



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

THE FIJI MUSEUM

(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 Fiji Museum to collaborate in enhancing cultural presentation at the Fiji Museum complex.

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 by policy makers 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.

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 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 is being managed by these three agencies of culture namely the Fiji Museum National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Arts Council. 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 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 Fiji Museum and the Fiji Arts Council could foster close collaboration in the presentation of different art forms [visual, fine and performing art] at the Fiji Museum premises at Thurston Garden.

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 Site Managers. Similarly for the Visual Artists, their art pieces will be displayed at the allocated

space. They will take turns at the end of each quarter where are new set of Artists will display their artworks.

3.1 The Fiji Arts Council

Fiji Arts Council will undertake the following responsibilities:

- i) Managing the MOU on behalf of the different art forms
- ii) Organize the periodical rotation of visual artists, performing artists and craftspeople to showcase their artifacts.
- iii) Undertake awareness program to Artist and Craftspeople prior to the implementation of this MOU.
- iv) Provide facilities for exhibitions purposes only.
- v) Organise artists or craftspeople that may be required by Fiji Museum for a specific skills required at specific events.

3.2 The Fiji Museum

The Fiji Museum will undertake the following responsibilities;

- i) Provide exhibition space for crafters and artists to exhibit their artifacts and paintings and spaces for performing art.
- ii) Allow crafters to use Fiji Museum facilities such as toilet and washrooms
- iii) Provide a secured space where artists and craftspeople could store there artifacts overnight if required.
- iv) Collect the 10% Administration fees from the different art forms except for visual artists whose administration fees is based on the sale of their different art piece and on the galleries their artwork is being displayed from.

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 for the different art forms except for Visual Artists whose administrative cost will be calculated on the sales of their individual artwork and the gallery their artwork are displayed from 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 Fiji Museum 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 Fiji Museum 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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