



Fondasyon konesans ak libète  
Fondation connaissance et liberté

ANNUAL REPORT | 2019



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# AYITI NAN SANT LA

HAITIAN AND HAITIAN AMERICAN MILLENIALS



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Lorraine Mangonès

Politically and economically, 2019 was a tumultuous year punctuated by unprecedented periods of complete lock down of all the major cities imposed by various groups to protest a number of government inactions and abuses. The paralysis of circulation throughout the country further asphyxiated an already struggling economy while the government allowed armed gangs to further disrupt everyday life, thus forcing deeper structural issues and protests to recede unaddressed, unresolved, and therefore becoming potentially more explosive.

It is against this difficult backdrop that FOKAL and other local civil society organizations doubled down to continue our long walk alongside the most marginalized, the youth, the universities, the artists, the farmers. Our spirit is constantly lifted by the people we serve and our work is solidly supported by an amazingly courageous and efficient administrative, IT and technical staff.

#### A few highlights:

- The artistic sector defied all odds by realizing more events, festivals, concerts and other creative endeavors than ever before with renewed commitment to excellence as well as to raising civic issues to the forefront and within deeply affected urban communities. At year's end, the annual theater festival of the Crossroads (Festival Quatre Chemins) honored FOKAL's own artistic director, Michèle Lemoine, who in turn used that forum to reveal remarkable young talents in highly challenging roles that most powerfully echoed some of our most pressing social issues.
- In spite of major roadblocks and the spread of armed criminal activities to the rural areas, we were able to expand our network of smallholder farmers organized groups and together continue our upward battle to fight food insecurity and defend the rights of this most significant and yet most marginalized sector of the Haitian population.
- Our Media Program managed multiple high level trainings for young

alternative media and advanced partnerships in the Caribbean region with support from OSF's Program for Independent Journalism.

- Our Civic Education Program brought new dynamism inside our organization by activating multilevel collaborations between our operational and grant-making programs and by broadening the field of young civic engagement.
- Thanks to partnerships with the American Jewish World Service and with support for OSF's Higher Education Support Program, FOKAL's University partnership was able to establish productive and promising exchanges across the border in the Dominican Republic to begin engaging in transnational social studies.
- We were able to consolidate our partnership with the Haitian American community organization Sant La in South Florida and began establishing important links between youth organizations in Haiti and in South Florida.

We continue to be highly appreciative for the guidance and partnerships from our OSF network colleagues in programs, hubs and with the Latin America and Caribbean Program as we deepen our collaborative work on regional and thematic issues. We are grateful to Rashida Bumbray, of the Culture and Art Program, for the depth of her understanding of the central role culture and creativity play in our work and for connecting us to our OSF West African colleagues as we explore together Haiti's significance among African diasporic populations. We have learned greatly from exchanges and collaborations with HRI, PHP and HESP as well as with many individual colleagues throughout the network and are eager to pursue the work they have inspired and contributed to.

At the end of what has been an extremely complex and trying year, we celebrate the determination and energy of the people we work for and reaffirm our belief in the promise of Haiti.

# 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)

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 501c3 federal tax exemption status.









## **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

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.

*Art interacts with human rights, knowledge, memory and citizenship.*

The arts and culture program initiates, produces, finances, disseminates and hosts public events in the field of arts and knowledge. These events relate to civic themes in partnership with organizations, groups or individuals.

**Creation and knowledge: «Against all odds» ...**

The end of 2018 and much of 2019 were periods of intense political turmoil, which severely hampered creation and programming. Many activities had to be canceled. It is therefore most remarkable that artists went above and beyond to create and produce «against all odds».

**ART IN DIALOGUE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM, AND SPECIFICALLY WOMEN'S RIGHTS:**

**PLAYS PRODUCED:** “Women’s stories” by Dario Fo and Franca Rame, directed by Eliezer Guérismé and Cinglée by Céline Delbecq, directed by Michèle Lemoine) - Violence in a world where relationships between men and women lead to isolation, insidious violence causing women and men to question the discourse on femininity transmitted from generation to generation, murderous violence, trivialized by the various facts about feminicides ...

**SHOWS:** «Limyè» and «@Trente ans» - Limyè was created by Gaëlle Bien-Aimé from the music and texts of the Haitian songwriter Manno Charlemagne, whose texts denounce social injustices and bring unique insights into Haitian society in all its complexity. The issues tackled by his songs in the 80s and 90s still persist ...

@Trente ans brings together contemporary texts by young authors, interpreted by slammers, singers, actors, musicians, dancers, dancers to talk, sing - shout - what those who are approaching or have just passed their thirties in Haiti feel, think and experience.

**CONCERT:** “Feminism in songs” – revisiting, rearranging a selection of songs which carried the feminist movement or which tell about its challenges in Haiti and around the world ... Performed only by women singers and musicians, the concert is part of a set of transversal activities organized at FOKAL around this theme.

