



**For a
sustainable
development
of Saint-Martin**

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SUPPORTING THE RESIDENTS
OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



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A Word From The President

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As 2020 gets underway, I wanted to take this opportunity to write a few lines to send you and your family my best wishes for good health, wellbeing, and prosperity. I hope that 2020 is a time of renewal, serenity, and unity on our beautiful island of Saint Martin. We all need a good year.

For the past two-and-a-half years, we have been going through a crisis without precedent, as caused by the effects of hurricane Irma, whose direct consequences are still present even today. The situation is serious but not desperate. We opted to advance, whatever the cost, by prioritizing our actions and by treating each difficulty, one after the other, in the hope of soon entering into a new phase directed at development and innovation. Challenges remain, and not just in Saint Martin, so we must surmount them and move forward together.

The administrative reform that we set into action with the new general director of the Collectivité, Madame Ayache, is a major reform, a complete overhaul of internal operating procedures to get the Collectivité back on the right track and increase our strength to be able to properly achieve our public policies. At the moment, a number of our projects have been awaiting completion for several months due to the under-investment of services that are required. Like you, we are waiting for these projects to be completed. Thanks to the concerted efforts of our team, I am convinced that we will succeed and that this urgently needed reform will bear fruit over the long-term.

Saint Martin is an exceptional island, yet we often have a tendency to forget its positive assets. The immediate challenge today is to protect our environment, which is something we can only do together. Each of us should lend a helping hand, contribute to the cleanliness of the island, and respect the environment in which we live. It is that sense of social cohesion and mutual respect that will make the difference. We must remain ecologically aware and act accordingly.

After the difficult social upheaval we experienced in 2019, my team and I envision 2020 as a year of reconstruction, social cohesion, and socio-economic development in Saint Martin.

This first territorial newsletter of the year transmits our intentions by presenting our plans and projects. I also wanted to see the associations funded by the Collectivité put in the spotlight in this issue. It is only via solid and positive improvements to your daily environment, and the development of a strong voluntary sector that we can begin the process of change that is needed for our society to progressively improve. And as we define the future of our island, we must, at the same time, preserve that which is our major force: our Saint Martin identity. We must have confidence in the future!

Please enjoy this newsletter and once again I wish you all the best for 2020. May it be an excellent year for us all!

Daniel Gibbs

Newsletter of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin

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Texts and Photos: Communications Department of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin

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NEWS FROM THE COLLECTIVITE

Social Cohesion And Listening To The Public Are Central Territorial Priorities



The Collectivité of Saint-Martin has established five working committees in partnership with the Union du Peuple-Travailleurs de Saint-Martin (Têtes Ensemble) collective, with the goal of seriously moving forward in ongoing negotiations, and to take into consideration the list of grievances put forth by residents of various neighborhoods. Madame Annick Pétrus, third Vice-president in charge of Social Affairs and Education, presided at the first two meetings.

The social unrest in December 2019, unleashed by the French government's implementation of the PPRN review plan by anticipation, revealed a deeper social crisis that the Collectivité of Saint-Martin has decided to confront head on. Conscious of the various difficulties, the Collectivité has decided to enact a social policy adapted to the expectations of the population. As a result, the first "Social Meetings of Saint Martin" will be organized in 2020. To respond to the grievances set forth by the collective (Têtes Ensemble) and to work on the most pressing issues, the Collectivité has created several follow-up committees.

In response to the neighborhood complaints, the Collectivité's follow-up committees, whose goal is to work on joint solutions, will

address specific themes. Committee n°1, led by third Vice-president Annick Pétrus, who is in charge of social affairs, education, training, apprenticeships, and professional placement, met on January 17 to discuss social issues and the organization by the Collectivité of the "Social Foundations of Saint Martin."

The First "Social Meetings of Saint Martin"

The first phase of the "Social Meetings of Saint Martin" will comprise of consultations in the neighborhoods from February 18-21, 2020, in collaboration with the collective UPTSM. The event will take place in three

languages (French, English, Spanish) with three main segments: A political segment run as a conference/debate; A professional segment run as workshop; and a public segment with debates and questionnaires. The general public is invited to participate, and the Collectivité plans to follow up with concrete social and solidarity actions in the neighborhoods.

Follow-up committees to deal directly with the grievances in each neighborhood

Committee n°2, also led by Annick Pétrus, met with the Collective on Wednesday,

January 22. The topics discussed included youth issues, such as apprenticeships, access to training and employment, and professional placement. The Collectivité first explained the range of its jurisdiction and presented the support mechanisms it can provide in these areas. As the Vice-president confirms, the goal is to make sure the public is more aware of what is available to meet their needs, and to establish solid projects as a result of these exchanges, to benefit the residents of the neighborhoods.

