

Quarterly Newsletter



December 2022

PRESTIGIOUS GRANT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BATH HOTEL

Historic preservation is back in focus with our recent grant from the U.S. Department of State's global [Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation](#) (AFCP) programme for the urgent conservation and stabilisation of Nevis' iconic Bath Hotel

On November 22nd, we hosted a project launch and signing ceremony at the Bath Hotel, led by Amb. Linda Tagliatela, U.S. Ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and the OECS; Premier of Nevis, the Hon. Mark Brantley; and Society President, Richard Lupinacci. Representing the US Embassy Bridgetown were: Cierra Saylor, Country Officer for St. Kitts and Nevis; David Schnier, Deputy Chief of Mission; Amelia Swift, Political Specialist; and Nakita Holder, Cultural Affairs Assistant. Also in attendance were our Board of Directors, staff and a number of stakeholders. Additionally, we were delighted to have the following dignitaries join this important event: H.E. Hyleeta Liburd, Deputy Governor-General of Nevis; Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Geoffrey Hanley; Hon. Alexis Jeffers; P.S. Wakely Daniel; P.S. John Hanley; Mr Jerome Rawlins; and Mr Damien I-Ching Liu from the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Saint Kitts and Nevis; as well as representatives from the media.

The Bath Hotel, an imposing cut stone structure, is located just south of Charlestown, Nevis' capital, and was built around 1800. In its heyday, it was an elegant hotel that served as a playground for the wealthy planters of Nevis and the entire Caribbean, who flocked to its therapeutic hot spring waters. The Bath Hotel is among the



few non-military, non-estate, and non-government structures in the Caribbean, noted for its remarkable scale, design, and setting. The hotel was constructed over the site of the island's largest volcanic hot springs, which contain minerals of medicinal value. The thermal springs are unique in that they have been continuously used from Amerindian times to the present, and even more so in that they are a place of memory associated with the adaption and survival of enslaved Africans. The urgent conservation and eventual rehabilitation of the site will expand the use of the Bath Hotel and hot springs so that they may continue to be used and enjoyed by the community and visitors alike.

The grant will administered by the Society, and the project is being carried out in partnership with the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) through the Ministry of Tourism. It will encompass engineering works that include repairs to electrical wiring and plumbing, sealing of the roof, repairs to any windows and doors by skilled carpenters as well as the repointing of the stonework where necessary by a master mason. The AFCP is a highly competitive programme that receives proposals from museums, ministries of culture, NGOs, and other organisations around the world for a limited number of sponsorships. The brief ceremony and tour of the Bath Hotel were followed by a festive and delicious brunch reception at the historic Hermitage hotel.



Farewell to our Director



We welcomed Jahnel as our new Director in September 2021, and for the past year she has led the organisation through a busy transition period, guiding us through a number of projects and activities, and positioning the Society within both regional and international networks of organisations dedicated to the safeguarding of natural and cultural heritage.

Following island-wide elections, Jahnel was on Sunday, December 18th sworn in as a Senator in the Nevis Island Administration, and the only woman in the five-member Cabinet!

We are sorry to lose such a competent and enthusiastic member of our team, but we are proud that she will be continuing her tireless work for the people of Nevis. The Society greatly benefitted from her passion and commitment to Nevis' natural and cultural heritage, and we know that she will continue to champion the cause in her future role as Junior Minister in the Nevis Island Assembly. From the entire team at the Society, we say THANK YOU, Hon. Nisbett for all your work over the past year, and we wish you nothing but success in your future endeavours!





"So far no documentary evidence has come to light which supports the claim that the Bath House was built in 1778. Further research suggests, however, that John Huggins built the Bath House several decades later than currently thought. Other stories have also emerged, namely:

- the spring which prompted the building of the Bath House played a role in Nevis's early history and in colonising voyages to Virginia and Guyana
- for the first time it has been recognised that the Bath House would have been built by enslaved people and stands as a testament to their skill
- an enterprising woman proprietor, Miss Huggins, appears to have been the driving force in trying to attract early overseas visitors to Nevis.

The building which today is known as the Bath Hotel owes its existence to the naturally occurring hot springs which flow beneath it. It is not clear exactly when the term 'hotel' first appeared. In the 1840s it was advertised as the 'Bath House'; in the late 1850s it was described as the Bath-house Hotel, while in the 1880s a visitor called it a 'hostlery' and a 'hotel' and the smaller, two-storey building below it the 'bathhouse'."