**EXHIBIT** “Where are the women?”- in partnership with the Civic Education program, an educational exhibition which questions the presence of women, Haitians and the rest of the world, in the spaces of power, decision-making and citizenship, and traces the struggles of women for the respect and guarantee of their fundamentals. The exhibition is part of a series of multidisciplinary and transversal events around human rights, organized within the framework of the special project “Citizen education”: exhibition, conferences, screenings, debates, concert: a mirror of the fights carried out collectively, in order to encourage meditation, questioning, vigilance, commitment, and awareness that the defense of human rights is everyone’s business.



### **OVERVIEW OF THE 2019 PROGRAM:**

**THEATER** - Pèlentèt by Franketienne, directed by Staloff Tropfort; In Memoriam, by Jean-René Lemoine, staged by Miracson Saint-Val for the commemoration of the earthquake of January 12, 2010

**MUSIC** – Young talents concert of the International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince; Jehyna Sahyeir; Beethova Obas; Darline Desca;

**FESTIVALS** – Reading Marathon; Kont anba tone (folktales festival); Europe Film Festival; New Views of Haiti Film Festival; Urban foulbrood poetry festival; BITH's En Lisant Theater Festival; Quatre Chemins (Crossroads) Festival.

**CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, TALKS, FILMS &-DEBATES** – Judicial speech competition within the framework of the partnership with the BDHH; tribute to director Rigoberto Lopez; film on pretrial detention by the Haitian Human Rights Office; Europe week projections (immigration theme)

**WORKSHOPS** - International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince of the Haiti Jazz Foundation.

### **CHALLENGES**

To support and nurture vibrant multidisciplinary and transversal citizen creativity in an increasingly violent and unstable political context.

### **NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVING THIS GOAL**

Make our approach part of a Caribbean strategy, collaborate with other OSF foundations.

**B. DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE**  
**GENERAL FIELD: DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE**



**ART AND CULTURE – GRANTS**  
by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

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. FOKAL supports production, performance, training and exchanges and is accompanying the renaissance of the Centre d'Art, a 75 year old institution destroyed by the earthquake that today is one of the most vibrant places for creativity and artists' convening to support social change. The power and diversity of artistic expression in Haiti (and in the Haitian diaspora) is the most radical response to the country's constant portrayal from the outside as a humanitarian case.



### **SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019**

- Funding of new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL's values
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- 7 institutions and 5 festivals receive institutional support from FOKAL to support their organizations in the work of framing and promoting Haitian art and culture at the service of the community.
- 12 beneficiaries selected in the context of calls for proposals for the production of high quality cultural products have received grants up to a maximum of USD 10,000. Smaller grants were awarded to over 17 individuals or grassroots associations.
- Identifying potential artists/collectives to work with the OSF Arts Exchange Program.

### **CHALLENGES**

Despite the call for proposals, we still find it necessary to reserve an amount for small grants used for artists traveling abroad and smaller initiatives.

- The call for proposals is now more widely known and submissions are increasing.
- Support for cultural institutions is becoming increasingly scarce and more and more organizations in the sector are turning to FOKAL for grants.

### **NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE**

Continue to seek financial and technical partnerships for the field.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**



**YOUTH INITIATIVE**  
by Anis Jean-Gérard

This program aims at training youth on questions related to democracy building, citizen engagement, human rights. The 2019 debate summer camp was the space where these questions were discussed with young people.

A meeting with the 28 people in charge of the 14 debate clubs of our network, in December 2018, defined the following objectives and priorities for the 2019 program: share the experiences of activities in the clubs, think about solutions for new challenges for young people, and discover new tools and projects in the program.

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE**

- About 400 young people members in 14 debate clubs across Haiti involved in the program.
- More girls are members of debate clubs and involved in the debate tournaments of FOKAL, at least 52 % compared to 2018
- A stronger collaboration with the Citizen Education Program of the foundation and Lawyers without Borders Canada: 9 trainings, brainstorming and discussion workshops with 6 human rights experts on various topics: «Social networks and new media: economy and functioning»; «The truth in the age of social networks»; «Activism and counter-activism in the age of social networks»; «How to read the press?»; «Key concepts around the rights of detainees».
- Definitive implementation of the World School Debating Championship format in our official debate tournaments
- 7 itinerant trainings for 115 new volunteer coaches in the 14 debate clubs of our network, over a 5-month period
- 10 local debate tournaments realized by the clubs (on 14 expected)
- 1 one-day-awareness organized by the young people of the debate club in the city of Jérémie, on the rights of prison detainees.

**CHALLENGES**

- Advancing human rights issues remains a slow process and school years often go too fast, especially with interruptions caused by violent political turmoil.
- Realize the awareness days with debate clubs have been difficult, because of a strong political crisis and the paralysis of activities and traffic in the country for more than 4 months. Only 1 of 3 projects have been completed.

