



Fondasyon konesans ak libète  
Fondation connaissance et liberté

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Fondasyon konesans ak libète  
Fondation connaissance et liberté

2020 FOKAL FPOS core support – 2019 & 2020  
FOKAL FPOS Reserve core support  
Grantee: Fondation Connaissance et Liberte

Annual Report ,  
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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lorraine Mangonès

From the founding of FOKAL in 1995, our institution has met the multiple challenges of an organic and rooted open society organization in a country facing the tumultuous course of nation building in a post-dictatorship era while demographic and environmental pressures were mounting. We grew with grace under adverse conditions with the unwavering support of a funder that has demonstrated a unique capacity to trust local knowledge and leadership.

At the onset of 2020, FOKAL had grown into a recognized, reliable, and respected Haitian institution attuned to the mosaic of our complex society, creative and capable of adapting to new circumstances and always careful to embody inside the values it promotes outside.

Our resourcefulness was tested in 2020 as we confronted simultaneously the consequences of the pandemic and the continuing state collapse with its accompanying waves of violence. While we had little control over those external factors, we as a team will remember with emotion the extraordinary learning curve travelled internally as we adapted to the new circumstances and the profound solidarity experienced among ourselves and with grantees and partners.

We are immensely grateful for the reassurance and guidance provided by OSF Operations throughout 2020 and to the unwavering support of our friends and colleagues throughout the network and beyond. Solidarities will be cherished, nurtured, and honored with reciprocity in the years to come as we continue to confront new forms of dangers and uncertainties.

As Haitian wisdom says: beyond mountains, more mountains.  
We walk together.

# FONDATION CONNAISSANCE ET LIBERTÉ NATIONAL FOUNDATION

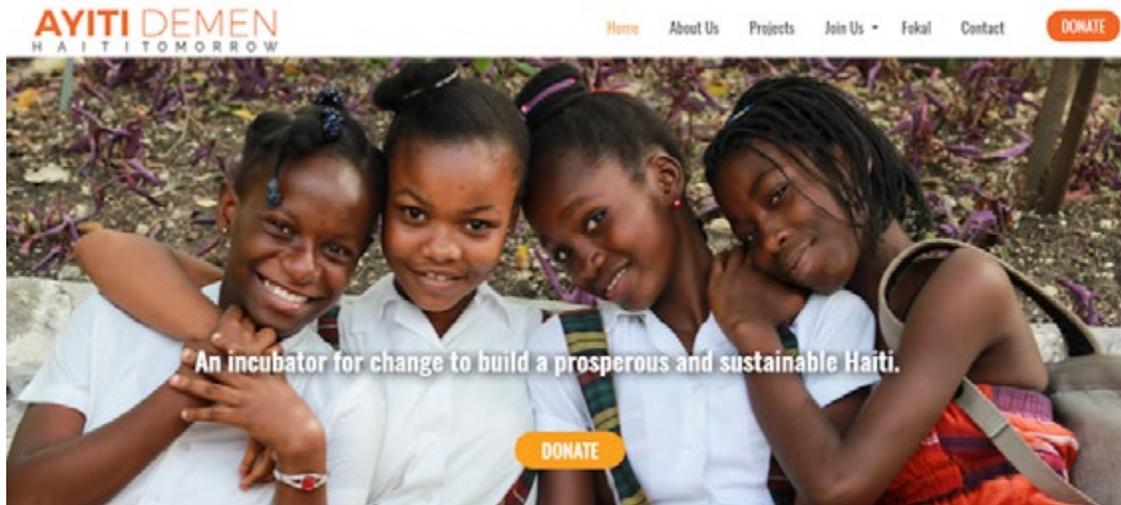
Created in 1995, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), is a national foundation within the Open Society Foundations, OSF, a worldwide network of foundations and initiatives created by philanthropist George Soros for the promotion of the 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 WK Kellogg Foundation, 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 501c3 federal tax exemption status.

### **2020, A NEW BEGINNING FOR AYITI DEMEN**

In 2020, with the Covid-19 pandemic paralyzing the world, Ayiti Demen took the opportunity to deepen the foundations of its transformation initiated in 2019. Moving from Friends of Fokal to Ayiti Demen in 2019 was a radical leap in thinking about the support of this organization to FOKAL's mission and vision in Haiti, but also to FOKAL's long-time partners, those sharing the values of dignity, solidarity, creativity, and empowerment. Several projects have been initiated: the communication and fundraising plan has been revamped, staff hired and new communication and marketing tools adopted. Two campaigns were launched in favor of the Martissant Park and Le Centre d'art of Port-au-Prince. Thanks to these actions, Ayiti Demen was able to support the Arts Center with \$12,911 and the Martissant Park with \$6,692.56. In order to continue the transformation of Ayiti Demen, the consulting firm Build Up Advisory Group has been hired for work in 2021. The firm will focus on two core concepts: (i) Ayiti Demen's organizational infrastructure to provide for the organization's funding sustainability and (ii) its organizational capacity and governance oversight and accountability to ensure it can support and meet the needs of the communities it serves.





## **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

Creation and knowledge: «In a country, in a disrupted world» ... Following a very troubled 2019, the year 2020 has been deeply affected not only by political instability, deadly violence and urban insecurity in Haiti, but also by the Covid 19 pandemic on a global level. This context radically changed the modes of action of the Arts and Culture program. All public activities of the program had to be suspended from March 2020. The artistic sector, already severely weakened by the unrest since 2018, found itself literally at a standstill, mainly for the performing arts disciplines.

