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Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland
Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

Education, Culture and Science
in the Caribbean Netherlands

What's New?



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NOVEMBER 2026

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Foto MBO Bonaire





Dillon Jean Fidel Rannou [1]

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[1] Dillon Jean Fidel Rannou (Bonaire) – First Prize Winner of the 2026 Where Culture Lives Artist Competition, for his artwork It's In Our Nature.

INTRODUCTION



Photo Elaine Marchena

Maritsa Silberie
Head of the department OCW CG/Study Financing

Dear reader,

On behalf of the OCW team in the Caribbean Netherlands, I am delighted to warmly welcome you as a reader of *What's New*. For some of you, the name may still be familiar. After a period of inactivity, we have decided to breathe new life into this publication and give it a fresh look.

There is so much happening within our department: together with our colleagues in The Hague, we are working on new projects, developing initiatives, looking for solutions to challenges, and dedicating ourselves daily to achieving our goals. We believe it is important to actively keep our stakeholders informed and involved. That is why, through this newsletter, we aim to share regularly and in an accessible way what OCW is working on, what developments are taking place, and what you can expect in the coming period.

While the previous *What's New* magazine included background stories and interviews alongside the news, the current version takes the form of a newsletter with short articles, allowing us to inform and engage you as quickly and easily as possible.

Do you have suggestions for topics? Please let us know, we are always open to ideas! I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Practical Learning Subsidy for the Caribbean Islands

Since the past academic year (2025–2026), employers on Bonaire have been eligible to receive a subsidy for providing practical learning placements. Starting from the 2026–2027 academic year, the scheme will also be available for Sint Eustatius and Saba. The Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) implements this subsidy scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

With the Practical Learning Subsidy Scheme (Subsidieregeling praktijkleren), employers can receive a contribution towards the costs of guiding a student or apprentice during their practical vocational training. This allows more people to gain hands-on experience and better prepares them for the labour market.

The placements apply to

- Employees or students enrolled in a BBL programme (Work-Study Pathway / Beroepsbegeleidende Leerweg);
- Students following a Work-Study Track (Leerwerktraject) in pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO); or
- Students completing an internship in their final year of practical education (praktijkonderwijs).

Implementation for Sint Eustatius and Saba

The OCW policy officers will soon contact the relevant stakeholders on these two islands.

For more information and conditions

Visit: Subsidieregeling praktijkleren Caribisch Nederland.

Photo MBO Bonaire



Citizenship in the daily practice at your school

During a class discussion, two students disagree. The teacher gives them both time to explain their views and asks the class to listen before responding. It is a small moment, but it gives students a chance to practice an important skill: expressing an opinion while respecting someone else's.

Teachers will recognize moments like this. Citizenship education requires reflecting on what we teach our students and how we build on that learning as they move through school. School is a miniature of society and therefore plays an important role in helping students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to live in a democratic and diverse society.



Inspectorate

The statutory citizenship education requirements for schools were clarified in 2021. The law states that citizenship education must be 'purposeful', 'coherent' and 'recognisable'.

This means that when the Inspectorate visits, it looks at your learning goals, whether the curriculum follows a logical structure, how your lessons and activities connect, and how you monitor students' progress.

Students need to learn about democratic values and differences in society, as well as develop the social and civic skills they need to participate in society.

Toolkit and Website

The Citizenship Step-by-Step Plan toolkit can help your team design citizenship education at your school. The six steps guide you from your school's vision and your students' needs to learning objectives, learning pathways, and evaluation. On the Citizenship Education website, you will find an explanation of the legal requirements, the draft core objectives and the aspects the Inspectorate focuses on.

Free Support by Expertisepunt Burgerschap

For free advice and short-term coaching in Dutch and English, you can email info@expertisepuntburgerschap.nl or visit their page on the Caribbean Netherlands.

Research Trajectory

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) is launching a research project in which schools in the Caribbean Netherlands will receive support from 2027 to 2029 to develop and implement evidence-based citizenship education. From January to June 2027, we will explore schools' needs and ambitions. Joint development and implementation will follow during the 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 academic years.

Interested in Participating?

Register your school for an intake interview by **1 *December at the latest*** via the OCW CG policy officer on your island.