**NEXT STEPS FOR THIS OBJECTIVE**

- Organize 14 interschool debate tournaments in the program
- Organize 3 1-day awareness with debate clubs about citizen rights in 2020
- Start the process to organize an international debate tournament in Haiti



## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

### TIPA TIPA

by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

The Tipa Tipa Foundation was planning in 2019 to continue to train pre-school and primary teachers in 12 schools across the country, to organize advocacy for access to better education for disadvantaged children and their families and to make training for staff of the Ministry of Education.

#### SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- Tipa Tipa Foundation has worked with national and international partners on the well-being and positive parenting of children. Preliminary meetings to prepare advocacy for access to better education for disadvantaged children and their families have taken place. We can also mention as realization:
- Tipa tipa conducted a study for the ministry on parent education in Haiti.
- Links to the UNICEF Office for Parental Education.
- Development of an online training platform

#### CHALLENGES

Difficulty for institutions to engage effectively in advocacy, drastic reduction of funds as well as social and political instability

#### NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

Tipa tipa Foundation commits to continue working on advocacy for children with interested local institutions and other public and private partners.



## FIELD: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

by Michèle D. Pierre-Louis

This program attributes close to twenty grants per financial year. Through small economic investments, we aim to assist rural grassroots organizations and smallholder farmers, men and women who have demonstrated a 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 SME's in the sector should grow and reach larger fair trade markets. We also aim to contribute to the creation of a federation of smallholder farmers capable of working on national advocacy for food security and related political action. This process is underway and showing positive improvement.





#### **SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:**

In spite of adverse conditions caused by growing political unrest that impact on local production and markets, our program has been able to maintain a good level of support to peasant organizations in 25 rural areas in the country 6 more than the previous year. Meetings among organizations were held to share experiences and discuss issues and challenges.

#### **CHALLENGES**

On this subject, the main challenge remains the capacity to collect data that will support advocacy campaigns vis-à-vis the central and local governments. The focus of these campaigns is to insist on the importance of the agricultural share in the GDP (25%) while the sector is totally neglected by the public and private sectors whose investments are close to nil. Yet, the local production created by smallholder farmers is the only sustained activity that really tries to fight food insecurity.

#### **NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE**

That is why we plan to work actively in 2020 with all willing partners to launch a vast program of data collection on major value chain products. This process will build capacity by introducing and training in new methods of measuring the peasant organizations' work in order to achieve that goal. At the same time, bring awareness on the collective force they represent on the political scene.

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

### PARC DE MARTISSANT

by Michèle D. Pierre-Louis

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 is now 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 continue to expand the scope of educational, civic and leisure activities within the park and we continue to negotiate with public authorities and international donors the implementation of planned improvements of infrastructures and services in the entire neighborhood.

#### CHALLENGES

THE MAJOR CHALLENGE REMAINS THE INSECURITY THAT PLAGUES THIS SECTION OF PORT-AU-PRINCE BECAUSE OF GANG WARS NOURISHED BY POLITICAL ILLICIT INTERESTS.

ANOTHER MAIN CHALLENGE IS TO OBTAIN THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PARK (A PUBLIC PARK), A CONSTANT STRUGGLE FOR US EACH YEAR.

#### NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

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.





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

### HERITAGE – GINGERBREAD HOUSES

by Farah Hyppolite

Many activities took place at the Dufort House. Exhibits, conferences and art causeries. Most of these activities were done with the collaboration of other institutions: Japan Embassy, Centre d'art, museums associations, cultural associations. The Chenet house has been completely restored. We organized visits of the neighborhood from one house to the other for architecture students and tourism students.

The challenge of the year was to back-up the artisans who were trained by the project in finding jobs in the field of restauration. They had many demands for small jobs and one large project with an owner who restored completely his house.

The Gingerbread project is now the Heritage project which implies a wider field of activities to promote and protect Haitian heritage within a broader scope.





## 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 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
- 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:**

In year 2019, our support to Ecole Normale Supérieure of the Université d'Etat d'Haïti helped in the creation of a biology lab and support to foreign missions in mathematics, geography and physics. Unfortunately, the political situation did not permit many other programs that were planned to take place.

Our support also helped the Research Lab at the Faculté d'Ethnologie to expand. Our partner, Caribaea Initiative also received a grant to support young Haitians to pursue their Master Degrees and PhD's in areas of biodiversity never studied so far in Haiti.

141 candidates received financial support from FOKAL whether as full scholarships to study in local universities and vocational schools, seed money for Masters degrees abroad or participate in seminars abroad.

In view of developing a Caribbean Strategy, higher education organizations from the Dominican Republic received grants for their scholarly endeavors in collaboration with Haitian partners. This was also supported by OSF-HESP

### **CHALLENGES**

Higher Ed is a very sensitive sector and the most neglected in the education framework by the international donors. The most important challenge in this area is to stop or slow the brain drain, by encouraging the educated youth to remain in the country and contribute to its recovery and development.