The Arts and Culture program and the artist community had to adapt to create and produce outdoors and at a reduced capacity. They had to work in morning hours, because of rampant insecurity. They also produced content online, which required funding and organizing the recording of shows for online distribution and imagining new specific formats for distribution on online networks: YouTube, Facebook etc. These online events could not replace the live performances, but rather tried to offer alternatives adapted to the media used. Their production generated its own difficulties, its additional costs, and its own challenges: format, promotion, public convocation, problems of quality and stability of the bandwidth available in Haiti ...

**SHOWS :**

- Devosyon: last in person show produced by Arts et Culture: a look at several moments in the history of the black man in Haiti, the Congo, South Africa, the United States, to evoke the memory of the struggles for rights through texts and songs.

**ONLINE PRODUCTIONS:**

**The challenge:** to continue to make artists work while reflecting on the concerns of our time

- Kote Atis yo? Special online program to promote the cultural sector mapping project, the aim of which is to build an information and exchange platform bringing together artists and cultural operators.
- Theater in times of pandemic - Massacre games by E. Ionesco: Reading and debate
- On Stigma: The Question of otherness: Online debate conference with video texts on the issue of stigma and otherness.
- Animation films: for young audiences based on Les Fables de la Fontaine adapted by Georges Sylvain.
- The BMC capsules: video capsules of comedians or amateur readers performing extracts from books available for download online on the web platforms (youtube, facebook etc.) of the Library Monique Calixte (BMC) and its partner libraries.

**SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS AND PARTNER FESTIVALS:**

When the pandemic hit, the strict confinement measures hit the already struggling finances of the artist community. A special fund was created to provide small grants to several artist associations and cultural organizations.

In addition to these grants, specific support for online productions (recording and dissemination) of our partners and beneficiaries, mainly for online festivals : Lok mondyal (International lockdown) online series, En Lisant Festival (public reading of theater plays); Quatre Chemins theater Festival; Poetry Festival Transe Poétique; Rencontre des musiques du monde (World Music Meetings) and Krik Krak Festival (traditional music, games and folktales), etc.



## CHALLENGES

- Support creativity with a social ethos in a context of societal disintegration and daily murderous violence, and in the context of a global pandemic.
- Support and accompany a cultural and artistic sector in a state of crisis for several years now and which only hangs by a thread.
- Facing the exodus of young artists, who have more and more difficulty in working and creating in Haiti and cannot be creative in exile.

## NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVING THIS GOAL

Continue the thematic work initiated on rights, societal issues, citizenship; continue, reassess, and reinvent support for artists in all possible forms in an uncertain context ...

## STATISTICS ON THE PROGRAM

Artist mapping: in 2020, three hundred artists from all over the country have registered on the interactive map. The process continues. This initiative was done with our partner Ayiti Analytics, a Haitian American data research company.

**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 70 year old institution destroyed by the 2010 earthquake that today is one of the most vibrant places for creativity and artists’ convening to support social change.

We pursue our joint initiatives with OSF Arts Exchange and LAP on transversal support by artists to fundamental open society issues.

**SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020**

- Funding of new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL’s values
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- 7 institutions and 5 festivals received institutional support from FOKAL to support their organizations in the work promoting Haitian art and culture at the service of the community.
- 29 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. Several grants were suspended during the confinement period and had to be rethought in order to adapt to the COVID 19 context (more online content, outdoor activities).
- Identifying potential artists/collectives to work with the OSF Program.

**CHALLENGES**

Aside from the call for proposals, we reserve an amount for small grants used for artists traveling abroad and smaller unanticipated 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.
- When the pandemic hit, the strict confinement measures hit the already struggling finances of the artist community.

**NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE**

Continue to seek financial and technical partnerships for the field and pursue the institution building of Le Centre d’Art which will be called upon to be the main reference point in the future.



Fondation Française de l'Opéra  
Fondation Française de l'Opéra

théâtre

jeudi 16 et vendredi 17 janvier 2020 - 6 h pm  
entrée libre dans la limite des places disponibles  
tickets numérotés distribués à l'entrée

