open the performing arts to skills and talents in the audiovisual and digital fields. They have also favored greater collaborations with the Haitian diaspora in North America and beyond. The Arts and Culture operational program has therefore not been able to resume onsite cultural activities in 2021. We concentrated on the production of online and hybrid events, on supporting artists in the difficulties they experience, on continuing to provide them with access to training on security and psychological support, on rethinking the program in the light of budget cuts and the search for new sources of funding.

Support for artists and partner festivals: Programming of activities allowing the artists and technicians to perform and find financial support: Assistance for research projects, artistic training, and creation beyond walls. About 75 persons benefit from this assistance.

• Support for the production and distribution of live performance creations: online distribution of the creations and programming of our partners and our beneficiaries, FOKAL's networks as well as those of partner organizations. About 10 000 viewers are registered on the different social media platforms

Production of online specials: *December 12, 1972 – January 12, 2022: A fifty-year journey:* December 12, 2022, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the first boat of Haitian refugees on the coast of Florida (USA). This event also coincides with the twelfth anniversary of the earthquake of January 12, 2010, which exposed the fragility and vulnerability of the country. To demonstrate its solidarity with the victims and to remember these tragic moments in our history, FOKAL and organizations from the Haitian diaspora in the United States collaborated to carry out various activities, including the online broadcast of a series of two special programs on Haitian migration.

Workshops

Feminine, Masculine / Deconstruction of the ordinary». A cross-disciplinary training and reflection workshop on gender organized online (and in hybrid form on the ground in Haiti) in co-production with the Citizen Education project for artists from different disciplines (theater, slam, rap, etc.). A space for discussions, exchanges centered on issues related to consent and gender relations. All the 25 participants wanted this work to continue in 2023.

CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

- Continue to support the cultural and artistic sector in crisis by inventing new methods as well as working on training, constantly adapting to the needs.
- Contribute to think, and prepare, in the hope of a possible future, the reactivation of the public spaces at FOKAL and the creation of other spaces that the artists will be able to use.

UN VOYAGE DE CINQUANTE ANS

12 décembre 1972 - 12 janvier 2010 - 12 janvier 2023

PARTIE 2 : NOS COMMUNAUTÉS

ii. Art and Culture- Grants

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme: Democratic Practice – General

FIELD: Democratic Practice

Description of proposed work: The arts and culture sector in Haiti is generally civically minded but is also a vector for conquering and defending liberties. It is the voice of inclusion and the place of transcendence, away from prejudice, division, and mediocrity. A budget cut applied to that line due to the removal of the Centre d'Art, thanks to the tie-off.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