Network NVT Carib

Happy teachers after professional development day on active learning strategies

How can teachers make learning Dutch as a foreign language (NVT) meaningful and enjoyable while helping multilingual pupils in the Caribbean communicate in Dutch? This question was at the heart of last summer's successful NVT-Carib study day on active learning strategies in Bonaire. Teachers from Strea Briante and Rayo di Solo took part, representing primary and special education.

Photo NVT Carib



NVT Carib-trainers Jessica Besselink (left) and Esther Stroucken

With guidance from trainers Esther Stroucken and Jessica Besselink, the teachers tried out active learning strategies and AI tools. They also explored ways to adapt their teaching to pupils' different needs.

Teaching Methods and Digital Tools

When asked what they took away from the day, teachers highlighted practical activities they could use straight away and the chance to try new digital tools. A few favourites are described below.

- In the word association game, one pupil says a word. The next pupil immediately says the first word that comes to mind, and the game continues around the group.
- In the drama game, one pupil makes a movement and a sound. A second pupil joins in, then the first steps out and a third joins. The game continues until everyone has had a turn.
- Teachers also explored how to use images and music to bring lesson content to life. One tool they tried was Suno, an AI platform that can create a complete song with musical accompaniment in seconds from a text prompt.

Teachers welcomed the discussion about the difference between Dutch as a foreign language (NVT) and Dutch as a second language (NT2), and about teaching methods suited to pupils at different levels. They also appreciated the introduction to Claude and Google apps they could use in their work.

Workshops

In the coming months, the trainers will offer workshops on this same topic for schools on Curaçao and Saba.

For more information

For more information, please contact Margareth Wallee, coodiinator of NVT Carib.

Netwerk NVT Carib

Looking for ready-to-use NVT teaching materials for primary schools?

Join the upcoming webinar *MijnNederlands in Practice*, organised by NVT Carib in collaboration with the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie). In this webinar, we will discuss teaching materials for Dutch language lessons in primary education. These materials can be found on Taalunie's MijnNederlands platform.

We will work with language tasks and lesson guides from the Hapklaar Nederlands series that are suitable for teaching Dutch as a foreign language (NVT) in the Caribbean. The materials are interactive, encourage active participation and focus on learning new vocabulary, expanding existing vocabulary, and developing listening and speaking skills. After the webinar, you will have materials you can use straight away in your NVT lessons.

Webinar MijnNederlands in practice

Target Audience: Primary school teachers
When: December 7, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Requirement: You must be registered as a user of MijnNederlands, or register before the webinar.
For information or to register, send an email to Margareth.wallee@rijksdienstcn.com, co-ordinator NVT Carib.

Successful *Spreekdurf* NVT workshop on speaking confidence

On Thursday 22 October, Laura Karimbaks and Mavis Lestrade, both experts from Sint Maarten working on the NVT Carib project, led a workshop for language teachers at Saba Comprehensive School. During the session, participants shared their knowledge and experience of teaching Dutch as a foreign language on Sint Maarten and Saba.

The teachers on Saba are making great strides in NVT pedagogy and are enthusiastic about putting the practical teaching tips they received into practice. Their plans include making classrooms more language-friendly and using more visuals, trying out new speaking tasks and putting up a 'safe speaking agreement' in their classrooms

**A set of shared agreements designed to reduce anxiety around speaking and create a safe learning environment.*

Photo NVT Carib



Language teachers from Saba Comprehensive School at the workshop 'Spreekdurf NVT'

News regarding your terms of employment

Staff from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) in the European and Caribbean Netherlands are currently developing a collective labour agreement (CAO) for the education sector in the Caribbean Netherlands. The aim is to introduce the new CAO during 2028.

Developing a new CAO involves several steps. The first is to appoint a process facilitator from among three candidates with the relevant knowledge and experience. The appointment is scheduled for November 2026. Another important step is to compare pay in the Caribbean Netherlands with pay in the European Netherlands. OCW is currently selecting an organisation to carry out the study.

AVO 2026

For 2026, the existing arrangements will continue, via an AVO (agreement on terms of employment). A draft agreement is currently with the ministry in the European Netherlands. As soon as that text is finalised, it will be sent to the stakeholders involved (school boards, education trade unions, and public entities) on the islands to be discussed during an OOGO (consultation aimed at reaching agreement). When participants in this consultation reach an agreement, a date will be set for signing the AVO 2026.

