



**Development
Projects
For A
Sustainable
Future**

AN ISLAND UNDER RECONSTRUCTION





A Word From The President

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Territorial Newsletter N°2 provides an opportunity for me, and my staff, to provide you with a report on the numerous tasks completed to date that benefit of the residents of Saint Martin. And to share news about the first development projects that will debut in 2019.

The year 2018 was essentially dedicated to the reconstruction of our infrastructure: Repairing and rebuilding the 18 schools damaged by Irma, for which we voted a budget of 10M€ with the support of the European Union Relief Fund; Restoration of our sports facilities (3M€) so that our youngsters can enjoy sports activities; Rehabilitation of the electrical and digital networks, as well as improving public lighting. This is a long-term endeavor that we are undertaking with the help of our partners, and which will take many more months, but it is well on its way. While perusing the island's reconstruction, we are also able to work on economic development and finalize the first steps in our program.

Our territorial policy that confronts the major issues of development is slowly being put into place. Projects discussed in 2018 between elected officials and the territorial technicians are starting to produce concrete results.

This Newsletter also serves as a status report, whose goal is to keep you up-to-date on the first phase of development work to be launched in 2019.

The next issue (February 2019), will present our global strategy, and our accomplishments, in order to give you an overall vision, and keep you informed step by step as we continue to work for you.

We remain more committed than ever to get our island back on its feet, and allow the population to plan for a stronger economic future. We are advancing step-by-step, and as I always say, with method and determination, to make Saint Martin an island of achievement, an island where life is enjoyable for the population.

Daniel GIBBS

Newsletter of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin

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STATUS REPORT ON ISLAND RECONSTRUCTION



Last March, the Collectivité modified its multi-annual investment plan (PPI) for three years, at a level 211M€, to rebuild the public infrastructure (public buildings, schools, and sports facilities, and putting cables underground). Three years, to get the overall infrastructure back in shape, with innovate and durable improvements. The French government is committed to support this reconstruction effort. In April 2019, when the new inter-ministerial committee meets, the Collectivité and the French government will review the progress to date.

To do this work properly, the Collectivité tripled its capital budget, with 183M€ for operating costs and 88M€ in investment. The challenge today: act fast, establish reconstruction projects, and spend the budgeted sums.

In direct aid from the French government for operating costs, Collectivité received 12M€ for the fiscal year 2017. There will be another 50M€ per year over three years, from 2018-2020. To date, 25M€ has been received for 2018.

The support protocol for this reconstruction also calls for the French government to provide 15M€ for the rebuilding of the island's schools. The rehabilitation of 18 schools was evaluated at 33.5M€. The government promised 15M€, which will be paid against invoices for the construction of a new middle school. The protocol also calls for 6M€ in aid for low-cost housing landlord, to help rebuild damaged structures.

The Collectivité can also benefit from special supplemental support of 46M€ from European Union solidarity funds for 2018. This special funding was meant to

be spent by December 31, 2018, but will be extended through 2019. The Collectivité had already committed more than 15M€ to various projects.

What Is The Development Strategy?

“Grand Marigot” will be the flagship project over the next 10 years. Rejuvenation of the downtown area and development of the waterfront will reposition Marigot as the capital of the French side of the island, and a major Caribbean city.

The two phases of the “Grand Marigot” project, **development of the waterfront and rejuvenation of the downtown area**, are quite complementary in terms of opening the downtown area toward the waterfront. The business district should benefit from the future infrastructures planned for medium-size cruise ships and yachts.

Far from being a simple ambition, the realization of “Grand Marigot” is already underway: the port authority in charge of the waterfront project has selected an assis-

Reconstruction work budgeted in 2018

School buildings:	9.4M€
Sports centers and equipment:	2.9M€
Churches and cemeteries:	2.5M€
Rehabilitation of public roads:	7.5M€
Putting electric cables underground:	14.6M€
Public lighting:	2.5M€
Video surveillance:	2M€
Belle Plaine ravines:	12.5M€

tant to control the construction and work on the future development.

Another touristic site that will be redeveloped is **Grand Case**. The Collectivité plans to reinforce the attractiveness of this neighborhood for tourists, and proceed with work to modernize the highway and rehabilitate the remarkable habitat.

Sandy Ground and **Quartier d'Orléans** especially suffered underwater submersion. The safety of the residents in these areas, as well as **Nettle Bay, Cul de Sac, Orient Bay, and Oyster Pond** will be examined attentively, with the utmost responsibility.

A responsible policy means a long-term commitment of not remaining passive, but being pro-active in terms of rethinking the needs and development of these districts.

WORK CONTINUES IN SAINT MARTIN SCHOOLS



Reconstruction Work Continues On All Fronts

School reconstruction work is ongoing, and will continue throughout the school year, until the students return in September 2019. Indeed, if the scars left by Hurricane Irma are healing month by month, it is certain that there is still a lot of work to be done, and it will take time for the situation to get back to normal.

In the primary schools and kindergartens, there is good news and bad news: students returned to fairly good conditions last fall. For the Ghislaine Rogers and Elie Gibs schools in Grand Case, calls for tenders are being issued to complete the work,

particularly concerning the pumping station at the Water and Sewerage Establishment (EEASM), which poses a problem. At the Elie Gibs School, four classrooms are still missing in order for the school to be fully operational, and Ghislaine Rogers is still

waiting for the awning at the entrance of the school. For the Jérôme Beaupère and Aline Hanson schools in Sandy Ground, contracts will be awarded soon for awnings on the buildings. At the Omer Arrondell School at Spring, in the French Quarter, most of the work has been done as well. It remains to finalize the entrance hall of the establishment, and replace the damaged roof that allows water infiltration: problems that should be solved before Easter vacation.

However, there is still a problem with the Siméonne Trott kindergarten in Concordia, which, as we know, suffered serious damage, and still does not have a roof. This is due to lack of response to the tender for a public contract, while the work should have started last October. A new tender, which was scheduled to close on November 12, was launched. With this new contract, the whole of the school will be renovated: refurbishment of the roof, dining room, electricity, carpentry, and painting.

In general, the Collectivité has made every effort to ensure that all work in the island's schools will definitely be completed by the start of the 2019 school year.



Status Report On Renovation Of Middle Schools And High Schools



Mobile Classrooms At Cité Scolaire Robert Weinum To Be Delivered In January

The work began back in early October: The five small building that will house 10 air-conditioned classrooms, 60 square meters each, will be ready for the students and their teachers when school begins again in January. Four classrooms will be used by the high school and four by the middle school, and will allow for the students' schedules to be revised accordingly.

The cost of these new installations is close to 1M€, of which 600,000€ was financed by the Foundation of France and the remaining 400,000€ by the Collectivité.

The renovation of the CDI is complete, with delays caused by upgrading of the electrical system.

Additional work for waterproofing the roofs, electricity, and general improvements throughout the building will continue throughout this year and next, with the hope that everything will be operational when school starts in the fall of 2019.

