



ANNUAL REPORT | 2024



Fondasyon konesans ak libète
Fondation connaissance et liberté

2024 FPOS Funding for FOKAL

Grantee: Fondation Connaissance et Liberté

Annual Report

Grant Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

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I. Fondation Connaissance et Liberté

Created in 1995, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), FOKAL, is a national foundation within the Open Society Foundations, OSF, a worldwide network of foundations and initiatives created by philanthropist George Soros for the promotion of the rule of law, human rights, and democratic values. FOKAL also receives support from other funders, among which the Kellogg Foundation, the European Union, the French Agency for Development (AFD), and Lawyers-Without- Borders Canada. FOKAL offers to local communities throughout the country and to civil society organizations a large spectrum of activities and support in the fields of education, human rights, civic engagement, arts and culture and sustainable development.

Since its creation, FOKAL chose to support sectors in Haitian society that are likely to contribute to positive change for the country; by targeting issues involving children and youth, civil society associations and historically marginalized sectors. Our actions and support revolve around five main themes: access to information, youth and civic engagement, art and education, human rights, and environment. This last point includes the project on the creation, management, and civic outreach of the Martissant Park, made possible with the support of the Haitian government, the Open Society Foundations, the Kellogg Foundation, the French Agency for Development, and the European Union.

1. Our mission

FOKAL aims to promote the implementation of structures necessary to the emergence of a just, democratic, and inclusive society; to support individual and collective autonomy by encouraging critical thinking, creativity, responsibility and cooperation through education, training, and communication and finally to reinforce organizational processes to increase the active implication of the Haitian people in their country's cultural, social, and political life.



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II. Letter from the Executive Director

2024 was a challenging year for all of us in Haiti as an already volatile security climate further deteriorated, with armed gangs increasing their attacks against the capital, blocking all roads leading in and out of Port-au-Prince, disrupting air traffic and tightening the stranglehold on our country's struggling economy.

The political crisis caused by the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, continued despite various local and international attempts at brokering a path toward a return to the rule of law. Unsatisfactory governance arrangements were made but state institutions continued to suffer, and corruption was not addressed in any significant way while the inexplicably murderous and destructive action of the armed gangs continued.

FOKAL met its own internal challenges of staff and budget reduction with creativity, competence, solidarity and dynamism. Faced with the realities of increasing physical danger, we were attentive to the needs of our staff as well as to those of our partners and grantees. We focused on safety, on survival skills that relied on solidarity, and we kept hope alive in all the ways that we were able throughout our distressed capital as well as throughout our national network of beneficiaries. We are proud of the extraordinary courage of Haitian individuals and organizations in the face of violence and state collapse. We will continue to nurture initiatives that strive toward the common good.



Lorraine Mangonès
Executive Director

III. Ayiti Demen



During the year 2024, Ayiti Demen continued its efforts to support FOKAL and its local partners thanks to donations from more than a hundred individuals across the world, as well as grants from foundations and nonprofit organizations based in the United States. New contributions totaled \$609,068 for the year, distributed according to the directives of our donors, and the grants awarded amounted to nearly \$561,617. Although we observed a decrease in individual contributions, we hope to see increased support for local initiatives in 2025, given the situation in Haiti. More than ever, Haiti needs the generosity of Haitians in the diaspora and friends of Haiti around the world.

Grants were allocated across our four areas of intervention:

- Arts and Culture: grants were dedicated to artistic creation in the Caribbean and Haiti, thanks to a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the W. Talbott Hillman Foundation, and individual donors during Giving Tuesday 2023
- Education through Sports, Civic Education, Human Rights Trainings and Debate: thanks to grants from the Congregation of Saint Joseph of Peace, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Northern Trust Charitable, many programs dedicated to these important issues were supported.
- Sustainable Development: thanks to a grant from the Roy and Patricia Disney Foundation and individual donors during Giving Tuesday
- Narrative Change: thanks to grants from the Wyncote Foundation and the Greene Family Foundation

The initiatives supported through these grants included contributions to the construction of the Jérémie Community Center and FOKAL's Sustainable Development program; the Caribbean Culture Fund and the Art Center; Basketball to Uplift the Youth activities; FOKAL's JOLYI project; the Haitian Society of History and Geography; AyiboPost; and MuskaFilms.

