



Fondasyon konesans ak libète  
Fondation connaissance et liberté

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021





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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Lorraine Mangonès**

The year 2021 in Haiti saw the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse as the most dramatic step to date of the ongoing state collapse, the deadly expansion of armed gangs in the capital and beyond, and a 7.2 earthquake that affected all the geographic departments in the southern peninsula. It was also the year in which FOKAL learned that the OSF transformation would result in a drastic budget cut (50%) of our core budget to be applied within a three-year period.

Thanks to our extraordinary staff and Board and to the caring guidance of our Regional Director, FOKAL was able to establish a productive dialogue with the OSF transformation team and a healthy, transparent process of adjustment and change within our structure. Tie-off funds were obtained for our heaviest responsibilities, enabling us to phase out OSF funding for these projects without endangering them. We are also most grateful to the transformation team for funding generous severance for our staff.

Our 26 years of existence as an OSF National Foundation have established us as a vital actor in our country, an institution with an ethical aura and responsibilities toward our staff, partners and grantees in an extremely difficult context. We support a vast and delicate ecosystem that radiates throughout Haiti and is now reaching our US-based diaspora. We have begun the work of re-organization of FOKAL for more sustainability and project a simplified structure that will preserve FOKAL's signature influence through programs and grants and integrate durable relationships with multiple funders.

We will work to maintain FOKAL as the haven of hope, stability, promise of a different future, for our staff who are the incarnation of the values we promote, and for a whole fabric of creativity and activism in Haitian civil society and grassroots movements that are counting on our support.







# FONDATION CONNAISSANCE ET LIBERTÉ NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Created in 1995, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), 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 European Union, French cooperation and Lawyers-Without-Borders Canada. The Foundation offers to local communities throughout the country and to civil society organizations a large spectrum of activities and support in the fields of education, civic engagement, arts and culture and development.

Since its creation, the foundation 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 groups like women and peasants. Our actions and support revolve around five main themes: access to information, youth and civic engagement, art and education, human rights, reconstruction 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 French Agency for Development and the European Union.

## 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 in order to increase the active implication of the Haitian people in their country's cultural, social and political life.





## **AYITI DEMEN (HAITI TOMORROW)**

by Yvens Rumbold

FOKAL can receive donations in the United States through the public charity Ayiti Demen (formerly Friends of FOKAL) based in New York. Ayiti Demen has a 501(c)3 federal tax exemption status.

2021: a year of Engagement and Mobilization for Ayiti Demen in Supporting Haitian farmers and their families after the deadly earthquake

In 2021, Ayiti Demen, our 501(c)3 in the United States, underwent a structural transformation with the support of Build Up Advisory Group. A deadly earthquake followed by a tropical storm struck the southern peninsula of Haiti and tested Ayiti Demen's digital infrastructure. The organization quickly appealed to donors to support FOKAL's network of farmers and women organizations in the earthquake-affected areas. As a result, over 22,000 families (over 100,000 people) have been supported by this ongoing work through 31 organizations in 15 rural areas. We look back on a year full of setbacks for Haitians but abated by a worldwide movement of generosity through Ayiti Demen.

Ayiti Demen started the new year with Build Up Advisory Group working on its organizational infrastructure to provide for the organization's funding sustainability and its corporate capacity, governance oversight, and accountability to ensure it can support and meet the needs of the communities it serves in Haiti. Several meetings with Ayiti Demen's Board and its management allowed its staff to engage in a new vision for the development of this nonprofit unit.

The organization launched its first fundraising campaign in May 2021 as part of a Washingtonian tradition, the Give Big campaign. Ayiti Demen joined the event, calling its online donors to support FOKAL's Martissant Park Project and its fiscal-sponsored Le Centre d'Art. Twenty people from the US, Canada, and Haiti contributed. It was a first Give Big experience that shed light on two important projects in Haiti despite the unprecedented level of political, economic, and social instability. Following this campaign, Ayiti Demen switched to Give Lively, a platform that allows donors to create their accounts, register payment methods, modify recurring donations and trace them. Any online transaction for an Ayiti Demen campaign will now be reported as a gift to Ayiti Demen on the donors' bank statement.

During the year, a new fiscal-sponsored partner, Basketball to Uplift the Youth (Baskètbòl pou ankadre lajenès, BAL, in Haitian Creole), joined the fiscal sponsorship service, reinforcing Ayiti Demen's commitment to supporting the Youth in Haiti. In that spirit, Ayiti Demen signed a new fiscal sponsorship agreement with the Executive Director of Le Centre d'Art, M. Allenby Augustin. BAL is a nonprofit organization that uses basketball as a tool to mentor and educate Haitian youth in Port-au-Prince. They offer programs and services year-round in two of Port-au-Prince's most disadvantaged urban communities, Martissant and Cité Soleil.











## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS**



## A. GENERAL CONCEPT : FOKAL'S RESOURCE CENTER AS A SPACE FOR INTERACTION AND DEBATE

### ART & CULTURE – RESOURCE CENTER

by Michèle Lemoine

#### Arts and culture 2021: “Facing the fear”

After the effervescence of online programming linked to the pandemic in 2020, Haitian performance artists were faced with a hard reality. They are not sufficiently equipped to switch to a more sustained online production world because of the lack of financial means, the limitations of bandwidth providers and the scarcity of audiovisual artists and technicians. In addition, for performing artists and related professions, the need for the stage and live contact with the public is vital. From a more basic standpoint, they need to practice their profession. Artists are deeply rooted in their communities and their inherent sensitivity is clearly affected by the collapse of our institutions and its violent effects on the fabric of society. Many artists living in various neighborhoods of the capital now taken over by gangs felt their personal safety threatened. Many have had to move to different (equally unstable) neighborhoods or to the provinces, several are now travelling in and out of the country, following opportunities of residencies, conferences, and workshops abroad, coming back home for collective events and taking part in various virtual activities.

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.

If 2020 was a difficult year due to COVID, political instability and insecurity, in 2021 the latter factors tragically worsened. Port-au-Prince, where our resource center is located, is under increasing assaults from heavily armed gangs. Artists and public alike face the constant fear of being killed or kidnapped.

Most artistic and cultural events in Port-au-Prince must assess the danger for each public activity. The suspension of programming at FOKAL's resource center, as well as that of the French Institute, another venue for performing arts, has generated very heavy technical and human costs for the artistic community. Public events, when they take place, often take on the characteristics of pop-up cultural action and require a more constant complicity between organizers and the public for relocating at the last moment.

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.

## CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS

### 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.
- 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.

### PRODUCTION OF ONLINE SPECIALS:

Live here, live in the world: in commemoration of the earthquake of January 12, 2010. This online event nourishes the memory, assesses the depth of governance frailty, stimulates reflection, sketching out paths towards a possible transformation through a conversation between Michèle Pierre-Louis and young artists, punctuated by film excerpts, songs and texts performed by artists. The event is co-produced by young videographers trained through our Media program.

Breathe, remember, resist. A co-production with the W.K. KELLOGG Foundation, this documentary focuses on the work of Koral FOKAL, our in-house choir, and its commitment to our country and to issues of fundamental rights. A journey through songs written by activist artists, punctuated by interviews with members of Koral FOKAL on the depth of solidarity within the choir, and on the refusal to give up, to transform our present and build – together – our future.

### WORKSHOPS»

Feminine, Masculine / Deconstruction of the ordinary». June 2021. 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 participants wanted this work to continue in 2022.



## CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

- Continue to support the cultural and artistic sector in crisis by inventing new methods.
- Continue to work 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.

## STATISTIC ON THE PROGRAM, IN PERCENTAGES OR IN NUMBERS

The number of artists, entertainment and audiovisual technicians and related trades employed on the online specials: around 75 people. These events reached a public of at least 10,000 viewers and continue to be viewed through FOKAL's youtube channel.

Number of participants in the Feminine/Masculine Deconstruction workshop: 25 artists, each of whom have their own networks, followers and fields of activism.



## B. DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE

### GENERAL FIELD: DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE



## ART AND CULTURE – GRANTS

by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis & Pierre-Richard Amazan

The arts and culture sector in Haiti is generally civically minded and 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. FOKAL supports production, performance, festivals, training, and exchanges in most artistic fields and is accompanying the Centre d'Art, CDA, a 70-year-old institution that today is one of the most vibrant places for creativity and artists' convenings to support social change. Budget cuts imposed by the OSF Transformation were accompanied by tie-off funds for Le Centre d'Art. A financial contract was signed on December 28, 2021, between FOKAL and Le Centre d'Art. According to the contract, a grant report must be submitted by December 28, 2022, with details on the use of the fund and the impact it has created.



### **SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021**

- Funding of new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL's values
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- As of December 31, 2021, FOKAL has granted an amount equal to 99.30% of the budget allocated to the Art and Culture program to 39 grantees, representing 12.70% of the overall amount of grants awarded for the year. 28 beneficiaries selected in the context of calls for proposals for the production of high-quality cultural products received grants up to a maximum of USD 10,000. 7 institutions and 4 festivals received institutional support from FOKAL to help their organizations in framing and promoting Haitian arts and culture with a social ethos and at the service of the community.
- OSF's contribution to fundraising efforts for Le Centre d'Art's new location: as per the contract, 100% of OSF's contribution has been fully disbursed as of December 29, 2021

### **CHALLENGES**

- Support for cultural institutions is becoming increasingly scarce and more and more organizations in the sector are turning to FOKAL for grants.
- Confinement measures, travel restrictions and other elements linked to the pandemic 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.



# A. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

## YOUTH INITIATIVE by Anis Jean-Gérard

In 2021, the coronavirus pandemic, the rampant insecurity in Port-au-Prince, the country’s infrastructural degradation (electricity rationing, scarcity of fuel, difficulties to travel across the country), the earthquake of August 14, unexpected resignations of some debate coaches, forced us to undertake profound changes in our operating modes, in our activity and action plans, and finally to review our prospects. We also had to adapt to the transformation process at work at OSF.