## In Memoriam

texte **Jean-René Lemoine**

mise en scène **Miracson Saint Val**

Cie **Bazou**

*interprètes*

Ketsia Vainadine Alphonse

Erica Jean Louis

*choeur*

Staloff Tropfort

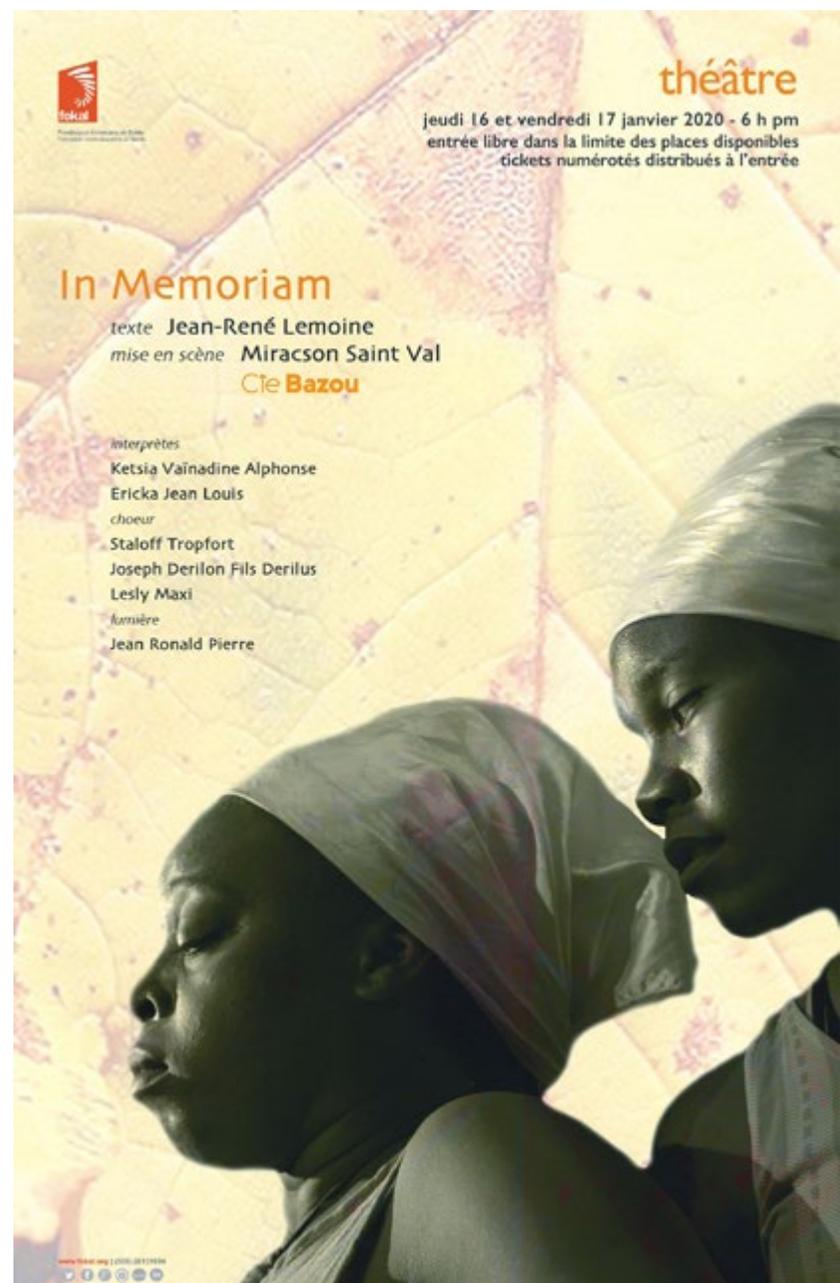
Joseph Derilon Fils Derilus

Lesly Maxi

*lumière*

Jean Ronald Pierre

[www.fokal.org](http://www.fokal.org) | 01 20 39 00 12 13 14



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



**YOUTH INITIATIVE**  
by Anis Jean-Gérard

Through several partnerships, third party funded initiatives and collaborations, this program works on civic engagement and advocacy for youth throughout the country. This is a relatively low cost and flexible program consisting mostly of training sessions, conferences, workshops and debate camps with very rewarding results as young men and women are trained to identify goals, develop problem solving strategies and learn advocacy techniques. Partnership with Avocats Sans Frontières Canada (Lawyers Without Borders Canada), ASFC. Transversal work with FOKAL programs (media, library, university, arts & culture) as well as with OSF

Youth Exchange Program.

This program aims at training youth on questions related to democracy building, citizen engagement, human rights. The COVID-19 pandemic is the moment for PIJ to ensure and assume its commitment and assert its values to young people and volunteers involved in the debate program.

A 3-day meeting in Port-au-Prince, at the end of February 2020 (the coronavirus arrived in Haiti on March), with 28 people in charge of our 14 debate clubs, to build new work capacities, define together the objectives of the program for 2020. Unfortunately, our priorities brutally changed because of the pandemic.

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE**

Grants to support a common initiative of 14 debate clubs to purchase and distribute to their members, health kits against the coronavirus (washable anti-Covid masks, hand sanitizer and alcohol bottle, bucket of water with tap, antibacterial soaps, packet of conditioned granulated chlorine). From June to August, 500 beneficiaries received these products made in Haiti.

Information campaign on how to protect against the coronavirus in our network (blog, page FB, Whatsapp group), from March 2020

Creation of an online debate model, in development for our program after 5 tests on Blue Jeans (May – July 2020)

7 Online meetings with the persons in charge of the debate clubs in the network to assess the situation of clubs, particularly how young people are affected by the coronavirus crisis, think about solutions for new challenges imposed by the pandemic, and on the introduction of online debate in our activities, April to July 2020.

Revision of the FOKAL debates guide, from February 2020

Preparation and presentation of the Portfolio review 2016-2019 for the

program to FOKAL panel, July 2020

## CHALLENGES

All planned debate tournament projects (regional, inter-school and summer debate from March 2020

We had to revise the strategy and the budget of our debate program to adapt it to the challenges imposed by the pandemic, and the worsening security situation that has developed in Haiti since September 2020

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS OBJECTIVE

Implement the online debate in the debate activities of our network. It will be available on the social networks (FB, blog, you tube, twitter, Fokal website)

- Organize 2 online streaming regional debate tournament for our network (April - May 2021)
- Publish the new FOKAL debate guide in 2021
- Participate in an international online debate tournament with a Haitian team from our network
- Organize online masterclasses about the reform of the Haitian Constitution with our debaters and discuss threats to democracy



**atelier/  
causerie**  
Jeudi 05 mars 2020 14h pm

**Mare tèt**  
TONNELLE FOKAL - Entrée libre



En amont du 8 mars, journée internationale consacrée aux droits des femmes, FOKAL accueillera le 5 mars à 4pm, sous la tonnelle et dans ses jardins, un atelier participatif autour de la pratique du « mare tèt », au cours duquel les participants, filles comme garçons, pourront découvrir ou redécouvrir différentes techniques pour nouer des foulards autour de la tête.

L'atelier sera suivi d'une causerie à 5pm, qui portera sur les significations historiques de cette pratique et son articulation dans les luttes pour les droits des femmes. Cet exemple de forme de résistance sera l'occasion de rappeler les grands jalons du mouvement féministe en Haïti et des combats mêlés pour l'égalité.