### **NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE**

In a country that has little to offer to young graduates and allocate an insignificant part of its budget to higher education, it is not easy to convince to stay. There has to be a narrative change based on history, values of solidarity and dignity on a continuing basis. Science should also be a focus in this initiative as there can be no real State without science.

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



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

by Lorraine Mangonès

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 Haïti, BDHH, and by the new leadership emerging in Haitian feminist organizations. While we continue our grant making to a number of 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. Civil society is an important element of democratic construction. One of the effects of the post-dictatorship era was the emergence of many organizations and associations that carried previously repressed expressions of freedom: speech, circulation, association

### **SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:**

Fokal gave 55 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.

In Collaboration with OSF's Human Rights Initiative, FOKAL was able to give the Bureau des Droits Humains Haiti (Office of Human Rights Haiti) a more substantial financial support, for this dynamic young structure that is boldly challenging 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 rising State violence
- 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 rewarding 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. 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 (from 20 to 16) in favor of consolidating a few sustainable model libraries and the emergence of innovative projects in public reading.

## **SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:**

### **Continuing work on the online catalog:**

The efforts to have a fully functional database has been ongoing during the year 2018. Correcting all the errors from the old catalog takes time as the libraries, most of time, are open while the staff is making the changes. Hopefully, we can collect relevant data to have a good understanding of the user preferences and have better offers as time goes by.

**FOCUS ON THE KIDS IN THE LIBRARY:** Some of the libraries didn't have a dedicated space for kids nor a special collection. It was decided to work with every library in creating such space and develop a series of special activities along with a specific collection of books.

**COMMON PROGRAMMING CALENDAR FOR THE LIBRARY NETWORK:** The experience to have a common programming for libraries of the network has proven to be a success. Yet again, in 2019, we renewed it and have monthly thematic subjects in a partnership with the AJULIH program to have a focus on human rights explained to kids covering basic human rights concepts up to more advanced ones.

**NETWORK LIFE:** Through the membership of FOKAL in different major library associations, the library program participated in different congresses:

- ACURIL in Aruba with the theme "Access and opportunity for all: Caribbean libraries, archives and museums supporting the United Nations sustainable development goals".
- IFLA in Athens, Greece with the theme "Libraries: Dialogue for change" was an opportunity for the delegation to explore the different online contents platforms and discuss with the publishers' representatives to see how, in a near future, we can enrich the availability of scientific documentation for our users in the network.

## **CHALLENGES**

The political situation of the country paralyzed the activities most of the time throughout the year but some libraries managed to remain in contact with their patrons by creating new ways to bring books to the users and among other things.

including rising State violence

- Generation-to-generation transmission is lacking and younger generations are less involved or less interested in human rights issues.

## **NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE**

As the recent episodes of lock-downs due to politics have taught us, we will develop new tools to evaluate the work of the libraries from the distance and a list of activities and ways to reach out to the users. We will also continue the partnership with other programs as it is proven to be very effective in offering a variety of content with the help of new technologies. And since it is still very relevant, we will continue the education works on human rights explained to the children, the youngsters and keep the conversation ongoing.

## GENERAL - FIELD: JOURNALISM

### MEDIA

by Maude Malengrez

2019 has been a difficult year to organize training actions and public gatherings, due to the political crisis started in 2018. Nevertheless, the Media program has completed and launched different actions.

In the field of investigative journalism, FOKAL has managed a 4 months' initiative training 12 Haitian journalists who produced 7 pieces related to the 10 years' anniversary of the earthquake, published in Haitian media (Ayibopost, Alterpresse, Le Nouvelliste, Enquête'action); FOKAL has published the archives of the "Ayiti Kale Je" project gathering 39 pieces on the reconstruction process in 2010, ahead of the anniversary of the earthquake. FOKAL has also supported the participation of 3 journalists and bloggers to a conference on corruption organized by the Centro de Periodismo Investigativo in Puerto Rico.

In the field of documentary cinema, an extensive initiative was launched to produce short films through the training of 6 young directors. The MARDI. doc (Tuesday Doc) weekly screenings dedicated to documentary films has continued during the course of 2019, being disrupted by the political events leading to several cancellation and reports. Nevertheless, we organized almost 40 screenings in partnership with local organizations and events. FOKAL also worked to relaunch a collaboration between Haïti and the Cinema school in Cuba (EICTV) by organizing the pre-selection process and offering a fellowship.

In the field of documentary photography and photojournalism, the KAZAL project on the memory of the dictatorship resulted in the launching of a book and an exhibition for the 50th anniversary of the Kazal massacre under the dictatorship of Francois Duvalier. The work was selected in the Bamako Biennale of Photography in Mali and FOKAL supported the presence of a photographer and the artistic director there. The work produced by the K2D collective and FOKAL and published in the magazine Fotopaklè was shown at the National Theater in Belgium and an event organized by the Midis de la Poésie in collaboration with FOKAL and various actors was organized around Haitian poetry; including in photography. The work of K2D was also displayed at the Visa pour l'image festival in Perpignan (France) and FOKAL supported the presence of a member from the collective at the festival. FOKAL supported the coming of a graphic designer to work with the collective at the design of the second issue of their magazine.