The sports complex was renovated and once again usable. Repairs on the Cité Scolaire gym will be done at a later date, but the exterior facilities are operational.

The Collectivité had reserved 797,000€ for the Cité Scolaire Robert Weinum renovations, of which 567,000€ was spent for repairing the roofs.

The Lycée Professionnel des Iles du Nord: Work To Continue Throughout The School Year

Hurricane Irma certainly causes severe damage to the lycée professionnel des Iles du Nord, but also revealed the dilapidated conditions of the buildings dating from the 1990's.

Since December last year, there has been trying to make temporary repairs, which often prove useless, especially during periods of heavy rain. Studies are underway to find more permanent solutions, and contracts will soon be awarded. The objective is to optimize the use of school buildings in a definitive manner so that they

are ready when school starts again next fall. The roof of the building housing the documents and information center upstairs and the gym on the lower level is being redone. The upper floor will be waterproofed, allowing the lower level to be usable once again.

The ateliers (mechanical, carpentry...) were completely renovated as were the adjoining classrooms, and air-conditioners are installed. The cooking and catering classrooms are finished and ready for their students. Work on the sports facilities is finished by now as well.

The ongoing concerns at this school are the document and information center and the multi-purpose room, which were entirely destroyed and have not yet been rebuilt. The plan is for these rooms to be renovated in time for the start of school in the fall of 2019.

As of today, 90% of the rooms at the high



school are in working order. Nine modular rooms, including eight for the GRETA, will also be installed here.

As a reminder, to renovate this school, which comprises 87 classrooms plus various ateliers (mechanical, carpentry, woodworking, electricity, cooking, and catering...) the Collectivité budgeted a total of 1.8M€.



Mont des Accords Middle School: Work Is Complicated But Moving Forward



Work that started in early summer should have been completed by the end of this year, yet four buildings are not yet usable, out of the 15 that make up the school. These buildings were made secure as of early November, and the work on the new roofs has begun. For two of these four structures (buildings B and J), the idea is to remove the roof, and proceed with waterproofing of the upper story so that the lower floors can be used.

The building that houses the SECPA, totally unusable since Irma, is also in the process of getting a new roof. The goal is to allow the SECPA section to get back into its building at the end of the Christmas vacation, in January.

Concerning the CDI and the multi-purpose room, these two rooms are once again operational, however the waterproofing of the hallway that links the two rooms is not completed and this might cause humidity and mold. Studies will be done later to decide if it is neces-

sary to replace the roof on this part of the building or continue with definite renovations.

Finally, the covered entryway to the school is still waiting to be repaired. The Collectivité first tackled jobs that took priority, and the urgency of the work required to meet deadlines to give the students and the teaching staff an acceptable place to study and work. There is a lot of finishing work to do throughout, especially repairing the windows and doors, installing air-conditioning, and interior and exterior painting. As at all of the schools on the island, additional work will be done throughout the current school year, with the objective of having everything finished by the time school starts in the fall of 2019.

The Collectivité budgeted 515,000€ for the renovations at the Mont des Accords Middle School.

The Quartier d'Orléans Middle School: waiting for conclusions from an evaluation of the roof.

In spite of precautionary measures, the Quartier d'Orléans Middle School still has a leaky roof. Studies are underway to evaluate this academic institution, and the Collectivité is waiting for the opinions of the architects. In 2019, the Collectivité has planned to do a new construction for this college.

In 2019, a new gym will be built for this school the Quartier d'Orléans Middle School, for which the Collectivité put aside a total of 500,000€ for its reconstruction.



STATUS REPORT ON OUR SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE



Sports Complexes: Four are already operational; the fifth will be ready soon.

For the record, close to 92% of the island's sports complexes were destroyed by hurricane Irma, in September 2017. President Gibbs and first vice president in charge of "Jeunesse et des Sports," Valérie Dama-seau, are committed to seeing the large majority of the sports complexes operational before the end of 2018. As a result, thanks to concerted efforts by the Collectivité, renovations of the Thelbert Carti and the Spring sports complexes in Quartier d'Orléans, at the media library in Concordia, and in Sandy Ground were completed recently (basketball nets, goal cages...). These four sports centers were once again usable by kids and sports associations as of November 9.

As for the sports complex in Grand Case, various companies are still at work, doing cleanup, installing fences, leveling, and delivering topsoil. This work is scheduled to be finished before the end of the year. And finally, for the sports complexes at La Savane, Friar's Bay, and Spring, it has

been noted that they will be included in the global urban planning project, with recreational and leisure activities for all generations.

Sports In The Schools

The Collectivité voted 251,000€ for the creation of sports classes in the island's elementary schools to compensate for the lack of external infrastructure. Sports facilities are in the process of being set up at primary schools and territorial gym teachers for sports have been hired permanently to ensure that students get the obligatory hours of sports activities. Work was finished at such elementary schools as Clair Saint-Maximim (Quartier d'Orléans), Elie Gibbs (Grand Case), Marie-Amélie Leydet (Concordia), and Aline Hanson (Sandy Ground) by November 20, 2018. For the students at Hervé Williams, who have immediate access to sports activities at the Vanterpool stadium, work

at the school should be completed by the end of January 2019.

Finally, in the middle schools and high schools, the renovation of the sports infrastructure is still ongoing. For the middle school in Quartier d'Orléans, a new gym will be built in 2019. For the time being, the students are using the Thelbert Carti Stadium for their sports training. At the Concordia Professional High School, work on the sports complex is nearing completion. At the Cité Scolaire Robert Weinum, where the sports facility is not yet rebuilt, the Collectivité is waiting for the results of studies to determine if just the roof needs to be rebuilt or the entire structure. For the Mont des Accords Middle School, the decision was made not to work on the reconstruction of the sports center until sometime in January 2019, when the majority of the work on the classroom buildings has been completed. In fact, to work on these buildings, the construction companies are using the sports infrastructure.

Friar's Bay: Brand New Sports Complex!



Interrupted by hurricane Irma, renovations started at the sports complex in Friar's Bay in early 2017, got underway again two months later, in November of last year, and are nearing completion.

The local population will soon be able to enjoy this pretty site that overlooks the sea and is dedicated to sports and leisure activities. The facilities include a fenced-in basket/volleyball court, with security, lighting, and shaded bleachers. As requested by the residents, and in response to the growing number of people who do "street workouts," a space has been created at the sports complex for those who practice this type of exercise routine.

In addition, picnic tables will be made available for the residents of this peaceful neighborhood. The renovation of this sports complex required an investment of 330,000€.

Renovation Of La Savane Sports Complex Almost Complete



Renovations at La Savane-Grand Case sports complex, next to the Post Office, should be completed sometime in January. Entirely revisited, enclosed, and secured, this sports complex comprises basketball/volleyball courts equipped with the very latest equipment, with benches for the players, referees tables, bleachers located between the two courts, and special lighting that will allow training to take place at night. Trees will be planted to provide shaded areas.

