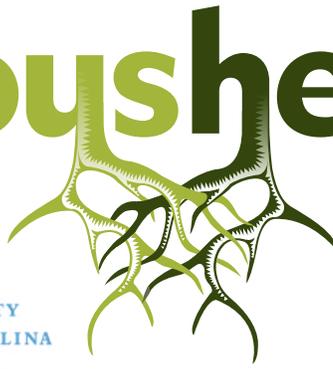


Indigenous heritage



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Passed to Present
P.O. Box 941, Chapel Hill, NC
27514

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Featured Program: The Seine Bight Cultural Heritage Project

In 2014, InHerit awarded a Cultural Heritage Conservation Grant to Seine Bight village, in collaboration with Dr. Christian Wells and colleagues at the University of South Florida, to address "heritage erosion" and provide a culturally sensitive way for local people to welcome visitors and participate in the growing tourist industry in Belize.



Seine Bight schoolchildren love their community!



Belize and the Stann Creek district

Located on the Placencia Peninsula on the south-central coast, the fishing village of Seine Bight is a community of about 2,500 people. While the village is multi-ethnic, Seine Bight residents identify primarily as Garifuna, descendants of Indigenous Caribs and West Africans. The name of the village comes from a type of net that fishermen use ("seine") and the word for an inlet in the coastline ("bight").

Working in partnership with the village council and the National Garifuna Council, participants are turning an old water reservoir (right) into a cultural heritage museum that features exhibits informed by community-based mapping and oral histories. The museum also functions as a repository for heritage artifacts from the community, including significant art, clothing, and documents.

The cement platform of an old water reservoir is the future site of the Garifuna Museum (right).





The Reservoir to Museum Foundation sells traditional Garifuna food to raise funds.

In a recent interview, Dr. Wells stated that, "The community is trying to embrace tourism as a way to promote development, infrastructure, and economic security, but not at the expense of its cultural and communal identity." The Seine Bight community is constructing their own heritage narrative for visitors.



Dr. Wells works with schoolchildren in Seine Bight.

A local nonprofit, the Seine Bight Reservoir to Museum Foundation, has held fundraising campaigns to support the construction of the museum. They also have orchestrated community capacity building workshops on heritage mapping using GPS units, and training with digital recording equipment in order to collect oral histories.

The success of their project was recently recognized with a Research That Matters grant from the University of South Florida's Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships. With this support Seine Bight residents are leveraging Garifuna culture and heritage as a tourism development asset while conserving important cultural knowledge for future generations. Congratulations to Seine Bight village, Dr. Wells, and his team!

New Project in the Toledo district, Belize



Primary school students from Aguacate village, Toledo district, visit a local archaeological site.

We have received funding for a community heritage project in the Toledo district, southern Belize! We will work with local communities to record and monitor archaeological sites. The proposed program includes training workshops for community members in mapping and archaeological methods. Program Director Claire Novotny traveled to Belize in early December to meet with the National Institute of Culture and History and the Maya Leaders Alliance to plan the implementation of this initiative. Look for updates in future newsletters!

Expansion Planned for Tahcabo Community Museum!

With funding from the Archaeological Institute of America awarded to Patricia McAnany and Sarah Rowe, the small museum in Tahcabo, Yucatán opened in August, 2015. The heritage committee in Tahcabo met in November to discuss expanding the community museum to increase public access and incorporate future exhibits. New childrens' books in Yucatec Maya were added to the library. Future plans include a workshop on the the Madrid Codex and rehabilitation of the town churchyard.



The Tachcabo Heritage Committee meets in the community museum.

Alliance for Heritage Conservation Winter Board Meeting

On December 1st our sister organization, the Alliance for Heritage Conservation held a board meeting at the home of Florence Peacock. We welcomed two new boardmembers: Dr. Sarah Rowe and Dr. Alicia McGill, who agreed to be our new Chairperson.

Dr. McGill is Assistant Professor of Public History at North Carolina State University. She conducts research in Belize on how narratives about the past are promoted through public venues such as archaeological sites, tourism, and education.

Dr. Rowe is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Her work focuses on cultural heritage and community engagement on the coast of Ecuador. We look forward to working with both of you in the new year!



Dr. Alicia McGill, new Board Chairperson for The Alliance for Heritage Conservation



Dr. Sarah Rowe, new boardmember of the Alliance for Heritage Conservation



Please Consider Supporting InHerit
and the Alliance for Heritage
Conservation
with a Tax-Deductible Donation



This year was a successful one for InHerit; your generous donations supported flourishing collaborations in Guatemala and new programming in Belize and Mexico. During this season of giving, your donation to our sister organization, The Alliance for Heritage Conservation, will help propel our programs into the new year. Tax-deductible donations to The Alliance, a registered nonprofit, help support our mission and programs such as:

- Expansion of New Maya Heritage-based Curriculum into more Petén, Guatemala Schools
- Heritage Education through arts and games
- Heritage Museum at Tahcabo, Yucatán, Mexico
- Community-based Site Stewardship Program in Toledo, Belize
- And much more!



You can make a donation by visiting our website (in-herit.org/bazaar.html), or send a check to:

The Alliance for Heritage Conservation

PO Box 941

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