We also launched fundraising campaigns to support the National Association of Fruit Processors (ANATRAF), whose headquarters were looted by gangs, as well as the Cap-Haitien Archives Project. For more details, Ayiti Demen's report is available online at www.ademen.org.

We will continue to connect international donors to local initiatives, whether through online fundraising campaigns or direct grants, in order to help FOKAL's partner communities recover and offer a better future to their members, while also contributing to transforming the narrative about Haiti internationally. For despite the security challenges, Haitians continue to hope and to work for a brighter tomorrow.

Yvens Rumbold, Ayiti Demen Executive Director

See the [full report here](#)

IV. Program objectives and progress

1. GOAL 1: Civic engagement, democratic exercise, and social justice

i. Sustainable Development

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance (Economic Equity & Justice)

FIELD: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance

Description of proposed work: In 2024 the Open Society Foundations gave FOKAL its last grant. After 29 years of generous support, FOKAL has now to engage in more active fund-raising campaigns to maintain its programs, especially the Sustainable Development Program. Our grant model to support the smallholder farmers was reinforced in 2024, as well as the micro-enterprise export production. Economic grants and technical coaching aimed to build organizational capacity, scale fair-trade SMEs, and strengthen collective advocacy for food security and environmental justice

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Against a backdrop of escalating political instability and violence, FOKAL sustained support to 32 grassroots organizations. Projects focused on agroecology, water systems, land restoration, entrepreneurial training, small credit and loan services, and community advocacy in regions like South, Grand'Anse, Ouest, and Nord. Targeted communes included Chardonnières, Jérémie, Aquin-Cavaillon, Saint Louis du Sud, Camp-Perrin, Jacmel, and Kenscoff. We pursue our efforts to encourage the smallholder farmers organizations to federate through facilitating collaborations between regions, strengthening shared governance, and expanding fair-trade linkages.

CHALLENGES

Security conditions worsened in 2024. Gangs entrenched control over Port-au-Prince and extended their influence to rural regions, leading to mass displacement (700,000 displaced; hundreds killed). A transitional government (Presidential Council) formed in April but lacked executive capacity and political will amid ongoing violence. Though a Kenyan-led international mission began in June, deployment was incomplete by year-end and failed to significantly curb insecurity. Access to humanitarian aid continues to be blocked, especially in agricultural zones where gangs threaten farmers and intercept food flows - Pont-Sondé saw at least 70 civilians massacred. These threats constrained project activity, requiring continuous adaptation and risk management.

NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

Regional Resilience Platforms: Accelerate the activation of rural community resource centers. These hubs will anchor economic and civic activities in safer locales, enabling autonomy from Port-au-Prince's instability.

Consolidation: We continue to encourage relationships between smallholder farmers organizations in the hope that an organic federating movement will emerge for national-level engagement and advocacy. Empowered farmers can better influence agricultural policy, especially with diminished donor and institutional presence.

Adaptive Partnerships & Funding: In response to donor withdrawal (OSF, EU, AFD, USAID) and the relocation of key actors to Cap-Haïtien (Expertise France, IDB), we will strengthen relationships with philanthropic donors—WKKF, Ford, Citi-CAF—and rely on Ayiti Demen to activate new funding streams, tapping diaspora resources and solidarity networks.

Emergency-ready Operations: Establish emergency protocols using hybrid logistics, remote monitoring, and mobile coordination to safeguard team members and ensure continuity of critical services under insecure conditions.

Advocacy in Transition: Continue to work toward federating farmers organizations to engage at the national and international levels and advocate for rural investment, food sovereignty, and security guarantees.



i.Martissant Park

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

CONCEPT : Preservation of Martissant Park through civic engagement and community outreach.

