



Quarterly Newsletter

September 2022

CARING FOR OUR COASTLINE

The Society has been the local coordinator of the Ocean Conservancy's [International Coastal Cleanup](#) since 1991. Initially spearheaded by the late Joan Robinson, the initiative was then taken over by one of our most stalwart members, Miriam Knorr. For the past few years, our staff member Arcquela "Ella" Bendeito has been taking the lead to ensure that the tradition continues. This year marks our 31st annual Coastal Cleanup, and Ella shares her report with us here.

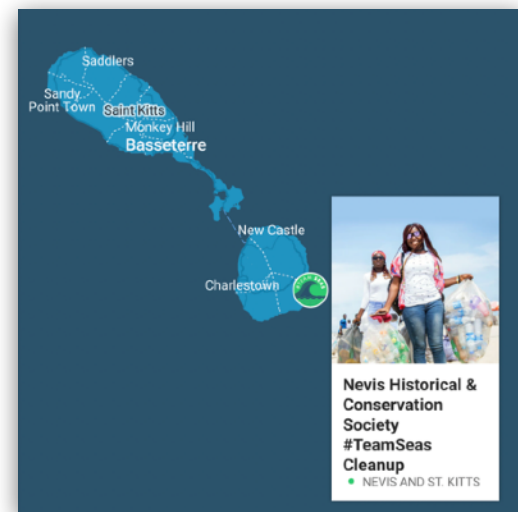
The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) began more than 35 years ago, mobilising communities with the goal of collecting and documenting the trash littering their coastline. Since it began, more than 17 million volunteers have collected more than 348 million pounds of trash that pollutes our waterways, making our coasts cleaner and our oceans healthier.

After two years of low turnout due to Covid-19 related restrictions on gatherings, this year marked a return to normalcy and a large volunteer turnout. Here is a summary of statistics from the coastal cleanup that was held on Saturday, September 24th:

We had 117 volunteers divided into 13 teams, cleaning 12 coastal sites on Nevis. Currently, we have trash data for 10 of the 12 coastal sites, namely:

- VON Radio Beach
- Pinney's Beach
- Jones Bay Bridge
- Yachtsman Grill/Cotton Ground Beach
- Gallows Bay
- Charlestown waterfront
- Newcastle Bay
- Fort Ashby
- Whitebay
- Long Haul Bay

We counted a total of 102 bags, which allocates approx. 3,930 trash items weighing 1,065 lbs. across 5.18 miles. The largest quantity of trash is plastic beverage bottles totalling 1,796. The Charlestown



Secondary and Nevis Sixth form Group collected the most trash as of recent calculations at 2,208 items of trash that filled 17 bags at the Waterfront. They also collected the largest quantity of beverage plastic bottles numbering 637. Notably, Thalia Dore's team from Gingerland/Hanley's Road collected 520 beverage bottles at White Bay. The Ministry of Tourism wasn't too far behind, collecting 480 plastic beverage bottles at Pinney's Beach. The total number of plastic bottles (beverage and other) is 1,871 and the total amount of plastic and foam material collected is 3,178.

After the cleanup, we treated our volunteers to a picnic at historic Fort Charles, south of Charlestown. After a full morning's work, we enjoyed the cool shade and the delicious cookup from Boddie's, goat water from Carbo's, cake from The Hermitage Inn, and drinks from Carib Brewery!

We would like to thank the following team leaders and teams for sending in their data and for volunteering to Keep Nevis Clean!

- First Girl Guides
- Ministry of Tourism
- Nevis International Secondary School
- Charlestown Methodist Church Sunday School
- Charlestown Secondary School
- Nevis Sixth Form College
- Newcastle Bay Foundation
- Nevis Aquatic & Sailing Center
- Swim to Win
- Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM)
- Miriam Knorr
- Keithley Amory
- Thalia Dore

We also extend a HUGE thank you to our sponsors and partners for this year's clean-up!

- Ministry of Tourism
- Nevis Solid Waste Management and Authority
- Ministry of Social Development & Gender Affairs
- Boddie's Restaurant
- Carbo's
- The Hermitage Inn
- Carib Brewery St Kitts & Nevis Ltd.