Complex

What makes this process complex is that school boards need to agree on a single percentage pay increase across the Caribbean Netherlands. To fund this increase, the boards had to apply for additional funding. Once the ministry has made its decision, the boards will be able to determine exactly what pay increase they can afford.



Towards updated core objectives

Next spring, schools in the Caribbean Netherlands can expect to receive a set of final draft core objectives [1]. Since 2024, SLO has been working on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) to adapt the updated core objectives from the European Netherlands. The aim is to develop objectives that are practical, recognisable and easy to apply in the local education context. To achieve this, SLO is working closely with the education sector on all three islands.

For Bonaire, SLO will deliver the draft core objectives for Papiamentu, as well as Dutch as a Foreign Language and Language of Instruction (NVTi), covering primary education (PO) and lower secondary education (VO). For Saba and Sint Eustatius, the focus is on English and Dutch as a Strong Foreign Language (NVT) in primary education[2].

Photo SLO



SLO curriculum developer Inge Jansen during the testing phase on Sint Eustatius

Alignment with teaching practice

Over the past period, a core objectives committee -comprising teachers, subject specialists, and curriculum experts—worked alongside an advisory group of experts from both the Caribbean and European Netherlands to develop core objectives that are tailored to the educational context of the islands.
The draft objectives were also presented to representatives from all local schools, leading to insightful discussions with teachers, school leaders, and school boards.

Inge Jansen, Curriculum Developer at SLO, reflects warmly on the collaboration: "*The many discussions about teaching in a multilingual context and what students need within that environment were truly inspiring. This approach—bringing together hands-on classroom experience and subject-matter expertise—has resulted in core objectives that seamlessly align with daily educational practice on Bonaire, Statia, and Saba.*"

Delivery in March-April

Preparations are well underway for the delivery of the final draft core objectives: Statia and Saba will receive theirs in March, followed by Bonaire in April 2027. In 2027, SLO will also launch the same process for the core objectives of other learning areas across the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands.

Curious about these next steps and what the new draft core objectives will mean for your school?

Keep an eye on upcoming editions of this newsletter!

[1] *The core objectives will only become officially final once the full legislative process has been completed (expected by late 2028 for Bonaire, and June for Statia/Saba).*
[2] *These core objectives do not apply to secondary education on Saba and Statia, as schools there follow the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) curriculum.*

Strengthening archives in the Caribbean Netherlands

On 25 September 2026, the island governors signed the Archive Agendas in The Hague with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

Sometimes, a photograph helps us recognise a relative. An old letter adds a missing piece to a family story. A government record explains a decision that still affects us today. Together, these records hold part of the islands' shared memory. Caring for those memories is at the heart of the new Archive Agendas for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

From cultural agreements to Archive Agendas

The Archive Agendas build on the Culture Covenant agreed in 2022 and extended through 2028. Developed with OCW and the National Archives, each island's agenda sets out practical steps through 2030. Some of the work begins behind the scenes: organising documents, training staff and finding safe ways to store paper and digital records. Clear rules will guide what needs to be kept. The islands will also share experiences and explore working together on staff training, recruitment and digital systems.

Find answers

Over time, these efforts will make it easier to find answers, discover family connections and understand the islands' history. They will also help ensure that the records we leave today are there for those who come after us.

Want to know more?

Read more and view the three islands' Archive Agendas on the check the website of the National Archives

Photo OCW



Representatives of the public entities and the ministry following the signing of the archives agendas

Kingdom-wide Knowledge Consultative Body established

On 9 September, the newly formed Knowledge Consultative Body (Kennisoverleg) held its inaugural meeting. Its members are the chairs and vice-chairs of the education and knowledge platforms that signed the Kingdom-wide Knowledge Agenda on Aruba earlier this year.

The Knowledge Agenda builds on the 2024 Letter of Intent and marks the next step in collaboration between education and knowledge institutions in the Caribbean and European parts of the Kingdom. It focuses on sharing knowledge and coordinating efforts around common challenges and ambitions. The aim is to help young people from the Caribbean islands succeed in their studies and strengthen the link between education and the labour market.

Kingdom-wide Knowledge Consultation

The Kingdom-wide Knowledge Consultative Body was set up to put the Knowledge Agenda into practice. It brings together the education and knowledge platforms involved so they can set shared priorities and decide how to carry out the Knowledge Agenda.