Description of proposed work: From 2006 to 2021 the Martissant Park and neighborhood initiative proved its capacity to provide safe spaces and support transformative and regenerative processes for urban populations living under high political and economic stress. Unfortunately, starting in mid-2021, the security situation deteriorated with armed gangs gradually taking control and disrupting community activities. This forced a progressive reduction of FOKAL and other initiatives in the area.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024, despite complete gang control over the neighborhood and total closure of public activities at the park, FOKAL maintained its scholarship program to support children from Martissant. A total of 111 students (11% less than 2023) across 7 schools were awarded scholarships. These scholarships allowed the children to remain in school despite the collapse of security and mobility in the neighborhood. In addition to scholarships, FOKAL preserved a small operational field presence in the park through a minimal team composed of gardeners, rural guards, and a field agronomist. While larger civic engagement and cultural programming have ceased due to insecurity, these actions symbolize continuity and commitment in the face of complete withdrawal of legitimate security forces.

CHALLENGES

The socio-political instability that has raged in the country since 2018 has resulted in Martissant being caught in the worst gang war to date, which forced the permanent closure of the park to the public. Since 2021, funding for initiatives has come from third parties (either fundraising efforts from Ayiti Demen or from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation). Although discussions about an international force intensified at the international level, FOKAL is preparing its exit strategy from the area due to continued violence.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

We continue to support civil society organizations engaged in the defense of human rights and advocacy for a solution to the crisis. However, we cannot control the extreme violence affecting the capital and most of the territory. Since 2020, we have considerably reduced the headcount for this project, and this process continued in 2023–2024. If the situation persists and conditions for reopening the park are not met, we will begin to apply our exit strategy. In the meantime, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation remains our primary supporter for Martissant, complemented by the efforts of Ayiti Demen to sustain engagement. In addition, we have initiated a formal request to the Haitian government to pay a portion of the overdue subsidies it legally owes the project under existing decrees and signed conventions. As of the writing of this report, these efforts are ongoing. If these funds are granted, they will allow us to sustain operations for a while longer before applying the full exit strategy.





iii. Heritage project

Theme: Economic Equity & Justice

Subtheme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

CONCEPT: Preserving and rehabilitating culturally significant neighborhoods

Description of proposed work: The Dufort House today is a fully equipped space with a business plan to serve as a center for the promotion of Haitian art and heritage with a pedagogical perspective and a social change ethos. It is a place for training, fundraising and income generating activities, collaborations with museums, galleries, the Centre d'Art, and regional cultural institutions.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

The year 2024 proved to be especially challenging for the Haitian cultural sector. Persistent insecurity throughout Port-au-Prince severely limited the possibility of organizing large-scale cultural events. Many activities planned at the Dufort House had to be cancelled, including the long-anticipated exhibition commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Centre d'Art. Despite these challenges, the Dufort House served as the filming location for *Mémoires Vives*, a feature-length documentary directed by Nitsé Mathelier and produced by Productions Ocho in collaboration with Muska Productions, under the supervision of Gilbert Mirambeau. In December, construction was completed on the new buildings at Maison Chenet, which will house the BMC.

CHALLENGES

Relocating and installing the BMC in its new premises while taking into account the persistent insecurity in the surrounding neighborhood.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

Conduct an inventory of books and furniture from the former BMC site to prepare for their transfer to the new facilities.

2. GOAL 2: Access to information and public awareness to rights

i. Human Rights and Civil Society

Theme: Human Rights Movements & Institutions

Subtheme: Human Rights – General

FIELD: Human Rights Movements & Institutions

Description of proposed work: We are committed to nurturing and reinforcing new tendencies in the Haitian human rights movement. We are also committed to accompanying a healthy transformation process of existing organizations. While we continue our granting to several human rights institutions and initiatives, we will also continue to develop dialogue with chosen funders and with regional voices in order to build alliances on key issues.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

FOKAL gave 16 grants in this area focused on: -

- Support the local women organizations through technical assistance and funding
- Funding technical assistance, advocacy, networks, and training, strengthening civil society organizations to achieve their goals as key actors in the democratic process.

FOKAL also supported the publication of reports and research on human rights, the organization of conferences and participation in international conferences and meetings. FOKAL has also been invited to discussions with major organizations in the United States, working on strengthening networks as well preserving relationship between Haiti and its diaspora.

CHALLENGES

Civil society weakens due to many internal and external trends, including the process of State collapse that has worsened since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. Generation-to-generation transmission is lacking, and younger generations are less involved or less interested in human rights issues.

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

Continue to search for partnerships and donors who share our values and approach.



CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AVAILABLE



ii. Library Program

Theme: Information & Digital Rights

Subtheme: Information – General

FIELD: Information & Digital Rights

Description of proposed work: We assert reading and access to books as a right in a country where it is still a privilege. FOKAL has brought Haitian libraries to regional and international networks and supported strong attendance to conferences –ALA, IFLA, and ACURIL. Our program on public awareness to rights and civics education aimed at youths with our partner institution Avocats Sans Frontières (Lawyers without borders) Canada has begun since July 2017 and includes collaboration with the Library Program and other FOKAL programs. As stated previously, Maison Chenet will house the future Monique Calixte Library that was housed in FOKAL’s resource center.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Amidst the rising insecurity in Port-au-Prince gradually spreading to other regions, the libraries faced more challenges and yet found ways to transform them into opportunities by adapting to the situation and focusing on resilience. In 2024, several events were organized by community libraries on women’s rights, vaccination sensibilization campaigns, and activities promoting books and reading.

The library program initiated the creation of five short stop motion videos. Timoun San Tras is a FOKAL emotional education pilot project to raise awareness of the importance of a positive education, respectful of children (7 to 11 years old) and their emotional needs, and the harmful effects of stress and/or violence. The Fondation de France funded the creation of five more videos, dissemination has started in the metropolitan area and the Southern peninsula. The Kellogg Foundation continued the development of this project by financing the dubbing of these videos initially in Haitian Creole to French, English and Spanish.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge to date remains insecurity. Gang violence accompanied by roadblocks, street fighting and looting deeply affected libraries as well as all other sectors. Libraries no longer have access to certain services and materials. Lack of reliable internet services remains a big issue. Only 11 libraries still receive funding from the library program

NEXT STEPS TO THIS OBJECTIVE

Our community library network clearly expressed the need for training as an important aspect of their work. FOKAL has created its own unique adapted online learning platform. The next steps would be to have more cohorts taking the courses and content development, as well as continuing the develop the Timoun San tras series



3. GOAL 3: Strengthening Human Capabilities

i. Art and Culture – Resource Center

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme: Democratic Practice - General

CONCEPT: FOKAL's resource center as a center for interaction and debate

Description of proposed work: The Arts and Culture operational program has not been able to resume onsite cultural activities since 2021. We concentrated on the production of online and hybrid events, on supporting artists in the difficulties they experience, on continuing to provide them with access to training on security and psychological support, on rethinking the program in the light of budget cuts and the search for new sources of funding.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Despite financial and technical challenges, the artistic community has learned from the achievements of creation for online dissemination and, when possible, combines live and online performances to reach a wider and different audience. These constraints also have the merit of promoting multidisciplinary and create the need to open the performing arts to skills and talents in the audiovisual and digital fields. They have also favored greater collaborations with the Haitian diaspora in North America and beyond.

Support for artists and partner festivals: Programming of activities allowing the artists and technicians to perform and find financial support: Assistance for research projects, artistic training, and creation beyond walls. About 75 people benefited from this assistance.

- Support for the production and distribution of live performance creations: online distribution of the creations and programming of our partners and our beneficiaries, FOKAL's networks as well as those of partner organizations. About 10 000 viewers are registered on different social media platforms

Production of online specials: Artists continued to produce curated content for FOKAL's online platform and programming.

CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

- Continue to support the cultural and artistic sector in crisis by inventing new methods as well as working on training, constantly adapting to the needs.
- Contribute to think, and prepare, in the hope of a possible future, the reactivation of the public spaces at FOKAL and the creation of other spaces that the artists will be able to use.