From the Director...

Allow me to begin by saying a belated Happy 39th Independence to our beloved St. Kitts and Nevis. Here at the Society, we celebrated by participating in the daily national colours challenge and with a beautiful SKN-themed display in our museum gift shop. Many items are still available for sale as it's always the right time of year to showcase your patriotism.



It would please you all to learn that the Society has had yet another extremely productive quarter. Our small team, supported by invaluable volunteers (including three amazing interns - see pg.6), has juggled numerous projects and activities in support of our mandate to safeguard the cultural and natural landscape of Nevis.

In July, we hosted several of our colleagues from the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society who journeyed to our shores for the unveiling of the recently erected "Hamilton as a Young Man" statue on the museum grounds. If you have not seen it as yet, I implore you to stop by and snap a picture with this masterfully crafted piece. You can read more about the sculptor, donors, and unveiling ceremony and other activities on pg.7. Along the same vein, we remain committed to our Hamilton Scholarship programme which sees 29 students benefiting from an annual bursary. Unfortunately, a spike in Covid cases at the beginning of the year prevented the Society from hosting the primary fundraiser for this initiative. As such, we are requesting that our members and friends come on board to sponsor at least one child as we work to keep our commitment to these our future leaders. To date we have successfully funded 8 of our scholars. Thank you to all our donors thus far, we appreciate you!

As we look towards the next quarter, keep your eyes and ears peeled for the return of our 'Meet the Artist' and 'Dem Say' productions aimed at engaging you, our valuable members. We also invite your participation in our upcoming beach cleanup at Indian Castle as we work to clear an illegal dump site in the area. Contact 469-5786/661-0408 to volunteer.

I end on a sad note as we bid farewell to one of our long-standing members, Marcia Myers. On behalf of the Society, I express heartfelt condolences to her friends and family. Please know that she is deeply missed by her NHCS family.

“Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Trash”





PROJECT UPDATES



Democracy in Action – Hamilton’s Legacy on his Island Birthplace, funded through the Public Diplomacy Small Grants of the US Embassy Bridgetown. A school art competition – based on the umbrella topics of ‘Alexander Hamilton’, ‘Democracy’ and ‘Civic Participation’ – was launched in June, and the prize-giving took place on the 22nd of July during the unveiling of the Alexander Hamilton statue on the museum grounds. The competition was organised by artist and owner of The Charlestown Gallery, Deborah Tyrell, and the young artists were judged on Creativity & Originality, Quality &



Execution, Clarity of Idea and Freedom of Expression by a panel comprising local artists Rosemary Smith, Ella Bendeito and Davien Griffin. The winners were:



- 1st Prize: Annalyse Arthurton**
- 2nd Prize: Jamoya Mitchell**
- 3rd Prize: J'Rell Powell**

Certificates of Participation were also awarded to Ricardo Byron and Toussaint Trotman.

The art went on display at The Charlestown Gallery in town – CONGRATULATIONS to all the young artists!!

Beekeeping – Establishment of Central Breeding Facilities, funded through the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme. This project aims at increasing bee colonies on both islands to increase bee populations, leading to biodiversity conservation and improved food and livelihood security for farmers and beekeepers. The Society has now received all the materials and equipment to begin the setting up of the nurseries and undertake the practical training, and the equipment has been distributed in both St Kitts and Nevis.



NEVIS ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRE

Our new Centre was a beehive of activity this Summer with teams from Canada, the USA and the UK all making use of the new facility!



Prof Neal Ferris of the University of Western Ontario/Museum of Ontario

Archaeology (Canada) led a team of young Nevisian students – **Tinesha Saddler, Zahra Trotman, and Brian Dore** – in activities both at the Centre and in the field.

They worked tirelessly sorting through boxes of material in bad shape, getting them re-bagged and recording labels that are starting to disintegrate. The team inspected Fort Charles and Gallows Bay erosion and, with permission from the land owners, hope to map some surface finds and plan a field school there next year. They also carried out surveys at Bath Hotel and Fort Ashby.