Regarding the grantmaking, 6 projects have been supported through our call for projects: a conference on the media and the diaspora; reports on the livelihood of peasant women; documentary films trainings; publishing of a magazine on creole cultures; a civic media project and a community radio. We were also able to credit an online media with an institutional grant in collaboration with the Program on independent journalism from the Open society foundations. We continued our support to a community radio network and to events in the field like prizes for journalists. Five grants were also given to young Haitian journalists, photographers or film directors to attend events and training abroad.

### CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

The political crisis that emerged mid-2018 has affected our activities in the field and particularly the follow-up of our grantees on the ground in the country side. This crisis has also affected our partners and grantees themselves in their goals. We want to focus our energy in closing the ongoing projects launched in 2019 and delayed due to the situation but also think of building more structural "learning by doing" solutions.



KREYOL-FRANCAIS Home ENGLISH Kiyès Nou Y! Who Are We? Qui Sont Nous? Support/Apoyo

 **Ayiti Kale Je  
Haiti Grassroots Watch  
Haïti Veedor**

- Konbit enfòmasyon ak investigasyon sou rekonstriksyon Ayiti
- A watchdog partnership focusing on the Haiti's reconstruction
- Colaboración de información y investigación sobre la reconstrucción d

**INVESTIGATIONS: 2010-2013**

Questionnements sur les projets de logements  
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## RESERVE FUND FOR HAITIAN MIGRATION ISSUES

by Lorraine Mangonès

This Support to unanticipated opportunities and projects, in line with FOKAL's strategic priorities and activities was requested to respond to an opportunity to assist Haitian migrants eligible to regularize their status in the Dominican Republic and avoid deportation. Secondly, the reserve was to support a municipality and grassroots groups on the southern part of the border on the Haiti side that were showing civic minded initiatives.

### 1. SUPPORTING HAITIAN MIGRANTS OBTAIN LEGAL STATUS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Immediate support to civil society organizations to assist Haitian migrants in completing the registration.

FOKAL funded the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) in the DR to expand their partnership with a group of 6 civil society organizations helping migrants complete the registration process so that they would not face deportation and expulsion once the PNRE period expired in August 2018. These organizations reached out to migrants, helped prepare the individual claims, and brought them in groups on days previously agreed with the authorities to have their claims processed. AJWS also worked on these two major issues as well:

- **CHANGING PUBLIC OPINION AND DISCOURSE ABOUT DOHD AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS**

With funding from FOKAL, AJWS is privileged to have supported the new generation of leadership that emerged in the wake of the crisis which is now empowered and using their skills in the service of others. This year, AJWS also provided support for the translation of anthropological work presented at the Transnational Hispaniola conference in Santo Domingo in early 2019.

Furthermore, AJWS continued to support international publicity for the documentary *Hasta la Raiz*, a film made with AJWS's support, which tells the story of three Dominican women of Haitian descent struggling with statelessness and poverty. The producer of the film contracted with a major cinema chain—Palacio del Cine—to screen the film in major cinemas in Santo Domingo and Santiago for three weeks in 2018 and in January 2019. It was also featured at the World Conference on Statelessness in the Hague in June 2019.

- **INCREASING COOPERATION AND BUILDING A UNIFIED VOICE AMONG VARIOUS MOVEMENTS**

AJWS grantees are working with Dominican allies to advance public policies that benefit all Dominicans, regardless of migratory status. For example, the AJWS-supported *Alianza por el Derecho a la Salud (ADESA)* campaign comprises 56 organizations representing diverse populations including DOHD, LGBTI people, women and youth. On July 29, 2019, ADESA held the formal launch of its study, «Primary Health Care: Situation and Challenges in the Dominican Republic,» which makes visible the weaknesses of the primary health system, and counters the government's narrative that poor public health services are a result of Haitian overuse of these services.

- **2. ACTION ON THE BORDER**

In the southern border town of Anse à Pitre, FOKAL supported small holder farmer's initiatives to enhance local agricultural production for local needs but also with the further aim to develop niche bio products such as high quality cocoa and coffee for fair trade markets.

The foundation also supported the municipality of Anse à Pitre as it showed initiative in providing services to his constituents and in building light infrastructures for local farmers markets.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (FOUNDATIONS)



## COMMUNICATIONS

by Karl Foster Candio

Forty-three weekly editions of our newsletter reporting on our activities in Port-au-Prince, but also in remote areas of the country, were sent in 2019 to more than 5,700 subscribers (partners, beneficiaries, journalists and friends of FOKAL). They redirected our subscribers to regular reports on our activities and those of our partners, on our freshly renewed website.