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realizasyon Pierre Michel Jean
kolaborasyon atistik Ricardo Boucher

ii. Art and Culture- Grants

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme: Democratic Practice – General

FIELD: Democratic Practice

Description of proposed work: The arts and culture sector in Haiti is generally civically minded but is also a vector for conquering and defending liberties. It is the voice of inclusion and the place of transcendence, away from prejudice, division, and mediocrity.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Funding new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL's values

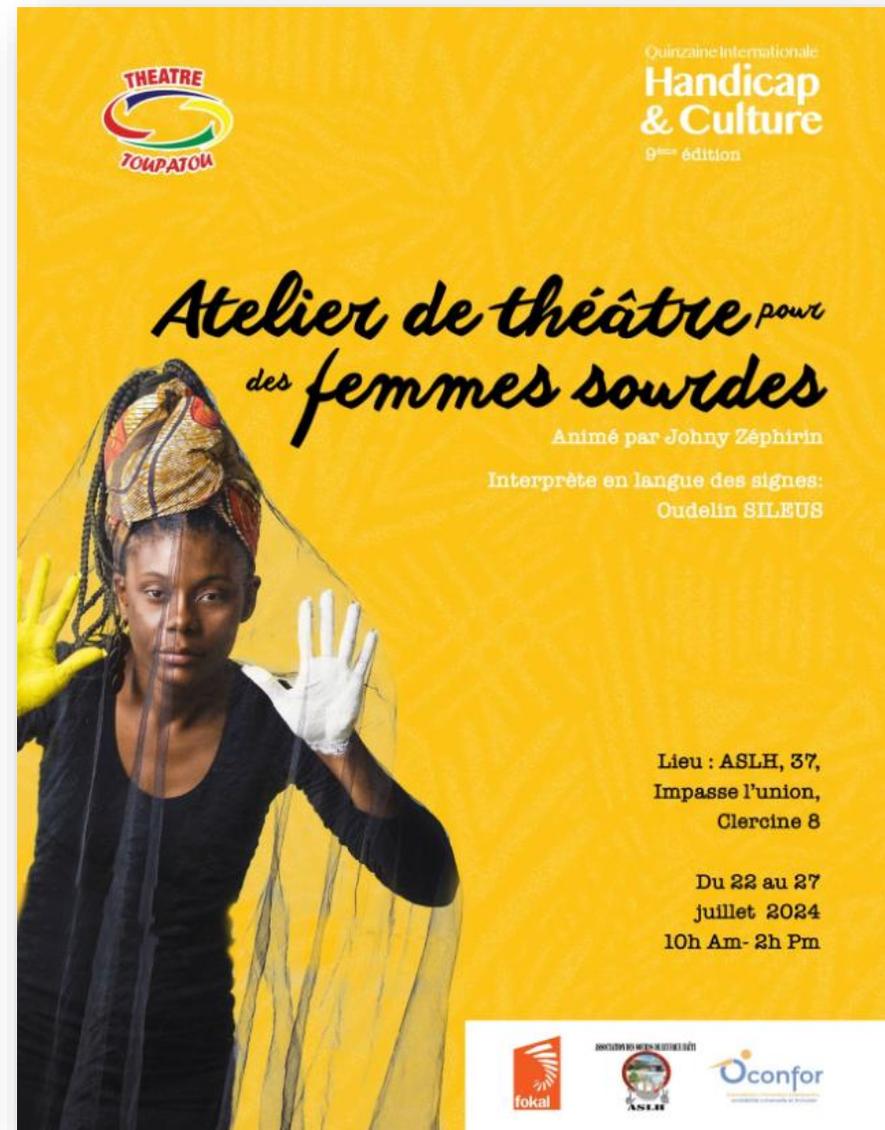
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- FOKAL has granted most of the budget allocated to the Art and Culture program to 21 beneficiaries selected in the context of calls for proposals to produce high-quality cultural products.

CHALLENGES

- Support for cultural institutions is becoming increasingly scarce and more organizations in the sector are turning to FOKAL for grants.
- travel restrictions and other elements linked to insecurity deeply affected an already struggling artistic community.

NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

Continue to seek financial and technical partnerships in the field in addition to OSF support.



iii. Youth Initiative Program

Theme: Democratic Practice

Subtheme Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance (Democratic Practice)

FIELD: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance

Description of proposed work: Through multiple partnerships, third-party funded initiatives, and collaborations, this program promotes youth civic engagement and advocacy across the country. It is a relatively low-cost and flexible initiative, primarily composed of training sessions, conferences, workshops, and debate camps, with highly encouraging results: young women and men are trained to identify goals, develop problem-solving strategies, and acquire advocacy techniques. The program is implemented in partnership with Lawyers Without Borders Canada (ASFC) and is designed to be cross-cutting with other FOKAL programs (media, libraries, universities, arts & culture), as well as the Youth Exchange Program. We also lead Joint Leadership Youth Initiatives (JOLYI) in collaboration with Basketball pou Ankadre Lajenès (BAL) and the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH).