A research programme in Nevis was initiated in 2007 by **Prof Marco Meniketti, of the Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University (USA)**, to investigate sites that might inform on colonialism, industry, environmental and cultural changes. In 2002 he returned with his field staff: volunteer field supervisor, Lindsley Britton, and staff assistant, Brenna Wheelis.



Together with a team of student volunteers, they investigated the potential site of an enslaved African habitation zone and sampled for faunal materials from three previously studied sites. The focus of these projects has been in alignment with the Society's goals as both historical in scope and engaged in environmental studies. Results of the 2022 field season will be the basis for professional presentations, reports, and a final report to the Society.



Dr Elaine Morris, Visiting Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Southampton and Dr Rob Philpott, freelance archaeological consultant based in Southport, Merseyside, were in Nevis as part of the ongoing Nevis Heritage Project. Over several weeks in July, they identified, quantified and assessed the contents of the 16 boxes of artefacts from the excavations which took place at Jamestown between 2003-2006 by Prof Eric Klingelhofer, Dr Carter Hudgens and Prof Roger Leech and their teams. They also worked with the Nevisian students to sort artefacts, and do drone mapping work at Jamestown.

Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel and keep an eye out for an upcoming Special Edition of "DEM SAY" with our Nevisian amateur archaeologists – COMING SOON!



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



ALEXANDER HAMILTON STATUE UNVEILED

On 22nd July, a life-size bronze statue of the US founding father and first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, was unveiled together with the AHA Society on the Museum grounds in Charlestown, Nevis. The statue, named “Alexander Hamilton as a Young Man,” is by renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor, and shows him holding a rolled-up scroll, symbolising the knowledge and skills Alexander Hamilton gained in the Caribbean and carried with him when he emigrated to the present-day United States. The statue was created to serve as an educational enhancement for visitor experience to the museums, with five informative plaques donated by the AHA Society are installed on the historic stone wall of the museum complex. This statue project by the AHA Society, meant to recognise and highlight Hamilton’s Caribbean origins. was made possible through the generous donation of Robin Sommers.



It is believed that Hamilton was born in Nevis circa 1754, on the site that currently houses the Society offices and museums, and the Nevis Island

Assembly. Alexander Hamilton spent his childhood in the Caribbean, also living on St Eustatius and St Croix, before emigrating to New York in 1772. This year marks the 250th anniversary of Hamilton’s journey to mainland North America.

Local programming on Nevis during the week leading up to the statue’s unveiling included a discussion facilitated by Black History specialist and Manager of Living History at the New York Historical Society, Cheyney McKnight, titled “Statues: How They Can Memorialize, Harm and Heal;” a talk and showing of original Hamilton documents by renowned collector Seth Kaller; a talk by Vice President of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, Sergio Villavicencio, on “Alexander Hamilton: Immigrant;” a talk on how the new Hamilton statue on Nevis will affect tourism by Nevis Sun Tours CEO, Greg Bernard Phillips; and a talk about “Alexander Hamilton’s Mother and Family on Gingerland,” the locale in Nevis where Hamilton’s mother’s family resided on Nevis, by historian and author Michael E. Newton.

JOIN US!

STATUES: HOW THEY CAN MEMORIALIZE, HARM, AND HEAL.

As part of the events to mark the unveiling of Alexander Hamilton as a Young Man, we welcome

CHEYNEY MCKNIGHT

Join her as she guides guests through the history of statues, including how their uses and meanings have changed across borders and over the centuries. She will explore with the audience how the new Alexander Hamilton statue at the Museum of Nevis History can be used as a tool for historical preservation and commemoration.

Tuesday 19 July, 5:30-6:30pm

Alexander Hamilton Museum
Samuel Hunkins Drive, Charlestown, Nevis

PLEASE RSVP: info@nevisheritage.org

<https://www.instagram.com/nevisyourmomentshistory/>



The colourful ceremony on 22nd July included a saxophone rendition of the "The Star-Spangled Banner", the national anthem of the United States, by Mr Lee Sullivan, and the St Kitts & Nevis National anthem sung by Society's very own songird, Eliesel Ramirez Dorsett.

At the unveiling, Nevis Premier, Hon. Mark Brantley said "It was in Nevis that Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States, must have dreamt and aspired and as a consequence, achieved great things... We, as I like to say, must agree that the United States owes Nevis a debt of gratitude," Brantley said.