**Intervenantes :** Sabine Lamour, sociologue et féministe, directrice de la SOFA (Solidarité Fannm Ayisyèn)  
Tamas Jean-Pierre, sociologue et féministe  
Marie Mariville Morné, féministe et directrice de l'association culturelle B-KA, Bote Kreyòl Ayiti, partenaire de cette activité.

Centre culturel FOKAL  
143, Avenue Christophe,  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

[www.fokal.org](http://www.fokal.org) | (509) 20131694



Centre culturel Katherine Dunham  
Parc de Maréassant  
Maréassant 23, Port-au-Prince

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

### TIPA TIPA

by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

The Tipa Tipa Foundation was planning in 2020 to continue to train pre-school and primary teachers in 12 schools across the country, there was a reduction in the number of schools in the program. It was also preparing 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 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 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

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

This program attributes close to twenty grants per financial year.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

by Michele D. Pierre-Louis

Through small economic investments, we aim to assist rural grassroots organizations who have demonstrated capacity through time to sustain food production with very limited resources and 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 small farmers capable of working on national advocacy for food security and related political action. This process is underway and showing positive improvement. We work against major trends imposed by the international community on Haiti. Can we succeed in building strong enough strategic partnerships to effectively challenge those trends and contribute to positive change? Partnering with other entities, benefiting from OSF advocacy capacity and connecting to other significant issues such as the Haiti/DR border tensions and general youth migration wave, should help consolidate positive initiatives and advocating for the "économie sociale et solidaire" model

Through small economic investments, we aim to assist rural grassroots organizations and smallholder farmers, men and women. Our support also aims at increasing revenue and reinforcing capacities, while addressing larger issues like water management, environmental protection, and cultural heritage. The most promising SMEs in the sector are growing, reaching out to larger fair-trade markets. The ultimate objective of this program is to contribute to the creation of a federation of smallholder farmers capable of launching national advocacy campaigns for food security and related political action. This process is underway and showing positive improvement.





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

Despite adverse conditions caused by growing political unrest that impacts on local production and markets, our program has been able to maintain a good level of support to smallholder farmer organizations, local institutions engaged in training and reinforcing capacities, and social enterprises promoting local produces in more than 30 rural areas. As planned, we have been able to engage in data collection on the value chain of many agricultural products in ten regions. The Covid-19 pandemic put a stop to the field visits, but we continued through telephone and email. This process will continue until we cover all our partner organizations.

### **CHALLENGES**

The situation of insecurity caused by armed gangs that blocks roads and main highways in the country has led to major production losses as the farmers were unable to access many markets particularly in the capital city which is the major hub for distribution in other regions. We are now discussing the possibility of developing regional markets with many stakeholders facing the same challenges.

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

The development of regional markets will take time under the actual circumstances. We will have to collect information on existing local markets, understand the products circuits, the price of goods, and evaluate the capacity for expansion. The mapping of these markets will be a useful tool to engage other stakeholders while maintaining a constant liaison with the local food producers whose knowledge of the terrain remains the most essential contribution.

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

### MARTISSANT PARK

by Thierry Cherizard

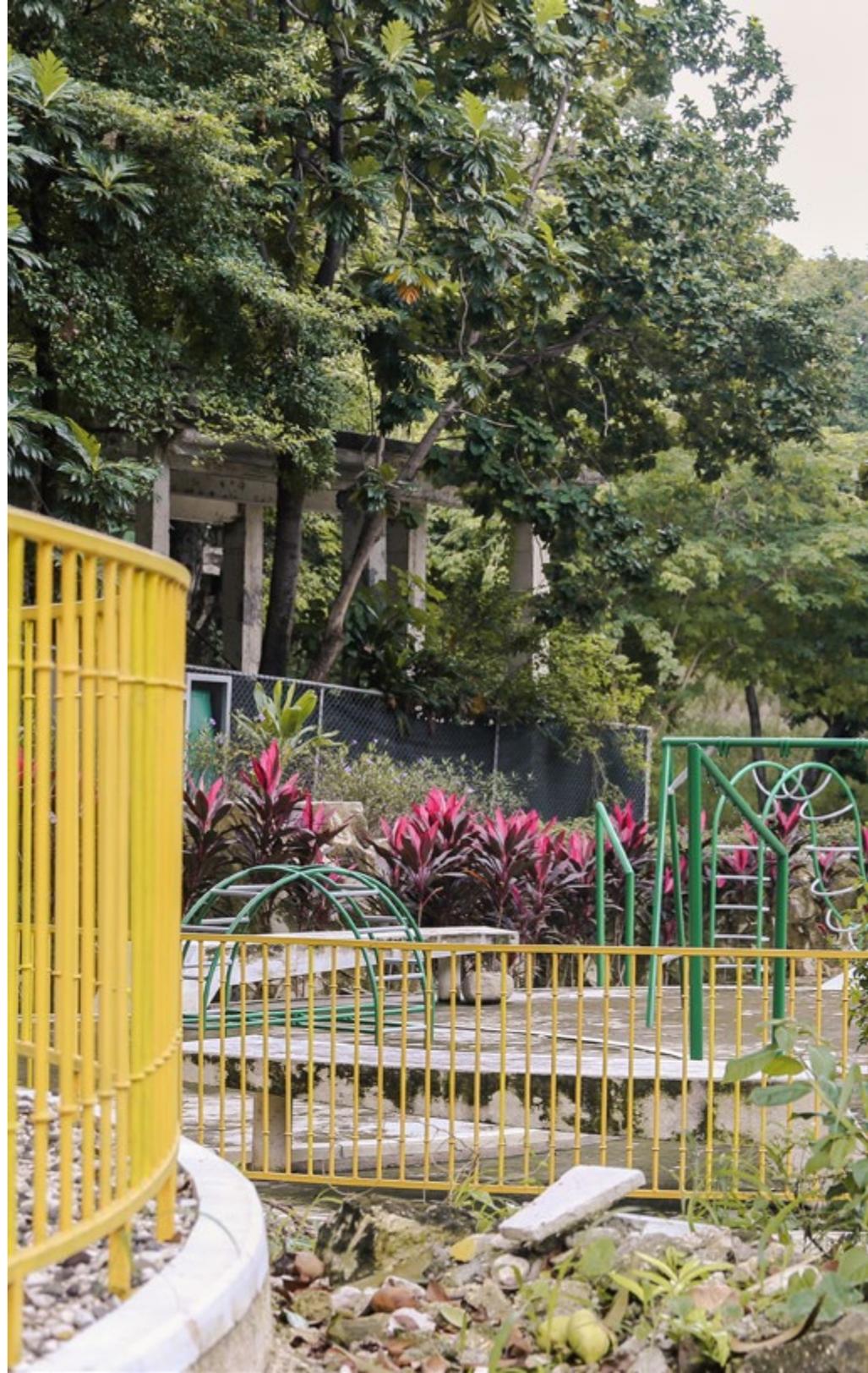
In the middle of the most densely populated and underprivileged section of Port-au-Prince, FOKAL advocated successfully for --and concretely effected-- the transformation of a wooded space into a public park. From a no-man's-land, the 45-acre park is now a vibrant breathing space offering safety, leisure 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.