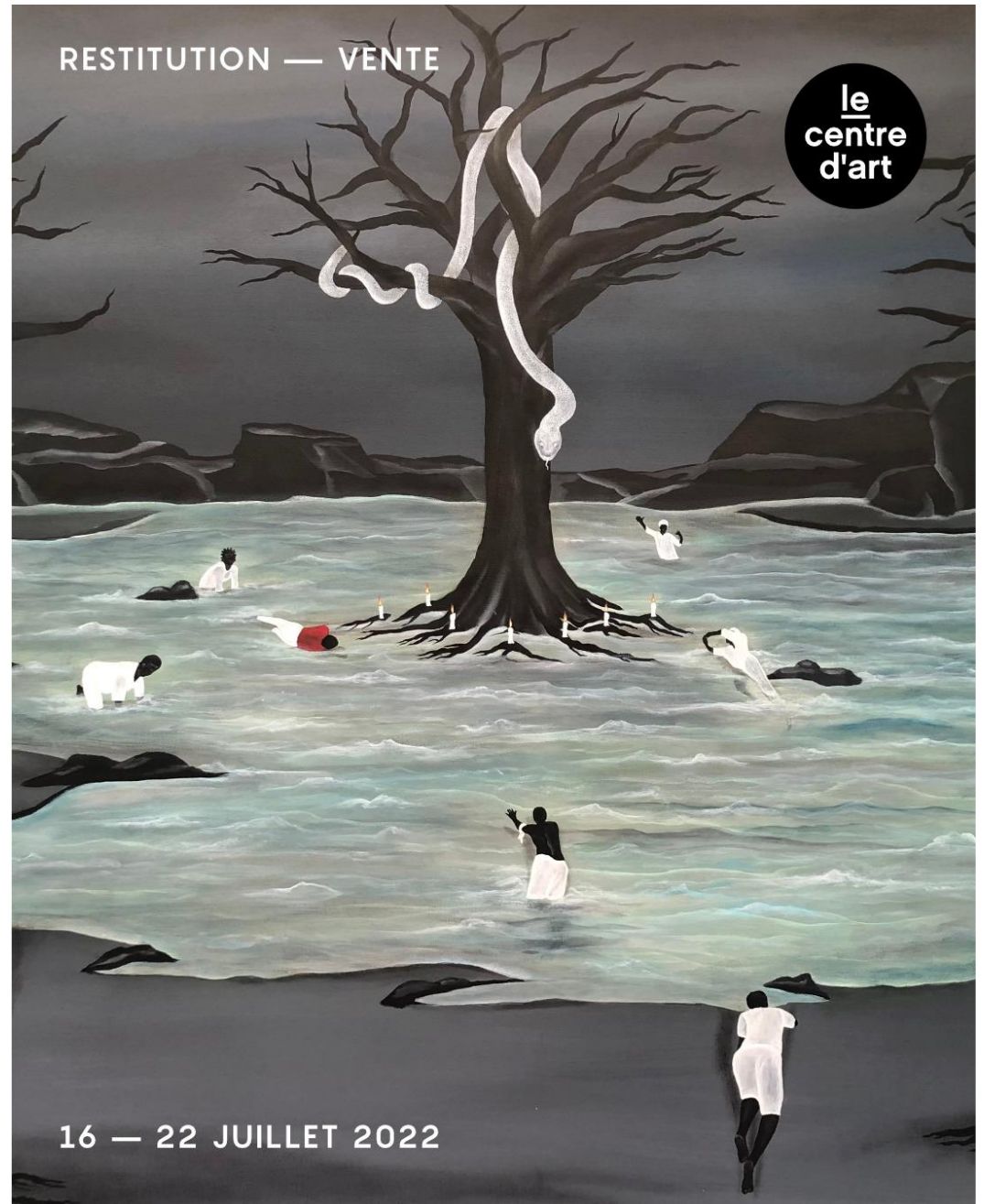
- Funding of new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL's values
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- FOKAL has granted most of the budget allocated to the Art and Culture program to 46 grantees. 39 beneficiaries selected in the context of calls for proposals to produce high-quality cultural products received grants up to a maximum of USD 15,000. 7 institutions and 3 festivals receiving institutional support from FOKAL for the past years received a tie-off grant more substantial than their yearly grant to help their organizations in promoting Haitian arts and culture at the service of the community.

CHALLENGES

- Support for cultural institutions is becoming increasingly scarce and more and more organizations in the sector are turning to FOKAL for grants.
- travel restrictions and other elements linked to insecurity deeply affected an already struggling artistic community.

NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

Continue to seek financial and technical partnerships for the field in addition to OSF support.



iii. Youth Initiative Program

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance (Democratic Practice)

FIELD: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance

Description of proposed work: Through several partnerships, third party funded initiatives and collaborations, this program works on civic engagement and advocacy for youth throughout the country. This is a relatively low cost and flexible program consisting mostly of training sessions, conferences, workshops and debate camps with very rewarding results as young men and women are trained to identify goals, develop problem solving strategies and learn advocacy techniques. Partnership with Avocats Sans Frontières Canada (ASFC) / Lawyers Without Borders Canada. Transversal action with FOKAL programs (media, library, university, arts & culture) as well as with the Youth Exchange Program.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

A strong collaboration with FOKAL's Civic Education Program and Lawyers without Borders Canada:

- A new debate guide, working in close collaboration with the Civic Education program, and the support of the Board of the foundation and Lawyers Without Borders Canada.
- 8 online debates were organized in 4 months on Zoom to develop a true model to introduce in the program.
- 50 new debate judges were trained and certified.
- An online campaign was launched to connect debate club members.
- 4 local debate tournaments realized by the clubs.
- A university debate demonstration was initiated by past high school debaters.