On January 30, Committee n°3, led by first Vice-president Valérie Damaseau, met around the theme of youth, sports, culture, and associations. The committee worked on such issues facing young people as access to sports and culture, as well as participating in associations on the island of Saint Martin. Committee n°4 led by fourth Vice-president Steven Patrick, who is in charge of sustainable development, is set to meet on February 7. They will confront such themes as improvements to the island, real estate questions, and utilization of the public domain.

Finally, Committee n°5, piloted by second Vice-president Yawo Nyuiadzi, who is in charge of economic development, will convene on Monday, February 3, and will concentrate on issues related to the development of the island, such as local businesses, development of fishing and tourism, as well as fiscal issues in terms of land transfers and family succession.

As President Daniel Gibbs points out, the goal of these committees is to make the population aware of existing projects and public policies put into effect by the Collectivité, so that the information is properly relayed to people in the neighborhoods, especially those who need care.



These meetings also allow for the discussion of new projects as proposed by participants, and to address specific needs, especially for those from 18 to 25 years old.

The Collectivité, which is gradually establishing its social policy, is determined to make 2020 the year of social cohesion and socio-economic development.



La Collectivité de Saint-Martin organise

LES ASSISES DES POLITIQUES SOCIALES ET DE L'INSERTION

DU 18 AU 21 FÉVRIER 2020

AGIR EN COMMUN

*Tu as de 15 à 99 ans,
participe et donne ton avis*

PROGRAMME
des débats et échanges
avec la population

18 FÉVRIER à partir de 18h
Quartier 4

Lieu : parking de l'école de Sandy-Ground

19 FÉVRIER à partir de 18h
Quartier 3

Lieu : parking du Pôle Solidarité et Familles

20 FÉVRIER à partir de 18h
Quartier 2

Lieu : terrain de foot de Grand Case

21 FÉVRIER à partir de 18h
Quartier 1

Lieu : terrain de basket de Quartier d'Orléans



TAKE ACTION AND DEVELOP ST MARTIN

In 2020, a focus on **economic development** and **solidarity projects**

Looking back, 2019 was a year of transition. A difficult transition between the effects of hurricane Irma, the considerable damage and wounds that still need to heal. 2020, a new year and a new beginning, one that the Collectivité hopes will be dedicated to economic development, while taking care of the most vulnerable.

The president and his team intend to meet the challenge of getting the island back on the track of healthy development in terms of tourism, a driving force of the local economy. This sustainable economic development should also reach out to lend a helping hand to the most vulnerable members of the population, from youth to seniors, as well as those whose situation is precarious. As the new year dawns after two difficult years

for us all, Team Gibbs, which governs the Collectivité, wants to start with a clean slate and finally get the projects started for which the team was elected.

With this in mind, the January issue of the Collectivité's Newsletter covers two major themes. The first theme is that of economic and tourism projects intended to revitalize those sectors: renovation and total reconstruction of Marina Fort

Louis, extension of the Port of Galisbay, rejuvenation and embellishment of downtown Marigot and Grand Case, restructuring the Economic Development department, and the start of the first projects in the Tourism Strategy for 2017/2027. The second theme covers social and solidarity activities, as well as support and subsidies for non-profit associations, and the ever-important subject of protection for children.



A return to healthy economic development

To stimulate healthy economic development, the Collectivité has set two priorities: restoring the attractiveness of the island to bring tourists back; and offering strong support to local businesses. These represent major financial investments, which require external partnerships.

The Collectivité has heard the various complaints and criticisms voiced by many of its citizens and hopes that the process of getting the economy back to an acceptable level goes more quickly. The president and his council understand the obvious impatience felt by many. In this light, the Collectivité offers an explanation: if the Collectivité has a long list of projects to get the island back on the track of dynamism and attractiveness, and in spite of a relative improvement in its financial situation, it still does not have the means to meet its ambitions, and finds itself unable to finance its projects alone. That is why President Gibbs has been non-stop lobbying with financial organizations and European funds. As a result, in spite of slow response time and cumbersome administrative requirements, several new avenues of funding have been explored and

certain have born fruit.

The return to a more attractive island requires the restoration and rebuilding of infrastructure and public spaces. Facing the magnitude of this work these restoration projects will be done in phases as part of the Multi-Annual Investment Plan that covers the period of 2020-2024. In 2020, the first of these projects will be the complete renovation of Marina Fort Louis, where the first phase of work began in the final quarter of 2019. The extension of the Port of Galisbay, the restoration of public lighting, and the embellishment of downtown areas of Marigot and Grand-Case, and the renovation of public spaces are also considered short-term projects. To complete this first round of ambitious projects, the crux of the matter resides in the search for supplemental funding.