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- Strong collaboration with FOKAL’s Civic Education Program, Lawyers Without Borders Canada, and the JOLYI project partners (RNDDH and BAL).
- Training provided to BAL youth on debate club management.
- Creation of a network of certified debate judges for the BAL association.
- Human rights and youth violence awareness training delivered by RNDDH to PIJ youth.
- Multiple interschool debate tournaments are organized in several regions across the country.
- Nearly one hundred new debate judges trained and certified between 2023 and 2024.
- Several workshops organized nationwide using tools (books) developed under the AJULIH project.
- A dozen individuals trained to facilitate workshops using AJULIH project materials.
- Support provided to the national university debate tournament organized by the Haitian Debate Federation (FHD).

CHALLENGES

- Harmonizing activities between the Civic Education Program and the Youth Initiative Program.
- Organizing a retreat for club facilitators and coordinators.
- Ensuring the program is directly adopted and managed by partner schools across the country.
- Conducting in-person activities despite limited mobility due to road blockages and insecurity caused by armed gangs.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS OBJECTIVE

- Organize a regional debate tournament involving partners from the JOLYI project.
- Establish two new debate clubs for BAL in two under-resourced urban neighborhoods.



iv. University Partnership Program

Theme: Higher Education

Subtheme: Higher Education – General

FIELD: Higher Education

Description of proposed work: FOKAL has always worked with the higher education sector, in Haiti and abroad, to contribute to form a critical mass of citizens capable of responding to Haiti’s challenges: scientific, economic, environmental, cultural, social, and political. This already ailing sector collapsed almost completely with the 2010 earthquake. Foreign universities then asked FOKAL to serve as interface for their assistance to that sector. In agreement with OSF, FOKAL created a “University Partnership” program (UP) under the direction of Michèle Pierre-Louis. This category was reduced to meet the budget target. FOKAL will be awarding less grants in this category from the OSF budget.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE:

Higher education is critical in creating well trained scientific experts and academics that can play a major role in transforming the education process in the country. That is why in 2024, FOKAL continued to support innovative initiatives in this field. From 2021, the Higher Education Program benefited from a contractual grant from W. K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year period. Our grant to Ecole Normale Supérieure (State University Teacher College) expanded its scientific programs in mathematics, biology, and chemistry as well as in languages. The Agricultural School used a grant from FOKAL for distance learning and teaching for students and teachers who could not afford the related costs.

FOKAL also partners with a small European initiative (Caribaea Initiative) that aims to train Haitian students to become experts in environmental issues including specific research in biodiversity. Michèle Pierre-Louis, who coordinates this program, has been invited to participate in an OSUN class on civic education. We aim to consolidate ties with OSUN and other higher education institutions abroad that highlight the role of humanities, liberal arts, civic engagement, and scientific fields.

CHALLENGES

Higher Education is a very sensitive sector and the most neglected in the education chain by international donors. The most important challenge in this area is to try to counter the brain drain, by encouraging the educated youth to remain in the country and contribute to its recovery and development. Today, eLearning and teaching have added a new challenge to the higher education system confronted with issues of electricity, access to the internet and to computers.



V. Administration

Theme: Foundation Administration

Subtheme General Administration (Foundations)

Concept General Administration (Foundations)

Description of proposed work: General administrative expenses such as salaries and operational costs (utilities, security, bank charges, insurance, etc.).

A few words from the Financial Director – Marie Edmonde Jeune

In 2021, OSF began the process of organizational transformation which affected its entire network including the National Foundations. FOKAL reduced its budget and staff over the following three years, beginning in 2022; with technical and financial accompaniment from OSF. In 2024, as the international network of OSF national foundations was phased out, a generous parting financial package was offered to our foundation. FOKAL continued to search for third party financing: successfully obtaining key financial partnerships with WKKF, Citifoundations, the Ford Foundation as well as the European Union and Agence Française de Développement. An administrative buffer fund resulting from successful negotiations and skillful management of administrative overhead ensures a new level of security for the Foundations cash flow and initiatives. In 2024, a smaller, dynamic team, continued to work on streamlined programs. The dedication and tenacity of our staff and partners encourages everyone to move forward. This year again, the External Audit Firm gave a positive rating to the administrative and financial management of the foundation.