CHALLENGES

- Merge activities between the Civic Education and the Youth initiative programs.
- Organize an online debate tournament between clubs.
- Have the program taken over directly by the partner schools in the country.
- Having onsite activities since traveling within the country is very difficult due to the road blockages by gangs.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS OBJECTIVE

Launch Egalego : an online resource platform financed by the Civic Education program Lawyers without Borders Canada

Publish an updated debate guide.



iv. University Partnership Program

Theme: Higher Education

Subtheme: Higher Education – General

FIELD: Higher Education

Description of proposed work: FOKAL has always worked with the higher education sector, in Haiti and abroad, to contribute to form a critical mass of citizens capable of responding to Haiti's challenges: scientific, economic, environmental, cultural, social, and political. However, this already ailing sector collapsed almost completely with the 2010 earthquake. Foreign universities asked FOKAL to serve as interface for their assistance to that sector. In agreement with OSF, FOKAL created a "University Partnership" program (UP) under the direction of Michele Pierre-Louis. This category was reduced to meet the budget target. FOKAL will be awarding less grants in these categories from the OSF budget.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

Higher education is critical in creating well trained scientific experts and academics that can play a major role in revamping the education process in the country. That is why in 2022, FOKAL continued to support innovative initiatives in this field. From 2021, the Higher Education Program benefited from a contractual grant from W. K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year period. Our grant to Ecole Normale Supérieure (State University Teacher College) expanded its scientific programs in mathematics, biology, and chemistry as well as in languages. The Agricultural School used a grant from FOKAL for distance learning and teaching for students and teachers who could not afford the related costs.

FOKAL also partners with a small European initiative (Caribaea Initiative) that aims to train Haitian students to become experts in environmental issues including specific research in biodiversity. Michèle Pierre-Louis, who coordinates this program, has been invited to participate in an OSUN class on civic education. We aim to consolidate ties with OSUN and other higher education institutions abroad that highlight the role of humanities, liberal arts, civic engagement, and scientific fields.

CHALLENGES

Higher Ed is a very sensitive sector and the most neglected in the education chain by international donors. The most important challenge in this area is to try to halt the brain drain, by encouraging the educated youth to remain in the country and contribute to its recovery and development. Today, eLearning and teaching has added a new challenge to the higher education system confronted with issues of electricity, access to the internet and to computers.



V. Administration

Theme: Foundation Administration

Subtheme General Administration (Foundations)

Concept General Administration (Foundations)

Description of proposed work: General administrative expenses such as salaries and operational costs (utilities, security, bank charges, insurance, etc.).

1. A few words from the Financial Director –

Marie Edmonde Jeune

In 2021, OSF was in the process of an organizational transformation which will affect its entire network including the National Foundations. The impact on FOKAL is to reduce its future funding by 50% over the next three years beginning in 2022; a reduction of \$ 1.0 million per year is expected for a cumulative amount of \$ 3.0 million. Therefore, some programs will be spun off and operational costs decreased resulting in some positions and roles being eliminated. In that regard, with OSF/LAP backing, FOKAL has offered a Voluntary Separation Program (VSP) for its full-time and part-time employees. This VSP aimed at providing departing employees optimal severance conditions. Employees had until February 18, 2022, to apply. 34 employees decided to participate in the program, and they were all approved. There were 5 waves of departures for this program in March, April, May, June, and December 2022. There have not been any involuntary leaves (ISP). As of December 31, 2022, the program was completed.

We are aware that the circumstances - as in many other countries of the Open Society Foundations network - make the tasks more difficult for employees. The dedication and tenacity of our staff and partners encourages everyone to move forward. This year again, the External Audit Firm gave a positive rating to the administrative and financial management of the foundation. The entire administrative team is to be congratulated!

2. Communications

More than ever, FOKAL has used the communication tools and platform at its disposal to inform, entertain, and create. The social media networks were consolidated, and more partners agreed to share our content via cross posting. The MARDI.doc, a meeting of the Media program of FOKAL to introduce the public to documentary cinema, was able to continue its momentum, thanks to the support of the department which ensured the broadcasts.

Despite a change in leadership, the Communication department was able to continue without halting and continue to produce the newsletter and other communication tools. A major challenge will be the rethinking of FOKAL's website to update and simplify its content.



VI. Third Party

In 2022, FOKAL continued its efforts to diversify its portfolio and financial commitments by gaining more third-party donors. Some commitments were obtained via call for proposals (European Union), others by collaborations (Agence Francaise de Developpement). Some commitments were short spanned but were very interesting to pursue to better understand procurement and procedures from different agencies.

