

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

# Bémao

NEWSLETTER

*s'engage*



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# TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE CITY OF CULTURE



By becoming a "Pilot City of Agenda 21 for culture", the Municipality manifests its commitment to build a territorial project capable of combining culture and sustainable development.

Baie-Mahault did not wait for this innovative approach to make the democratization of culture a major axis of its policy, through :

> **public investment** : the renovation of historic buildings, support for artistic creation, or spatial planning,

> **major festivals** : "Jou a Tradisyon", "Art Bémao" or "Voix d'ici et d'ailleurs"...

Today, the municipal ambition is to move further by making culture and sustainable development transverse axes in other public policies (development and animation of the territory, economy, etc.).

Protect and enhance today what we will pass on tomorrow... This is how the city has decided to combine its future with the present. ●



## AGENDA 21 OF CULTURE

# 1<sup>ST</sup> "PILOT CITY" IN THE CARIBBEAN

In the Caribbean, Baie-Mahault is the only Pilot City of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the organization responsible for implementing the Agenda 21 for Culture in the world.



● 30 cities in the world are "Pilot Cities of the Agenda 21 for Culture"



Agenda 21 now integrates culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development along with social, economic and environmental issues.

The UCLG recently provided the city with two experts to help it :

> **assess its cultural policy** and compare it with those of other cities in the world,

> **define a work program** and share best practices,

> **launch a work program** through participatory dialogues with civilians and learning from other cities.

As part of a citizen participation process, the "Pilot Cities 2016-2019" program must lead to the implementation of activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Culture. ●



## KEY DATES OF THE 2016-2019 PILOT CITIES PROGRAM



## CITIZEN-BASED CULTURAL POLICY

# ASSESSMENT : RESULTS CLOSE TO WORLD AVERAGE

As part of the “Agenda 21 Pilot Cities” global program, a one-day review was undertaken in January 2019 to assess the municipal activities in the field of sustainable cultural development. The results should help define a work plan for the close future.

Using a method approved by the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the self-assessment enables cities to examine their strengths and weaknesses, and then compare themselves to the global average.

UCLG experts led the first workshop to assess the state of the City of Baie-Mahault. Participants included elected and administrative municipal officers, State decentralized services, civilians, associations and institutions such as the Job Center and the Guadeloupe Region Authority.

Main guidelines were drawn for spatial planning, better governance, social inclusion as well as education. ●



## REDESIGN TO AMPLIFY

# “HERITAGE TRACKS” GIVE LIFE TO OUR HISTORY

Through the “Parcours du Patrimoine/Heritage tracks”, the city has embarked on a systematic enhancement and integration of our heritage in the urban landscape, for a sustainable transmission to future generations.

The aim is to create cultural signposts, improve memory tourism, develop the territory and transmit our history.

The tracks lead to the intangible heritage – such as the “léwoz” at Man Sosso, symbolized by the “Amarreuses de Jabrun” roundabout – and to the natural heritage with the bay and the mangrove cove of exceptional biodiversity.

Heritage also refers to the built legacy such as the plantation houses at Wonche and Dupuy, or St. John the Baptist Church. ●



● In tribute to Man Sosso, “The Amarreuses de Jabrun” memorial, erected by the City in 2012, designed by Richard-Viktor Sainsily Cayol.

### ZOOM...

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HERITAGE TRACK “AN SIYAJ A INYAS É KANMARAD AY”\*



While Louis Delgrès remained near Basse-Terre, Joseph Ignace and his companions went to Baimbridge via Baie-Mahault. Part of their journey during the 1802 War is staged from

the esplanade of Belcourt. The track sheds light on the part played by our community in this heroic and tragic historical event.

\* “In the footsteps of Ignace and his companions”

## PRESERVE TO TRANSMIT

# PROTECT OUR BUILT HERITAGE TO PROMOTE IT !

For several years now, the city has been preserving its built heritage, which is, and we all too often forget it, a non-renewable resource.

The first renovations was the former Middle School premises, now the Paul Mado Multi-media Library, and the plantation houses in Wonche and Café and, more recently, some buildings such as the War Memorial and the Church of St. John the Baptist, inheritance of Ali Tur and Émile André Leroy.

The goal is to articulate past, present and future in a perspective of transmission and solidarity among generations. It is also about making heritage an economic and tourism asset by redesigning previously unattractive places. ●



● Saint John-Baptist Church  
- 1933.

● Plantation House  
in Wonche  
- Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.



● Plantation House  
in Café -  
Ongoing  
renovation.



## SOON

## NOTRÉ ACT

## CITIZENS SPACES FOR DIALOGUE

Since 2015, the community has been undertaking citizen-led initiatives, and now intends to expand its participatory approach.

The goal is to meet the objectives of the sustainable development of culture and to respect the principle of cultural rights set out in the NOTRÉ ACT.

The Act changes the classical understanding of "Culture" and potentially cultural policies, emphasizing the need to guarantee freedom of cultural and artistic expressions to people.

In concrete terms, spaces for dialogue with the people will be opened in all neighborhoods, by electronic and surface mail. ●

## ZOOM...

## RESTORATION OF A UNIQUE WAR MEMORIAL IN GUADELOUPE

After its restoration, the Communal War Memorial, a tribute to the Guadeloupe soldiers who fought for France, was inaugurated last November, during the Centennial celebration of 1918 armistice.

In Guadeloupe, it is unique of its kind, as it represents a black soldier. Indeed, Baie-Mahault is the only city at the time that had not ordered its statue in France.

Sculpted by Émile André Leroy, it represents Paul Rameaux Pindy, a soldier from the barracks of Saint-Claude in the 1930s.

Located opposite of the City Hall, the War Memorial, whose architect is Edmond Mercier, was inaugurated in 1936.

It was originally commissioned by Léonard Chalus, former Mayor of Baie-Mahault, and renovated under the current mandate.



● Caption on the Memorial :  
"To our fallen soldiers 1914-1918"