



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORTS

PATI Information Statement

Name of Public Authority: Department of Culture

Introduction:

Every Public Authority covered in the Public Access to Information (Bermuda) Act 2010 (PATI) has a legal duty to maintain an Information Statement. The purpose of PATI is to make information easily accessible to the public and increase the accountability and transparency within public authorities.

The purpose of the Information Statement is to outline the information held by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which will be readily available to the public under PATI. It is divided into different categories to help the public efficiently find the documents or resources they are looking for.

Section A: Structure, Organization and Legislation [s5(1)(a)]

The Department of Culture consists of 10 members of staff.

Vacant – Director
Ms. Carlita Lodge – Cultural Programme Manager
Mr. Graham Mawer – Cultural Programme Manager
Mrs. Catherine Hay- Cultural Programme Manager
Vacant – Cultural Research and Programme Manager
Ms. Renee Thomas – Cultural Programme Coordinator
Ms. Clyde-A-Mae Tucker – Cultural Programme Coordinator
Ms. Hannah Leigh – Cultural Programme Coordinator
Vacant – Cultural Programme Coordinator
Ms. Angelique Lewis – Accounts and Programme Assistant

Legislation:

Bermuda Arts Council Act 1969
National Heroes Act 2024

Section B: 1) Functions, powers, duties of the Authority [s5(1)(b)]

The Department's mission is to develop our creatives, preserve our heritage and celebrate our people.

The Department of Culture plays a critical role in upholding Government's commitment to cultivating and fostering positive community development as well as supporting our young people and families – Bermuda's most precious resources.

This Department continues to provide high calibre cultural, heritage, artistic, and folklife programmes. The presence of such cultural, artistic and creative events and activities, as well as the production and publication of materials are important determining factors that influence our people, visitors, and enrich our island nation.

The Department of Culture is committed to providing social, cultural and educational services to the public. We endeavor to maintain Bermuda's traditions and create new opportunities that enhance community awareness. We will provide quality services through an effective, efficient and motivated team.

The Department supports the arts via the Bermuda Arts Council that awards grants to students pursuing study in the arts at the tertiary level and projects by individuals and organizations.

Section B: 2) Obligations under PATI [s5(1)(b)]

To provide an **information statement** for the public and promulgate it [s5],

- To provide **other information** to the public so that the public needs only to have minimum resort to the use of PATI to obtain information [s6]. This includes:
 - General information, e.g. activities of the Authority;
 - Log of all information requests and their outcome [s6(2) & (3)];
 - Quarterly expenditure (upon request) [s6(5)]; and
 - Contracts valued at \$50,000 or more [s6(6)].
- To **respond to information requests** in a timely manner [ss12-16]
- To **track information requests**, and provide this data to the Information Commissioner
- To respond to requests from the Information Commissioner [s9]
- To **amend personal information** held by the Authority that is wrong or misleading following a written request by or on behalf of the person to whom the information relates [s19]
- To conduct an **internal review** if formally requested [Part 5]
- To give evidence for **review by the Information Commissioner** [Part 6, s47(4)], or for **judicial review** [s49], if required
- To provide an **annual written report** to the Information Commissioner of the status of information requests [s58(3)].
- To **do anything else as required** under PATI and subsequent Regulations [s59] and Codes of Practice [s60], including:
 - **Fees** for requests for information [s59(1)(a)];

- Management and maintenance of records [s59(1)(c)]; and
- **Procedures** for administering the Act [s59(1)(d)].
- To **train staff and make arrangements** so as to facilitate compliance PATI [s61]
- To **designate one of its officers** to be the person to whom requests are directed [s62]

Section C: Services and Programmes [s5(1)(c)]

Services:

The Department's objectives are to:

- To support Bermuda's cultural, heritage and artistic communities and institutions through developmental programmes and partnerships.
- To preserve our heritage by promoting an understanding of Bermuda's cultural identity through education, research, publication and enrichment programmes.
- To celebrate our people and the development of our national identity by curating cultural festivals, public discussions, and educational programmes.
- To serve as stewards of Bermuda's cultural heritage.

The Department achieves this by organising annual national festivals and events of large and small scale, folklife events and research, media programmes, documentaries, publications, digital archives, and more.

Programmes:

The Department offers the following programmes to the general public:

- **Cultural Programmes –**
Emancipation – Organizes programmes that commemorate the 1834 emancipation of enslaved people in Bermuda. The Emancipation Programmes provide an opportunity to educate the public and make clearer all the reasons why we celebrate both Cup Match and Emancipation, telling stories of slavery, emancipation, post emancipation, Black entrepreneurship, economic struggle, and fellowship.

Gombey Festival Weekend – an annual, family-friendly event celebrating the very best in Gombey culture. It provides a platform for local Gombey troupes to perform and display their craft and is an exciting opportunity for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the dance, music, and costume of the gombeys.

Heritage Month – Organized to highlight and bring attention to aspects of our culture and heritage, promoting a sense of community understanding and pride amongst the people of Bermuda. Activities and programmes, which are held throughout May reflect and speak to the selected theme with an aim to educate and entertain, culminating in the annual Bermuda Day Parade.

Uncover the Arts – Provides an array of activities and events that highlight and explore aspects of our environment, culture and traditions for residents and visitors.

