

# Curaçao: 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 Curaçao. 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

Languages: Dutch, Papiamentu, English  
Spoken and official languages (2001):

- Papiamentu 81%
- Dutch 8%
- Spanish 6%
- English 3%
- Other 2%

[More information](#)

## 2 Cultural policy

### Administrative situation on Curaçao

As regards arts and cultural education, the political parties are quite general in their views on arts and culture as a means of promoting the overall development of children and youth and its importance in nation building.

The Culture and Sport Implementation Organisation (whose responsibilities include cultural education and participation) comes under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (OWCS). The implementation of policy in the culture and sports sector is based on the

Civil Service and Administrative Organisation Decree (LABO), the Business Plan, the coalition agreement and the proposals adopted for these policy areas.

### **Government contacts regarding cultural education and participation**

- Mr Sithree (Cey) van Heydoorn (MFK), Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sport
- Ms Lizette Sambo-Velder, Director of the Culture and Sport Sector at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
- Mr Wladimir Kleinmoedig, Director of the Education and Science Sector at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

#### More information

#### The Education and Science Implementation Organisation

Bon Bini Business Center, Schottegatweg Oost 10, Willemstad, Curaçao

Email: [OWCS.Communicatie@gobiernu.cw](mailto:OWCS.Communicatie@gobiernu.cw)

#### Culture and Sport Implementation Organisation

Wilhelminastraat 1, Willemstad, Curaçao

#### Installatie Culturele Adviesraad

Chair: Mr Michael Newton

#### Curaçao Cultural Policy 2020-2025

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

The culture domain focuses on developing the cultural awareness and active cultural participation of all Curaçaoans to enable them to achieve balanced personal development. In doing so, culture also gives impetus to nation building and the bringing together of different cultural identities.

### **Cultural policy vision**

The people of Curaçao are culturally aware and patriotic and contribute to nation building by creatively expressing cultural heritage both locally and globally.

### **Cultural policy goals**

- 1 Emancipation
- 2 Fostering greater awareness, especially among younger generations, about the importance of culture for sustainable national development
- 3 Preservation, protection, development, promotion and recreation of cultural heritage
- 4 Promoting cultural education and cultural outreach
- 5 Raising public awareness of the potential of cultural and creative industries for the local economy
- 6 Promoting collective identity and social cohesion by presenting culture as a key factor in bringing people closer together and ensuring mutual exchange and understanding
- 7 Promoting the quality of the arts and culture
- 8 Nurturing the ability to respond to the challenges and opportunities for enriching cultural creativity offered by globalisation

## Cultural education

Cultural education requires an integrated approach to education and culture. It should therefore be given a structural place in both the curricular and extracurricular learning and living environment. In practice, this involves not only acquiring knowledge about culture, but also promoting skills such as observation, imagination, conceptualisation and analysis. This supports the learner in the learning process. In the process, learners are empowered to shape their own lives and develop creative and inquisitive attitudes.

## Vision

The vision of the Culture and Sport Implementation Organisation (UCS) is derived from the vision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and reads as follows:

*'Increasing activities for personal development in both formal and non-formal sectors for the benefit of the population by making use of the policy fields of Culture and Sport. The intended result is to further the development of the ideal citizen of the country of Curaçao and the world. These two policy fields create a rich opportunity for residents to realise their potential on the basis of norms and values, and to participate in processes geared towards awareness and the acquisition of knowledge about the past, present and future. UCS aims to further the development towards becoming an ideal citizen, with an emphasis on disadvantaged citizens. The target group for stimulating the relevant competences includes all ages, from birth to 100 years old.'*

## Mission statement

Issuing subsidies, monitoring and control for the purpose of achieving cultural development, including non-formal education, education and increased participation in sports among the population.

The mission of the sector for the coming period is based on efficiency and effectiveness. Using the instruments at its disposal, the sector is working to achieve greater transparency through relationship management in the form of dialogue with its partners. By intensifying supervision and control, the sector aims to strengthen effectiveness in the field of culture and sport.

## Objectives

The strategy envisaged is:

- 1 to cooperate more closely with the policy organisation in drawing up the programme of requirements, analysing the societal effects of activities and formulating policy papers and plans of action for the various challenges in the fields of culture and sport (relevant themes include community schooling, neighbourhood development and active participation in policy making);
- 2 to cooperate with the Education and Science Implementation Organisation to achieve more effective and efficient implementation with regard to culture and sport and to boost the impact of activities, with a view to pursuing the following objectives:
  - a implementing a culture and sports curriculum in education;
  - b complementing the personal development and education of the school-age population;
- 3 to analyse products with a view to reaching conclusions on and initiating cooperation between ministries (relevant themes include pre-school education and after-school care);
- 4 to motivate foundations to cooperate with one another.

