

# Who's Who in St George

It's important to understand who has responsibility for what in St George, in part because one concern raised by consultees was that there are too many splinter groups duplicating effort. The fact that there is so much effort is definitely positive, but there is a risk of inefficiency and confusion. Fortunately, the 2014 World Heritage Site Management Plan presented a helpful guide to the main organisations, summarised in the following. Whilst there are other not-for-profit organisations focused on the preservation of specific assets in the Town, as well as Government Departments with various responsibilities, the following are the principal bodies.

## 1. Corporation of St George

The Corporation of St George is served by the mayor, and councillors, who are elected through municipal elections. It has its own boards and committees that govern the town, and carries out these duties in accordance with Municipalities Act 2013 and others. It owns a number of important buildings, including historically significant ones.

Its responsibilities include; upkeep of the highways within the municipality including road surfaces, street lighting, road signs, sidewalks, parking, traffic wardens etc.; operation of the water supply and waste water/ sewage disposal systems and manages public toilets; managing the docks, maintaining the Towns' parks and organizing trash collection and street cleaning.

The Corporation is also represented on the St. George's Preservation Authority, Development Applications Board and the Marine Board, and is consulted on planning applications in the municipal area. It provides input to Tourism Authority on behalf of the East End; and input to the Ministry of Transport on marine and road transport matters affecting the Town.

The Corporation is also responsible for administering all aspects of the UNESCO World Heritage Site for St George's.

In 2019, the Bermuda Government proposed reforming the Municipalities Act, which would repeal the Corporation elections and continue the corporation as a QUANGO. However, it did not receive the support of the Senate, so the future remains unclear in this regard.

## 2. St George's Foundation

The St George's Foundation is a not-for-profit membership organisation that aims to promote St. George's World Heritage Site status by; fundraising and investing in projects that support the local economy well as implementing projects that protect and enhance the Town. It also manages a revolving fund to invest in historic buildings and provides an educational, promotional and communications role for St. George.

Until recently, the Foundation also managed the World Heritage Centre at Penno's Wharf.

## 3. Bermuda National Trust

Also a not-for-profit membership organisation, the Bermuda National Trust operates island-wide but, specifically in St George it; owns a number of the most significant buildings; operates two museums; maintains a number of military cemeteries in St. George's; carries out archaeological excavation and research in the Town; and organizes cultural tours and special events such as the Christmas walkabout. It is represented on the St. George's Preservation Authority and provides advice on historic building/architectural matters. It also monitors and comments on planning applications.

## 4. St George's Preservation Authority

Established under the Town of St George (Protection of Buildings of Special Interest) Act 1950, the St George's Preservation Authority is a consultee on planning applications within the Preservation Authority 'Scheduled Area', the Town of St. George Historic Protection Area, and the World Heritage Site and World Heritage Site buffer zone. It can issue protection orders to landowners on listed buildings. It can also potentially, issue building permits and, thereby, control all new development in the Scheduled Area however to do this, it must be able to fund at least 50% of the capital budget and so in practice it does not have the resources to do this.

## 5. Bermuda Economic Development Corporation

With a vision to “help to create an expanded pool of inspired entrepreneurs running successful businesses that fuel Bermuda’s economy, the BEDC provides financial support and advice for business owners and especially start ups. It also provides loans to assist business within St George’s Economic Empowerment Zone.

## 6. Bermuda Chamber of Commerce East End Division

Comprising of businesses of all categories, the Chamber represents the commercial interest of its members and seeks to cultivate “the best environment in which all businesses can prosper”. It coordinates business interest in the Town and organizes special events for locals and tourists. Their Executive Committee includes representatives from the Corporation of St. George’s, the St. George’s Foundation and the Visitors Service Bureau.

## 7. World Heritage Site Management Plan Committee

In order to integrate and co-ordinate the St George World Heritage Site, a World Heritage Management and Monitoring Committee is comprised of representatives of the following stakeholders:

- Corporation of St. George
- St. George’s Foundation
- St. George’s Historical Society
- St. George’s Preservation Authority
- St. George’s Chamber of Commerce
- Bermuda Electric Light Company
- Bermuda Maritime Museum
- Bermuda National Trust
- Bermuda Telephone Company
- Bermuda Cablevision
- Bermuda Police Service
- Historic Buildings Advisory Committee
- Institute of Bermuda Architects
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Works and Engineering
- Ministry of Development and Opportunity
- Bermudian Heritage Association