Recreate Political Objectives In Spite Of Reconstruction

In order to plan for a reasonable and realistic investment program, in consideration of an improved financial situation, the Collectivité intends to devote in 2020 a little less than half of its budget for investment, or 46% dedicated to the completion of its new public policy projects; the remaining 54% of its expenses will remain aimed at the reconstruction of all that is due for completion by 2023. The Multi-Annual Investment Plan for the years 2020 and 2021, represents 63.3M€ and 65.5 M€ respectively. This marks a considerable increase over the sums of 40M€ and 34.6M€ respectively for 2018 and 2019.

Strong lobbying for financial partners, such as the CDC and its Banque des Territoires

What is the role of La Banque des Territoires?

La Banque des Territoires, an important and long-term partner, intervenes to provide financial assistance for projects supported by the CDC, and helps leaders on all the islands in the development and deployment on innovative, ambitious, bold projects for the future benefit of the entire population. It pays special attention to small collectivités and islands in difficulty and intervenes principally in financing of public housing, business development, or environmental and energy transition, by way of loans of its own funds and guarantee procedures.

Eric Lombard, general director of the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation (CDC) and the Banque des Territoires, visited Saint Martin last October. This was an important visit for the Collectivité, which realizes the important development potential that exists on the island. The CDC delegation went to the Port of Galisbay, where Albéric Ellis, director of the port authority, discussed the massive project of extending the infrastructure there and the positive economic repercussions that will bring. Marina Port Royale and its potential reconstruction projects were also brought to the attention of the CDC and the Banque des Territoires.

The goal of this important visit was to convince the CDC of the island's development potential in the tourism sector, so that supplementary means of financing are possible. Eric Lombard gave his word in principal to president Gibbs for support of these projects via a global approach that also includes feasibility studies, as those are very expensive for the budgets of small islands like Saint Martin.



The Collectivité makes **economic development** a priority



After two years dedicated to the basics of reconstruction, the Collectivité of Saint-Martin is now at a point where it can concentrate on the economic development of the island, which was undermined by hurricane Irma. The economic center has been restructured and will now be known as the Delegation For Economic Development, which has created its development agency.

Installation Of The Delegation For Economic Development (DDE)

The primary goal of the Delegation For Economic Development (DDE), overseen by vice president Yawo Nyuiadzi, is to be the main contact point for those in the business sector, by becoming an organizing and uniting force and creating an environment conducive to economic development. Under the aegis of general director François-Xavier Binvel, the organizational chart for the DDE represents four distinct yet horizontal sectors: The Tourism Department, The Maritime and Rural Affairs Department, The Digital Task Force, and the Agency For Economic Development. Each of these departments has its own defined prerogatives and objectives.

Agency For Economic Development

A major aspect of the electoral platform for Team Gibbs, the creation of an Agency For Economic Development (ADE) was postponed in order to deal with the post-Irma priorities. Today, the Agency is operational and through it the COM hopes to initiate a

policy to support business development and no longer simply provide funding to the various associations involved in the creation and support of companies (CCISM, Initiative Saint Martin Active, ADIE...). As a result the ADE intends to unify everyone working in a business-related sector and coordinate activities for a group of twenty or so professional entrepreneurs, so that there is no unnecessary overlapping of their actions, but on the contrary, are complementary.

In order to best correspond to the businesses in terms of their sphere of activity, the ADE is divided into three distinct sub-sections, each with its proper mission: attractiveness of the island, support of local businesses; and City Manager. Concerning the attractiveness of the island, the ADE works to promote the destination on international investment markets. In its support of local businesses, the agency unifies the companies and orients them toward different partners according to their needs. As for the City Manager, she works directly with the local businesses, helping to organize events to promote their development.