By the end of the year, we refreshed publications including our main brochure with updated information. The calendar of the year 2019 went out in December 2018, and summed up visually and through descriptions important achievements within the year. The calendar serves as one of our best and effective communication tools to present the best of our year and introduce our mission to many. The Communication department maintained our partnership with the State University of Haiti, particularly the Human Sciences faculty. We offered opportunity for two interns to complete their internship at FOKAL during the year, as part of their academic education.

As a follow up of the two -day retreat with all the staff in September 2018, bi-monthly meetings were held by the communication officer and the Civic Education Coordinator for staff to share about particular issues, gain insights and perspective.

After following a training sponsored by FOKAL and the Youth Program of OSF, the Communication officer organized short trainings for the Youth initiative coaches on Organizing and Action to prepare them for civic campaigns in their cities.

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

### Marie Edmonde Jeune

In 2019, despite Haiti's social and political turbulence, the administration relied on its staff to facilitate the execution and harmonization of the various programs of the Foundation. 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.

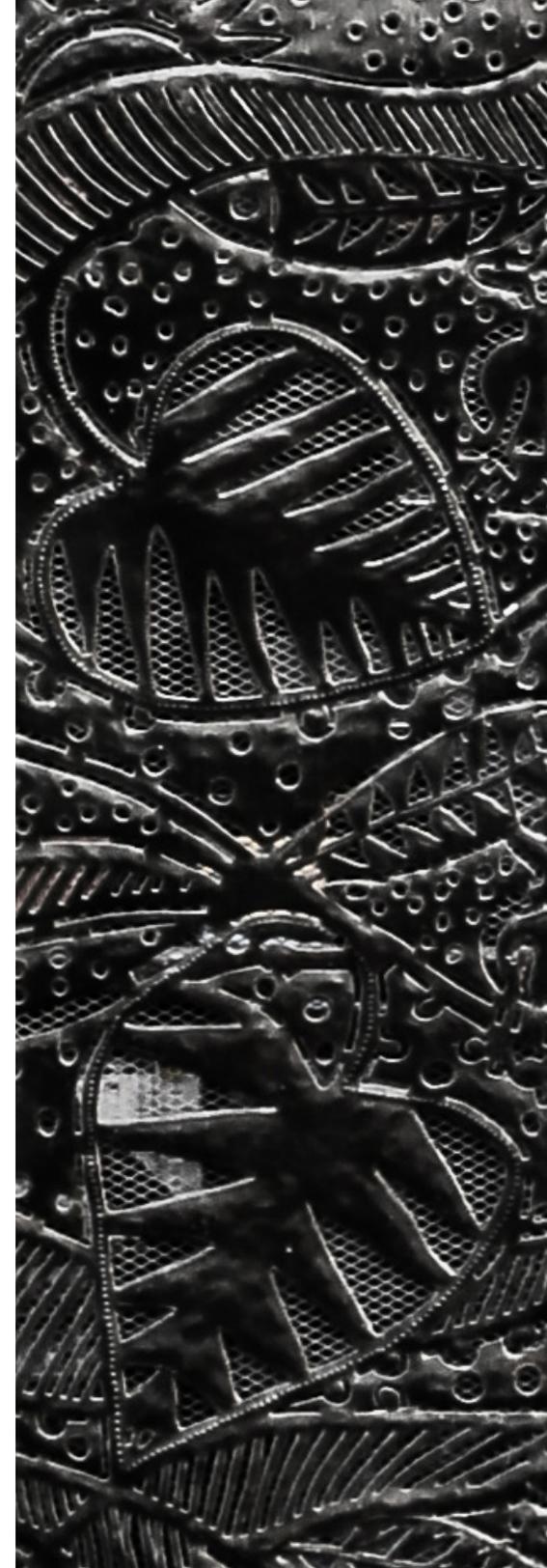
We are aware that the circumstances - as in many other countries of the Open Society Foundations network - make the tasks more difficult for employees. The dedication and tenacity of our staff and partners allows everyone to move forward. We must also point out that since 2014, our annual budget is fixed. Which means that we are always making strategic choices.

In 2019, we were finally able to implement the security plan for the FOKAL building, creating higher gates who honor our cultural heritage at the same time. The artist Iris (Genevieve Lahens) with the iron work sculptor created 42 panels exploring the themes of womanhood and nature, these were welded together by the engineering firm Atlas Construction. This sturdier construction is a better protection while giving a very high aesthetical value to the building as well as respecting the air and people circulation.