More broadly, the hope is for the statue to inspire young people in Nevis "of the contribution of a Nevisian, that an island this size could have contributed so much to a country the size of the United States," added Premier Brantley. "It's a welcome addition... it reminds us that we are never limited by the station of our birth, only by the extent of our ambition and imagination."

Watch the full video of the official Hamilton Statue Unveiling Ceremony [👉 HERE](#)



"In a world where statues and their place are the subject of sometimes tumultuous conversations, the bigger purpose of the Hamilton work is not to glorify but to recognise the impact that individuals from small island states can have. The idea is for visitors to come to learn about Hamilton and leave knowing more about Nevis itself and its rich history."

– Jahnel Nisbett, Director, Nevis Historical & Conservation Society

SUPPORT HAMILTON'S LEGACY IN NEVIS: THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!

The Alexander Hamilton Scholarship Fund



The **Alexander Hamilton Scholarship Fund** was established in 1965 by the Trott family, and every year awards 20 deserving Secondary School students in Nevis – selected by the Ministry of Social Development – with a bursary for uniforms, fees, books and other supplies. In return, the Alexander Hamilton scholars get involved with the Society's numerous activities through volunteerism. Until now, the Scholarship Fund was set at EC\$10,000 (or US\$ 3,700) and is supported locally by our Members, local individuals and businesses, past scholarship holders and members of the wider community. We were unable to hold an in-person Tea Party and Award Ceremony (which also serves as a fundraiser) for the past two years, and we are instead turning towards online fundraising so as to be able to assist these deserving students.

Given the annual cost of inflation, the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, and the most recent drastic increase in fees, goods and services, we feel it is only fair to be able to offer each student something that will make a difference in their academic career. We hope you agree that EC\$ 500 doesn't go as far as it used to! As such, we have raised the amount to the equivalent of US\$ 10,000 (or EC\$ 27,000). If you would like to contribute or learn more about the Fund, you can come into the office and speak with the Director, Jahnel Nisbet, or the President, Richard Lupinacci, for more information. You may also make your donation online 🙌 [here](#) – no amount is too small!

OPEN COMMUNITY DAY FOR NEVIS WETLANDS

The Restoration of Nevis Wetlands and Restoration of Nevis Wetlands Ecosystems and Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices are funded through the U.S. Forest Service Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) Program and SMILO Islands Fund, respectively. As part of these initiatives, Project Coordinators Keithley Amory and Jenny Lowery organised an Open Community Day for the community. Originally scheduled for 3rd September, it was postponed until 10th September due to heavy rainfall. It was a fun morning with mangrove tours led by Jenny and Isabel Byron, demonstrations on weaving with cattail reeds led by Pam Barry, and informative poster boards at both sites. We would like to thank the members of St Thomas' Improvement Group (STIG) and all our team members, volunteers and friends who came out to learn more about these ongoing wetland projects. A big THANK YOU also goes to Nelson's Spring Water for making sure we stayed hydrated, and to Kevon Archibald for setting up the standby generator. If you would like more information about our projects and the flora and fauna at Nelson's Spring and Fort Ashby wetlands, stop by our offices in Charlestown at the Museum of Nevis History or send us an [Email!](#) 





STAFF NEWS



Equally as important as our official projects is the need for constant team building activities. As such, our team began this quarter by participating in the annual **Nevis Mango Festival** activities together. In case you had not heard, a team that eats mangoes together stays together!



Our very own Arcquela “Ella” Bendeito was presented with an award in the new category **Youth in Cultural and Historical Preservation** during the Department of Youth’s “Youth Impact 12 Awards” Ceremony on Thursday, September 29th. She was recognised for her stellar work since joining the Society, especially with the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage project, as Assistant Archivist, and as a member of our Biodiversity Committee that spearheads the annual International Coastal Cleanup, among other environmental activities. Please join us in congratulating Ella on this amazing achievement!!



As part of the celebrations to mark the 39th anniversary of Independence, our team didn’t miss the opportunity to join in the daily challenge for National Colours Week!