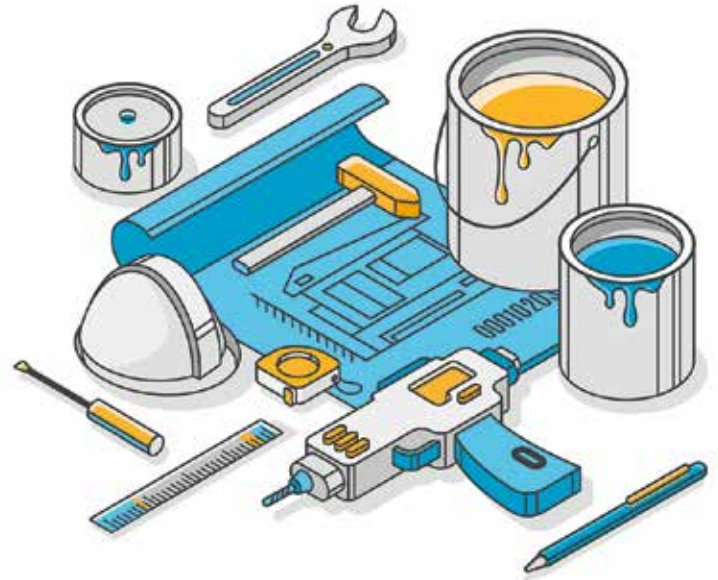


Agreement With The Banks, Partnership with BPI France

To lay the groundwork as a unifying force and increase its role, the ADE has worked hard to establish partnerships. The Collectivité has entered into agreements with the banks, most notable with the signing of a partnership contract with BPI France in October 2019. This French investment bank that backs the public policies of the government and of collectivités in order to support small and mid-sized companies as well as innovative businesses, and propose solutions for financing. This new partnership between BPI and the Collectivité will compensate for the lack of financing opportunities on the island, and will support the creation and development of new businesses. It will allow for the establishment of tools to find financing, respond to the needs of local businesses, offer them guidance, and create partnerships. With these new partnerships, the Collectivité can commit to help the businesses increase their financial and loan capacities, as a strong signal for support in the economic world.

“ Mon Beau Commerce ”, Help In Renovating Businesses and Storefronts

Decidedly resolute to improve the environment and the attractiveness of downtown Marigot and Grand-Case, last October the Collectivité endorsed a new project, “Mon Beau Commerce.” A project to support the renovation of storefronts and signage for the boutiques located in these two economic and touristic centers by way of the signature of an agreement between the benefitting business and the Collectivité, with attribution of financial aid up to 8000€. The nature of the work should comprise the renovation of the shop windows, exterior lighting, and security (doors, alarms), the embellishment and rejuvenation of the storefronts, awnings, and disability access. The level of investment starts at 1000€. The businesses eligible for this support must be registered with the Commercial Registry or the Trade Directory and up-to date with all fiscal and social payments. It must be noted that liberal professions, real estate agencies, pharmacies, and paramedical professionals as well as hotels are excluded from this project.



Big Success For The First Road To Business

The first Road To Business forum, held on November 7 at the West Indies Mall, attracted numerous entrepreneurs and project leaders. This event was the first of its kind organized by the Collectivité and its Agency For Economic Development, and its success highlights the important needs in this domain. During this forum, many potential partners met with the businesses and project leaders in order to answer their questions and give them concrete information in terms of research and financing, judicial information, bookkeeping, training, etc.





For the first time in many years, the Collectivité generated savings

To get its major projects off the ground, the Collectivité needs the means to accomplish them. The heart of the matter remains finances and the capacity to borrow. The French Agency For Development (AFD), whose mission is to support the Collectivité with analytical and technical expertise, last December, confirmed last December via its regional director, Odile Lapierre, that the finances of the Collectivité were considerably improved throughout 2019 and anticipating for the first time in many years to have positive savings, which would allow for new investments and getting loans. "A first for many years," points out Odile Lapierre, who was invited to speak at the December 20 territorial council meeting, at which point the council members were

scheduled to examine budgetary strategy for 2020. According to the AFD, this improvement is the result of better management of operational expenses and an augmentation of fiscal income, but they still would like to see additional efforts to improve the collection of revenues. These efforts fall upon the Regional Direction of Public Finances.

Savings of one million euros for 2019 will allow the Collectivité to further reduce its deficit by bringing it down to four million euros to meet its investment plan. The AFD estimates that the continued savings effort should continue through 2022, making the Collectivité more and more independent to finance its investment programs.

The ADE does not take the place of the CCISM but adds to the support offered to businesses

Historically, the Chamber of Commerce of Saint Martin has brought needed support to businesses, from the formalities of creation, modification of by-laws, and termination of activities. It is also an essential toolbox to ensure the development of businesses, by way of indispensable training to capitalize on their development. The CCISM responds in terms of the economic and strategic challenges of the island. At the same time, in terms of recommendations set forth by the Chambre Territoriale des Comptes in October 2018, faced with the financial imbalance of CCISM budget, the Collectivité's executive council decided last November to set the consular chamber's budget at 350,000€. In other words, the CCISM has had its own financial difficulties for several years and could barely balance its budget, to the point, to the point where the Room Fee Tax (TFC) could not supplement its budget.

So the Collectivité decided to support the CCISM by way of a subsidy subject to a three-year agreement, covering 2019-2021, and whose level of funding will be re-examined every year. With this agreement, the Collectivité of Saint-Martin wanted to define a contractual framework guaranteeing the conditions, objectives, and expectations of this new partnership between the CCISM and the Collectivité of Saint-Martin.



MODERNIZE THE DESTINATION

Transformation Of The Marigot Waterfront

The goal is to position and revitalize Marigot as a lively seaside town by orienting urban planning towards the sea and renovating the waterfront, as it so deserves. Here is a peek at the ambitious project launched by the Collectivité.