But these hardships have provided us the opportunity to take new initiatives and accelerate projects that were in our pipeline, for example, develop a new debate guide of FOKAL, and to undertake a transformation of the PIJ towards our Transform 2022 plan with fewer clubs, fewer coaches, fewer tournaments, less money.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- A strong collaboration with the Citizen Education Program of the foundation and Lawyers without Borders Canada: 2 human rights awareness days were organized by 3 youth clubs (another one in 2022) in the network, thanks to the technical support and financial support of ASFC: « The right to leisure”; “The right to community life”; “Children’s rights and the fight against child domesticity».
- A new debate guide in development, working in close collaboration with the Citizen Education program, and the support of the Board of the foundation and Lawyers Without Borders Canada.
- 8 online debate tests were organized in 4 months on Zoom to develop a true model to introduce in the program.
- 7 coaches and 3 young people in our clubs’ network participated in a 4-day international online debate training program, supported by our partner, International Debate Education Association (IDEA)
- 2 local debate tournaments realized by the clubs (2 clubs in P-au-P organized a tournament together, and another one in Jacmel)
- 2 one-day-awareness organized by the young people of the debate club in Cap-Haitian, Camp-Perrin, on the rights of sentenced persons held in prisons. Another one is expected in 2022.
- 6 new coaches integrated in the program to replace those who left
- 6 coaches and 3 debate clubs in the south, strongly impacted by the August 2022 earthquake have received financial assistance from the PIJ

## CHALLENGES

- Implement the Transform 2022 Plan.
- Organize an online debate tournament between clubs
- Have the program taken over directly by the partner schools in the country

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS OBJECTIVE

- Succeed in the change of leadership with the new manager of the PIJ
- Publish the new debate new guide expected by the aficionados of debate.





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## **B. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE & ADVANCEMENT)**

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

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. Thanks to a Reserve Fund obtained through OSF-LAP to assist the southern population, FOKAL was able to reach out to over 30 smallholder farmers organizations, partners of our SDP. Our immediate response consisted of cash transfers to help peasant families regain a level of autonomy to obtain urgent and necessary supplies. 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. A fundraising campaign through FOKAL's New York based fundraising platform (Ayiti Demen) also contributed to bring awareness and support to the role of smallholder farmers in Haiti.

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 third phase started in the last quarter of 2021 and will continue in 2022 for the rebuilding of 5 community centers that collapsed during the earthquake.

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 in order to start building more sustained connections with local governments.

In 2021, FOKAL's program supported and accompanied 44 organizations, 3 social enterprises and 3 partner institutions sharing our vision and values. 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. 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.