"Refocus, Re-create, Redesign: Independence 39"



Nevis Island Archives

Our Archives, located at Bellevue next to Government House, are currently accessed by appointment only but was still busy fielding requests between July and September, including:

Gina Empson: 'The use and background of the Hamilton Mill and Estate'

Stedroy Brand: 'Historical Information on Crosses Alley'

Jahnel Brookes: 'Nevis Church Records'

Anastasia Parris: 'Charlestown Photos Pre-Development'

Kelle Frances: 'St. Kitts-Nevis Anguilla Statehood (When it was formed, How and why did it end)'

Elena: 'Contacts for Visual Artists on Nevis'

Maureen Simpson: Genealogy; 'William Woolard and Thomas Woolard Family Ties'

Nevis Tourism Authority: 'Nevis prior and after Columbus', 'Geographical location of Nevis', 'When did St. Kitts and Nevis Join the UN', 'Leaders of St. Kitts and Nevis before and after Independence including time in office' 'Premiers of Nevis and time period in office'

thank
you!

**We extend special thanks to the
following members & friends
for their generous contributions
in cash or kind!**

Patrick Meredith, Maureen Rogers,
Mary-Anne Hamilton, Miriam Knorr, Elaine Morris,
The Hermitage, Nevis Island Administration

CHAMPION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Marcia Myers (1941-2022)



The Society was devastated to learn of the passing of Marcia Myers, a stalwart member and driving force in our efforts for Historic Preservation. Suzanne Gordon shares this tribute to her.

Marcia McMahon Myers of Rockport, Massachusetts and Cliffdwellers, Nevis, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 30, 2022, age 81. The cause was cancer.

The historic preservation worlds of Boston, Nevis and beyond mourn the passing of Marcia, who was a pioneer, tenacious advocate, and champion of preservation for her entire adult life.

Born in East Caldwell, N.J., she graduated from Mount Holyoke College and the MIT School of City Planning with a master's degree. One of her earliest preservation efforts assisted her parents in relocating an endangered historic house from Marshfield to Duxbury, Mass.

Marcia joined the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1964 as a planner. Given the significant demolition proposed in the South End, Charlestown, and Roxbury neighborhoods, she successfully advocated amending their urban renewal plans to preserve existing buildings and neighborhoods resulting in more emphasis on rehabilitation and conservation. In addition, she was a leader of the successful suit to adopt equal pay for women within the agency.

Marcia helped draft the Boston Landmarks Commission legislation and became its Executive Director. Her interest in maritime preservation led to her move to direct the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Maritime Division.

Her early involvement in preservation in the United States continued in Nevis when in 1978, Marcia and her then husband David Myers, an architect, purchased the hillside bungalow hotel called Cliffdwellers. They ran the hotel for many years, until Hurricane Hugo blew through in 1989, causing major damage. She then decided to shift gears. In 1994, she joined forces with Mat Skinner to redevelop Cliffdwellers Hotel as a Villa Resort and the Villas at Cliffdwellers came to pass. Later they started SEASIDE at Cliffdwellers, a condominium community of 14 townhomes conceived by Marcia, who had a keen sense of color and design. She was steadfast in adhering to West Indian style and architecture and Cliffdwellers is a tribute to her discriminating taste.

An active leader in the Nevis Historical and Conversation Society (NHCS) throughout her time on Nevis, Marcia along with local architect Daphne Hobson created the *Charming Charlestown* guidelines that were published as a book. She served on the Society board for many years, as President and as Secretary, but always as an advocate in fighting for preserving Charlestown and its sense of place. Most recently, she was a member of the Nevis World Heritage Committee, which has been working to have a site on Nevis inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Marcia leaves her sister, Shirley, and brother-in-law, Oktay, nephew, David, and his wife Tori, all of Duxbury, Mass., and her devoted shih tzu, Wylie, a constant at her side and scores of friends, colleagues, mentees, and long-standing admirers. A memorial service will be planned this Winter so that her Nevis friends and family can gather to celebrate her life. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Music Program of the First Congregational Church, 12 School St., Rockport, MA 01966 or to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please get in touch if you'd like to donate towards, or get involved with, any of our activities!