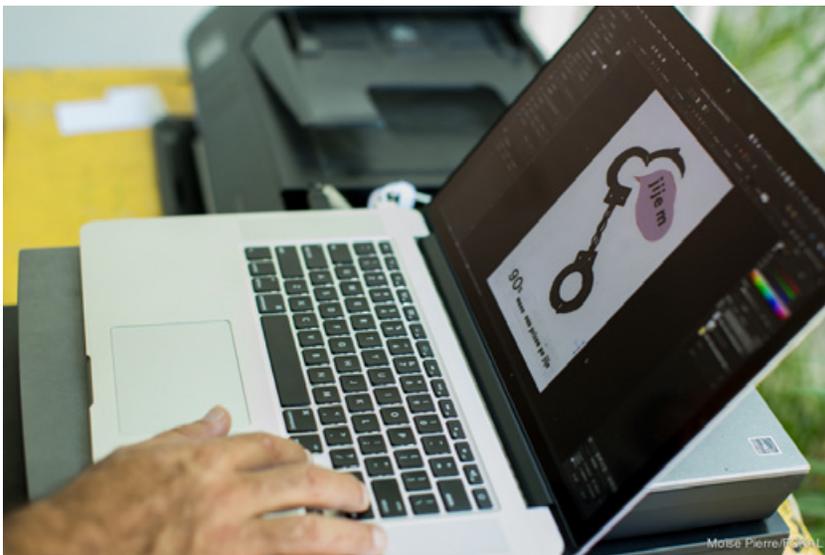
Our grant submission system was entirely web-based since 2019 giving us a better treatment process and more coherent statistics as well. The IT team at FOKAL created a secure and adapted environment.

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!

To continue to strengthen the bonds and contribute to the fulfillment of the employees and friends of the Foundation, its choir: Koral FOKAL celebrated its 3rd anniversary. With more than 30 singers, the choir has offered a dozen concerts in different places in Port au Prince, including the International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince. We sing for joy and relief, but to affirm our mission, to raise awareness and educate the public by lifting up our values. We hope that our donors will continue to invest in actions that bring change to Haitian society.



## CIVIC EDUCATION



### AJULIH

by Carine Schermann

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:**

The media program partnered with the Civic education program to organize the “Droits en ondes” (Rights on the airwaves) initiative that produced 11 radio pieces on human rights made by young female journalists and the “Affichez vos droits” (Post your rights) training for 10 graphic designers focused on the making of posters as tools to advance human rights.

Children and youth were targeted both in the conception of educational tools on human rights and in the information campaign led through creative or artistic activities. A children’s book on the topic of rights of children, migration and freedom of speech was conceived in French and Creole, also addressing implicit issues such as equality of sexes. A partnership with Lakou Kajou was launched for the conception of two animated cartoons, on the topics of justice and environment.

The designer Teresa Sdravovich and the web designer Ralph Dupoux did a one-week workshop about human rights posters. It was followed by an open workshop for children and a conference followed by a debate.

A summer camp enabled young people from 14 debate clubs from around the country to gather and work on the topic of rights and information, through workshops and trainings. Some debate clubs were selected through a contest, to organize a sensitization action on a human rights violation observed within their community: Jérémie chose to work on the rights of inmates,

Through a call for proposals, university scholarships were given to students working on human rights, across all fields of studies.

Women’s rights were addressed through different LECTURES AND debates. With the Art and Culture program, an impressive exhibit about women’s rights in the world and in Haiti “Where are the women” was inaugurated in three different libraries of the capital city from April to September 2019. A workshop on short films about Tolerance and Diversity engaged 20 young activists on creating their own documentaries about albinism, gender roles, poverty. The 10 resulting short documentaries were presented in front of an audience in September 2019.

### **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.

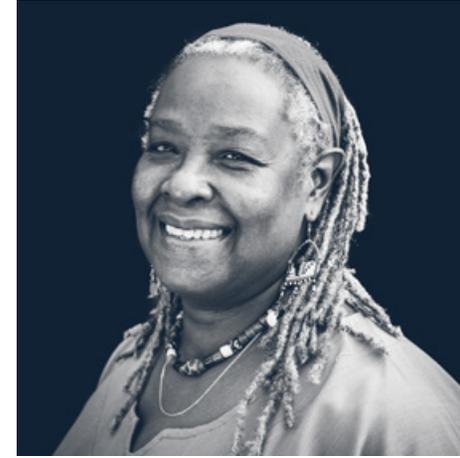
## FOKAL BOARD MEMBERS



**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

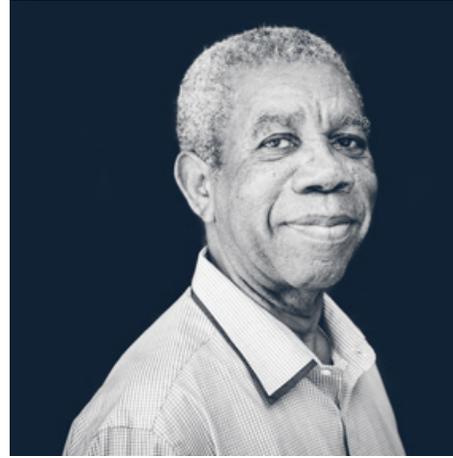
Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and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