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.

The Martissant Project has proved its resilience capacity to provide safe spaces to support transformative and regenerative processes for urban populations living under high political and economic stress. In 2020 we maintained this vital space operational and welcomed a new funding partner in Martissant: The Kellogg Foundation

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- On September 9, 2019, a grant agreement between the Will Keith Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) and FOKAL was signed. Two programs are supported by this convention. One over 3 years concerning the «community giving circles» and the other of 2 years concern the educational and community activities in Martissant as well as a support to the municipality of Anse à Pitre within the framework of our project «Upholding Haitian Dignity».





- During 2020 we received 48 requests for small projects from 11 sub-districts in Martissant, 25 of which were funded. These small community projects take place twice a year.
- 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.
- We were able to award 200 scholarships to bright children, but whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. Almost ten schools in the neighborhood receive these scholarship holders.
- The Katherine Dunham Cultural Center, despite the climate of socio-economic instability, was still able to work and received 1014 visits.
- Our Health Program (Health and Rights) carried out 6 main activities through the year: a workshop on road safety; first aid training; our response to the coronavirus pandemic in the neighborhood including discussion, awareness raising, distribution of hand washing materials...;

#### CHALLENGES

- The socio-political instability that has raged in the country since 2018, which has fostered an increase in insecurity
- The corona virus pandemic
- Restructure our teams to better adapt to an uncertain future

#### NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

- For the first challenge we do not have much control on the structural socio-political crisis which concerns the whole country. We counter the destructive trends through support of civil society organizations which work in the field of human rights and political advocacy and we nurture local grassroots civic initiatives.
- For the second challenge, we have taken various measures: wearing a mask obligatory at the office, respecting social distance, frequent hand washing, working from home, free of charge for the covid test for all employees,
- Finally for the last objective we have transformed the teams of our different programs into a single team and for this purpose we have less staff for the work. We continue to work on this difficult task.

## **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 such as the Ludwig Foundation in Cuba, the National Gallery in Jamaica and other institutions in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The Chenet house is fully restored and will be sold to reinvest the capital in the Dufort House. We will use the restored houses as income generating resources for training and collaborative work within the scope of values defended by FOKAL and OSF.

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

We began the year 2020 with the commemoration of the 10th year since the devastating earthquake of 2010 destroyed most of the built heritage of Port-au-Prince. He had a tour of the Gingerbread Neighborhood beginning with a slam show at Dufort House, ending with a folkloric show at Chenet House.

#### **DUFORT HOUSE:**

In February–March, we held an exhibit and workshop offered by the Japanese cooperation.

In September we hosted the rehearsals and shooting of a video of feminist organization Nèges Mawon for their annual festival.

Every last Thursday of the month, we hosted the Jeudi de l'Art Contemporain, events: causerie, live shows, exhibits, debates with artists, etc.

Every Saturday during November and December we hosted a theater master class for the theater school: ACTE

#### **CHALLENGES**

In 2020, we coped with the COVID pandemic and general security issues all over the city. This situation had serious consequences on cultural and artistic activities, interrupted for months and trying to survive through online diffusion.

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

We expect an improvement in the sanitary and security situation that can help provide more cultural, artistic and heritage linked events to our public.





**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.

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**

2020 was a very difficult year because of the pandemic that urged the closing of all universities and schools, and the adaptation to virtual teaching and learning. Most of the programs that were planned for the year had to be either canceled or postponed. Our interventions were limited to a few co-funding with the French cooperation for distance learning. We also supported the creation the Chaire UNESCO Women in Science and Development.

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

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 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 (cofounded by HRI) and by the new leadership emerging in Haitian feminist organizations. We are also committed to accompanying a healthy transformation process of RNDDH, the largest national human rights network. While we continue our granting to a number of human rights institutions and initiatives, we also continue to develop dialogue with chosen funders and with regional voices in order to build alliances on key issues.

