

# Aruba: cultural participation and cultural education in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

In 2021, Gregory Richardson mapped out the core data on the cultural infrastructure (arts and heritage) for cultural participation and cultural education in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. His study was commissioned by the National Centre of Expertise for Cultural Education and Amateur Arts (LKCA). In this article, we share the information he compiled about Aruba. To find out more about Gregory Richardson's research [please visit our website](#).

Together with the European parts of the Netherlands, Aruba and Sint Maarten, Curaçao forms the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (collectively abbreviated as BES) are special municipalities within the Kingdom. Together they make up the Caribbean Netherlands. These six islands as a whole form the [Caribbean part of the Kingdom](#).



## 1 Key population data

Population 111,050 (2020)

Population composition Male: 52,567 – Female: 58,483 (2020)

### Nationalities

- Dutch\* 52.1%
- Colombian 18.0%
- Venezuelan 6.5%
- Dominican Republic 6.0%
- Haitian 3.0%
- Chinese 2.0%
- Philippine 2.2%
- Peruvian 2.0%
- Jamaican 1.6%
- United States 1.5%
- Other 5.1%

\*Dutch nationality: persons born on Aruba or elsewhere in the Kingdom of the Netherlands or who became a Dutch citizen through naturalisation.

### Spoken and official languages (2020)

- Papiamentu 72%
- Spanish 14%
- English 7%
- Dutch 6%
- Other 1%

## 2 Cultural policy

### Administrative situation on Aruba

Coalition government 2022: MEP, POR, RED

Opposition parties: AVP, MAS, Accion 21

There are also several parties without parliamentary representation.

### Vision on cultural education

As regards cultural education, the political parties are quite general in their views. The focus is mainly on arts and culture as a means of promoting the overall development of children and youth. In addition, cultural education is seen as playing an important role as part of nation building.

The vision on cultural education is set out in the Policy Document on Culture issued by the Culture Directorate:

*The Ministry's vision is driven by the idea that culture is an essential cornerstone for Aruba's social and economic development. This means that, through culture, citizens are able to connect with one another, explore and develop their creativity and, above all, form their identity. A sense of identity is key to cultivating self-esteem and assertiveness. An assertive individual is more likely to seek opportunities that can contribute to the development of a nation.*

The Ministry's mission is:

- to contribute to the sustainable development of Aruba's cultural sector through awareness, quality, protection and opportunities.
- to contribute to cultural excellence, so that Aruba's cultural sector will garner respect and admiration for its quality and for being able to deliver experiences that hold qualitative appeal.

In the context of this vision and mission, a number of key interlinked areas of value have been identified:

- 1 Culture and education
- 2 Culture and tourism
- 3 San Nicolas Aruba's cultural heritage capital
- 4 Public and private partnerships
- 5 Cultural entrepreneurship
- 6 Seeking inspiration

### **Cultural policy plan (core themes for cultural education and participation)**

The Policy Document on Culture describes cultural education as ‘*an essential component*’ in ‘*safeguarding culture on Aruba and creating awareness and individual well-being.*’

*The efforts of the Ministry will focus on including educational components in cultural projects and vice versa where possible. In addition, all departments which have a direct relationship with the Ministry will be encouraged to include cultural education and awareness in their policies. Organisations that cooperate with but are not directly dependent on the government will also be encouraged to do so.*

### **Contact details**

Details of government contacts for cultural education and cultural participation are listed below.

- Minister of Finance and Culture: Ms Xiomara J. Maduro (MEP)
- Minister of Education and Sport: Mr Endy J.H. Croes (MEP)
- Director of the Departamento di Cultura (Directorate of Culture): Mr Siegfried Dumfries
- Director of Educational Affairs: Ms Annemarie Proveyer-Groot

#### *Information Office*

Address: Caya Mario E. Harms 31

Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: [buvo@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:buvo@aruba.gov.aw)

#### *Directorate of Culture*

Address: L.G. Smith Boulevard 134, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: [info@cultura.aw](mailto:info@cultura.aw), [auacultura@setarnet.aw](mailto:auacultura@setarnet.aw)

#### *Directorate of Education*

Address: John F. Kennedy Education Center, Stadionweg 37, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: [info@ea.aw](mailto:info@ea.aw)

## **3 Education**

On Aruba, preschool and primary education are offered separately, but both are run by the same school boards. Source:

### **Nursery schools on Aruba**

Five school boards oversee a total of 26 nursery schools.

### **Primary schools**

Four school boards oversee a total of 37 primary schools.