1. Will Keith Kellogg Foundation (WKKF)

As mentioned in the Martissant Park and Higher Education sections, the WKK Foundation has been funding three specific programs:

- the Catalyzing Community Giving program, in partnership with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The main goal is to create a large range of mutually reinforcing associations in the neighborhood and build internal self-reliance.
- A general support grant for the Martissant Park and the City of Anse-à-Pitre (Upholding Haitian Dignity). The General Support Grant was essentially to support the continuation of FOKAL's scholarship program in Martissant and the installation of computer laboratories in several schools benefiting from the first program. The "Upholding Haitian Dignity" project was designed to defend the dignity of Haitians in the commune of Anse-à-Pitre, in reaction to the treatment inflicted upon them by the Dominicans at that border point. The assistance provided by FOKAL, in partnership with the Anse-à-Pitre town council, was to support the agricultural production of farmers and farmers' associations, assess the biodiversity of the area in order to enhance it, improve fishing practices and increase fishing revenues, and finally install solar-powered streetlights to make the city more attractive at night.
- Since 2021, the Higher Education Program benefited from a contractual grant from W. K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year period.

2. Civic Education

In April 2017, Lawyers without borders Canada (Avocats Sans Frontières Canada) launched the project «Access to Justice and Fight Against Impunity in Haiti» (AJULIH in French), funded by the Government of Canada and on which FOKAL is a partner. The project focuses on three areas: improving access to justice; contributing to the fight against impunity and corruption; contributing to promoting citizen participation in democratic processes. FOKAL is particularly involved in this latter aspect, through its civic Education program.

- FOKAL's directory of human rights initiatives is updated, however, FOKAL's libraries (BMC and CCKD) are closed until an undetermined date. The directory will be published on an IT platform dedicated to the program once it is operational.
- The three children's books are finalized. The first two entitled "Le grand départ" and "Fifi, les reunions", are printed.
- The new version of the debate guide is finalized.
- An animation guide on children's books for librarians was written by Cherlie Rivage and published
- The production of a documentary series on women activists has started. The MWEM Foundation was chosen to produce these vignettes which present the life and struggle of certain Haitian personalities.

- A second workshop entitled «Feminine / Masculine / De/construction of the ordinary», followed 2021 experience, entirely by teleconference. Sixteen young Haitian artists, including eight women and eight men, were able to deepen their reflections on the issue of equality between men and women and violence in general, supervised by the facilitators and psychologists. The participants should provide a public restitution. Santo and Cape Haitian Club Awareness Days took place against children domesticity and to promote associative life.

3. Kiskey'art

Funded by the European Union, supported by FOKAL and Azuei and carried out as part of the bi-national cooperation program, the project "Kiskey'Art! Kilti bay lanmen! Cultura solidaria!" promotes creative and cultural exchanges to improve mutual understanding of citizens of both countries.

The project started in August 2021 and was officially launched in October 2021 by a concert in Santo Domingo. Most activities took place in 2022 and consisted in:

- a multidisciplinary artist residency for conflict resolution by art.
- an 11-concert tour throughout the island.
- art workshops and online conferences.
- A call for proposal was also launched and selected five projects taking place in Haiti and in the Dominican Republic. These projects concerned a history festival, a film festival, an art exhibit, a theater collaboration, and a documentary.

4. Lekol Nou (Our School)

This project financed for three years by the Agence Francaise de Developpement constitutes one of the three components of the Avni Nou program whose aim is to improve the quality of education in Haitian public basic schools through the professional development of teachers.

More specifically, the Lekòl Nou project aims to improve the image of teachers in Haitian society, to strengthen relationships within educational communities and to transform teaching practices. To achieve this, FOKAL plans to deploy a social mobilization system at the center of which will be created a radio series which will be broadcast across the national territory.

5. Fabrique des Arts (the Art Factory)

La Fabrique des arts, launched in November 2022 represents the creation of a new cultural space in Port-au-Prince. The creation of the Fabrique des Arts is one of the three components of the Tanbou project, which will be implemented by the French Institute of Paris and a consortium of Haitian civil society organizations: FOKAL (leader), the Centre d'art and the Quatre Chemins Association. The purpose of the project is to support the structuring of the cultural and creative industries (ICC) sector in Haiti. The general objective pursued by this project is to contribute to the development of a professionalizing, inclusive and integrated creative and cultural environment in Haiti through three specific objectives:

- Create a functional and open space for free expression, exchange, and multidisciplinary creation
- Strengthen the skills and capacities of cultural organizations and cultural professionals
- Promote access to culture for all by ensuring the integration of the Fabrique des Arts in the neighborhood and in the city

6. Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund

The Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF) was established in 2017 with an initial USD2.6 million in capitalization from the Caribbean Development Bank. It is a multi-donor fund, which supports the development of the creative industries (CI) sector in the Caribbean. CIIF's goal is to enable the region's cultural and creative industries to be globally competitive.