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 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. FOKAL has brought Haitian libraries to regional and international networks and supported strong 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. Our program on public awareness to rights and civics education aimed at youths with our partner institution Avocats Sans Frontières (Lawyers without borders) Canada has begun since July 2017 and includes collaboration with the Library Program and other FOKAL programs. In accordance with our reduction plan, we have discontinued support to three more community libraries. 2020 was set to be a wonderful year as we started with great numbers as more than 7000 visits were registered from January to mid-March when the pandemic hit. We quickly understood that we had to value numeric content and we started uploading e-books to our online platform and more than two hundred documents from the public domain are available to download for free and more is to come. The Art and Culture program of FOKAL, with the help of artists, e-books from our platform and some stories from renown French author **La Fontaine**, available on YouTube, to encourage

the public to read more. Cairn, a French based online content provider, offered free access to their catalog to the users of our library network. This contributed to democratize the access to information and made us start to think of new possibilities in terms of new services and online content. Our book clubs started to use IT based solutions more for their meetings and discussions. WhatsApp groups allowed the sharing of more content and information and the Monique Calixte Library, alongside the Katherine Dunham cultural center, also initiated BMC Propose, a weekly section about book suggestions, personalities and activities.

As a member of the Association of the Caribbean Universities, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), we also devoted time to offer a functional archive of all the past conferences with key information as a modern website to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the association (<https://50anniversary.acuril.org/>).

### CHALLENGES

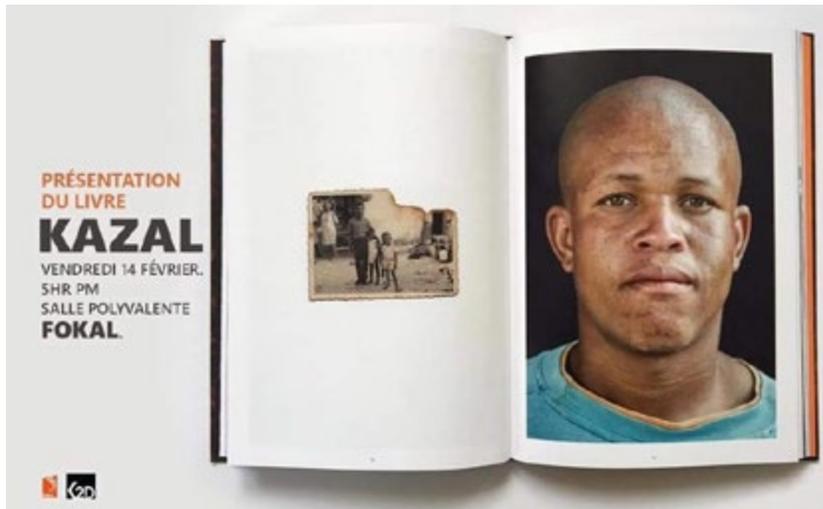
Seven libraries of the network are computerized, but the staff lacks the knowledge to use the system to its full extent and therefore, many services and reports suffer from that. The pandemic also emphasized the importance of the combination of live and virtual activities. A thorough understanding of some key tools as well as the already available resources has become a necessity. The data accuracy, the different methods of collecting data, the data sources and verification became challenging.

### NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

We use “baby steps” to obtain the expected results. First, we need to assess what we have in terms of resources. A partnership with Ayiti Analytics, a data scientist training group, is underway to analyze the data we have collected so far in order to have a better understanding of our resources and identified the needs. Second, we will address those needs with continuing education program for the staff to offer adapted services and have a better impact on their respective communities.



## GENERAL - FIELD: JOURNALISM



### MEDIA

by Maude Malengrez

Our previously announced intention to work with OSF Program on Independent Journalism was launched through a professional workshop for Caribbean journalists held in March 2018. Participants came from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Our colleagues from OSF PIJ are set to continue to work with FOKAL on a long-term partnership for the development of investigative journalism in Haiti. We will also seek exchange with and guidance from OSF Independent Journalism program with regard to support to new media enterprises and citizen journalists as well as photojournalists. FOKAL Media Program has deliberately chosen to work with young photographers and documentary filmmakers because they were a neglected group in the field, and because the visual and audio-visual language seemed potentially powerful in our context. The next year should help us assess whether this choice is gaining ground and wider support. Map and assess the role of community radios, formerly a powerful tool for social and political movements, today and a fragile sector partly taken over by the evangelical missionaries. We will explore this sector's viability as a tool for social change.

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

2019 had already been a difficult year for the media program which operational activities are focused on training and organizing. With the coronavirus, trainings have been 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.

Nevertheless, the year 2020 began with the publishing in the Haitian press (Ayibopost, Alterpresse, Le Nouvelliste, Enquête'action) for the 10 years anniversary of the earthquake, of 7 pieces of investigation made by young Haitian journalists whose work had been supported by the program over the course of 4 months, ending on January 12.

In the field of documentary filmmaking, FOKAL has not been able to resume its actions, but has been able to support a new coalition of actors in the field. The MARDI.doc (Tuesday Doc) weekly screenings dedicated to documentary films has stopped with the outbreak of the Coronavirus, nevertheless the program was able to collaborate with some festivals during the second semester (Ann Pale seksyalite fair, Rencontres des musiques du monde, Semaine du documentaire). FOKAL also worked to relaunch a collaboration between Haiti and the Cinema school in Cuba (EICTV) by organizing the pre-selection process in Port-au-Prince in January 2020 and offering a full fellowship for one student and searching for some support for a second one. The program also collaborated in the programming of Haitian films for the French film Festival of the Perez Museum in Miami.

In the field of documentary photography and photojournalism, 2020 was supposed to be the year of a touring of the KAZAL exhibition (a photographic project on the Memory of the dictatorship) abroad, but the pandemic postponed this possibility. By September, the group of photographers worked in Kazal to support the opening of a memory site in the local school. FOKAL has also work on the editing of the second issue of FOTOPAKLÈ, the magazine of the K2D collective, to be released in 2021. In the frame of the Emergent photography fund in Haiti (FPEH), FOKAL organized in January a

workshop with the photographer Émilie Régnier, one of the fund's mentors, for all the candidates around the notion of self-portrait. In May, we organized a contest of self-portrait, this practice allowing photographers to work in a time of pandemic, where 6 photographers were awarded in two categories. This work would later be exhibited in Brussels, Belgium.