Work Agenda

The body's first task is to draw up a joint work agenda. Input from each platform is essential, so the platforms have been asked to draw up or revise their own work agendas. The Strategic Education Alliance (SEA) supports them in this work and helps bring together their different priorities and interests.

Would you like to know more about the Knowledge Agenda and/or the Knowledge Consultative Body?

Visit the netwerk section on the website of SEA (Strategic Education Alliance)
Or contact Info@strategiceducationalliance.org.

Photo SEA



Participants at the first Kingdom-wide knowledge-sharing meeting

Study Choice Caribbean tests a new approach

After offering live online study fairs for the past six years, the Study Choice Caribbean foundation (SCC) will test a new approach in November. This year, a wide range of pre-recorded video presentations and webinars from participating higher and vocational education institutions will replace the traditional live online event.

SCC was founded in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to organise in-person study fairs. The service offered via their website consisted of:

- Running a live online fair over two consecutive days in November, during which educational institutions delivered live presentations with interactive Q&A sessions
- Recording these presentations and making them available online for one year as a reference for students, parents, and career guidance officers.

Pre-recorded presentations

During recent editions, the foundation noticed that pupils and parents made particularly good use of the option to watch pre-recorded presentations. The fixed time slots for the live part of the initiative, however, posed a growing challenge for both participating institutions and local schools.

For this reason, SCC is testing a new format in November 2026 consisting entirely of pre-recorded video presentations and/or webinars. As in previous years, it will offer presentations from educational institutions in the European Netherlands, the United States, Canada and the Caribbean region, including Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba.

Future Format

The SCC team will then use website statistics and an evaluation form to assess how successful the new approach is compared with the previous one. This will help the team make an informed decision about the future format of its services. This year's collection of presentations and webinars will be posted on the SCC website during November. They will be available to watch until November 2027.

For further information, please check the website.

Applications for the Kingdom Scholarship are open again!

Students from our islands are eligible for a Kingdom Scholarship again this academic year. The application period opened on 1 September 2026. Students can apply for a Kingdom Scholarship for an exchange or work placement taking place between 15 January and 31 July 2027.

What does this grant entail?

The Kingdom Grant allows students to complete an internship or study exchange elsewhere within the Kingdom of the Netherlands for a period ranging from 21 days to 6 months, as part of an accredited study programme.

Who is it for?

- Students enrolled at an educational institution in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, the Netherlands, or Sint Maarten;
- Students pursuing a programme at SBO level, MBO level 3/4, HBO level (higher professional education), or WO level (university level).

More Information

You can find all details about this grant—from eligibility criteria and application deadlines to required forms and much more—on the OCW/CG website under Kingdom Scholarship For individual questions, you can also reach out via email at Koninkrijksbeurs@rijksdienstcn.com.

School accommodation – Sint Eustatius

New GvP School building handed over and upgrades planned for primary schools

On 28 October, the new GvP School (Gwendoline van Putten School) building on Sint Eustatius was officially handed over to the school board. One of the island's largest construction projects will soon become a familiar place for students and staff as lessons, conversations and daily school routines bring the building to life.

Finishing work on the building and preparations for the move are now well under way. As part of this work, the school board is installing a brand-new training kitchen. The school will start using the new building in phases from January 2027.

Photo Jaquil Pandt



Ceremonial handover of the GvP School

Improvements are also planned for the other schools on the island. Plans to install solar panels at Statia's primary schools are progressing steadily. The panels for GvP School will follow once students and staff have settled in and there is a clearer picture of the building's electricity use. This will make it possible to determine exactly how many panels are needed.

Work also began recently on an extension to the Governor de Graaff School building. The project will provide more teaching space and improve the playgrounds and general school facilities.

Photo Jaquil Pandt



A striking interplay of lines around the courtyard

School accommodation – Saba

A new sports hall and more space for practical lessons

The new sports hall and the Technical School are both taking shape on Saba's school campus. For students, this means more space and more modern facilities for practical lessons and sport, as well as less time travelling between sites. For other island residents, it means a new place to come together.

The walls of the sports hall are still bare concrete, but the layout is already clear, from the sports floor to the spectator seating. There will be separate entrances from Sacred Heart School and Saba Comprehensive School. The facilities will also be open to the wider public.