### **School boards**

- Department of Public Schools (DPS)
- Foundation for Catholic Education on Aruba (SKOA), the largest board
- Foundation for Protestant-Christian Education on Aruba (SPCOA)

- Foundation for Gospel Teaching on Aruba (SVEOA)

#### **Schools with no government subsidy or partial government subsidy:**

- Foundation for Adventist Mission Education on Aruba (SOAZA)
- Stichting Onderwijs Combina
- International School of Aruba

#### **Number of pupils in primary education\***

- Preschool education 2,639
- Primary education 8,746
- Primary special education 450

\*Figures excluding fee-paying schools

#### PEN Report 2017/2018

#### **Secondary education**

Number of secondary schools (branches)

- 1 basic vocational education (EPB/LBO)
- 1 special needs secondary school
- 8 junior general secondary education (MAVO)
- 3 senior general secondary education (HAVO)
- 1 pre-university education (VWO)

Separate public evening schools for MAVO/HAVO/VWO and vocational courses for adults

4 school boards for secondary education:

- 1 Department of Public Schools (DPS) (public education)
- 2 Foundation for Basic Vocational Education (SEPB)
- 3 Foundation for Catholic Education on Aruba (SKOA)
- 4 Foundation for Protestant-Christian Education on Aruba (SPCOA)

#### **Schools with no government subsidy or partial government subsidy**

- 1 Schakel Aruba (Dutch)
- 2 International School Aruba (ISA) (American/English)
- 3 Ibero American High School (American/English)
- 4 Montessori Schools of Aruba

#### **Senior secondary vocational education (MBO)**

MBO with 4 fields of study

- 1 Science and Technology Unit
- 1 Health Care and Service Unit
- 2 Secretarial and Business Administration Unit
- 3 Hospitality and Tourism Unit

## Higher professional and university education

Programmes/specialisations

Instituto Pedagógico Arubano (IPA) teacher training programme

Specialisations:

- Teacher training for primary education (PABO)
- Bachelor's in Dutch as a Foreign Language
- Bachelor's in Movement and Health (Movesión y Salud)
- Bachelor's in Papiamentu
- Master's in Educational Needs
- Master's in Science in Education (MSE)
- Pedagogical and didactic certificate
- Professionalisation pathways for incumbent teachers

## University of Aruba (UA)

- 1 Faculty of Law
- 2 Faculty of Accounting, Finance and Marketing
- 3 Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Programmes:

- Bachelor's in Social Work and Development
  - Bachelor's in Organisation, Governance and Management
  - Bachelor's in Sustainable Engineering
4. Faculty of Hospitality Management

## Percentage of school dropouts

Figures are hard to verify. The most recent report is from 2016

## 4 Cultural sector

### Theatres and cultural centres

Aruba Theatre Foundation (Cas di Cultura) and Theatre and cultural centre.

Scol di Arte San Nicolas (centre for art and culture in San Nicolas)

Contact details

### Museums

Fundacion Museo Arubano encompasses four museums. Contact details

- Museo historico
- Community Museum
- Museum of Industry
- Carnival Museum

Museo Archeologico

Aruba Children's Museum of Art and Creativity

### Music

- Rufo Wever Aruban Music School
- Academia Harpa y Cuarta
- Cas di Música (music school)

- [JR Arends Piano Studio](#) (piano lessons)
- [The Learning Orchestra Foundation](#) (primary education)
- [Aruba Panman Foundation](#) (education in steel pan music)

### Visual arts

- [Art from the Heart](#)
- [Ateliers '89 Punto di Beyas Arte Aruba](#)
- [Mira Foundation](#)
- [Crea Arte Aruba children's workshop](#)
- [Terrafuse](#)
- [ArtisA](#)

### Performance

- [Scol di Baile Diana Antonette](#)
- [Kozlov Dance Academy](#)
- [Club di Movimiento](#)
- [Pierewietje & Flash](#)
- [Aerial Dance and Performance](#)
- [Popcorn Club](#)
- [Aruba Dance Studios](#)

### Spoken word

- [Arte di Palabra ABC](#) (wordsmith contest)
- [Gang di Arte](#)
- [Basha Foundation](#)

### Foundations and organisations (NGOs) that contribute to cultural education

- [Unesco Aruba Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) (ICH) and [Facebook UNESCO Aruba](#)
- [Rancho Foundation](#)
- [Aruba Mural Tours](#)
- [Fundacion Mi Cutisa](#) and [Facebook Mi Cutisa Fundacion](#)
- [Fundacion Bernadina Growell](#)
- [The Hub at San Nicolas](#)

### Key figures

- Vicky Arens Tjong – [Cas di Cultura](#)
- Johnny Croes – [Aruba Learning Orchestra](#)
- Alice van Romondt – [Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribbean](#)
- Rose-Marie Provence – [Muchila Creativo and Art-Based School](#)
- Soraida Wever – [Cosecha](#)
- Ray-anne Hernandez – [UNOCA](#)

## 5 Funds

Union di Organisacionnan Cultural Arubano (UNOCA)

## 6 Other: care and welfare

- Fundacion Muchila Creativo
- Bureau Traimerdia Aruba – 10 after-school care centres for children
- CEDE Aruba – National Center for Social Development
- Kiwanis Club of Aruba – Serving the children of Aruba
- Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation – youth foundation and Facebook Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation
- Y's Care (YMCA Afterschool Recreational and Education Programme)