In collaboration with the Civic Education program, and following a previous workshop, we organized a two-week online workshop for young graphic designers followed by a contest around the making and distribution of posters addressing human rights issues in Haïti during the coronavirus.

In collaboration with Internews, FOKAL organized an online lecture around the results of a research around disinformation in the metropolitan area, and online workshops on disinformation for journalists.

Regarding the grantmaking, aside from some institutional support, the annual call for proposal was able to support 9 initiatives led by media and organizations (training of young women in audiovisual skills in Jérémie, training and support for women in the community radios in the south-east department, inter scholar journal in Les Gonaïves, a journal for young children in Port-au-Prince, the production of short videos on citizen initiatives throughout the country, workshops supporting documentary filmmaking, the making of a media literacy toolkit, radio reporting on human rights, a public service radio in Sainte Suzanne, a women led online media supporting women's voices). The Media program, reorienting funding from the operational that was not possible due to the pandemic and with additional funding from the Open society foundation, has launched an appeal opened to media already having strong ties with their audience that wanted to cover the Coronavirus outbreak, supporting communication efforts around the pandemic, allowing 24 actors to be active on that field throughout the country. The program also supported the launching of a Caribbean initiative focused on investigative journalism including Haitian journalists.

#### **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 rural areas. This crisis, the pandemic and the insecurity going on in the metropolitan area also affected our partners and grantees. 2020 has raised the urgent need to work on security issues for journalists.

## RESERVE FUNDS

by Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

### RESERVE FUND FOR COVID 19

When the pandemic hit, in March 2020, the country shut down for several weeks. FOKAL requested a reserve fund from OSF and identified four major sectors as beneficiaries:

- Artists and cultural associations
- Human rights and civil society Organizations
- Small holder farmers
- Media

To this fund was also added amounts from FOKAL programs as well as the Executive Director flexible funds. This fund was very helpful to sustain current partners as well as identifying emergent groups that were very active at the grassroots levels. Specifically, funding was used for calls for proposals to finance creative processes or sustain institutions during the pandemic, direct cash transfer to associations, online training sessions and mentoring, prevention campaigns, specific grants for agricultural productions.

### RESERVE FUND FOR HAITIAN MIGRATION ISSUES

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. ACTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

American World Jewish Service was identified as FOKAL's main partner in the Dominican Republic since 2019. The aim of this work is to encourage DR-Haiti cross-border action to advance the rights of the most marginalized on the island, while revealing and changing limiting narratives and norms around race and gender—both within and across countries—and strengthening a Caribbean identity that draws on the most open, positive and transformative aspects of the island's cultures. Since August 2019, AJWS and their partners made progress toward three main goals:

- AJWS partnered with organizations that are working to empower women and youth with the skills that they can use to build community and political power. This grant contributed to identifying gaps and opportunities for partner organizations and strengthen their understanding of what it means to promote girls' agency and autonomy.
- Among Caribbean countries, the DR has been hit hardest by the COVID-19. In response to a surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths largely due to an under-resourced and discriminatory healthcare system, AJWS partner Alianza por el Derecho a la Salud (ADESA) mobilized to hold the Dominican government accountable to protect and serve its people in this time of crisis. The opportunity to advance an anti-discrimination law came as a surprise announcement by the government in the final weeks of 2018. AJWS partners saw an opportunity to leverage the government's need to improve its human rights image in the international community by collaborating across sectors to advance a bill that would include groups targeted by the right, including LGBTQI persons, Haitian migrants, and Dominicans of Haitian descent.
- The persisting economic and social inequality in both Haiti and the DR is undergirded by a legacy of colonialism. Those in power continue to stoke these inequalities by promoting fear and division, turning marginalized groups against one another and intensifying stigma and discrimination—a strategy that is even more dangerous during a crisis. AJWS's approach has been to partner with organizations that are challenging the narrative in creative ways and reimagining the shared history of the island.

## CHALLENGES

Unfortunately, cases of COVID-19 in the DR are expected to surge over the coming months, demanding a continued response from AJWS's partners. OSF's support provided through the COVID-19 emergency grant will help organizations working with communities of Haitian migrants and their descendants to provide culturally sensitive information on COVID-19 prevention and train community members as first line responders; advocate for access to aid and their inclusion in official emergency measures; gather data about the labor conditions that migrant workers face; and monitor and respond to GBV.

## NEXT STEPS

The current context reinforces the importance of advancing an intersectional framework that links the experiences and concerns of marginalized communities in the DR and bi-nationally. AJWS will seek to support the growth and intersectional analysis of movements in 2020.

## 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.

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## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (FOUNDATIONS)



## COMMUNICATIONS

by Karl Foster Candio

The year 2020 was special for the Communication department at FOKAL. Due to the Covid 19 outbreak that discontinued our public activities around March, the restrictions challenged our team to adapt its strategy to serve our programs as activities could no longer be held before live audiences. Our partners were confronted with the impossibility to meet audiences for cultural, intellectual, and social activities.

FOKAL's COM department created partnerships with very popular pages to establish a crossposting network which we used to broadcast LIVE online activities from many grantees and partners. The department was thus able to power the broadcasting of 28 online events (virtual conferences, festivals, screenings of documentaries, music concerts, theater performances, lectures), between June and December 2020. These events included a feminist annual festival, a film festival, music festivals, and 2 annual theater festivals. The streaming was very popular, gathering sometimes 1000 simultaneous online viewers.