Studies for the transformation of the waterfront are on the drawing boards. Work is expected to start in 2021 and be completed in 2023. The idea is to bring more people to Marigot by renovating the waterfront and creating a better connection to the center of town. A total of five hectares between Marina Fort Louis and the round about by the cemetery are implicated in this project, which consists of improving conditions for pedestrians by creating a dock and a promenade, as well as inviting the population to walk from the center of town toward the waterfront using existing routes, which will be improved, and by using the future plaza linking the administrative building of the Collectivité and the waterfront. The presence of cars—which today cover the public space—is up in the air, with perhaps just one lane of traffic, the removal of current parking

spaces, and the creation of new ones at the far ends of the new plaza.

The 5 Steps Of The Project

This project has been defined in five steps: moving the maritime terminal to the other side of Marina Fort Louis, creating a park on the parking lot across from the terminal, constructing lolos and markets on the edge of the current site, creating a zone for bars and restaurants, and finally, creating a pedestrian promenade between Les Amandiers & the round about by the cemetery.

• Moving the ferry station will open the view to the sea from the Rue de la République. Parking places for tourist buses will clear

congestion from this currently overcrowded area.

- The main square transformed into an urban park across from the sea will provide an airy, shaded space with several playgrounds.
- Various market halls, placed close to the pedestrian promenade, will be in alignment with the Hôtel de la Collectivité and comprise two refreshing reflecting pools.
- The zone for restaurants, bars, pool halls, and clubs is primarily intended to revitalize nightlife in Marigot. The plan is for several large spaces on two levels, with wooden decks on the side close to the sea, for activities during the day and at night.
- The pedestrian promenade will be bordered by a wide band of shade trees, as well as a bicycle trail that leads to the ferry station.



Reconstruction Of Marina Fort Louis



5.5 M€ To Rebuild Marina Fort Louis!

Yachting represents an important sector of the tourism economy. The marinas on the French side of the island were almost completely destroyed by hurricane Irma. The Collectivité took over the management of the two marinas in Marigot, Marina Fort Louis and Port la Royale, as of January 1, 2019. Negotiations to remove Port la Royale from the Delegation of Public Service Public (DSP) with Semsamar are not yet concluded. So for the moment, this marina located in the heart of Marigot is still waiting for a green light to move forward, but the Collectivité has secured the deck that was destroyed by Irma and restored the public lighting. At Marina Fort Louis, the new DSP with the Galisbay Port Authority came into effect last January 1, but studies and audits started in September 2018 to evaluate reconstruction of the entire infrastructure. In spite of reopening two months after Irma, Marina Fort Louis is still only functioning at about 70% of its capacity.

Work On Public Lighting To Be Completed In February

Restoration of the public lighting that runs from the West Indies Mall to the lighthouse was approved, and work has been going full steam ahead in the first phase of this project, which includes lighting for parking lots and the sea wall.

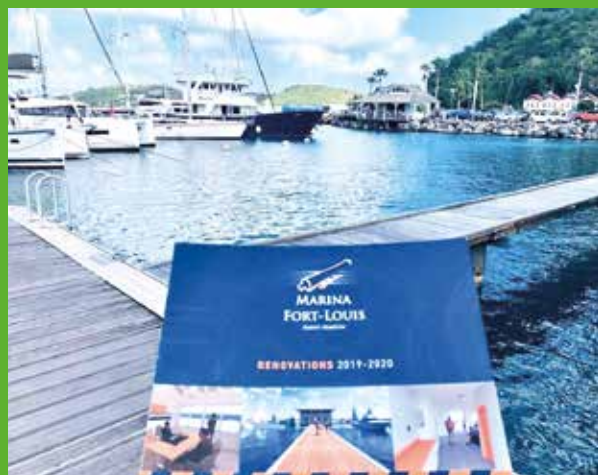
Major Scale Renovation Of Port Buildings

Since last November, work on port structures has been underway, with an eye toward starting commercial use during the current tourist season. The renovation of the buildings (port offices, Yacht Club restaurant, the shelter at the port entry, and diverse structures) began in the month of December and should be completed by September 2020.

Complex Electrical Work

Electrical work, another important phase of reconstruction scheduled to start in April 2020, is rather complex due to multiple voltages (110V, 220V, 380V...). Lisa Barot, director of Marina Fort Louis, has set herself a goal: that the legendary Billfish Tournament can once again take place at Marina Fort Louis in June.

When this important work is done, Lisa Barot and her staff hope to restore the level of economic profitability to where it was before Irma. In fact, the marina saw its revenue drop by almost 50% since September 2017, with the decrease in the number of boats, as well as major losses due to the reduction in revenue from auxiliary sources (sales of water, electricity, fuel, services, etc.).