National Heroes' Day – A celebration of Bermuda's National Heroes by commemorating their contribution to our country through ceremonies, plaques and/or monuments, thus engendering pride in Bermudians as a people.

- **Folklife:**

Bermuda Folklife Documentary Series – in conjunction with Bermudian filmmakers, the Department produces a series of Folklife Documentaries to preserve our culture and make learning about different aspects of our traditions more readily accessible to the general public. The Department also produces a series of study guides associated with the folklife documentaries.

Gold Bermudian Documentary Series – short films that celebrate exceptional Bermudians, all captured by Bermudian filmmakers.

Bermudian Heartbeats Lecture Series - Features a six-monthly events highlighting our island's rich historical and cultural heritage, for Bermuda residents and visitors alike. Unlike traditional lectures, the series uses unusual locations and varied methods of presentation for an experience that is both educational and enjoyable.

Cultural Apprenticeship Programme - Fosters the development of a new generation of tradition-bearers by creating structured opportunities for tradition-bearers to work one-on-one with interested young people.

- **Promotion of the Arts** - Objective is to stimulate the development of the arts through a variety of programmes and initiatives and to support projects which are aimed at cultural preservation.

Premier's Concert – This annual concert features and celebrates outstanding young people in the visual and performing arts who are between the ages of 10 and 20 years.

Writer In Residence – An internationally renowned writer is brought to Bermuda to conduct a workshop on a specific genre with the aim of improving the overall quality of Bermudian literature and theatre.

Creatives Live - The Department of Culture hosts regular *Creatives Live* events, a local entertainment initiative aimed at showcasing Bermuda’s talented artists. The series also broadens to support the performing arts, and to sponsor open mic events with our cultural partners. With public’s support the aim is to bolster Bermuda’s homegrown talent.

- **Special Projects:**

MakerSpace- As part of a key initiative from the 2023 Throne Speech, the Department of Culture’s MakerSpace project reflects a commitment to fostering creative empowerment and community enrichment. This project goes beyond creating a physical space—it’s a vital resource for Bermuda’s artists, musicians, dancers, and performers to grow, collaborate, and refine their craft. Located at CedarBridge Academy, the Department of Culture’s MakerSpace offers dedicated areas for visual artists, musicians, dancers, and actors to practice and create, free of charge. Equipped with tools like easels, musical instruments, and studio space, this facility is designed to remove financial barriers and provide a supportive environment for Bermuda’s talent.

Creatives Culture Labs - The Creatives Culture Labs are a ongoing series of professional development workshops for artists and creatives, designed to support the refining of skills and talents and advancing careers within the cultural industries. Participants have the opportunity to engage in practical sessions covering a variety of topics such as visual art preparation, podcast creation, creative portfolio building, event hosting, and more. Additionally, information sessions provide valuable insights on securing funding, budgeting for large-scale events, and utilizing graphic design software. Hands-on activities further enable participants to overcome writer’s block, master on-camera acting, and understand sound mixing essentials.

Section D: Records and documents held [s5(1)(d)]

- Creatives.bm - a catalogue of Bermuda’s artists, writers, performers, musicians and more, both on island and overseas. The idea of the catalogue is that it will act as a hub where Bermuda’s creatives can be contacted in a single online platform. It’s a place where their social media, examples of their work and contact information will be available for people to contact and hire them directly. So, if you ever needed someone to play at a function, host an event, do a painting, design something – Creatives.bm is

the place to go.

- Cultural Digital Archive – a database of interviews collected through the Folklife Documentary Series which preserves the knowledge of our most valuable natural resource – the Bermudian people.
- Department of Culture Website – intended to be an online resource of all the programmes, publications, projects, events, news, research, and multimedia this Department produces and sponsors. In addition, it is intended to become a hub for community and cultural events and a gateway for accessing Bermuda’s cultural heritage.
- Publishing anthologies, folklife books, historical texts, and documentaries.
- Continue collecting oral histories.

Section E: Administration (all public access) manuals [s5(1)(e)]

- Government of Bermuda, Conditions of Employment and Code of Conduct.

Section F: Decision-making documents [s5(1)(f)]

- Bermuda Arts Council Policy
- Folklife Apprenticeship Policy
- Literary Awards Policy
- National Cultural Heritage Policy

Section G: The Information officer [s5(1)(g)]

Mr. Graham Mawer
Cultural Programme Manager
Contact Number: 292-1681
Email: gsmawer@gov.bm

Section H: Any Other Information [s5(1)(h)]

Section I: Any Other Information that may be Provided? [s5(1)(i)]

Section J: Information Statement: Copies and Updates [s5(2)-(5)]

Every public authority shall update its information statement at least once a year, and make it available for inspection by the public at reasonable times [s5(1)-(5)].

Date Information Statement was updated: January 2, 2025

Locations of Information Statement:

- Department of Culture Office YES;
- The Bermuda National Library YES;
- The Bermuda Archives YES;
- Available electronically YES;
- Website for public authority (www.culture.bm) YES;
- Have you published a notice in the Gazette indicating the places where the Information statement is available for the public? NO; and
- With the Information Commissioner. YES.

Sign and Date:



3/1/2025