The cost for the renovations for this sports complex is 405,000€. Phase II of this project is planned for the second quarter of 2019. At that time, the Collectivité envisions that this sports complex, like all the others that are being renovated, will have enough space for storing equipment, restrooms, and an office for the caretaker.

Sports Center And Post Office in Grand-Case: The Collectivité To Create 50 Parking Spaces



The sports center at La Savane and the surrounding areas were badly damaged by hurricane Irma, as well as by machines and trucks that brought debris to be stocked temporarily in this zone after the storm hit. The sports center, currently under reconstruction, will be finished before the end of January. However, additional work will continue on the land between the sports and the post office. Feasibility studies are underway for this land, which represents landfill along the Etang du Cimetière, and which partially belongs to the Conservatoire du Littoral. Consultations for contracts should be held early in the New Year.

The goal here is to add extra parking spaces for people going to the sports center, as well as the private elementary school and the post office, where are located nearby. Approximately 50 spaces will be created on a fully paved area, which will prevent puddles and mud when it rains.

The Collectivité is also planning to add a "street workout" area, as well as an enclosed space for seniors and their activities, in the hope of reinforcing intergenerational interaction within the population.

A similar senior center, where older people can meet and enjoy spending time together, is planned in each of the four districts of the island (based on the districting of the Conseils de Quartiers).

Roof Repair: A new convention put in place



In response to a major concern by president Gibbs and his majority, last April the territorial council approved a preliminary budget line of 5M to help repair damaged roofs on houses sheltering the most vulnerable members of the population: senior citizens, homes with very young children, or persons with handicaps.

This major project, run by the Solidarity and Family Service, which is led by vice president Annick Pétrus, and the Durable Development Durable Division, presided by vice president Steven Patrick, started last summer. Over 125 homes were rapidly identified after hurricane Irma. The targeted neighborhoods comprise Quartier d'Orléans, Sandy Ground, Grand Case, and Marigot. Local companies were hired to provide the needed materials and rebuild or replace damaged roofs.

Since then, the Collectivité has noted that among the many homes identified in October 2017, some have found other solutions to rebuild their roofs over the past year. In addition, some of these homes are difficult to pinpoint, as the residents no longer live at the address indicated. The Collectivité was also obliged to abandon repairs on roofs that were too badly damaged.

A field agent has been coordinating this pro-

ject and prioritizing the order of the roofing repairs. Another agent is responsible for the legal and financial aspects, as well as the conformity of the projects in terms of specifications and budget.

How To Pay For More Than Just The Roof

To date, 12 homes have gotten new roofs, at a cost of more than 500,000€, with quite a few more to go. The Collectivité would like to see if it can go even further in helping some of these people, since in many cases, just fixing the roof does not suffice. Irma also blew away doors, windows, and walls... The project will most likely be extended to comprise such additional repairs. A new convention has just been signed with The Fondation de France and The Compagnons Bâtitseurs to rebuild more houses.

Operation Roof Repairs By Number

To date, the sum of 516,468.02€ has been accounted for, as spent on the first 12 roofing projects:

- Labor: **446 668,69€ HT**
- Materials: **69 799,33€**
- **9** construction companies
- **3** companies to provide materials
- SANDY GROUND:
 - 5 projects: **237 249,65 €**
 - 209 745,58 € labor
 - 27 504,07 € materials
- QUARTIER D'ORLÉANS:
 - 7 projects: **279 218,37 €**
 - 236 923,11 € labor
 - 42 295,26 € materials

Up to **125** roofs will eventually be repaired in the neighborhoods of Sandy Ground, Marigot, Grand-Case, and Quartier d'Orléans.



A second house in the French Quarter is in the process of being repaired.



In the French Quarter, Elise's house was the first to benefit from this project

Cleanup: A Big Project For The Collectivité



By The Numbers

From September 2017 to August 2018, 93,661 tons of debris from Irma (bulky items, household trash, vegetation, metal from roofs, rubble, out-of-service vehicles) were collected by the Collectivité, comprising 109,000 cubic meters of trash and 19,900 cubic meters of metal from roofs. 1,091 employees participated in this operation, 155 trucks were mobilized and made almost 4,500 trips to the eco-site to dump debris. 2,673 wrecked vehicles were taken to the eco-site, 1,343 directly by the Collectivité. 1,972 vehicles have been destroyed to date.



Of the 860 damaged boats that were counted after Irma, 250 have been dealt with, and the Collectivité has just published a request for proposals to hire someone to remove, treat, and evacuate an additional 125 boats.

The Collectivité has also guaranteed more than 70,000€ in cleaning of beaches and the ocean floor in the bays frequented by tourists. This meticulous task brought the beaches back to their natural beauty.

Starting the day after Irma, and throughout 2018, the Collectivité of Saint Martin did everything in its power to bring the island back to its original appearance. The Collectivité mobilized its personnel and many local businesses to ensure the success of this crucial step in the island's economy recovery. As a result, almost 15M€ were invested in clean-up efforts after Irma, with 93,661 tons of debris evacuated in one year.

The first important phase, the urgent clearing of roads, etc, was launched at a cost 8.2M€. The cleanup phase and efforts to collect debris allowed for a more thorough cleaning of the public domain. The Collectivité then organized a campaign for free pick-up with dumpsters made available and open access to the eco-site for individuals and businesses from May to July 2018. There was another intensive clean-up phase before the hurricane season, with an additional 15,248 tons of debris evacuated. The Collectivité also paid for the removal

of wrecked vehicles and their cleanup. Of the 5,000 wrecks counted post-Irma, 2,673 were evacuated (1,342 by the Collectivité) and on October 31, 2018, a total of 1,972 vehicles were destroyed. A recent agreement with DEAL has allowed for two additional garages to be used temporarily to triple the number of wrecked vehicles that can be treated per month.

The Collectivité is continuing its clean-up efforts, including an appeal to each individual's sense of civism. A clean-up awareness operation for the benefit of private property owners was undertaken by the Collectivité, in partnership with the four district councils. The idea is to involve individuals in the clean-up process, with an eye to respecting the environment and allowing the island to be restored and look even better than it did before.





News Briefs:

Shore Reinforcement By Cul de Sac Pontoon

The Collectivité has added sand and rock to reinforce the banks of the bay in Cul de Sac. The goal of this work was to clear access to the pontoon used by boats that carry passengers to the small island of Pinel, popular with tourists. The work consisted of placing rocks to consolidate the ground and compacting the sand. The lack of sand at this site, caused by the massive cleanup of sargassum seaweed and construction equipment, made this work not only necessary, but quite urgent.