Extension Of The Port Of Galisbay



The third phase in the Port of Galisbay extension project has begun, in keeping with the long-term development goals set by the Port Authority. This phase comprises adding 100,000 square meters to the existing surface, lengthening the dock by 300 meters, and dredging the entry canal to increase the depth from 6.5 meters to 9 meters, along a total length of 1.2 kilometers. The three million cubic meters of material that result from the dredging will be used to help construct the expanded surface. The overall budget is 100 million euros, as financed by the Collectivité. In mid-November 2019, the Port Authority's bidding commission awarded a contract to Setec International, part of the Setec group, one of the leading French engineering groups. Their mission consists of technical studies relative to the extension project and confirming in July 2020 the feasibility of the extension of the current dock by at least 200 additional meters, in order to allow for mid-size cruise ships such as Club Med boats, Sea Dream, or Le Ponant, which have a maximum capacity of 800 passengers. As of today, these boats have to stay outside in the harbor and would prefer a secure dock for their passengers, who enjoy the intimate nature of these cruises, rather than the large ships that carry thousands of passengers. The completion of this project will allow Marigot to position itself as a first-rate port, as well as a port with easy access on and off the ships. It will also be possible for the ships to run a shuttle between Galisbay and the ferry station, so that their passengers do not have to take the road between Galisbay and Marigot. Work should be done over a period of 12 to 18 months.



Work Planned At Ferry Station

Heavily impacted by Irma, the maritime terminal in Marigot rapidly reopened after the hurricane thanks to temporary repairs financed by partial insurance payments. The Port Authority now plans for additional renovations to improve the passenger experience, by reorganizing the waiting room, with improved traffic flow and more comfort for the passengers. Studies are currently underway by Smile Studio, and the new conception was presented in mid-December to maritime companies, the border police, and the port authority. The goal is to launch the consultation process early in 2020, so that work can begin in April. The ferry station serves more than 300,000 passengers per year, on their way to and from Anguilla and Saint Barthélemy, representing an economic impact of major importance.



Working Toward Improving The Island's Attractiveness For Tourists

The day after catastrophic hurricane Irma hit Saint Martin, the Collectivité announced its determination to reconstruct the island as part of its tourism strategy covering the period of 2017/2027. Ambitious projects, from short-term to those on the horizon for the next ten years, were formalized via the creation of a tourism council and a tourism committee. Atout France and France Tourisme Ingénierie have been supporting the Collectivité in defining its tourism strategy and by evaluating the implementation of the first several projects.

A Casino Project

Under the direction of Stéphanie Bessièrre, the island's tourism policy includes a strategy for economic reconstruction. With the support of Atout France, a tourism development agency in France, feasibility studies and ideas for new tourism opportunities were launched in 2018, so that several large projects could eventually be realized, including the creation of a casino. Atout France presented favorable conclusions for this project in 2019, and steps were taken with the French Premier Minister to see if national law could be modified to authorize the Collectivité of Saint Martin to own a casino on the island. A similar procedure was undertaken by France Tourisme Ingénierie to provide support during the entire process.



Branding For The Island

Aware of the necessity to firmly anchor the identity of the island, the tourism department, with the assistance of Atout France, launched a project in 2019 to create branding for the island of Saint Martin. Images and slogans, or in other words a label for Saint Martin, conceived in collaboration with the territorial council, technicians, and socio-professionals, which when adopted will unite all of economic forces for a reconnaissance of the same goals. This new branding for the island should be revealed sometime during 2020.



Hotel Management School Project

The Collectivité intends to improve the range of options and services for tourists, while at the same time creating local employment opportunities. At the initiative of the prefecture, a French Government/Collectivité steering committee was created and tourism professionals were questioned about their needs. A project to start a hotel management school, in keeping with the spirit of improved excellence in tourism, was born. This project was presented as part of the France Tourisme Ingénierie program in order to help find financing and financiers. The goal is to become the partner of Vatel, a leading French hotel school.

Vatel Group, and its Hotel & Tourism Business School campuses around the world, won the title of "Best Hospitality Management School" at the 17th Worldwide Hospitality Awards, competing against 42 prestigious international schools.



THE COM SUPPORTS ITS ASSOCIATIONS

800,000€
In Grants For
827 Associations



Young people taking part in non-profit associations

There is a very active universe of associations in Saint Martin, with 827 non-profits listed in the association database for the Collectivité, which makes an effort to support those who request and merit funding. A total of 800,000€ was included in the Collectivité's 2019 budget, and 60 associations (of the 62 that submitted a complete dossier), comprising more than 6,000 directors, volunteers, and members, will benefit from these funds. But how are these grants attributed? First, according to eligibility criteria. In the world of sports, for example, participation in

national and international competitions is an important plus, as well as top-level athletes for whom a bourse can be attributed. «We do not make a donation simply because there was a request, but because it is important for the Collectivité to allow an association to travel or to support feminine sports. A donation is not a given, but is attributed to those volunteers who are active, who give of their time, their money, and their knowledge to the community. A donation encourages these volunteers and gives them the means to achieve their goals,” notes Charles-

Henri Palvair, the director for youth, sport, and community association services, and who was the director of Overseas Affairs in Martinique until he took his new post in Saint Martin in 2013.

