

BUXTON/ FRIENDSHIP MUSEUM, ARCHIVES & CULTURE CENTER (BFMACC)

(Supported by Friends of Villages Museum & Archives Inc., a non-profit organization in the USA)

LOT 35 BUXTON MIDDLE STREET (Lower Level)

BUXTON VILLAGE, EAST COAST, DEMERARA, GUYANA,

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Note: The Museum is currently open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 1 pm- 5 pm

On August 7th 2021, we celebrated our third Anniversary at the Museum Compound at the address above with a simple program held virtually and attended by members of the Board of directors, the Young Visionaries, with drumming and folk songs. Libation and address by Deon Abrams chaired by Bonita Hatton with address by Keith Easton, the founder and representative of the Friends of the Villages Museum & Archives in the USA.

Our fundraising arm, Friends of Villages Museum and Archives Inc. in the USA will be holding its “**Second Biennial Special Awards Recognition**” Virtual function on **November 14th, 2021** and, a raffle will also be drawn virtually at the Taste of the Caribbean on **December 17th, 2021**, in the evening. We look forward for your support at these occasions.

Below is a brief review of the Museums’ performance and activities to date for your information.

Located in a historical village on the East Coast of Demerara, such a museum has much more meaning, since it embodies not only a museum, but an Archive with a cultural mandate. What is also significant about BFMACC is our Mission of “rekindling the ancestral fortitude which can promote resilient entrepreneurial contributions in molding the socioeconomic fabric of the villages and nation of Guyana.” It is our duty to preserve historical documents, memorabilia and historical artifacts for future generations based on our mission outlined when we held our **grand opening on August 4th, 2018**.

Mr. Deon Abrams was the featured speaker at the First Anniversary celebration at the Museum compound on August 3rd.2019, while Dr. Barbara Josiah was the keynote speaker, for our First Annual Dinner & Dance in Guyana on August 4th 2019, which was held at the Tipperary Hall in Buxton. It was a tremendous success. In November 2019 “**The Friends of the Villages Museum & Archives Inc.**” held its First Biennial Special Awards Dinner & Dance at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center in Laurel, Maryland USA. The keynote speaker for this event was Dr. Nigel Westmaas.

In keeping with our mission, we co-sponsored and sponsored Economic Development seminars, donated masks to the Health Center in Buxton / Friendship Village, for the chronically ill elderly and pensioners. The masks were made by Primo's Garment Manufacturing Est. in Buxton.

We were also able to hold several exhibitions and hosted many visitors. A limited grant was secured from the Government of Guyana which enabled us to place a sign on the main road, along with other enhancements and expenses for the museum. The street leading from the main road is now paved.

In keeping with our mission and vision, the Young Visionaries group was formed earlier, in 2015. It has a mandate to carry out that legacy of BFMACC and are continuously being educated to such effect. This education of the Young Visionaries is ensured with their attendance at Summer Programs at Walter Roth and the National Museum along with annual programs by the 3rd year class of Social Work Students from the University of Guyana who volunteered at the Museum and worked with the Young Visionaries. These youths are the beneficiaries and the future life of the Museum & Archives. It is their duty and that of the other youths in the village to protect and ensure its continuity. The Young Visionaries held a successful two-day Farmers Market in early 2021. The brain child of this Market was Bro. Ascari Campbell, BFMACC security officer, who

has been engaged in Agriculture the in the compound of the Museum since it opened. He worked with other board members and a board member of the Young Visionaries in organizing the event. He is also educating our Young Visionaries in Agriculture.

To date, BFMACC has attracted numerous visitors, both locally and from overseas. In addition, students from many schools in the district visited the facility as part of their civics and social studies program, while students from the University of Guyana visited as part of their research projects since we opened. Some also participated in our Young Visionaries programs and assisted in enhancing the Museum collections of artifacts from the village.

We held our first Kwanza celebration on December 27, 2020. This event was a continuation from the first joint program of a Kwanza teach in, which was held with **IDPAD-G** in December 2019. At both events books were distributed to the children with a cultural program of drumming and refreshments, which reminded us of our ancestors. The Museum and Archives also recently accommodated two organized tours from the "[Singing Chef Adventures](#)" and "[A Taste of Freedom Tour](#)".

In keeping with our purpose and the enhancement of our library, we recently received five boxes of scholarly books, manuscripts and periodicals for research purposes from Dr. Barbara Josiah in the USA. This is in addition to numerous documents received from Dr. Nigel Westmaas and other archival material on Buxton/Friendship; books and Tapes from Patrick Bathersfield and Dr. Owen Ifill.

We must also acknowledge another donation of an artifact from Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder/Director & Principal Curator of the [AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM](#) in Baltimore. The artifact is from Patrick Davis, a Guyanese self-taught artist residing in Texas USA, known for his *papier Mache* figures. Also, in keeping with the principle of gifting, we recently acknowledged an agreement from Bro. Eusi Kwayana to print and receive part of the proceeds from the sales of his book "**Buxton in Print and Memory**".

To date, we are very pleased with what has been accomplished and look forward to your continued support as we seek to build on the foundation established and work towards long term functioning and sustainability of the BFMACC. We thank all contributors for their generous support and contribution of cash, in-kind support, as well as the donation of artifacts and historical documents.

We ask that you commit to safeguarding your health, further enabling us to preserve our history and culture thereby enhancing our Mission and Vision.

Please visit our Web Site under construction: <https://www.buxtonfriendshipmuseum.com> or <http://friendsofvma.com>

Stay well, stay safe.

Sincerely,

Keith Easton-For BFMACC

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