© **Christine Eickelmann, Research Associate, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol July 2017. Read more [HERE!](#)**

BATH HOTEL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING



The project kicked off with a Stakeholder's Meeting, facilitated by Professor George Abungu, PhD, Emeritus Director-General of the National Museums and recipient of France's 'Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters' for his outstanding contribution to heritage at local and global levels. Having been Kenya's Representative to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and Vice-President of its Bureau, he has extensive experience in stakeholder discussions of heritage sites, and we were fortunate to benefit from his presence in Nevis. The meeting, which took place in the Bath Village Community Centre, was an important first step, as community ownership and support are critical for the sustainability of the project during

the implementation phase. Conservation of heritage is successful only when community members are on board, as it is only then that members of the community become active participants in the management of the resources within their localities. This kind of engagement, where the facilitator and participants engage each other and share knowledge and experiences, results in a mutually enriching exchange. This model also encourages both participants and facilitators to learn from each other, compare notes, discuss and come to a common understanding. The Bath community has a wealth of knowledge about their own heritage and are therefore well placed to suggest local management strategies and involvement mechanisms that work better than those that are imposed from outside. The meeting touched on (a) What is a Stakeholder – Roles and Responsibilities; (b) Importance of Cultural Heritage & Heritage Tourism; (c) Tourism and Community Benefits; and ended with discussion and feedback from participants.



By the end of the meeting the attendees came out with more knowledge about the Nevis Historical & Conservation Society; the importance of heritage sites in Nevis and around the world; and the benefits and responsibilities of heritage tourism. Presentations were also made by Board members Ms Gillian Hobson and Mr Sylvester Meade (Heritage Manager, Ministry of Tourism). The meeting was a wonderful start to the project, with excellent interest and feedback from the community. There was an very good turnout of stakeholders from Bath Village, and we were delighted to welcome Hon. Premier Brantley, Hon. Eric Evelyn, Hon. Troy Liburd, Permanent Secretary (Tourism) John Hanley, Dr Patricia Bartlette the Nevis Reformation Party's representative for St John's Parish, as well as Mr Devon Liburd, CEO of the Nevis Tourism Authority.



PROJECT UPDATES

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION



This quarter saw the completion of our project “Democracy in Action – Hamilton’s Legacy on his Island Birthplace”, funded through the Public Diplomacy Small Grants of the US Embassy Bridgetown. Following the school art competition earlier in the year, the project came to a close with school Essay and Debate competitions.



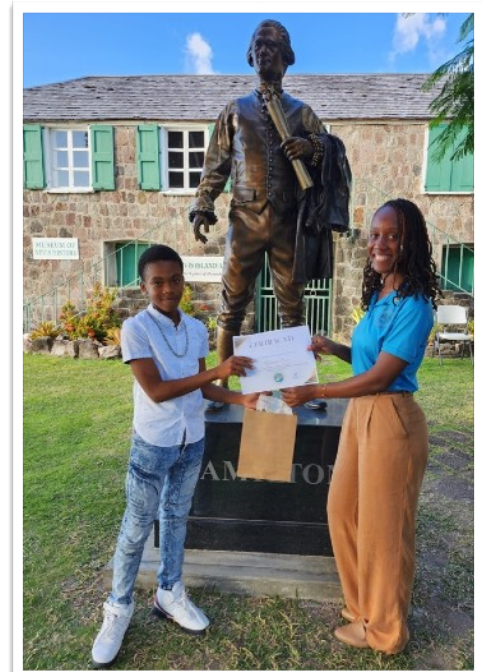
The essay competition, aimed at students aged 12 to 18, was announced via social media and directly to schools, with the subject: “Voting: a Right and a Responsibility”. Even though only four students submitted essays, each was of very high quality. Given that Nevis itself went to the polls on December 12th to elect its leadership to form the Nevis Island Administration, and snap general elections were also held in August this year, the subject was both pertinent and timely for young persons in Nevis. Essays were marked on the following criteria: Understanding of the topic, Original thinking relative to the topic, Effectiveness in presenting a point of view, Literary style, Grammar and spelling. Judges included Lorna Abungu (museum/heritage consultant) and Q'wando-Gloudon Jones (teacher).