The Collectivité Working Hard To Facilitate Reconstruction

The island's planning board, reorganized after hurricane Irma under the aegis of vice-president Steven Patrick, has been working on several areas of intervention. From September 6 thru December 31, 2017, no less than 111 building permits, 95 preliminary declarations (DP), and three demolition permits were issued. New urbanism regulations enacted in late 2017 facilitated reconstruction by simplifying administrative procedures. As a result, 439 "preliminary declarations Irma" (DPI) were granted to Saint Martin residents in en 2018. In addition, four development permits and 419 urbanism certificates were granted Since January 1, 2018, 117 building permits and 108 preliminary declarations were confirmed by the Collectivité. Irma, in effect, caused 500 onsite controls of reconstruction projects. This new policy enacts controls, but also offers advice and support for the residents of Saint Martin who want to rebuild their property.

The Media Library To Be Rebuilt

Many of our fellow citizens have been wondering about the fate of the territorial media library. Located in Concordia, the imposing building that housed two Collectivité services, the Territorial Archives, and the library, was severely damaged. The technical evaluation currently taking place will identify that which can be salvaged from the building. Thought is also being given to the future use of the structure. The elements of the roof that are not salvageable will be destroyed shortly. To do so, the Collectivité must wait for a green light from the expert appointed by the court in the context of litigation on any shortcomings that pits the Collectivité against the companies mandated for the initial construction of the building. The structure is slated for re-use as part of other public service projects.

What Is The Future of the MJC In Sandy Ground?

Another emblematic location that suffered greatly from the wrath of hurricane Irma is the MJC in Sandy Ground, which formerly housed a community center used by many associations and a public cinema, is currently the subject of a study about its future. Badly damaged, the sections with the restaurant/snack bar and cinema are slated to be destroyed. The ongoing diagnosis will help decide if the rest of the building can be salvaged or if it should also be demolished. Eventually, the construction of a new building will house the MJC and its cinema, as well as administrative and social services, plus a territorial police station.



Electric Lines Underground And Improved Public Lighting: Toward A Better Energy Policy

As a medium-term project, the Collectivité plans to initiate a new energy program in the first quarter of 2020. This project is currently under final discussion.

The strategic document that will be presented after the feasibility study and obligatory audits are completed, will allow Saint Martin to optimize its energy management and develop a sustainable energy policy. The use of more cost-efficient lighting, such as LEDs, represents a savings of 60-70% over the existing system.

In the meantime, the Collectivité has started to improve public lighting, with all of the fixtures on the island progressively being replaced. The first phase of this project took place in Quartier d'Orléans, Grand Case, Marigot, Sandy Ground, and Bellevue.

The renovation of water and sewage systems is also underway. This is part of a project that requires an investment of 7M€ over seven years for water, and an investment of 2M€ for the sewage system.

As for the placing of all electrical and digital networks underground, a plan of action has been established by the Collectivité in partnership with EDF and local companies. The work has started in the sector of Grand Case and La Savane, as well as Sandy Ground. In total, EDF has started 13 worksites, and to date, 16km of cables have been put underground, out of a total of 80km. The cost to the Collectivité in 2018: 2.5M€

URBAN REVITALIZATION PROJECTS

The Collectivité Invests In Better Quality Of Life

Parallel to the reconstruction of public buildings, the Collectivité also wants to make the island more

An integral part of an ambitious island-wide project led by the majority party, urban development and improvements to the roads are in the starting blocks, with the goal of improving the quality daily life for everyone, from the local population to visitors.

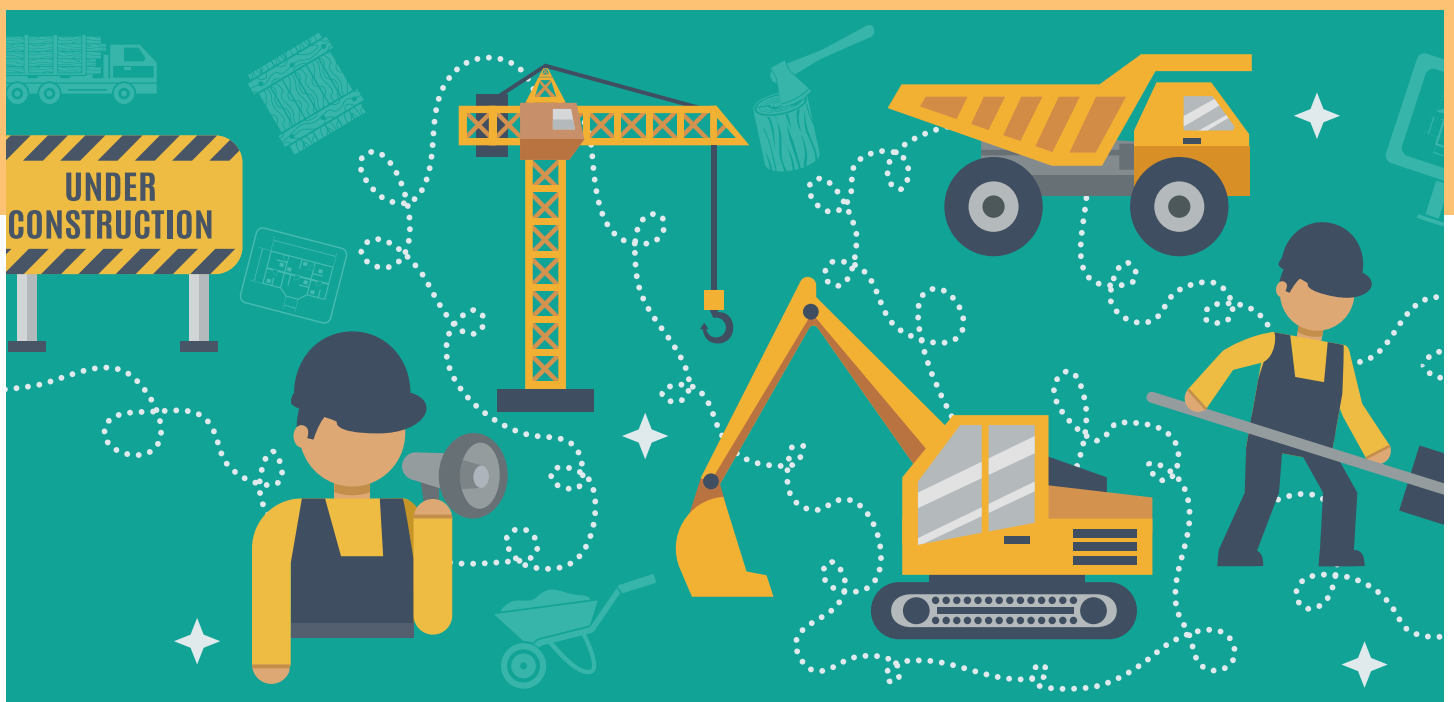
Improving the roads is a priority issue in order to facilitate better traffic flow. This includes redesigning several main intersections along Rue de Hollande in Marigot, as well as the Agrément traffic circle, to both increase safety for those using this road,

as well as make traffic more fluid.

Other projects nearing completion are the sports complexes at Friar's Bay and La Savane, which have been reconfigured not only as sports facilities, but also for leisure and recreation for the general public. Seniors are also being considered in all these new projects, with a place dedicated to their needs at each of the sports complexes in each of the four areas run by district councils. Intergenerational activities are being promoted as well.