The Collectivité is not the only source of funding for associations, as the French government offers support by way of Funds For The Development of Associations (FDVA), which will donate 125,000€ to 24 associations in 2020. The social cohesion contract also supports those associations directed toward social activities.

Fill Out A Subvention Request

The dossiers for subvention requests for 2020 have been available since October 15 at the association services office, and should be returned to the same place on or before February 14, carefully filled out. The service, run by Marianne Arrindell-Joe, will confirm that the dossier corresponds to the eligibility criteria as required before sending it on to the appropriate delegation, depending if the association is dedicated to young people,

sports, culture, economy, or social issues. The delegation in question will forward its opinion on the dossier to the commission that decides if the subvention requested will be attributed, and at what level. The final word comes from the executive council, which validates—or not—the suggestions made by the commission.

Association Services Office
Ancienne école du bord de mer
Rue de la Liberté
Marigot
05 90 29 59 26

4 local associations under the spotlight

Métimer: The Sea and Nautical Professions

Created in May 2000 and actively run by president Bulent Gulay since 2005, Métimer is a non-profit association that comprises the majority of all nautical professionals in Saint Martin, and has two main objectives. The first is to promote nautical activities in Saint Martin and the second is to favor the development of nautical professions for the young people on the island. For the past several years, the association has organized two major public events: La Fête de La Mer and Sea Discovery Day. La Fête de la Mer, which was last held in late May 2019, hosted 6,000 visitors who learned about numerous nautical sports and various aspects of navigation: excursions on a sailboat, a racing catamaran, and a glass bottom boat, as well as stand-up paddle, kayak, dinghy, jet ski,



The sea fete

towed buoy, snorkeling at Rocher Créole,

water skis, wake board... and all for just a few euros. Sea Discovery Day is dedicated to underprivileged youth on the island, as a way to go out on boats made available by partnering companies, to discover the island from the sea, and spend a fun day outdoors on the small island of Tintamare.



Sea Discovery Day

On November 17, 2019, 200 students participated in this event and have magical memories of the day. The association has an office and has hired a coordinator who is indispensable for the organization of these events, as well as maintaining their Facebook page and website metimer.fr, organizing the nautical professional forum, and setting up board meetings. On the drawing boards: creation of a nautical club and a trade show.

Special Mention For **Speedy Plus**

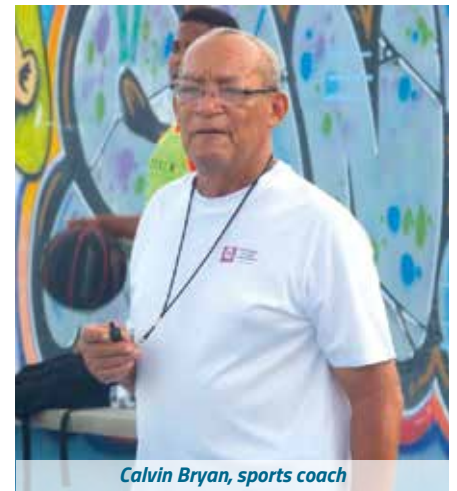


A day dedicated to social exchanges in Bellevue

Soccer, basketball, track and field, jogging, tennis, boxing, fitness, cycling, motorcycles, surfing, nautical sports, horseback riding, cricket, boules, gymnastics... Forty different sports associations benefit from support by the Collectivité and share close to 400,000 euros in subventions, or close to half of the annual budget as voted by the council for associations. Among all the motivated and dedicated volunteers, Calvin Bryan—named track and field trainer of the year in 1996 by the French Athletic Foundation while he was working in Guadeloupe—holds a special place, with excellent results obtained in regional stadiums, and in France, by several

young athletes from Saint Martin. Founding president of the association Speedy Plus, whose mission is to promote the sport and train champions, this Saint Martin native returned to his island in 2004, at the time of his retirement. He has since dedicated his efforts to working with local kids, who thanked him by way of running fast enough to win medals at the regional, national, and European level. When hurricane Irma destroyed the two island stadiums, nothing deterred Bryan's motivation, and in 2019 he organized a dozen events in various neighborhoods, based on fulfillment via physical exercise, under the colors of

Speedy Plus. With a special mention for nine days in Bellevue oriented toward social issues, covering such subjects as respect for nature, medicinal plants diabetes, obesity, parent-children interaction, blood pressure, sophrology, yoga, the link between music and wellbeing, and eating well. These carefully organized sessions offered bus service, a healthy breakfast and/or lunch, tents, a hundred or so chairs at tables, as well as the presence of specialized experts in the various disciplines and the necessary staff needed to make sure the events ran smoothly. These events will take place again in 2020, along with a reprise of training in the French Quarter, once the stadium reopens later in the year.