Winners were:

1st place: Khayla Claxton

2nd place: Mikaela Maynard

3rd place (tied): Ziondré Dore and Ayesha Duggins



Board member and lawyer Ms Althea Campbell coordinated the school debates among students from the CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations) Law Unit 1 class of the Nevis Sixth Form College, on the topic: “The Jury System should be Abolished”. The participating students either want to become lawyers or are just interested in learning law. The topic was taken from a module in their syllabus, ‘Caribbean Legal Systems’ where they learn about the history of the legal system, the different sources of law, the hierarchy of the courts and the role of the Jury System. Judges included Ms Campbell, Ms Jahnel Nisbett (Society Director) and Ms Catherine Wilkinson (teacher).

Proposition:

D’Rhys Stanley - First speaker
Mikaela Maynard- Second speaker

Opposition:

Brianné Chapman - First speaker
Oranique Tyson - Second speaker

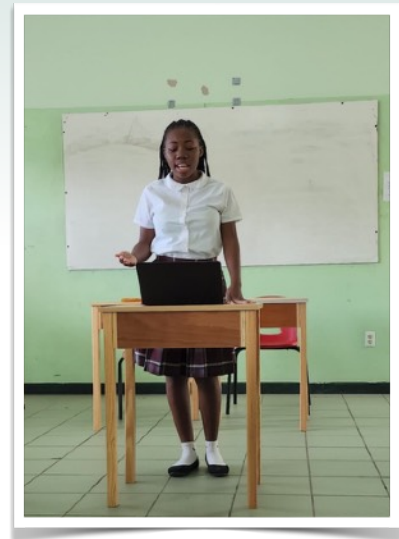
Rebuttal:

D’Rhys Stanley
Brianné Chapman

Best speakers (tied):

Mikaela Maynard and Brianne Chapman

With both competitions completed, prizes and certificates were given out during the Society’s annual Holiday Fair on December 15th on the museum grounds in front of the statue of Alexander Hamilton.



OUR VARIOUS PROJECTS CONTINUE APACE, INCLUDING:

Beekeeping – Establishment of Central Breeding Facilities, funded through the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme. Almost all the materials and equipment for nurseries in St Kitts and Nevis have been distributed. Upcoming activities include practical sessions for beekeeping, and the establishment of nurseries.



Reforestation and Rehabilitation at Coconut Walk and Hicks Estate, funded by IWECO/UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme.

Restoration of Nevis Wetlands, funded through the U.S. Forest Service Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) Program, continues with the support of the St Thomas' Improvement Group. This project at Nelson's Spring and Fort Ashby is being complemented by an additional grant from SMILO Islands Fund for **Restoration of Nevis Wetlands Ecosystems and Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices**. Set to run from July 2022 to July 2023, this project aims to: assist in clearing the invasive species; establishing a plant nursery and replanting with native species, especially mangroves; initial regular maintenance by a supervised landscaping team; purchasing and distribution of exclusion nets to fishermen with demonstrations in the ponds; cleaning of the ponds; and the creation of nurseries in the ponds.



The **Nevis Archaeology Centre** continues to serve our visiting scholars. In late November/early December, archaeologists Dr Rob Philpott and Mr David Barker focused on analysing and recording details about the many different types of colonial period artefacts found previously by Professors Eric Klingelhofer, Roger Leech and Dr Carter Hudgens during their excavations at Jamestown between 2001 and 2006.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The last quarter of 2022 was jam-packed with activities, and included a flurry of social events, including:

SPECIAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Through a grant from the Ocean Conservancy's #TeamSeas project, we organised a special edition Coastal Cleanup at an illegal dumping site at Indian Castle on Nevis' Windward side on Saturday 29th October. Over the years, truckers have been illegally dumping a variety of material, from construction debris to white goods to household trash, something that cannot continue if we are to safeguard our small island and its coastline.