Along with the programs, the department participated in the explorations for sustainable online solutions for their regular activities, for example the weekly documentary screenings followed by discussions with the audience of the Media program, or the online debate competitions of the Youth Initiative program. The Communication department maintained the distribution of the weekly editions of our newsletter reporting on our activities during 2020 to more than 5,700 subscribers (partners, beneficiaries, journalists, and friends of FOKAL). Prior to the pandemic, the department had organized a workshop to train 28 coaches of the 14 debate clubs of the Youth Initiative program (2 coaches per club) on writing, to have good narrative articles for the website and newsletter.

The diminution in public activities also made it possible to focus on some internal tasks. Following the institutional constructed collectively in 2019 after a workshop, a visual campaign on FOKAL's values was permanently installed in the offices to keep them not only in our hearts, but also in plain sight to guide our actions. A well needed campaign to refresh our image bank with recent professional headshots of our colleagues was also completed.

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

Marie Edmonde Jeune & Elizabeth Pierre-Louis

2020 was a real test for our administrative processes and grant system. Since 2016, the IT section has been working to create a secure online platform to process grants, procurement, and payments. When the pandemic hit, the whole staff had to work remotely, and the platform worked at its full potential. Staff were able to point out where improvement was needed and their suggestions were implemented but in general, the administrative service, grants, and financial division worked as a team remotely and were able to function with remarkable ease.

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 enabled everyone to move forward with confidence. 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 well-being of the employees and friends of the Foundation, its choir: KORAL FOKAL celebrated its 4th anniversary. It was not possible to perform after March 2020. New possibilities await us and the relationships are still strong. We sing for joy and relief, but also 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 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**

A 3 book collection on human rights is being produced by writer Sylvie Merida and illustrator Rosele Henriquez. An important place was given to games and educational information, that being as fundamental as the story itself, considering the educational goal of the project. The Cartoon Lakou Kajou's created two specific episodes on Justice and Environment. The Lakou Kajou team was very dynamic during this time of crisis and managed to finalize the two episodes of the cartoon [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Q1tXst7o4P0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1tXst7o4P0). A booklet and animation guide for (12) children's books on Human rights for the use by librarians, is also well advanced in its conception. The photo novel on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been distributed, in fragments, online and on FOKAL's networks to generate public interest.

### **Information, education and civic action campaign on human rights.**

A special action to raise awareness on the impacts of the covid-19 crisis on human rights was carried out. during April and May, grants were given to encourage graphic designers and visual artists to participate in a poster creation workshop around human rights and the Covid-19 crisis in Haiti. 19 candidates out of 39 were selected to participate in the workshop (call link: <https://fokal.org/index.php/nouvel-fokal/31-nos-programmes/1502-nos-rihts-in-times-of-crisis-distance-training-and-poster-contest-on-the-coronavirus-in-Haiti>). Led by Teresa Sdravlevec and Ralph Dupoux, respectively Belgian and Haitian graphic designers, the workshop took place online (Zoom) over two weeks. An online competition was launched; 16 posters could be rated by the public for 10 days on the FOKAL Instagram page. The creators were accompanied by two experts, Danièle Magloire, specialist in human rights and Jacqueline Baussan, clinical psychologist. An expert jury also voted. 5 creators were awarded: (announcement of results: <https://fokal.org/index.php/nouvel-fokal/31-nos-programmes/1524-quand-des-creatifs-parlent-de-droits-des-affiches-primees>).

On April 15, 2020, AyiboPost submitted a first draft of a video on the right to education. Remarks from the FOKAL and ASFC team were made to improve the video, and a new version was submitted on June 6, 2020, before its publication on social media.

### **An information and exchange platform on human rights.**

From June 11 to 18, a call for proposals was launched to individuals and CSOs for projects promoting and defending human rights during the Covid-19 crisis. 11 projects were selected among 63 applications.

A joint campaign on women's rights was launched by FOKAL, ASFC, and partner CSOs in November. It consisted in of posters on sexual consent that were first posted on social media, causing a heated debate, then printouts were distributed to the organizations.

## **CHALLENGES**

This year was marked by the covid-19 pandemic, which led to FOKAL's facilities to being closed to the public and months of remote working for employees and collaborators. Flexibility and creativity were needed to adapt to the challenges of the situation. Virtual formats were implemented to ensure the realization of workshops, broadcasts and debates. Special actions were taken regarding the epidemic and its consequences on human rights.

Next steps to this objective

2021 marks the fifth and final year of the AJULIH project; it will be the time for finalizing the different activities undertaken and evaluating their impact at the national level.

As the Covid-19 threat remains, we will continue to adapt to make sure of the success of the civic education program.

## 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

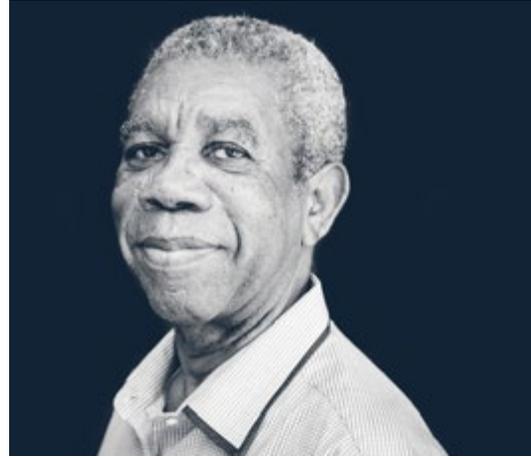
Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and 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 training until 2012 when the Harper government closed Rights and Democracy in Canada.



### **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:

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## REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Program Director

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