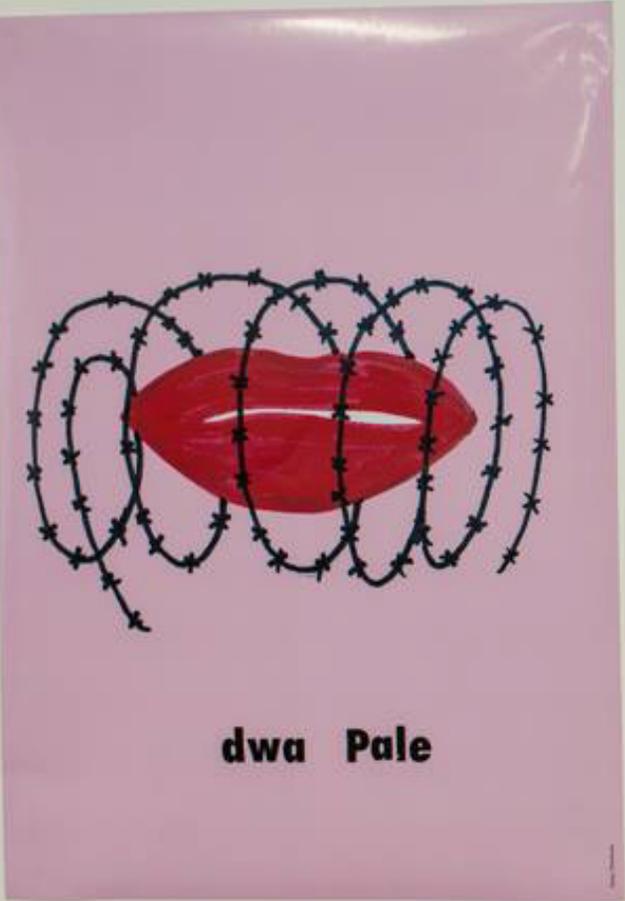
He is a very reputable lawyer specializing in civil and commercial law. He was Minister of Justice and Public Security twice, notably during the government of Michèle D. Pierre-Louis (2008-2009). He is a pro-bono advocate of the group of victims against Duvalier, the Collective against impunity. He was 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).



## PHOTO CAPTIONS

- Cover : The Chenet House, part of the heritage project completely rehabilitated in 2019
- P4, Daniele Magloire, Lorraine Mangones and Michele D. Pierre-Louis, respectively FOKAL's vice president of the board, Executive director and President and former Prime Minister at a Sant la conference in Miami with an introduction by Leonie Hermantin
- P6-7, Peasants gathering celebrating access to water in Acul du Nord
- P8-9, Jehyna Sahyeir performing at FOKAL
- P11, Female singers performing during the "Chansons féministes" concert
- P12, (left) Vanessa Jeudy Performing on her own show.  
(right) John Bern Thomas performing during the Jazz Appreciation Month @ FOKAL
- P13, (above) Cast of "Avoir 30 ans" directed by Michèle Lemoine  
(below) Stevenson Saintine & Jean Ronal Pierre in Pèlentèt, a play by Franketienne
- P14 The Youth club in Jeremie organizing a public action for the awareness of prisoners' rights
- P15, Youth camp delegates sightseeing in the Saut-mathrine waterfall site
- P17, Young students at the National School Emérante Papailler
- P18-19, Peasants gathering celebrating access to water in Acul du Nord
- P20-21, Game space in the Martissant Park
- P22 : Exhibit of artist Tessa Mars at the Maison Dufort (la photo fait partie de la 1ere selection sur We transfer
- P24, Students at the English Conversation Club working on quotes by Martin Luther King Jr.
- P26, Women Rights exhibit at the Katherine Dunham Cultural Center gardens in the Martissant Park. This was a cross collaboration between several programs.
- P28 Book exhibit about Women's right at the Katherine Dunham Cultural Center gardens in the Martissant Park. This was a cross collaboration between several programs.
- P31, Ayiti Kale Je was an investigative journalism program from 2010-2013 presented a collection of articles in 2019.
- P33, A group of young activists from Haiti and the Haitian diaspora meet at Sant la in Miami with high officials from FOKAL.
- P34, Youth camp delegates sightseeing in Jérémie
- P35, Fokal Fence Details from iron work designed by Iris (Genevieve Lahens)
- P36, Visual created during the workshop on Human rights and poster art animated by Teresa Sdravovich and Ralph Dupoux
- P40, Posters on Human rights from the workshop on human rights and poster art animated by Teresa Sdravovich and Ralph Dupoux  
(right) the day before a conference introduced the major themes for more knowledge and collaboration between Haiti and its diaspora.

# CREDITS

**GRANTEE:**

Fondation Connaissance et Liberté  
Annual Report

Grant Period: 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018

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