## URBAN SPACE DEVELOPMENT FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONCEPT: PRESERVATION OF MARTISSANT PARK

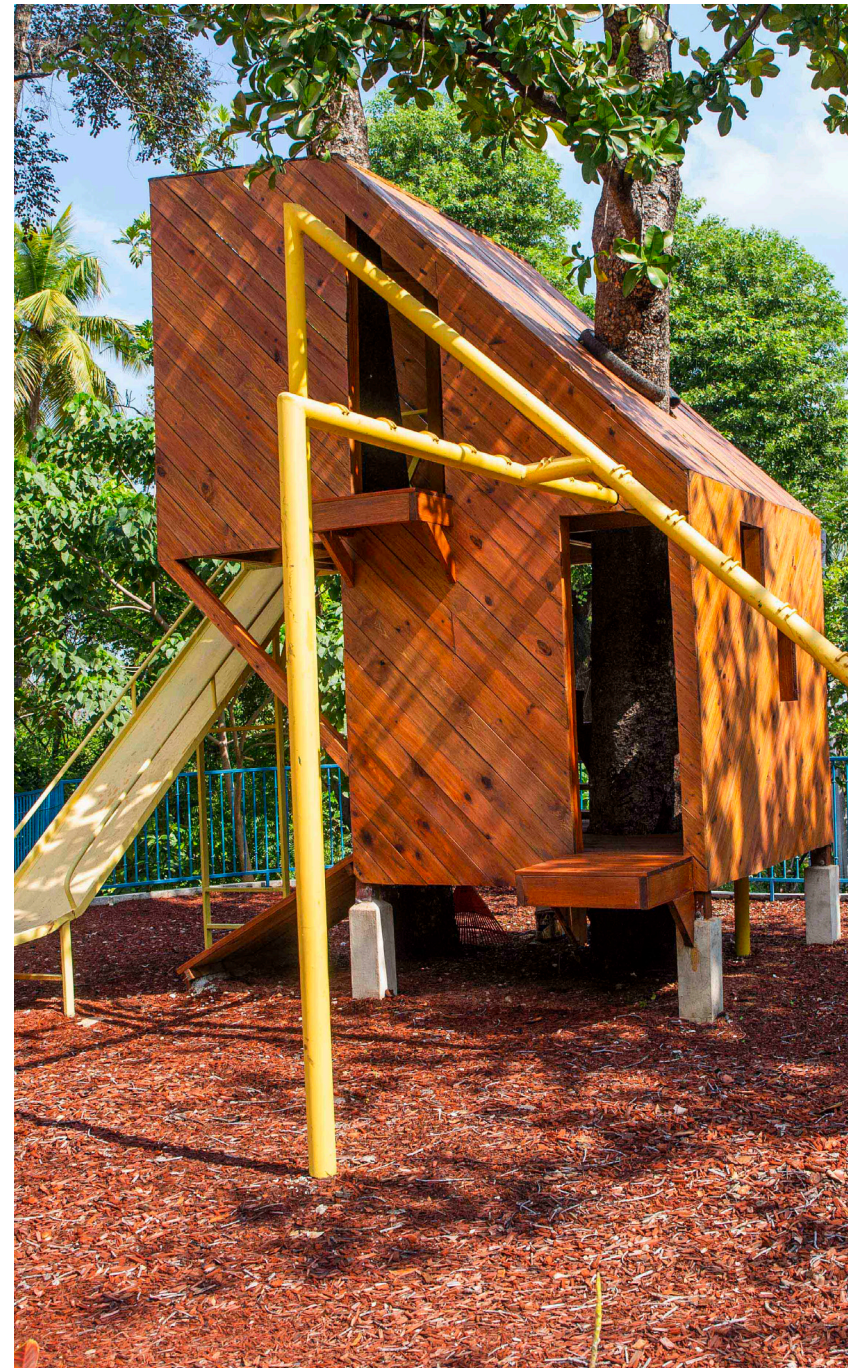
### PARC DE MARTISSANT

by Thierry Cherizard

In the middle of the most densely populated and underprivileged section of Port-au-Prince, FOKAL advocated successfully for --and concretely effected-- the transformation of a wooded space into a public park. From a no-man's-land, the 45-acre park became a vibrant breathing space offering safety, leisure and learning to the local population. The Park attracts visitors from the city, the country, the diaspora, the world. We progressively expanded the scope of educational, civic and leisure activities within the park and negotiated with public authorities and international donors the implementation of planned improvements of infrastructures and services in the entire neighborhood.

Our horizon is to gain enough ground with the process of empowerment of local citizens and raising awareness nationally and internationally for this initiative to gather enough momentum to impulse a larger transformative action in the country.

Begun in 2007, the Martissant Project proved its resilience and capacity to provide safe spaces to support transformative and regenerative processes for urban populations living under high political and economic stress. In 2020, despite the pandemic and rising instability, we maintain this vital space operational and welcomed the W. K. Kellogg Foundation as a new funding partner (WKKF became the larger funder for the Martissant project in 2021). As of the second quarter of 2021, with the increase of gang violence, the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and continuing deterioration of governance and state institutions, our activities were gradually more and more affected to the point of becoming paralyzed by the end of 2021.



## **SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE**

- During 2021 we worked to set up 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.
- We continued our sanitation activities in the neighborhood with volunteers from the many associations with which we work. This makes it possible to keep neighborhoods clean and to unite people in this gesture of taking charge of their public space. More than 280 people were involved and nine communities were touched (Sorray, Baigne, Jeannot, Douyon, Dantès, Tibois, Grand ravine et Bas Martissant and the shorefront)
- We were able to award 200 scholarships to bright children whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. Ten schools in the neighborhood receive these scholarship holders. The year was terrible due to the Covid 19 pandemic and to the socio-economic crisis prevailing in the country and to the increasing gang violence. Still, 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 funded more than 300 projects in 14 communities grouped in 4 categories (training, sports, cultural activities, small infrastructure, and community outreach)
- On April 13, 17 and 24, 2021 we organized waste recovery and recycling workshops for the benefit of 114 participants (102 students, 6 teachers and 6 school staff). This activity takes place in collaboration with 4 schools in the community.
- The Katherine Dunham Cultural Center was forced to close to the public during 2021, although staff continued to work internally until May 2021.

## **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.
- Restructure our teams to better adapt to an uncertain future
- The OSF Transformation provided a tie-off for this project which means that future funding will have to come exclusively from third parties.
- In addition to funding issues, we are working on an exit strategy for Martissant with a one-year time frame if political calm does not come back to allow us to resume work..

## **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. 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 WILL ENABLE 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 will move us as securely as could be hoped to a complete disengagement of OSF funds.

If the security situation is resolved by 2023, 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.



## URBAN SPACE DEVELOPMENT FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONCEPT: PRESERVING AND REHABILITATING CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT NEIGHBORHOODS

### HERITAGE – GINGERBREAD HOUSES

by Farah Hyppolite

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. It is a place for training, fundraising and income generating activities, collaborations with museums, galleries, the Centre d'Art, and regional cultural institutions in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad and Cuba. The Chenet house is fully restored and will become the seat of our reduced and remodeled library program, as part of the changes resulting from the OSF Transformation.