## 3 Education

### School boards

- Department of Public Schools (DOS)
- Roman Catholic Central School Board Foundation (RKCS)
- Association for Protestant Christian Education (VPCO)
- New Song Christian Education Foundation (SCONS)
- Seventh-day Adventist Education Foundation (SOZDA)
- Foundation for Christian Education of the Evangelical Brethren (SCOEBG)
- Fundashon Skol Humanista na Papiamentu (FSHP)

### Primary education\*

57 primary schools

14 special education schools

\*figures for 2019/2020

15,635 general primary school pupils

1,198 special education pupils

### Secondary education

24 schools for prevocational secondary education (VSBO)/senior general secondary education (HAVO)/pre-university education (VWO)

7 fee-paying schools

### Senior secondary vocational education (MBO)

10 standard MBO schools

4 fee-paying MBO schools

### University of Curaçao Dr Moises Da Costa Gomez (formerly UNA)

- Faculty of Arts
- School of Law
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences

### University of the Dutch Caribbean

- Accountancy (AC)
- Banking and Insurance (HBV)
- Business Economics (BE)
- Commercial Economics (CE)
- Fiscal Economics (FE)
- Management, Economics and Law (MER)
- Sport, Management & Entrepreneurship (SM&O)
- Small Business & Retail Management (SBR)
- HBO Bachelor's programme in Law (HR)
- Social Legal Services (SJD)

- International Communication (IC)

#### **Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean**

- School of Finance Management and Control
- School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- School of Management and Leadership
- School of Educational Management

#### **Percentage of school dropouts**

Up-to-date figures are hard to find. A 2006-2009 study indicates that the number of pupils who only completed primary school fluctuates between 23 and 30 per cent.

[More information Jeugdbeleidsplan](#)

[More information Staat van het Onderwijs](#)

## **4 Cultural sector**

### UNESCO Curaçao

Instituto Buena Bista (IBB), Curaçao's centre for contemporary art, offering creative young people a two-year creative and/or artistic preparation course, alongside a residency for international artists

### Teatro Luna Blou Theatre

Fundashon di Artista, a foundation that supports local artists by creating awareness of the crucial role of art in every society.

Museo Tula, a museum and former plantation that recounts the history of a slave rebellion on Curaçao.

Museo Kas di Pal'i Maishi, museum dedicated to the traditional way of life on Curaçao.

<https://www.facebook.com/museumkasdipalimaishi/>

### National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM)

### Sentro pa Inovashon i Guia Edukashonal

### National Archives of Curaçao

### The Curaçao Museum of art and history

### Jewish Cultural Historical Museum Curaçao

### Cultural Centre Curaçao Foundation (CCC)

Instituto pa Formashon Musikal, musical classes

Teatro KadaKen Performance art theatre group

Teatro Bulabanda, performance art theatre group

Uniarte, a non-profit organisation that stimulates artistic development and public interaction through projects and meetings. In addition to sharing contemporary art, Uniarte initiates and inspires conversations about the Caribbean region and its context.  
<https://uniarte.org/>

La Tentashon Performing arts academy (no longer active)

Kas di Kultura Cultural advice and policy (not currently active)

### Stakeholders

Key contacts in the field of cultural education and participation:

- Ange Jessurun
- Richenel Ansano
- Marlon Reina<https://www.facebook.com/marlon.reina>
- Albert Schoobaar
- Rose Mary Allen
- Sharelly Emanuelson
- Roland 'Roy' Colastica
- Wesley Eleonora
- Michael Newton
- Crisèn Schorea
- Gibi Bacilio
- Avantia Damberg
- Saskia Monhemius
- Laura Quast

## 5 Funds and funding bodies

- Landsloterij Curaçao (lottery)
- Fundashon Bon Intenshon
- Postspaarbank Curaçao (savings bank)
- MCB Maduro & Curiel's Bank
- Johannes Bosco Foundation
- Curaçao Lions
- Kiwanis International organisations on Curaçao

## 6 Other culture and welfare initiatives

### SEFBA

An organisation that provides activities aimed at information, education, training and personal development through accessible facilities

Unidat di Bario Kòrsou Unidat

Works with all neighbourhood organisations in Curaçao that focus on welfare in local communities by organising socio-educational, socio-cultural, socio-economic and recreational activities.

Fundashon Skol di Arte i Kultura Futuro Briante

Foundation for social and cultural development

Fundashon Bos di Hubentut

An organisation for the all-round development of children and young people.

Out-of-school childcare

FDIP (Fundashon Desaroyo i Progreso)