Artist's impression of the new gym hall

Climate-resilient

Large windows will fill the space with daylight, while exposed wood will add warmth to the interior. Students will help shape the roof top's final design, giving them a say in how part of their new gym looks and is used. The buildings are also designed to be climate-resilient, featuring elements that provide intentional shade.

Gardens on each level

The Technical Centre is currently based in Cove Bay. The move will bring classrooms, workshops and storage spaces together in a new four-storey building. Students will have two classrooms for theory lessons and four spacious workshops, with a lift to carry materials to the upper floors. Parking will be provided beneath the raised building.

Practical lessons will also take place outside the workshops. Gardens on every level will give students space to grow plants and explore sustainability. A traditional Saban red roof will give the building a familiar local character. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and the Public Entity Saba are funding the building, with support from a sustainability grant from the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning. Further phased improvements are planned for Sacred Heart School, subject to careful review and the available budget.



Artist's impression of the new Technical Centre on Saba

Photo Jordan



The new Technical Centre on Saba is taking shape

Journalism researcher reflects on her assignment

From October 2024 to October 2026, I was assigned by OCW to assess the current state of journalism across the six Caribbean islands within the Kingdom of the Netherlands—Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba, Curaçao, Aruba, and Sint Maarten— and to identify practical opportunities to strengthen the quality, independence, professionalism, resilience, and sustainability of journalism in the region.



Deya Mensche

The assignment involved desk research, stakeholder engagement, interviews and an analysis of the social, political, economic, institutional and technological factors that shape journalism in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. Particular attention was paid to the perspectives and needs of local media organisations, media owners, reporters and journalists, as well as to the relationship between the press and relevant government bodies, professional associations, NGOs and other stakeholders in the Netherlands and the Caribbean.

Pillars of action

The objective was not only to identify challenges, but to translate the findings into pillars of action, actionable recommendations and areas for further dialogue, professional development, collaboration, and capacity building.

The research recognises that strengthening journalism is a shared responsibility. Media professionals and organisations have an important role in developing their profession, while governments and other stakeholders have a responsibility to create the legal, institutional, and financial conditions in which independent, credible, and professional journalism can develop.

The resulting report is intended as a working document and basis for continued dialogue and action, rather than as an endpoint. It seeks to contribute to a stronger and more resilient, locally rooted journalistic sector that is professionally equipped and able to serve communities across the Dutch Caribbean with reliable and relevant information.

Deya Mensche
has more than 15 years of experience in journalism, communications, public affairs, stakeholder engagement, research, and strategic project management across the Dutch Caribbean and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Doorstroomtoets Bonaire

Helping pupils take their next step

To better understand the experiences behind the results of the very first *Doorstroomtoets Bonaire*, Maaike Beuving and Tobi Hoogenboom from the CvTE (Board of Tests and Examinations) visited the island from 31 August to 3 September. They met separately with every primary school, sitting down with school leaders, learning support coordinators and teachers of the final primary year.

Moving on to secondary school is a big step for children and their families. Which pathway will give them the right level of challenge and support? On Bonaire, teachers guide that decision using what they know about each pupil. This year, they had something new to draw on: the island's first school transition test , (*Doorstroomtoets*) which assesses Papiamentu, Dutch as a foreign language and mathematics, with questions adapted to Bonaire's local context.

From 26 to 29 January 2026, 238 pupils from all eight publicly funded schools took the *Doorstroomtoets Bonaire*. The results provide an independent source of information alongside the school's initial recommendation, helping schools identify a suitable secondary school pathway.

Baseline

The first results also offer schools something to build on. Around 92% of pupils reached A2 in Dutch as a foreign language for reading and listening. Results for Papiamentu highlighted areas needing attention, particularly language conventions, which schools said had received relatively little attention in formal teaching. This first round provides a baseline for following progress in the coming years.

A fuller picture

Each school had the opportunity to discuss its own results and share what the figures meant in its classrooms. These conversations gave the CvTE-team valuable context from the people who teach and support the pupils every day. After four days of conversations, the team had a fuller picture of this first round of testing. The visit brought together test results and schools' experiences, helping make sense of what the findings mean for children preparing to take their next step.

Want to know more?

Read the CvTE report on the website of CvTE.