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

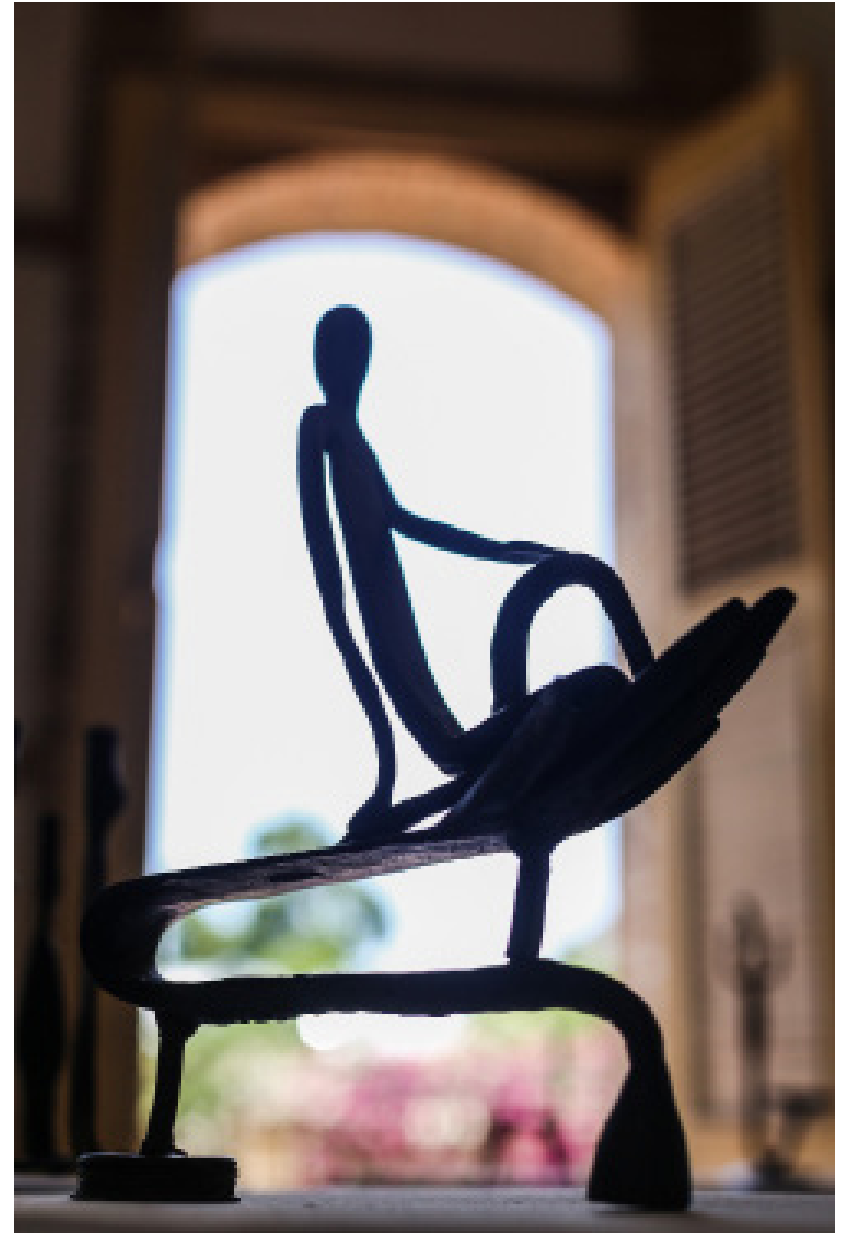
As planned, Dufort House has been used through 2021 for exhibits and cultural events with a heritage preservation aspect. We had three exhibits with Centre d'Art in January (visual arts), with Foudizè Théâtre (Folktales Festival) and with Nway (iron craft). We held workshops on security for journalists, workshops on traditional drumming and we hosted conferences with the State University UEH - IERAH-ISERSS. The Chenet house has been used for the BMC Library debate Club weekly meetings from April to December.

#### CHALLENGES

FOKAL has 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

FOKAL expects that construction will begin before the end of year 2022.





## HIGHER EDUCATION GENERAL - FIELD: HIGH EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

by Michèle D. Pierre-Louis

FOKAL has always worked with the higher education sector to support initiatives, studies, innovation, and research in Haiti and abroad. The objective is to contribute to the creation of a critical mass of citizens capable of responding to Haiti's challenges: scientific, economic, environmental, cultural, social, and political. The University Partnership Program was created after the 2010 earthquake that seriously affected the universities and institutions of higher education that were already weakened by sustained political and social unrests.

This program primarily supports actions in the following domains:

- Public health
- Agriculture & Environment
- Social sciences and computer sciences
- Students volunteering and youth entrepreneurship
- through:
- FTT's teacher training sessions and production of local material while assisting in searching for new donors and opportunities
- Maintaining high academic standards among scholarship beneficiaries through financial assistance, guidance, and internships.

### 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 2021 FOKAL continued to support innovative initiatives in this field. This year, our HE 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 three times 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 the 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.







## HUMAN RIGHTS GENERAL FIELD: HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS & INSTITUTIONS

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

We are committed to nurturing and reinforcing new tendencies in the Haitian human rights movement exemplified by the dynamic Bureau des Droits Humains en Haiti, BDHH, and by the new leadership emerging in Haitian feminist organizations. We are also committed to accompanying the continuing reinforcement of RNDDH, the largest national human rights network. While we continue our granting to human rights institutions and initiatives, we also move to develop dialogue with chosen funders and with regional voices to build alliances on key social justice issues driven by Haitian organizations.

International funders tend to support international NGOs, setting aside critical local voices and disempowering local organizations, creating a gap between a community of “expats” with privileges and a local NGO sector, underfunded, lacking in logistical resources, and affected by brain drain.







### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

FOKAL gave 27 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 to international conferences and meetings.

As part of the OSF Transformation, we closed our collaboration with OSF HRI on support to BDHH, and our jointly funded exploratory work on disabilities rights and on religions and sexualities. HRI was able to disburse some tie-off funds to BDHH and FOKAL will continue its more modest support to this 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.

### 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



## INFORMATION & DIGITAL RIGHTS

### LIBRARY

by Erick Toussaint

We assert reading as a right in a country where it is still a privilege. We support a small network of urban and rural community libraries that constitute unique micro centers for community debate, access to information and culture. It is through this grassroots approach that FOKAL has brought Haitian libraries to regional and international networks and supported Haitian 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.

While we support these efforts, we continue to reduce the number of institutional grants to community libraries in favor of consolidating a few sustainable model libraries and the emergence of innovative projects in public reading.

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic and 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 resiliency. In 2021 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 became the new norm for libraries in response to both the pandemic and the rampant insecurity, live events were held which helped communities withstand the dire conditions nationwide. Activities like Rasin Lespwa Library's open day for schools and partner institutions, Pyepoudre's two weeks of activities (virtual and live) celebrating their 32 years of existence, monthly conferences at the community library of Deschapelles, the outreach activities of CECREJ and Aux Trois Dumas in schools and partner institutions, and finally workshops, book and gastronomic fairs and festivals to celebrate Haitian Creole.

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake affected the entire southern peninsula and destroyed the library in Les Cayes. We were relieved to hear that no members of the team were hurt but the damage was considerable. The team managed to retrieve as many books as they could with the help of the community. Other libraries of the southern region also survived but the shocking experience (over 2000 deaths) brought the need for preparedness back to the conversations in the libraries. The library of Les Cayes conducted activities in open spaces and in schools for the remainder of the year.

### CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge to date remains the 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 as per the alternatives.