FOKAL was hired as a consultant by the Caribbean Development Bank to oversee three incubators in Haiti: Visual Arts, Festivals and Fashion from January to October 2022.

The image shows a group of about ten people, mostly young adults, posing for a photo at night. They are dressed in vibrant, colorful clothing, including patterned shirts and bright pants. In the background, there is a poster for a free concert titled 'AZUEI' in Anse-à-Pitre. The poster features the 'kiskeyArt' logo at the top, which consists of a stylized bird or flame shape. Below the logo, the text 'kiskeyArt' is written in a lowercase font. The poster also includes social media handles for Facebook and Instagram: 'Kiskey'art'. A date and time are listed: '07/2022 2H00 PM'. The title 'AZUEI' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. Below the title, it says 'Concert gratuit'. At the bottom of the poster, there are logos for 'ANSAMI' and 'CONVENCIA', and the text 'Supporté par la Mairie de Anse-à-Pitre' and 'Con el apoyo del Ayuntamiento de Anse-à-Pitre'. The FOKAL logo is also present at the bottom left of the poster.

VIII. Board of Directors

FOKAL BOARD MEMBERS



MAXIME D. CHARLES

President

Former CEO of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Haiti. His legal and finance career includes teaching international law from 1985 to 1991 at the Public University of Haiti, and fulfilling international assignments in Canada and the Caribbean for the bank of Nova Scotia from 1992 to 1996. Charles is active in a number of professional and civil society organizations, serving as a board member for the Arbitrage Tribunal of the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti and as president of the Anti-money Laundering Committee and of the Association of Professional Bankers. He has used his position on the money laundering committee and the banker's association to bring these groups together and pursue legal reform. Charles has LLM degrees from the Public University in Haiti and from the Faculty of Law at the University of Provence in France.



DANIELE MAGLOIRE

Vice President

Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and responses against gender violence and is coordinator for the Collective against Impunity, a leading group in the effort to bring former president Jean-Claude Duvalier and his associates to justice in Haiti. Magloire was a prominent member of the government's advisory council during the post-Aristide transitional government from 2004 to 2006. Following her service to the government, Magloire became the executive director of the Haitian office of the Canadian NGO Droits et Démocratie, where she directed human rights advocacy



NORMA POWELL

Secretary

Former General Director of the Center for Facilitation of Investments (CFI), Haiti's national investment promotion agency. Founding member of the Haitian Liberal Party and of the Haitian Association for the Fight against Poverty. Powell's engagement with philanthropy includes working to establish the Association for the Management of Risks and Continuity of Activities, a private sector initiative that works with local authorities to help prevent and respond to disasters. She is also a board member of Haven, a housing and community development NGO based in Ireland that is working with Haitians to build or repair thousands of homes and restore public hygiene and sanitation in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.



JEAN-JOSEPH EXUME

Member

He is a very reputable lawyer specializing in civil and commercial law. He was Minister of Justice and Public Security twice, notably during the government of Michèle D. Pierre-Louis (2008-2009). He is a pro-bono advocate of the group of victims against Duvalier, the Collective against impunity. He was a member of the presidential commission set up in January 2012 for the Revision of the 180-year-old Haitian penal code and a draft revision of the Penal Code was submitted in March 2015.



ELISABETH COLIMON WOOLLEY

Member

She is a militant lawyer with Dantes P. Colimon and a member of the Port-au-Prince Bar since 1978. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies from the Faculty of Law and Economics in 1980. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Law Society of Port- Administration of the Haiti Arch and the Haiti Fund for Women's Aid; Member of the Ethics Committee of the GHESKIO Centers and the Soroptimist International Club of Port-au-Prince. She is also interested in micro-credit, ethics and personal development (motivation and selfknowledge).

CREDITS

GRANTEE: Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans ak Libète

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