At the same time, the Collectivité, in par-

tnership with the French government, the Conservatoire du Littoral, the Réserve Naturelle, the Etablissement des Eaux et de l'Assainissement (EEASM), and representatives of the district councils, envisions the creation of a nautical and leisure center at the Etang aux Poissons in the French Quarter. An overall development plan is under consideration encompassing the zone around the Etang aux Poissons as far as Galion, the Baie de l'Embouchure, and the Observatoire aux Baleines in Oyster Pond.



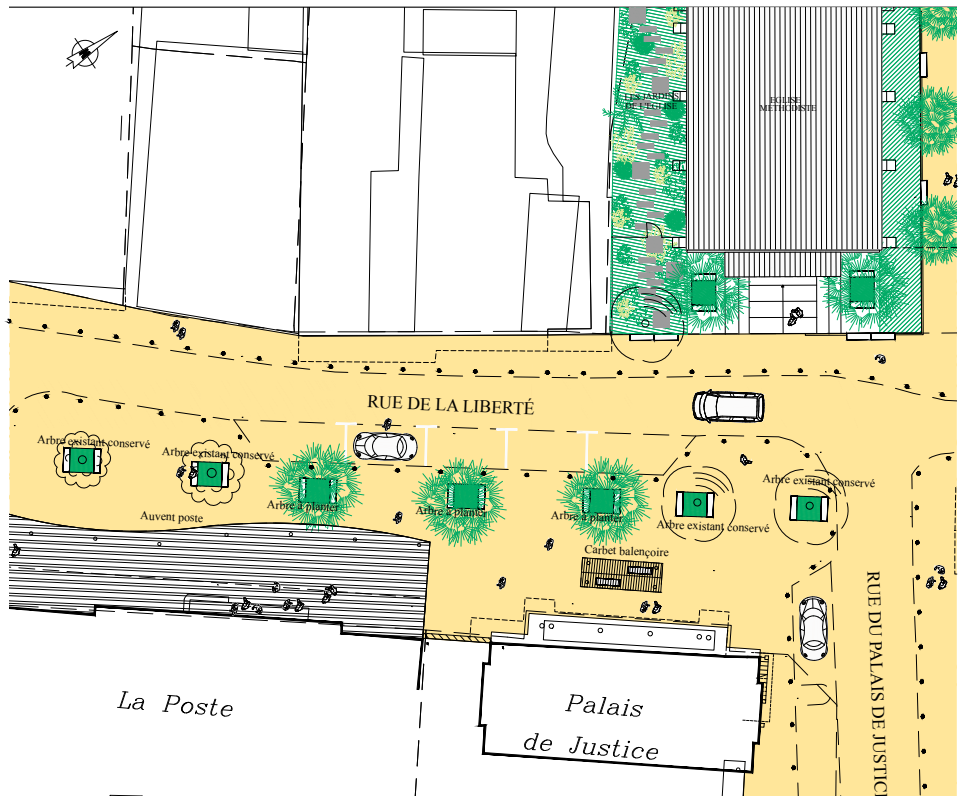
A Coherent Project For The Marigot Post Office Area

Part of the Grand Marigot development project—which encompasses the bay and the waterfront, as well as downtown and surrounding areas—the revitalization of Marigot represents a dossier that is close to the heart of president Gibbs. This project entails several phases.

Taking into account the damage caused to the downtown area by hurricane Irma, the first step concerns improvements to the square by the courthouse... or by the post office, as you will.

The improvements to this popular spot, which has frequent visitors, will not only include the space in front of the courthouse and the post office, but also the Methodist Church and “Chapel gap,» the paved alley that runs alongside the church. The goal is to bring this depressed area back to life; right now it has four sad trees, a distressed church, and long lines under a hot sun in front of the post office, not to mention the lack of anyplace to sit. With a budget of 1.1M€, the project is well defined. On the square itself, three large trees will be planted to provide shade, while keeping the four trees already there. In addition, public benches will be provided and an awning will protect clients at the post office from the sun (working with the post office on this).

The largest part of the project concerns the Methodist Church, for which the Collectivité is responsible (see inset). The choice is to totally restore this historic edifice, whose roof will be raised. Decisions will be made in conjunction with the Methodist community, but the idea is to widen the alley by



A look at the redesigned square

removing the wall around the church, and opening it toward the sea, as well as adding small trees and plants to the alleyway. The

overall goal is to provide a coherent space for the pleasure of the population in one of the busiest squares in all of Marigot.



Rendering of the project in front of the post office (provisional document)

Rules Related To The Law of 1905

The law of 1905 establishing the separation of church and state gave cities the ownership of houses of worship, as well as the responsibility for their maintenance and renovation, as long as they date before 1905 (with the exception of cathedrals which remain the responsibility of the French government). In St Martin, this law concerns the three Catholic Churches in Marigot, Grand-Case, and Quartier d'Orléans, as well as the Methodist Church in Marigot.

The Collectivité To Revise Agrément Traffic Circle



A recent count revealed that 12,000 vehicles per day use the Agrément traffic circle. This large volume of traffic drove the Collectivité to do a study on how to improve this traffic circle, which does not conform to standards. In fact, there are design faults not only in the positions of the access lanes, but also in the roadway geometry.

After several propositions were considered, the most likely option is a Cassini style traffic circle, in the shape of a peanut. The work will entail moving the traffic circle to the west, covering part of the open public land that is always strewn with old cars and other large debris.

This project should begin in 2019 and be completed as quickly as possible.

Improvements To Intersection Of Rue de Hollande And Rue de Hameau du Pont, And The Entrance To Howell Center

For several months, the Collectivité's engineering service has been working on an updated urban planning project, especially adapted to the needs of the island, including work in 2019 designed to improve the traffic flow. The shopping mall at Howell Center causes major traffic problems on Rue de Hollande at the entrance and exit of this commercial zone.

This intersection has become outdated and can be dangerous for those using this road. In early 2019, the Collectivité will begin work to widen the road, increasing it to three lanes and helping make the traffic flow less congested on Rue de Hollande. Vehicles going in the direction from the Agrément traffic circle toward downtown and want to enter Howell Center will be able to use a central lane to turn left, without blocking traffic on Rue de Hollande. As for vehicles coming from downtown, they can use a special lane designed just for the entrance to Howell Center.

At the same time there will also be changes from Hameau du Pont toward Rue de Hollande. Two lanes are now separated by a median strip, but used a bit indiscriminately

by drivers, who don't really pay attention to the rules. The improvements will move the median strip to obtain two lanes that exit onto Rue de Hollande and one lane to enter Hameau du Pont.

The redesign of this intersection also requires changes to the bus stop located there, as well as removing several parking spaces that are a bit "anarchic."

Work at of cost of 590,000€ is budgeted to start in early 2019 and should stretch over a period of six months.

The engineers have indicated that the work will be done one lane at a time in order to disturb traffic as little as possible, although occasional detours might be necessary. The paving of the roadway will be done at night.