### 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 the development of new adapted content.







## GENERAL - FIELD: JOURNALISM

### MEDIA

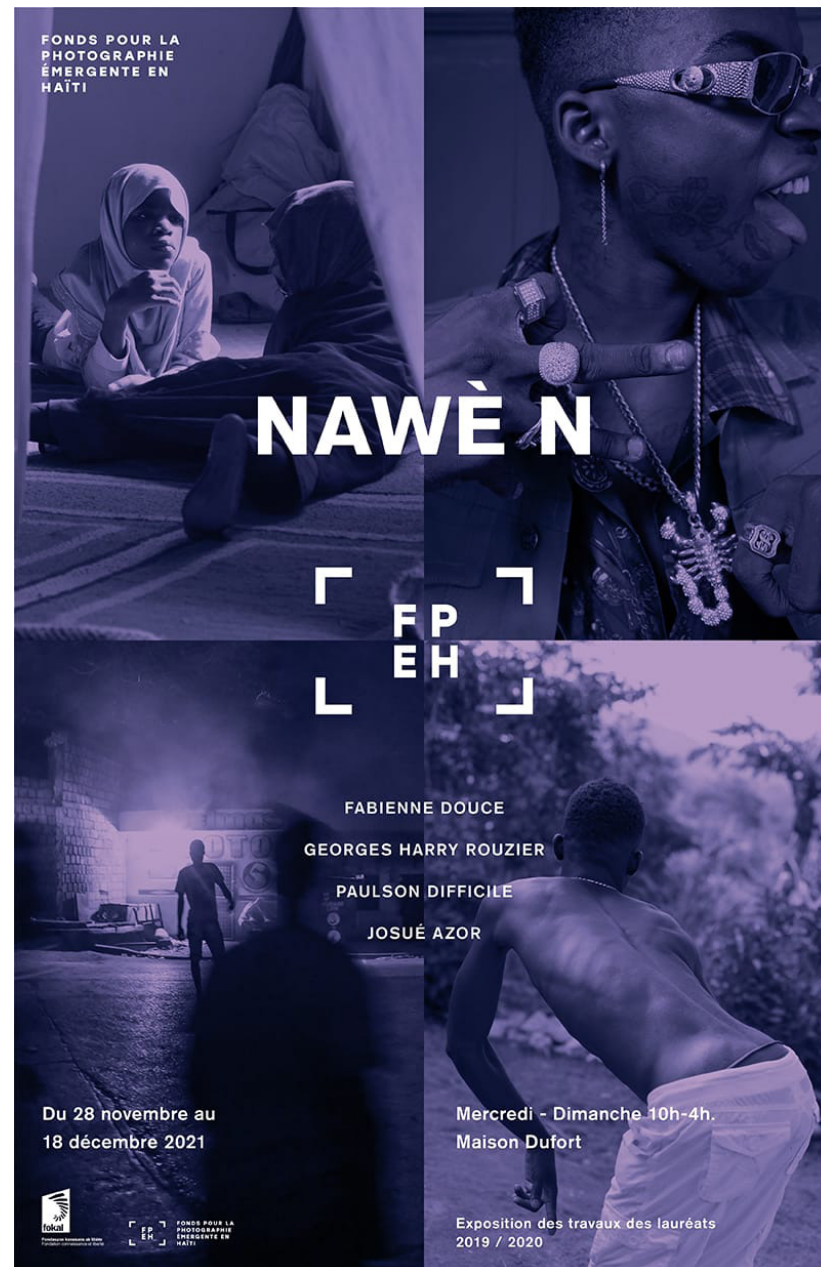
by Maude Malengrez

Instability was high in 2019 and 2020, affecting our media program since our operational activities are focused on training and organizing. With the continuation of the pandemic in 2021 and with the intensification of violence and kidnappings in the capital and beyond, trainings have become even more difficult to hold and online formats were not able to address all the pedagogical 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. With them we were able to organize several support actions for media and journalists facing major threats. Thanks to this work, the Media program organized a training for 40 journalists from different media or collective but also freelancers to work on safety protocols on an individual and institutional level, with the support of Open Briefing. For two different sessions of 3 days, the journalists gathered at the Maison Chenet and at FOKAL, around the security expert Khalil Sayyad Hilario from March 1st to 6th.

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 as of April 2021, with 5 films accessible freely each month for the public in Haïti 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 2021, we were able to propose 45 films and 40 talks with 40 directors and 20 civil society actors working in the field of human rights, women's rights, sports, migration, live arts.

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. FOKAL also sought and found additional funding from the French Embassy in Haïti 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 supported the creation of a memory space at the Jérémie Eliazer school in Kazal, with a display of photographs and books, and the organization of photography workshops for the young students in the locality.

FOKAL also worked on the editing of the second issue of FOTOPAKLÈ, the magazine of the K2D collective, to be released in 2022.

Within the framework of the Emergent photography fund in Haïti (FPEH), FOKAL produced a show of the first four photographer laureates of the fund, named NAWÈ N, at the Maison Dufort, from November 26th until December 18th. The safety context was particularly difficult to navigate at the time with kidnapping skyrocketing in the neighborhood, but we managed to organize visits of the exhibition, and a round of talks with the photographers around their work with other specialists related to the field. Extensive reports were published on FOKAL website. Finally, we organized in December a one-week

training online on "Photography and postcolonial perspectives" with one of the mentor of the 2020 laureates, Italian photographer Nicola Lo Calzo for 30 participants, mostly photographers and students in art history.

Regarding grantmaking, aside from some institutional supports, the annual call for proposal was able to support 13 initiatives led by individuals, media and organizations : the productions of shorts around rural life during the dictatorship, an investigation on marine protected areas, an exhibition on the impunity reigning on murder and attacks of journalists, training of female journalists on the production of podcasts, the printing of a magazine on creole culture, a media supporting women's productions, a documentary film festival, trainings on disinformation in the southern peninsula, workshops on documentary filmmaking, a hyper local media in Thomassaint, 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.

The program also supported the launch of a Caribbean initiative focused on investigative journalism including Haitian journalists, led by the Centro de Periodismo Investigativo in Puerto Rico. The Virtual Caribbean Investigative Journalism Hub Conference was organized at the end of April and the fundings from FOKAL allowed the work of Haitian journalists to be produced and accompanied on issues of climate change in the Caribbean.

## **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 as it has in the recent years.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (FOUNDATIONS)

### COMMUNICATIONS

by Karl Foster Candio

The year 2020 led the Communication department to acquire new skills, in particular on social networks which were used for virtual activities. 2021 was less dynamic in virtual activities, but these spaces continued to play a big role, especially with the political unrest. Thus, to name a few, the traditional commemoration of the January 12, 2010 earthquake of FOKAL took place online, with a special program called «Living here. Living in the world». 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. The FOKAL networks have also enabled the dissemination of activities within the framework of online festivals. The Communication department has sought other assets by securing the services of platforms such as Hootsuite, for optimal use of the networks. To be even closer to Internet users, a smartphone assigned directly to the COM with in particular a Whatsapp Professional number for FOKAL was acquired.

On the technical side, the purchase of a new professional camera has improved the quality of the video recordings, which we organize internally. For more ambitious projects, we have used external audiovisual professionals.

On August 14, 2021, Haiti, more particularly in its southern part, was hit by an earthquake which killed over two thousand and caused immense damage. The Communication Department has supported Ayiti Demen's major campaign, distributing invitations to make donations to assist communities weakened by the disaster and keeping the general public informed of the assistance provided to these communities. Three days later, we also dispatched a cameraman to the field to document the damage suffered during the earthquake of August 14, 2021, in particular by partner organizations working in the South.

In October 2021, the department took part in a joint mission in the South with Ayiti Demen, and the FOKAL Library program, which made it possible to document the assistance provided to these communities in the emergency phase, and the needs of the recovery phase, meeting with affected communities.

## **A FEW WORDS FROM THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR**

Marie Edmonde Jeune

2021 continued to be a test for our administrative processes and grant system. Since 2016, the IT section has been working in creating a secure online platform to process grants, procurement, and payments. When the second wave of the pandemic hit, the whole staff had to work remotely, and the platform worked at its full potential. The administrative service, grants, and financial division worked as a team remotely and were able to function with ease and efficiency.

Thanks to our combined efforts and the austerity measures applied by the finance department, we managed our annual budget and kept operating expenses at the same level as 2018 & 2019. We must also point out that since 2014, our annual budget is fixed.