Spearheaded by our staff member, Ella Bendeito, it was a huge success, thanks to the herculean efforts of our entire team, joined by a group of amazing members, volunteers and teams from the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross, Gingerland Secondary School and the Nevis Turtle group, staff from Manuel Rental Enterprise and the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority. Hon. Eric Evelyn, Minister for Culture, also joined the cleanup, and we join his special appeal to truckers: "PLEASE take your garbage to the designated landfill". And to us all, he appealed: "Keep this beautiful island of Nevis clean, it belongs to us!". The grant included funds for signage, and the Society is working hard to erect "No Dumping" signs at a variety of locations island-wide. **You can catch the cleanup video with some great aerial drone shots [HERE!](#) TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING, SEND US AN [EMAIL!](#)**



ARBOUR MONTH

In November every year, the Society's Biodiversity Group holds tree-oriented activities to commemorate Arbour Month. Long-standing member, Jenny Lowery, shares this report of events this year:

In the past, plants have been given to members or to schools, talks on trees and climate change have been given at primary schools, members have participated in radio call-in shows and there has been a regular radio quiz for schoolchildren with prizes. The participatory 'Tree-sure' hunt was first held in 2020 throughout Charlestown and was very successful with around 12 children taking part. In 2021 the format was changed to a virtual hunt, which attracted wider participation but proved harder to organise and manage. In 2022 it was decided to hold the event at the site at Fort Ashby as part of the NiCar project outreach activities.

With the clearing done to date, access to all areas on the site was possible and all the major trees were located and identified. Eight tree species were selected, all of which had more than one specimen on site, 'fact-packs' were produced for each species and the trees were tagged with individual letter tags. The teams of children were all given a set of fact-packs and then had to find the trees on the site and retrieve the tags.



The event was publicised through the schools, VON radio's children's programme, and informal contacts; participants were aged 10-16 years, in teams of 3-4 children with an accompanying responsible adult.

The old fort structure was used as the hub for activities, which were scheduled from 1pm, and volunteers helped to clear up the area in the morning. Information on wetlands and the general flora and fauna was posted around the whole site. Six teams participated with 25 children: 5 teams were affiliated with schools, one unaffiliated. Participation was approximately 40% boys and 60% girls, accompanied by teachers or family members. A short introduction to the site as a wetland was given before the start. The actual event was competitive and energetic with the team members very involved and focussed on finding the trees. They were able to learn about wetlands and trees while also enjoying the activity. After all teams had completed the search there were refreshments and a recap



conducted by the teachers present. Prizes and certificates were presented to the winning teams on 15th December, and thanks to generous donations, all participants also received a small gift token.



MEET THE ARTIST • HOLIDAY FAIR • MEMBERS' MIXER

TO OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS, WE EXTEND OUR THANKS
FOR MAKING THESE EVENTS A SUCCESS!

"A picture speaks a thousand words"

Meet the Artist
November 2022

Dorothy Cleary
a posthumous show and SALE
of her finest works (framed and unframed)

Don't forget:
10% off Gift Shop purchases
for Members
*excluding antiques

Museum Gift Shop, Charlestown
Tuesday 29 November, 4.30-6.30pm

A SELECTION OF
ELEGANT
ARTWORKS FROM
THE YEARS OF
HER LIFE WILL
ALSO BE ON
SALE



Nevis Historical & Conservation Society
2022 HOLIDAY FAIR!
THURS DEC. 15

Local Crafts, Antiques & Plants
Museum Gift Shop
Food & Drinks

11AM - 5PM
MUSEUM GROUNDS, CHARLESTOWN

The Café des Arts will be open, so parents can sip & shop while kids enjoy spirited activities, including Lucky Dip and Facepainting!

For more info call: 469-5786 or 661-0408
Follow us! NevisHeritage



We're celebrating you!

2022 MEMBERS' MIXER

TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 2022
ALEXANDER HAMILTON MUSEUM
CHARLESTOWN, NEVIS
4pm - 7pm

Light snacks & cocktails

Visit our Gift Shop for Christmas presents & stocking stuffers, and don't miss our ANTIQUES ROADSHOW!
• Join or renew your membership • Bring a non-member and sign them up • Members get 10% off all Gift Shop purchases (except antiques)



STAFF NEWS

At the end of 2021, the Society joined the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO), a network of national trusts and similar non-governmental organisations committed to preserving cultural heritage, including architecturally or historically significant items, and areas of natural beauty. In October, our **Director, Jahnel Nisbett**, represented the Society – and by extension Nevis – at INTO’s Conference "Heritage now: Relevance & Community" held from 4-6 October in Dundee, Scotland. Over 100 participants representing over 72 countries joined to explore relevance in its many forms, and those who shape it: our communities. Highlight topics at the conference included "Changing for Climate", "Balancing Tourism and Conservation", "[Re] Interpreting Relevance" among others. Jahnel co-coordinated a workshop session, "Arms Wide Open", aimed at interrogating the inclusiveness of our respective organisations, and the best path forward for more effective representation.