Calvin Bryan, sports coach

Jeunesse Soualiga: Being Together Is What's Important



A visit to Memorial ACTe in Guadeloupe

There is always a good idea behind every successful project. In 2004, the idea was that given the number of young people who didn't have the means to go away on summer vacation, it would be nice to have them get together and give them something fun to do. For Jean-Marc Gervais—alias Jimix - "being together is what's important." Organized at first with his cousins and his friends, his activities quickly met with success for both boys and girls. Picnics on the beach, camping, hiking, sports competitions... It was really like a vacation for this group, baptized Jimix and Friends Corporation, and these fun-filled days were so successful that they were repeated during all of the school vacations. In 2008, things matured and the association Jeunesse Soualiga was born. Today it comprises 60 young people, ages 14 to 18, who participate in the summer activities, as well as the association itself. In addition, these kids wrote a scenario and

made a 30-minute film on the consequences of gun violence. The video was shown at the cinema in Sandy Ground right before Irma, and in various neighborhoods and schools, with discussions after the screenings. Currently, in reaction to the large number of fatal road accidents in 2019, a new film is being made on the lack of safety on the roads, in collaboration with the firemen and



Visit of the Collectivité building in St Barts



Trip to St Barts

emergency services. Subjects covered range from driving under the influence to driving without a license, seat belt, or helmet. At the same time, Jeunesse Soualiga is working with other associations on the theme of good health, and has organized, for example, diabetes testing by group. Thirteen members of the association went to Guadeloupe to visit the Memorial ACTe museum in November

2019 and a group of 32 young people took the boat to Saint Barths in May 2019, to explore an island that most of them only knew as a point on the horizon. Their academic studies are of capital importance: "We insist that these students pass their exams and that they set an example for those who follow in their footsteps," states Jean-Marc.

Good Friends of Santa Claus

Every year, Santa Claus leaves the North Pole and asks his reindeer to fly to Saint Martin, where he visits his house in the topics at Cripple Gate. When he arrives, all is lit up to welcome him, and the Joe family has been busy since October to decorate the garden in his honor, as well as the terrace, and the interior of the house. If he wants to take a rest before going out, a four-poster bed awaits him in the bedroom, where there are red and green pillows and festoons of lights. Every year, hundreds of visitors from all over the world delight in visiting this magical place, baptized the "Maison du Père Noël," or the House of Santa Claus. The Good Friends association was launched in 1987, with the idea of creating a Christmas tree for underprivileged kids. At present, six members and a dozen volunteers decorate the tree and welcome visitors from the evening of Thanksgiving through January 15. Everyone can taste a slice of coconut or guavaberry tart, and adults get a glass of guavaberry punch, while kids get a little gift. Guided tours are organized for schools and the house remains open all day on December 24 and 25. But the actions of Good Friends don't stop there, as the association also takes care of seniors. In 2019, in collaboration with social security, two «Zen Days» were designed for seniors at La Plénitude, picking them up by bus and providing a well-balanced breakfast. 80 people on Saturday and a different group of 80 on Sunday participated in yoga classes and Qigong, enjoyed a massage, foot reflexology, and nutritional advice during lunch. A specialist from Martinique was there to provide information on the best way to enjoy their retirement. The two days were so successful that Good Friends will organize them again in 2020.



President Gibbs visits the House of Santa at Cripple Gate



President Daniel Gibbs new year's adress with the students of the high school



Holiday wishes by president Gibbs at the Lycée Professionnel in Marigot, January 31, 2020



President Gibbs with the Officials of Sint Maarten and Saint Martin



The 24th RUP Presidents Conference was organized by the Collectivité of Saint Martin.



CPRUP 2020 - Vice President Mohamed SIDI and President Daniel GIBBS



CPRUP presidents at the internal session, February 6, 2020



CPRUP 2020 - Handover of the Presidency to the island of Mayotte



CPRUP 2020 - The European delegation visits the ORGANICA station



Face to face with President Alfred Marie-Jeanne before the internal session of the CPRUP Conference



CPRUP 2020 - A visit to the Lycée Professionnel and the GRETA



Meeting between Vice-president Steven Patrick and the members of CAUE Guadeloupe



First Vice-president Valérie Damaseau and the CTJ of St Martin



Wednesday 20th of February, the Collectivité organized a meeting to inform the associations of the grants available



The Collectivité organized a training session for the preparation of the teacher's entrance exam



Faces of St Martin III showcases portraits of our elders.



Faces of Saint-Martin III exhibition - Highlighting our seniors