Communications

The year 2024 was distinguished by the launch of a significant call for proposals aimed specifically at Haitian journalists and media outlets as part of the Lekòl Nou initiative, funded by Agence Française de Développement. This program facilitated the production of thematic journalistic content on education, providing financial, methodological, and editorial support. This endeavor forms part of FOKAL's ongoing commitment to strengthening independent media and fostering the creation of high-quality content, vital for informing public discourse and advancing access to education.

Throughout 2024, FOKAL's Communication Department continued to provide strategic support to the foundation's various programs by ensuring the coverage, dissemination, and promotion of numerous educational, cultural, and civic initiatives. Through the production of digital content, the management of social media platforms, and the coordination of thematic broadcasts, the department contributed to enhancing the visibility of activities carried out in diverse contexts, both on the ground and online. Among the initiatives supported were the "Mèsi Pwofesè" campaign, the radio drama Chapo Ba, and the educational project Lekòl Nou, all of which benefited from special broadcasts and formats adapted for digital platforms. The department also supported the implementation of several human rights training sessions, particularly those targeting children and youth, in collaboration with partners such as BAL and the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH). It also contributed to the visibility of events organized by debate clubs across the country, online public discussions, and the launch of the 21st edition of the Quatre Chemins Festival.

VI. Third Party

In 2024, FOKAL continued its efforts to diversify its portfolio and financial commitments by gaining more third-party donors. Some commitments were obtained via call for proposals (European Union), others by collaborations (Agence Francaise de Developpement). Some commitments were short spanned but were very interesting to pursue to better understand procurement and procedures from different agencies.

1. Will Keith Kellogg Foundation (WKKF)

Since the end of 2023, the WKKF allowed a reallocation of funds to FOKAL's existing programs and initiatives.

Here are the results in 2024:

Direct Beneficiaries: Over 750 individuals across all projects, including 243 people (128 women, 115 men) in VETERIMED's program.

Livelihoods Enhanced:

- 50 families in Kenscoff now have reliable water access, saving ~2 hours/day previously spent fetching water.
- 20 families gained income potential through rabbit farming (5-compartment hutches distributed).

Capacity Building: 300+ participants trained in sustainable practices, including VETERIMED's gender-inclusive workshops (40% female participation).

Environmental Impact: 3,000 trees planted (REPADEM) and 50 rainwater systems reducing drought vulnerability (VETERIMED).

Educational, Economic and Cultural Impact:

- 32,000 library visitors and 1,805 internet users gained access to knowledge and resources.
- 820 youth developed leadership and critical thinking skills.
- 24 arts and culture projects supported, fostering creativity and cultural preservation.
- 120 groups strengthened community solidarity and economic resilience.

FOKAL has forged two key strategic partnerships:

- Caribaea Initiative (CI): This collaboration focuses on biodiversity. Since 2023, we have been working together in the Anse-à-Pitres region to showcase the rich biodiversity of the Cacique Henry National Park. Studies are being conducted on-site to better understand the park's key biodiversity elements, with a dedicated research team stationed in the region.
- Anse-à-Pitres Town Hall: This partnership focuses on strengthening agriculture and fishing in the region.

Since 2021, the Higher Education Program benefited from a contractual grant from W. K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year period.

2. Civic Education

In April 2017, Lawyers Without Borders Canada / Avocats Sans Frontières-Canada (ASFC) launched the project "Accès à la Justice et Lutte contre l'Impunité en Haïti" (AJULIH), funded by the Government of Canada, with FOKAL as a partner. This project focuses on three main areas:

- improving access to justice;
- contributing to the fight against impunity and corruption;
- promoting citizen participation in democratic processes.

FOKAL is particularly involved in this latter area through its Civic Education Program. In 2024, the program was able to have one last extension that benefited the youth initiative and human rights programs.



