



The Town of St George UNESCO World Heritage Fund Management Plan

Introduction

The United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by UNESCO on 16th November 1972 acknowledged, by inscription, the historic Town of St. George, Bermuda and its related fortifications as a World Heritage Site on 2nd December 2000, under criteria (iv) and (vi) of UNESCO's *Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value*.

- Under criterion (iv) the site is “an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.”
- Under criterion (vi) the site is associated with “events or living traditions... of outstanding universal significance,” in this case the beginning of the English colonization of the New World, a step in the European settlement of North America that has “resulted in developments of outstanding universal value”.

To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a site must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding. Accordingly, a World Heritage Management Committee (WHMC) was established by the Bermuda Government and which has produced a World Heritage Site Management Plan (WHSMP) to provide guidance in fulfilling this requirement.

The WHSMP produced by the WHMC in January 2014, addresses the following areas:

- Managing the Forts
- Managing the Town
- The Planning and Development Framework
- Preservation and Enhancement
- Traffic and Transport
- Tourism
- Interpretation, Education and Training
- Maximizing Opportunities for the Town of St. George and Bermuda

It is acknowledged within the WHSMP that the Corporation of St George (CSG) is responsible for maintaining most of the day to day services within the municipal area (the municipal area is also that area identified in the Bermuda Plan 2008 Planning Statement as the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone), including roads, sidewalks, street lighting, public motor vehicle and motorcycle parking, trash collection and street cleaning, managing and maintaining docks, sewage disposal, providing a piped flushing water supply, public toilet provision, and maintenance of public parks. Further it is proposed that the CSG, with the assistance of the Bermuda Government, put in place a plan for effectively managing the town's infrastructure needs into the future, and securing the necessary resources to ensure that these needs can



be met. An initial CSG Asset Management Plan, indicating how the town's infrastructure will be managed, is to be submitted to the WHMC and the plan shall be reviewed by the CSG on, at least, an annual basis.

In addition, when considering that one of the main functions of the WHMC is to act as a forum for ensuring that projects brought forward within the proposed World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone preserve or enhance the area, submission of the CSG Asset Management Plan to the WHMC allows the WHMC to fulfil this function with regard to the activities of the CSG in managing the town of St George.

In order to establish and enhance a formal communication channel between the WHMC and the CSG, and to help ensure the WHMC fulfils its mandate with regard to the town of St George, the CSG shall maintain representation on the WHMC.

Further in 2013, to assist in securing the necessary financial resources, The Corporation of St. George's (UNESCO World Heritage Fund and Levy) Act 2013 ("the Act") was enacted by the Bermuda Government, to provide for the establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Fund (UWHF) to be used for the specific purpose of maintaining, developing and promoting the UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Town of St. George.

Administration and Management of the UNESCO World Heritage Fund

The UWHF is administered by the CSG, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and used to maintain, develop, and promote the UNESCO World Heritage Site in the town of St George.

The following administration and management guidelines have been approved by resolution of the General Council of the CSG. Other than those provisions included in the Act, the guidelines may be amended from time to time using the same resolution process.

Financial Management

The Act allows for the collection of a levy by the CSG on certain goods, prescribed by the Act, and which are imported via the ship terminal at the Oil Docks, St George's. All monies so collected shall be payable to the CSG, and shall be deposited in a bank account used solely for the purpose of administering the UWHF.

The CSG shall maintain a record of transactions of the UWHF, ensuring that all monies received are properly brought to account, and that all payments out of the UWHF are correctly made and properly authorised.

The financial year applied to the UWHF shall end on 31st March each year, and the CSG shall comply with any request of the Accountant General for information and documentation relating to the fund.

It shall also be the duty of the CSG to provide the Government of Bermuda with a duly audited annual report pertaining to the fund on or before 30th September each year.



Completing an Application

Each application for funding, without exception, shall be submitted using the UNESCO World Heritage Fund Application (Form UWHFA1, as amended). Guidelines are provided to assist with completion of the form.

Applications must be received **by the 31st December** prior to the start of the financial year in which the funding is required in order to be considered as part of the CSG financial budgeting process. Applications may be accepted later than this scheduled deadline at the sole discretion of the Finance & Property Committee.

A response to the funding application shall be provided by the CSG TM to the application sponsor **no later than 31st March** in the year following application submission. All approved applications shall be included annually in an amended CSG Asset Management Plan.

Applicants should be aware that submission of an application does not guarantee funding will be approved. In addition, some applications may require further information to be submitted by the application sponsor before a decision regarding approval can be made, and this may cause a delay in the actual date of receipt of a completed application.

Applications for funding shall be accepted both internally from within the CSG, and from external stakeholders. Total funds available for all approved external applications in any particular financial year shall be limited to \$50,000 or 10% of the total fund revenue for the previous financial year, whichever amount is smaller. In any particular financial year, the balance of unused funds from this appropriation shall not be carried forward to the external funding appropriation in the following year, and shall be retained in the UWHF for that particular financial year.

Approval to use Fund

Each proposal for use of monies from the UWHF shall require a completed application using the UNESCO World Heritage Fund Application (Form UWHFA1, as amended), in order to assist CSG in determining that use of the fund for any particular purpose or project meets the criteria prescribed by the Act, namely the maintenance, development, and promotion of UNESCO World Heritage Site in St George.

Each completed application for funding shall be submitted to the office of the CSG Town Manager (TM) at the following address,

Storekeeper's House
5 Ordinance Island
St George's GE 05

By no later than 5 working days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Finance & Property Committee, the CSG TM shall forward the application for review to the Mayor and current chairpersons of each of the following CSG Committees,



- Governance Committee
- Finance & Property Committee
- Infrastructure & Development Committee
- Activities Committee

At the next scheduled meeting of the Finance & Property Committee all applications thus forwarded shall be considered and a vote taken of all Committee members present to determine approval or rejection of each application, with due consideration given to fulfillment of World Heritage Fund approval criteria and fund budgetary constraints. A simple majority shall be sufficient to determine the outcome of the vote, and applications so approved shall be presented at the next regularly scheduled General Council meeting for Council approval.

Should any vote at the Finance & Property Committee level be tied, determination of the application outcome shall be made by simple majority at the next regularly scheduled General Council meeting.

All decisions regarding applications shall be recorded on the Form UWHFA1 by the Chairperson of the Finance & Property Committee where indicated, and also by the Mayor as appropriate. Each processed application form shall be held in storage by the CSG TM for a minimum of seven years, as supporting evidence that the application for funding has been duly approved/rejected in accordance with this management plan.

By Order of the Corporation of St. George