On the heels of her Youth Impact 12 Award for 'Youth in Cultural and Historical Preservation', **Ella Bendeito** left the Society in December to join the Ministry of Culture and will be working with the Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF)'s UNESCO-funded project on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). We are grateful for the years that Ella spent at the Society, assisting with research and digitising records in the Archives, as well as in the Galleries of our main museums. We wish Ella much success in all that she sets out to do!

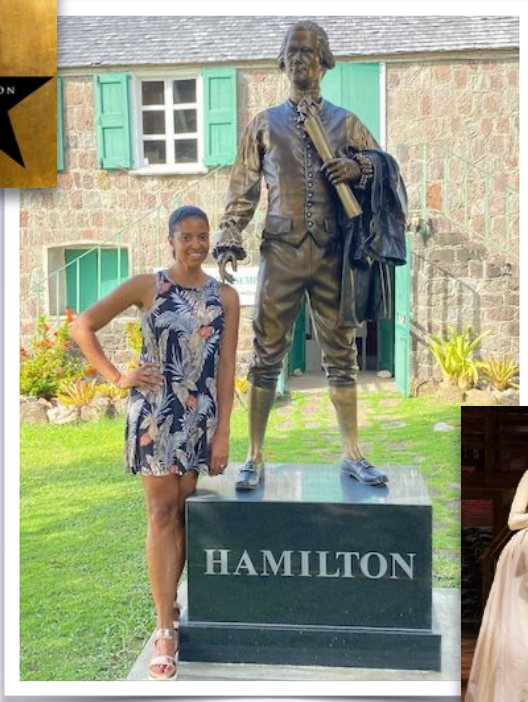
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MUSEUMS



Our Museums ended 2022 on a high note with the return of pre-Covid level tourism to the Federation. We continued to get walk-in visitors, tourists and residents alike, but the bulk of our visitors were from the many (many!) large cruise ships that berthed in St Kitts, and the smaller ones that call on Nevis.

We were especially delighted by a visit by Tony Award winning actress, **Renée Elise Goldsberry**, a who stopped by for a photo op with Alexander Hamilton! For those of you who have seen the hit musical *Hamilton*, Ms Goldsberry portrayed Angelica Schuyler in the original Broadway cast!



Q4 MUSEUM STATISTICS (OCT-DEC)

As expected, we had a robust 4th Quarter! These statistics reflect the Museum of Nevis History and Hamilton Museum only.

762

TOTAL
MUSEUM
VISITORS

281

VISITORS
FROM
9 TOURS

481

WALK-IN
VISITORS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



Our success depends on YOU!

- ▶ **January 11**: Hamilton Scholarship Tea Party Fundraiser
- ▶ **January 31**: Meet the Artist, Valerie Gregori McKenzie – “Newcastle Pottery, Craft or Art?”
- ▶ **February 11**: Annual Jumble Sale
- ▶ **February 21**: Meet the Artist: Book signing by Alice Early & Eva Wilkin art show
- ▶ **February**: History & Heritage Month – various activities
- ▶ **March**: date to be determined: Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- ▶ **Every last Thursday of the month**: Meeting of the Board of Directors

COMING BACK SOON!

Movie Night: “Nevis Past & Present” (footage from the Archives)

thank
you!

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

Prof George Abungu, Allerson Browne, Cades Bay Development, Sheila Cohen, Gina Empson, Hon Eric Evelyn, Mr & Mrs Fogarty, Miriam Knorr, The Hermitage, Deborah Lellouche, Métisse catering, Tara Lou and Aubrey McKenzie, Morton Robinson L.P., Nevis Island Administration, Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority, Nicola Scott-Taylor, Sugar Mill Real Estate, Hope Trott, Mrs Tripp & Maurine Aubinoe,

RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!

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 making your payment safely online:



Your support DOES make a difference!

**NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR 2023!
PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS BY EMAIL TO:
members@nevisheritage.org**



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 implemented 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

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! We also have an assortment of Hamilton T-shirts and other merchandise, and of course there is still a wide assortment of books, unique and handcrafted gift items like ornaments, frames, magnets, 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

DEBIT & CREDIT

DON'T FORGET:

FLASH YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND GET 10% OFF* !

** except antiques*



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 2022

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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