PRESS RELEASE

In response to various institutional breaches affecting National Archives in the Caribbean
31 January 2024

CARBICA: Protect Our Caribbean Documentary Heritage

The Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA), strives to ensure that the Caribbean documentary heritage is properly protected against natural and man-made disasters. The heritage is unique and fragile but represents important values for national identity and as a binding force to promote the unity of the nation. Housing is the first protection in our stewardship.

The recent examples around the Caribbean, involving acts of vandalism, weakened building infrastructure, resulting in limited access services, are testament to the fragility of the framework which the Caribbean’s documentary materials are held, and the unfavourable conditions in which our archivists and their professional staff are required to work.

CARBICA adds its voice in the calls of appeals to regional governments to prioritize the care tasks of their documentary heritage. National Archives are critical hubs for information sources that provide evidences of our cultural heritage, national identity, as well as the rights of citizens. It is still the primary responsibility of the nation’s government to ensure the protection of both the facility and records of the nation.

CARBICA stands ready to support regional governments and national archivists in providing training, technical expertise, and collegiate knowledge in enabling National Archives and all agencies and institutions charged with holding records of enduring value to ensure the long-term preservation and use of documentary materials in the Caribbean.

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About CARBICA: The Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) is the premier regional body for the promotion and development of Archives. It is part of a bigger network, the International Council on Archives (ICA) which works closely with UNESCO. ICA has more than 1700 members in over 180 countries, which makes it truly international. CARBICA exists, inter alia to establish, maintain and strengthen relations between institutions and individuals concerned with the custody, organization and administration of archives in the Caribbean area; promote all measures for the preservation of all material of documentary value; encourage in all countries in the Caribbean the establishment of archives and
the professional training of archivists in the Caribbean region; advocate for the implementation of records management programs in whatever media in the various Caribbean countries; advocate the more frequent use of archives and to encourage greater ease of access to archival material. CARBICA’s membership includes the various national archives in the region as well as persons working in the field of archives, records and information management.

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