



Memorandum of Understanding

between

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF FIJI

(Partner)

and

THE FIJI ARTS COUNCIL

(Partner)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the Fiji Arts Council and the National Trust of Fiji to collaborate in enhancing cultural presentation in sites of national significance currently managed by the National Trust of Fiji.

1.0 Background

The Culture sector in Fiji generally lacks in financial resources coupled with the general lack of emphasis of the importance of culture despite the enormous potential the sector holds in addressing national issues such as unemployment, poverty reduction and economic opportunities. This general lack of attention has to be addressed from within the sector itself where culture officials in partnership with practitioners, performers, and entrepreneurs in the arts sector should come together and explore opportunities of maximizing available resources for the safeguarding of culture and heritage for our current and future generation. Working together in a united approach will bring solidarity and unity in purpose for the sector. Since the establishment of the Department of Heritage and Arts in the year 2000, this coordination and collaboration has continued to be strengthened over the years.

The traditional culture on the other hand is blessed with the availability of tangible and intangible movable and immovable cultural heritage that has only been realized in the recent past to be an untapped resources not yet fully explored in terms of its economic potential but yet retaining its own cultural significance and sacredness to a large extent. Part of these huge resources are being managed by these three agencies of culture namely the Fiji Museum National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Arts Council with the enabling support by government through annual grants. These agencies have been established for almost 50 years now. Except for the Fiji Arts Council the other two agencies continues to undertake their national roles on behalf of the State as specified by their respective Acts of Parliament while FAC is currently contemplating developing its own legislation.

This partnership is therefore important because of the need to maximize the presentation of culture holistically so that visitors could have a “total experience” as well as having a full appreciation of Fiji’s rich cultural heritage.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a policy framework under which the National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Arts Council could foster close collaboration in the presentation of artifacts in sites of national significance that are currently managed by the National Trust of Fiji. Therefore this MOU will facilitate access of crafters particularly those who live within close proximity to National Trust Sites such as the Sigatoka Sandunes, Momi Gunsite, Levuka Bond store, Waisali Forest Reserves and others and be able to sell their artifacts to visitors visiting these sites. The Sigatoka Sandunes has been selected as the first heritage site to pilot this initiative.

3.0 Responsibilities

Only crafters who are license holders of Fijian made Fijian crafted license will be given the opportunity to sell at these sites. License crafters will take turns to a maximum of four (4) or five (5) crafters a week. They will find their own way to the site through their own expense and will set up their booth at the allocated space. Crafters will be responsible for the safekeeping of their artifacts and will be subjected to any decision and directive from NTF Site Managers.

3.1 The Fiji Arts Council

Fiji Arts Council will undertake the following responsibilities:

- i) Managing the MOU on behalf of the respective Crafters.
- ii) Organize the weekly rotation of crafters and provide site managers with rosters and personal detail.
- iii) Undertake awareness program to Crafters prior on the implementation of this MOU.
- iv) Provide Table Chairs and Tents for exhibitions purposes.
- v) Collection of administrative fees and distribute to both parties.

3.2 The National Trust of Fiji

The National Trust of Fiji will undertake the following responsibilities;

- i) Provide exhibition space for crafters to exhibit their artifacts
- ii) Allow crafters to use NTF facilities such as toilet and washrooms
- iii) Provide a secured space where artifacts could be stored overnight if required.

4.0 Reporting

This MOU will be evaluated by both parties at the end of the first six (6) months of its implementation and thereafter will be reviewed on an annual basis.

5.0 Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds from either side except for the initial setting up cost with Fiji Arts Council bearing the cost.

6.0 Administration Cost

All crafters utilizing this arrangement will be required to pay 10% of their weekly sales which will be divided on an equal percentage [5% each] by both parties as administration cost.

7.0 Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from the National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Arts Council. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Arts Council and will

remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from National Trust of Fiji and Fiji Arts Council this MOU shall end on 31st December after a period of 5 years from the date of implementation.

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