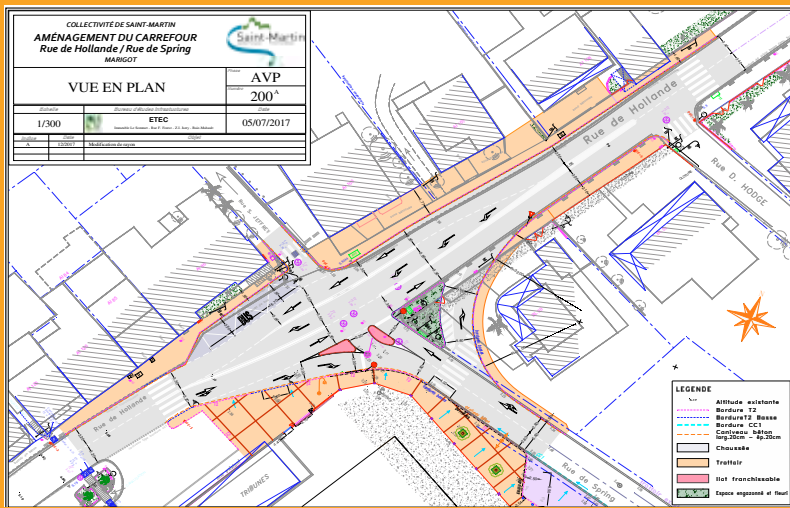
Widening The Intersection Of Rue de Hollande And Rue de Spring



Rue de Spring, which serves the Lycée Professionnel and Mont des Accords middle school, as well as the neighborhood of Concordia, handles thousands of vehicles every day, including school busses. Not to mention the numerous students who walk along the sidewalks before and after school hours.

Work to enlarge the sidewalks and improve the parking situation near the entrance to Vanterpool Stadium was done before hurricane Irma. To continue this work, the Collectivité envisions widening the road at the intersection of Rue de Spring and Rue de Hollande, to facilitate vehicles coming from Rue de Spring to turn into Rue de Hollande in the direction of the Agrément traffic circle.

At the moment, vehicles that want to take Rue de Hollande toward Grand Case, especially school make a wide turn on Rue de Hollande, since the angle of the road is too narrow. To widen the intersection, the Collectivité has to acquire approximately 150 sq meters of adjoining land. Negotiations are underway with the owner and once finalized will allow this work to begin rapidly, and take about two months to complete.



Rue de Hollande Now For Pedestrians Too

Work to widen the shoulders of the roadway around Vanterpool Stadium in Marigot will continue in 2019, when the Collectivité engages in a new phase of this project by creating a pedestrian zone along Rue de Hollande near the facade of the stadium.



Parking spaces on the service road that runs along Rue de Hollande will be moved into the enclosure of the former Nina Duverly School, which will be torn down in the near future. The demolition has been put on hold until an asbestos study takes place. The site of this former school will be part of the Collectivité's new administrative center.

For now, the Collectivité wants to make Rue de Hollande more attractive for pedestrians by widening the sidewalks and creating kiosks for fast food, with specific receptacles for waste oil. Old wells will be restored to help create shaded areas with public benches and other outdoor furniture, as well as appropriate lighting.

In the long term, the Collectivité envisions renovating all of Rue de Hollande, as far as the corner of Rue de la République and Rue de Concordia.

Please note that the Collectivité will also create a pedestrian zone at Cripple Gate (entrance to Colombier), to make this busy area more secure (RN7) and allow pedestrians to walk in total safety.



Laying **The Foundations** For Well-Planned **Durable Development**

Hurricane Irma hit on September 6, 2017, and transformed our island. Like after Luis in 1995, reconstruction is a long-term process that will take at least three years and give birth to new version of Saint Martin.

For president Gibbs and his team, Irma provides an opportunity to reset the development policies led in Saint Martin by his predecessors, and to lay the foundations for a new development strategy. A “reset,” as hurricane Irma unquestionably marks the end of a development cycle based almost exclusively on the policies set by the Pons, Paul, and Girardin laws, or in other words, tax advantages for investment that had varying results. The island needs to turn the page, and move toward well-planned, well-managed, durable development that takes into account the needs of our

insular economy as well as our human resources.

A broad outline was laid out in the tourism development program, the foundation for an island-wide project voted by the Saint Martin Territorial Council, in November 2017.

Starting from this position, the Collectivité of Saint Martin is moving forward with restructuring, with such endeavors as the current feasibility study for the Grand Marigot development project and rejuvenation of the downtown area, the development of the culinary capital of Grand Case, and

restoring Orient Bay, the French side’s popular tourist beach. Local neighborhoods will not be forgotten, with various projects aimed at improving the quality of life.

At the same time, the Collectivité is also working on repairing the island’s infrastructure, including putting electrical and digital networks underground, which when complete, will make Saint Martin the first overseas territory to be entirely linked by fiber optic technology. The restoration of the water and sewage systems is another of the large projects over the next two years.





A look at the future structures on Orient Bay

Structures On Orient Bay: A Change For The Better

The Collectivité of Saint Martin has decided to re-launch the project for commercial structures on Orient Bay, covering the costs of the communal spaces. However, businesses that have authorization for temporary use of public space will be responsible for outfitting their own structures, keeping within the well-defined guidelines for the area.

Reduced to matchsticks by Irma, the structures on Orient Bay will be replaced, and once again welcome tourists at the extreme north end of the beach, but the operating conditions will be rather different.

Supervised by Steven Patrick, the vice president responsible for urbanism, this project leaves a certain degree of autonomy for the seaside businesses located on this small public piece of land.

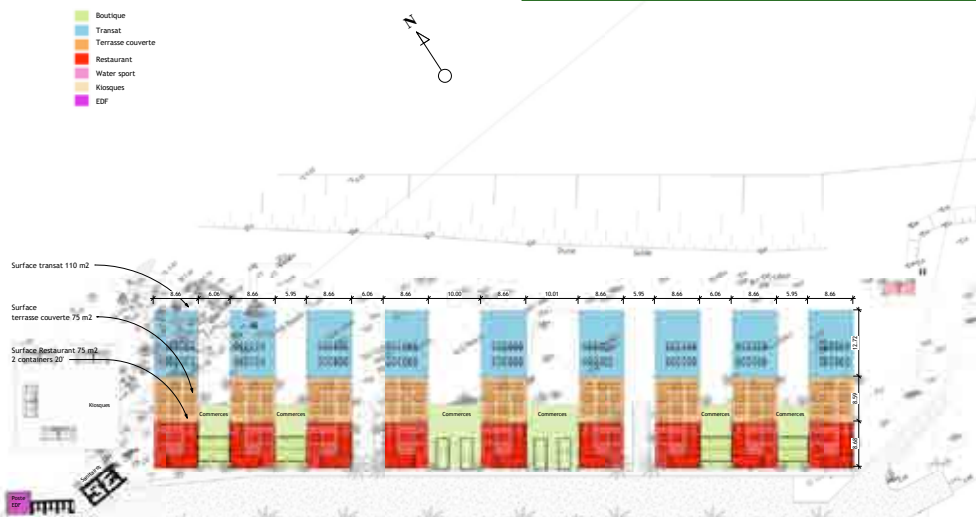
The Collectivité will not finance the total construction of restaurants or boutiques—as it did in the past—but will require restaurateurs and other merchants to pay to equip their structures, based on a series of guidelines that will be imposed. On the other hand, the Collectivité will take care of the common areas: pedestrian walkways, electricity, water and sanitary systems, public restrooms, and public lighting. It will also provide eight kiosks and two water sports, using partial containers that will be outfitted. The use of such containers will also be the rule for nine restaurants four large boutiques, and four smaller boutiques.