- ▶ **October 29: Coastal Cleanup at Indian Castle**
- ▶ **November: Slam Poetry competition (part of the “Democracy in Action” project)**
- ▶ **November: Arbour month**
- ▶ **December: Holiday Fair & Jumble Sale – date to be announced**
- ▶ **Last Tuesday of every month: “Meet the Artist” at the Museum Gift Shop**
- ▶ **3rd Thursday of every month: meeting of the Board of Directors**

COMING SOON!

**Return of monthly "Movie Night":
Nevis Past & Present (footage from the Archives)**

Q3 MUSEUM STATISTICS (JUL-SEPT)

While there were no cruise ships calling at the Charlestown pier in the 3rd Quarter of 2022, we anticipate a robust 4th Quarter! These statistics reflect the Museum of Nevis History and Hamilton Museum only.

521

**TOTAL
MUSEUM
VISITORS**

67

**VISITORS
FROM
4 TOURS**

454

**WALK-IN
VISITORS**

RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!

We've partnered with the GivenGain Foundation to provide a secure platform for our members to pay [ONLINE!](#)

Members who have not yet renewed their membership – and those wishing to join – are encouraged to do so by coming by the Museum of Nevis History and renewing/joining in person, and paying by cash, EC\$ cheque or credit/debit card.

You can also join/renew by submitting the online form at www.nevisheritage.org and following the prompts for online payment.

Your support DOES make a difference!



A HAMILTON FOR HAMILTON

Since the establishment of the first museum in 1986, our Admission fee has remained at US\$ 5 for visitors and EC\$ 1 for nationals and residents. Since then, we have added two more museums, and in 2019 we unveiled a new exhibition in the Museum of Nevis History.

Given the staggering loss of revenue during the pandemic, and the rising cost of maintenance for our buildings and exhibits as well as programming and general operations, we are implementing a rate increase w.e.f. 1st January 2022. We hope that our international visitors will feel that US\$10 for a memorable Hamilton experience is worthwhile!

SKN nationals and residents still pay only EC\$1 for entry and entry is FREE for Members and all children under 10.

Please note that US\$10 (or equivalent) is a combined entry fee for the Museum of Nevis History, Hamilton Museum, Gift Shop and museum grounds.

SHOP TALK



Summer sale!
HAMILTON
merchandise

HOT HOT HOT!

Beat the heat with these T-Shirts: regular & sleeveless! US\$ 20 / EC\$ 54 sizes S-XXL

Shot glasses US\$ 10 / EC\$ 27

Available in the Museum Gift Shop
Members get 10% discount!

Alexander Hamilton may have given away his shot, but you won't want to with our one-of-a-kind shot glasses that we designed to coincide with the statue unveiling! We also have Hamilton T-shirts and of course there is still a wide assortment of books, unique and handcrafted gift items like ornaments, frames, paracord key chains, carved whistles,

Newcastle pottery, one-of-a-kind jewellery, water-marbled items and original paintings and photographs. Come in and see our newly framed historic maps!



WE ACCEPT
VISA **MasterCard**
DEBIT & CREDIT

DON'T FORGET:

FLASH YOUR
MEMBERSHIP CARD
AND GET 10% OFF* !



Free WiFi in our
Museums & Gift Shop



Our Team

Jahnel Nisbett – Director
Gail Dore – Senior Archivist / Ag. Administrative Officer
Eliesel Ramirez Dorsett – Gallery supervisor/Membership Officer
Arcquela “Ella” Bendeito – Gallery attendant/Assistant archivist
Jonathan Ward – Gallery attendant/Admin. assistant
Jamilah Clarke – Museum Gift Shop attendant
Miriam Knorr – Museum Gift Shop supervisor
Lorna Abungu – Museum / Communications advisor
Patrick Howell – Audio-Visual support
Keithley Amory – IWeco & NICaR project coordinator
Jenny Lowery – Consultant, Nelson Spring Restoration Project

Executive Board 2021

Richard Lupinacci – President
Todd Miller – Vice President
Warren Moving – Treasurer
Althea Campbell
Gillian Hobson
Terence “Tee” Liburd
Sylvester Meade - Heritage Manager, NIA
Maurisha Robinson
Charles Ward

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