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!

Koral FOKAL, our cherished staff choir, celebrated its 5th anniversary. It was not possible to perform after March 2020 due to pandemic measures. But, with funding from the W. K. Kellogg foundation, a beautiful documentary was produced: Breathe, remember, resist. In Haitian Kreyol and subtitled in English it showcased the most significant songs of our repertoire as well as interviews of some choir members. We sing for joy and relief, but to affirm our mission or commitment to living and working in Haiti.





## CIVIC EDUCATION



### AJULIH

by Jonathan Perodin

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; contribute to the fight against impunity and corruption; contribute to promoting citizen participation in democratic processes. FOKAL is particularly involved in this latter aspect, through its civic Education program.

Enabling citizens to understand and claim their rights: FOKAL proposes to produce a set of general documents on various human rights themes, to set up a platform for information and online exchanges on these themes, and to offer the public cultural activities to raise awareness specifically of youth to issues of citizenship and human rights through artistic practice.

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

Awareness tools on access to justice

- 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 first two children's books, entitled "Le grand départ" and "Fifi, les reunions", have been completed and translated into Creole; Their printing is planned for the year 2022.
- Our Blue Butterfly partners are continuing to broadcast Lakou Kajou cartoons with TNH and Télé Solèy television stations and community partners.
- The new version of the debate guide is also at an advanced stage of completion. A long work of proofreading and correction was necessary in order to give it editorial value.
- The documentary film entitled «32 years later» and directed by Reginald Louissaint Junior, recounts the tour, in 2018, of the forum theater on the dictatorship. The film was broadcast on April 27, 2021, as part of the Mardi doc series of the FOKAL Media program. The broadcast was followed by a debate on social networks, with Michele Duvivier Pierre-Louis, Pinas Alcera, Reginald Louissaint Junior and Ketsia Vaïnadine Alphonse as speakers.
- An animation guide on children's books for librarians was written by Cherie Rivage. Layout is in progress; publication and training sessions on the use of the guide are planned for next year.
- 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.

**An information, education, and citizen action campaign on human rights, in particular the rights of women, minors and detainees, the duty to remember, the fight against impunity and transitional justice, is Implementation.**

- The workshop entitled «Feminine / Masculine / De/construction of the ordinary», scheduled a year earlier, finally took place from June 7 to 18, 2021, 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 Célia Romulus and D'de Kabal and psychologists Tim-Valda Jean and Jeff Matherson Cadichon. A musical conference, performed on May 10, 2021, by the artist D'de Kabal, preceded the workshop.

- After a day of support with a FOKAL team on October 17, the Camp Perrin debate club was able to carry out its awareness-raising action on the right to leisure on December 18; around 350 young people took part in the activities. Santo and Cape Town Club Awareness Days are scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

The capsule on the right to identity produced by AyiboPost was published on December 8,

- «Liminasyon», a project proposed by the actor and director Miracson Saint-Val, aims to explore, through voodoo songs, themes on human rights, struggles led by African, Afro- American and Caribbean. The album has been completed since June 2021 and was released a few weeks later.

**An information and exchange platform on human rights, particularly those of women, minors, and detainees, and on the fight against impunity is operational.**

A call for proposals was launched at the end of April 2021 for scholarships on human rights themes. The selection committee took place on June 25 and seven projects were selected.

- The call for proposals on human rights in times of crisis was launched on 1 September. Given the various crises facing the Haitian population (health crisis, displacement of populations due to violence, political instability, earthquake in the south, etc.), we have seen fit not to limit this call to strategies management of the pandemic as in the previous year, but to include projects that respond to the situation more generally. The selection committee retained 10 projects were chosen out of a total of 52 proposals, for example, the Pye Poudre Cultural Center proposes to use forum theater to raise awareness of human rights among schoolchildren, Douleurs Sans Frontières plans to provide medical aid and psychosocial support essential for people with disabilities following the August 14 earthquake. These projects will take place between October 2021 and March 2022.
- The awareness campaign conducted in collaboration with CSOs continues. The brochures on the themes of sexual consent, gender-based violence, domestic violence and bullying in the school environment were distributed on social networks on the days of activism against violence against women which took place held from November 25 to December 10.

## CHALLENGES

The time dedicated to editing work and expert consultation on educational tools, for them to be the most adequate and efficient. Spreading human rights trainings and actions in the province, with the logistics it implies.

Empowering the youth so they believe they can be part of the positive changes for a more tolerant, equal and just society.

## NEXT STEPS

More educational tools, trainings and actions will be part of this human rights education campaign.



## 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

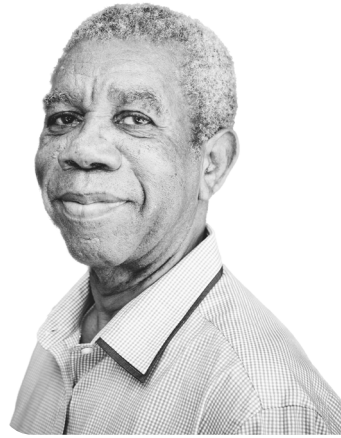
Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and 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  
Annual Report

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