Each restaurant will comprise two 20-foot containers placed at a right angle, with an enclosed surface of 75 square meters, a covered terrace of the same size, and another 75 square meter area reserved for chaise lounges. These mobile structures could eventually be transported to a safer place in the case of a hurricane alert, and their cost is well under that of traditional concrete construction. These structures will be set back from the ocean, meaning that the adjacent beach will be larger. The attribution of temporary use of public space permits is complete and the work was scheduled to start in November. Architectural Studio is spearheading the project.

Orient Bay: A Pedestrian Walkway Along The Ocean's Edge!

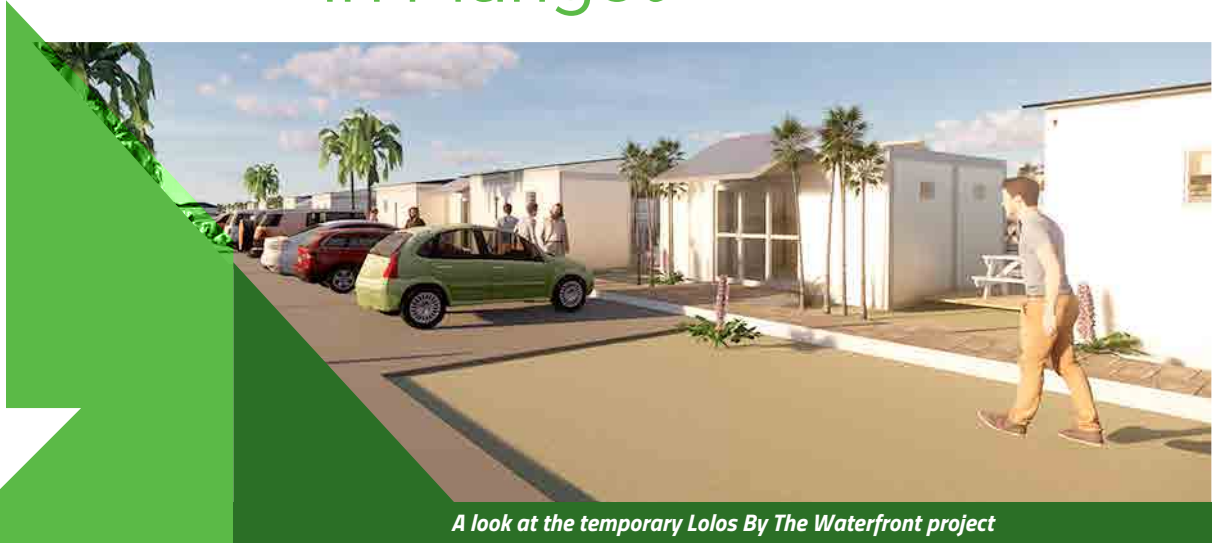
Wouldn't Orient Beach be much more pleasant without the incessant passage of vehicles that park any which way, causing pedestrians to be on their guard and worry about the safety of their kids?

With this in mind, and in light of the idea to create a nice pedestrian walkway along the beach, the Collectivité is considering the addition of two large parking areas, one next to Bikini and the other near the entrance to Club Orient. Traffic will be authorized for deliveries or any emergencies, for example, but extremely limited. The idea for an electric shuttle bus has also been discussed.



Overall layout for the structures

The Collectivité to install **temporary Lolos along the waterfront** in Marigot



A look at the temporary Lolos By The Waterfront project

Study for the development of this tourist zone

at the same time, the dossier for the reconstruction of the 'Lolos By The Waterfront' is in the study stage, the idea being to make the area better than before and respond to the needs of the businesses. The first phase of the work will start with an asbestos assessment, a legal obligation before demolition of any building built before 1977. This work will be done in consultation with the prior occupants.

While waiting for the market plaza and the 'Lolos By The Waterfront' to be entirely rebuilt, the Collectivité is going to install temporary modules to allow restaurateurs and merchants to get back in business as quickly as possible.

If there is one place we really miss, it has to be the Lolos along the waterfront in the heart of Marigot. Badly impacted by Irma, their reconstruction should be underway shortly, as the contract for the work was awarded in early November. But this project will take time to complete, and those who work there were anxious to find a short-term solution. That is why the Collectivité has decided to install temporary structures to "re-house" the regular occupants in attractive modules using shipping containers

that have been modified for the occasion. Springing from The Netherlands in the early 2000's, the idea of reusing containers as housing or workspace has spread around the world... The concept is taking root in Saint Martin. Other than a reasonable price, the advantage of this interesting project, the Collectivité has entrusted to the Architectural Studio of Yves-Marie Jhigaï, resides in the rapid installation of the elements, which are mobile and should be ready to receive their occupants before the month of March 2019.



Examples of modified containers

This little village will be located between the market statue and the fish market, where the vegetable market stalls stood before being swept away by Irma.

There will be 14 restaurants equipped with kitchens and surrounded by shaded tables, three bars, storage space, restrooms, and an office for the folks who control the arrival of tourist busses and the activity of the tourist market and the food market.

Close by, six boutiques also installed in containers will be placed near the maritime terminal. The Collectivité is in charge of equipping these temporary modules for turnkey delivery to the occupants, who benefit (as they did before Irma) from authorization for the temporary occupation of the public domain.

A Maison des Associations in Grand Case: A Much Anticipated Project!

As part of his overall island project, president Gibbs and his staff have called for improvements in each neighborhood to benefit the population. Thus, the former Élie Gibbs School in Grand Case will be transformed into a Maison des Associations. And more.



The pre-project for the Maison des Associations in Grand Case

Before hurricane Irma, the Collectivité had already decided to transform the former Élie Gibbs School in Grand Case—at the corner of Boulevard Bertin-Maurice and Rue des Écoles—into a space primarily for use by non-profit associations. They planned to demolish part of the buildings and the outer wall.... Irma did a good job at starting that process!

The current project consists in retaining the historic building, but demolishing and clearing the structures that were damaged, in order to ready the former school to be renovated as the future Maison des Associations.