Education Council – 'Step up efforts to uphold the right to a good education'

Earlier this year, the Education Council of the Netherlands (Onderwijsraad) presented the findings of its analysis of how the Dutch education system has worked in the Caribbean Netherlands, where it has been in place since October 2010. At the request of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), the Council explored what is needed to provide a good education within that system. Below is a brief summary of the findings from the report, Education in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Children and young people on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius have the same right to a good education as their peers in the rest of the Netherlands. The Education Council finds that, in practice, more needs to be done to safeguard this right.

Specific circumstances

The Education Council advises the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to bring legislation, policy and implementation more closely into line with the specific circumstances in which education is provided on the islands. This will require additional effort and funding. The Council recommends taking greater account of the different paths young people from the islands follow when deciding how education is organised on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius. It also recommends providing ongoing support to education organisations.

The publication Education in the Caribbean Netherlands consists of three parts:

- Part A: Conclusions and recommendations
- Part B: In-depth themes on Bonaire, Saba, and Statia
- Part C: Background information

The report draws on a literature review, an analysis of policy and legislation, and more than 360 conversations with people involved in and around education on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius. The Council also visited education sites and held working sessions with teachers, parents, pupils, students, school leaders, education administrators, employers and public entities.

In Part B, the Education Council uses six themes to describe how the education system works on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius. This part was developed in collaboration with island committees set up for this purpose and made up of education professionals from the islands.

Full publication

The full text of Parts A, B, and C has been published in three languages on the Education Council's website.

Photo Onderwijsraad



About the Education Council

For over a century, the Education Council (Onderwijsraad) has been advising the government and parliament on educational policy. The council bases its recommendations on scientific knowledge and practical experience, covering all forms of education—from early childhood through lifelong learning. As an independent advisory body, it develops future-oriented solutions at the request of the Ministry of OCW. Students and young people also contribute their perspectives through the Youth Education Council (Jongeren Onderwijsraad).

Research into cultural landscape Caribbean islands

Network meeting *Where Culture lives*

What do the findings of the research into the cultural landscape of the Caribbean islands mean for the people creating culture every day? Led by Sharifa Balfour, Director of the Saba Heritage Center, artists shared their perspectives on the report and ideas for what should come next.

This page features a photo report of the networking meeting on Saba on October 11, during which the results of this research were shared with local stakeholders. Similar meetings also took place on the other five islands.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), together with Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN), the National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands, the research offers a starting point for understanding and supporting cultural life across the islands.

From the beat of a drum to a story passed down through generations, culture takes shape in everyday island life. *Where Culture Lives* brings together more than 800 voices from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten to explore the traditions people carry and the new expressions they create.

Meet the artists, explore the findings and discover where culture lives at www.whereculturelives.org



A thank-you through art: Mary Thielman gifted her own creations to Ludmila Duncan and Gregory Richardson of Lemonade, and Manisha and Nazari of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, in appreciation of their work on Where Culture Lives.



Live drumming set the rhythm for the networking event, with Mary Thielman's second-prize acrylic painting, Saba Nature Lady, on display behind the musicians. Her portrait brings Saba's flora and island identity together.



Panel discussion with artists led by Sharifah Balfour, focusing on several points from the report and the next steps.

Schedule of visits November-December 2026

EDUCATION INSPECTORATE

17 – 21 NOVEMBER | SABA

22 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER | SINT EUSTATIUS

MINISTERIAL FOUR-COUNTRY CONSULTATION OCW

17 – 18 NOVEMBER | SINT MAARTEN

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY OCW, MS. NATHALIE JAARSMA

23 NOVEMBER | SABA

24 NOVEMBER | SINT EUSTATIUS

RCN STUDY FINANCING AND DUO

SABA

30 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER | RCN OFFICE, THE BOTTOM

30 NOVEMBER | INFORMATION EVENING, SABA COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

STATIA

2 – 4 DECEMBER | RCN OCW, COTTAGE ROAD 6

4 DECEMBER | STUDY AND CAREERS FAIR, GWENDOLINE VAN PUTTEN SCHOOL

COLOPHON

This electronic newsletter is a publication of OCW in the Caribbean Netherlands and aims to inform education professionals and other stakeholders about developments relevant to education in the Caribbean Netherlands.

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Contributions can be sent to textwright.statia@gmail.com

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