Didier Rouault, the Collectivité's architect in charge of the renovation and project manager, hopes to highlight the principal building and its historic nature, while reconstructing the outbuildings. The goal is to have enough square footage to meet the needs of the various groups that regularly used this

location. The Gunslingers steel band association held events here, as well as other associations who held meetings, along with the members of the district council, which also met here often, and the territorial police had an office in the building as well.

Public Spaces To Help Bring Historic Building Back To Life

As the main building has two floors, there is a possibility to expand this reconstruction project and give Grand Case the opportunity to have a large meeting room measuring 80 square meters, on the upper floor. Moveable partitions would make the room flexible.

A smaller room intended for exhibits is on the ground floor. There is also space here

for the Gunslingers and other musicians to rehearse in a room big enough to meet their needs.

The district council will also have space, as well as the territorial police, in a small annex. Financed at a cost of 2.5M€, the project is advancing with consultation planned at the end of 2018 and contracts for the work awarded in 2019. The end result: a new, quality public venue for use by associations as well as the population of Grand Case and the entire island.

Also in the area of Grand Case, the Collectivité is working on a project to renovate the former MJC, which will become the Maison des Artistes, a gallery and showcase for the cultural and culinary heritage of Saint Martin. A project expected to be completed in 2020/2021.

Leisure Center And Landscaped Park At The Etang Aux Poissons

The reconstruction of the Spring sports complex in the Quartier d'Orléans is almost completed. This is part of a global project led by the Collectivité, which comprises the creation of a landscaped garden around the Etang aux Poissons and the renovation of the former water treatment plant located nearby.

The goal is to create a true leisure center with an educational slant, based around the new "Organica" water treatment plant and the Etang aux Poissons. Article nine of the prefectural decision made in October 2016, calling for the creation of a sanitation system for the Quartier d'Orléans stipulates a steering committee that works with the Collectivité, the French government, the Etablissement des Eaux et de l'Assainissement de Saint-Martin (EEASM), the Conservatoire du Littoral, the Réserve Naturelle, the CCISM, and the district council for the Quartier d'Orléans, to advise on a sustainable reuse of the former water treatment center and surrounding area of approximately 1.5 hectares.



Visiting The "Organica" Water Treatment Plant

The new "Organica" water treatment plant should be operational by January 2019 and can be visited by school groups and the general public. The steering committee working on a general development plan for the Baie de l'Embouchure site met for the first time last October. Its goals include the reuse of the former water treatment plant, and the preservation and improvement of the Etang aux Poissons led by the Réserve Naturelle, as well as economic, social, and environmental objectives: a large-scale project has been outlined.



Creation Of A Nautical And Leisure Center

The idea is to create a leisure center whose perimeter includes the sports complex and water treatment plant, as far as the Etang aux Poissons. A landscaped garden will be created and irrigated with the water from "Organica" treatment plant. This leisure park will comprise a community center, a senior citizen center, a public square, snack bar, sports and wellness activities, a playground, picnic areas, and a zone for street workouts, as well as tables for

dominoes, a medicinal plant garden, restrooms, and a parking lot. The nautical base will provide visitors with the use of kayaks and paddleboards to discover Etang aux Poissons. Mountain bikes are available for off-road adventures.



Leisure Areas Around the Etang aux Poissons

Starting at the Spring leisure park in the Quartier d'Orléans, excursions with kayaks or paddleboards provide a look at the Etang aux Poissons. Additional nautical sites, to be set up by the Conservatoire du Littoral, notably at Galion, at the Baie de l'Embouchure, and at the Observatoire aux Baleines, where the boats can easily be returned.

The Collectivité, which is responsible for the development of the Spring site, is in the feasibility study stage. Consultations will begin in the middle of next year, and the work should begin before the end of 2019, with the completion of the work scheduled for 2020.

THE CULTURAL SCENE: STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

Dressing Up Construction Sites: Urban Art To Make Us Dream!

Destruction, reconstruction, construction sites everywhere... there are many public building that the Collectivité has to repair, or even destroy before rebuilding. Almost a kilometer of wooden fencing has been installed around these damaged edifices: Albéric Richard Stadium, Omnisports Hall in Galisbay, Telbert Carti Stadium in Quartier d'Orléans, MJC in Grand-Case, Soualiga Middle School in Cul-de-Sac, Larmonie School in Cul-de-Sac...

Le spectacle de ces clôtures en bois étant The sight of these wooden enclosures can be a bit depressing, so in order embellish them for the enjoyment of passersby, Daniel Gibbs wanted to add a little Street Art, to dress up these plain surfaces with large, colorful murals.

As budgets are limited, there was no question of spending a fortune for a purely aesthetic and ephemeral project. Carole Tondou, who works with the Collectivité's Cultural Service and is coordinating this project, contacted nine local artists and asked if they were willing to donate their

time and talent, so that this idea could take root. The response was a resounding yes!

The Collectivité will provide the materials and prepare the fencing to allow the artists' imaginations to run free as they choose the subjects that inspire them, as long as the result is cheerful and colorful.

Each artist will have one—or more—of the rectangular surfaces that measure 8 meters long x 2 meters high, and will paint on the wood, which has been primed. Or if they prefer, they can paint on paper that will then be glued to the wood. The murals will be si-

gned and this opportunity allows the artists to show their work to the public and perhaps find new clients to purchase their painting.

The Collectivité hopes this project will encourage additional artists to participate, and invites anyone interested to call 05 90 29 59 11 or send an email to carole.tondu@com-saint-martin.fr.

Artists, get out their brushes, rollers, and sponges, anything that inspires your work! Surprise us, make us dream... The project will be underway by the end of this year!



An interesting example of urban art by François Nasica on a construction fence in Nice



Several portraits displayed on public buildings in 2017



“Faces of Saint Martin” 2!

An exhibit of large portraits, «Faces of Saint Martin,» displayed on public buildings in Marigot last year, met with such enthusiasm that the Collectivité is repeating the experience with «Faces of Saint Martin 2» for Christmas 2018. Eight photographers participated in a contest launched last August 15, and each sent 15 portraits evoking the required theme of “Saint Martin At Work.” The idea of the cultural service in picking this theme was to show the force of Saint Martin at work post-Irma.

The jury, composed of elected officials,

artists, and amateur photographers, ranked the photos on November 16, based on five criteria: respect of the theme; the composition of the image; the quality presented; the visual force; and the originality of the framing. The photos will be displayed this year in all the neighborhoods of the island, in black and white, in large-scale formats of 1.5 meters by 2 meters, or 3 meters by 4 meters. They are printed on fairly thin paper, such as an election poster, and attached with glue made from corn. The fact that the images will gradually disappear over time is part of the artistic concept.

This ephemeral project is directly inspired by J.R., a French artist who defines himself as putting up posters around the world, and whose example has been followed in the largest metropolises. Locally, «Faces of Saint Martin» allows the island the opportunity to be transformed into an open-air art gallery, all the more so as this urban exhibit coincides with frescos by local artists on the wooden fences enclosing the reconstruction sites for public buildings.

Bravo to the artists!

And thanks.