3. Lekol Nou (Our School)

Lekòl Nou is an initiative by FOKAL implemented as part of the Avni Nou program, supported by the French Development Agency (AFD). It aims to promote the status of teachers in Haiti and to strengthen educational communities. The project unfolded progressively through complementary phases, combining research, media production, community mobilization, and impact evaluation.

The project was officially launched on February 23, 2024, at Maison Dufort, in the presence of numerous institutional, educational, and media partners. This event coincided with the start of Chapo Ba's broadcast on 16 radio stations across all ten departments of Haiti, as well as on the project's digital platforms. The first season (March to June 2024), followed by the second (July to October 2024), was supported by a dynamic communication strategy that included digital publications (32 broadcasted spots), SMS campaigns (682,500 messages sent), media tours (9 interviews conducted), and short videos with the cast. In total, 80 episodes were aired, reaching nearly 55,000 people online. To assess the impact of the radio drama and contribute to the project's evaluation, a perception survey was commissioned from the research firm LEOS. The first phase, conducted prior to the first season, gathered responses from over 1,000 participants. The second phase began at the end of the full broadcast period. Simultaneously, listening groups were established in four departments (West, Central, North, and South) to encourage local discussions around the messages conveyed in the drama. This participatory approach was enriched with community-based cultural activities, including MobiCiné screenings (films and debates) and a theater tour performed by local troupes, based on scripts commissioned from two Haitian women authors. The first performance took place in December 2024 in Port-au-Prince. Finally, a call for proposals targeting journalists and media outlets led to the funding of reports and investigations on education, contributing to public discourse and extending the project's impact in the media space.

4. Fabrique des Arts (the Art Factory)

Using art as a medium to strengthen social bonds—this is the vision that inspired the French Development Agency (AFD) to finance the creation of *La Fabrique des Arts*. A funding agreement was signed on November 9, 2022, with the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL) as the lead organization of a consortium that includes two other partners: the Centre d'Art and the Association Quatre Chemins. This new cultural space is intended to be established in the heart of Port-au-Prince as a multidisciplinary center for creation, performance, training, and exchange within civil society. It will serve as a landmark of Haitian culture—a space fostering social cohesion, supporting the professionalization of artists and cultural practitioners, and promoting active citizenship.

The overall aim of the project is to help develop a creative, professional, inclusive, and integrated cultural environment in Haiti, through three specific objectives:

- To create a functional, open space for free expression, dialogue, and multidisciplinary artistic creation
- To strengthen the skills and capacities of cultural organizations and professionals
- To promote access to culture for all by integrating *La Fabrique des Arts* into the local neighborhood and the broader city

In 2024, the architectural plans and communication strategies for *La Fabrique des Arts* were successfully finalized. The legal registration of *La Fabrique des Arts* as a federation of cultural institutions was also completed. Additional components, such as governance and economic planning, were reviewed but have been postponed to a more appropriate time.

VIII. Board of Directors

FOKAL BOARD MEMBERS



MAXIME D. CHARLES

President

Former CEO of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Haiti. His legal and finance career includes teaching international law from 1985 to 1991 at the Public University of Haiti, and fulfilling international assignments in Canada and the Caribbean for the bank of Nova Scotia from 1992 to 1996. Charles is active in a number of professional and civil society organizations, serving as a board member for the Arbitrage Tribunal of the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti and as president of the Anti-money Laundering Committee and of the Association of Professional Bankers. He has used his position on the money laundering committee and the banker's association to bring these groups together and pursue legal reform. Charles has LLM degrees from the Public University in Haiti and from the Faculty of Law at the University of Provence in France.



DANIELE MAGLOIRE

Vice President

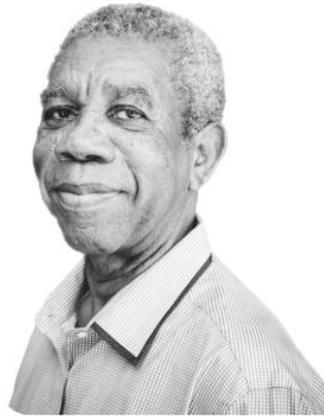
Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and responses against gender violence and is coordinator for the Collective against Impunity, a leading group in the effort to bring former president Jean-Claude Duvalier and his associates to justice in Haiti. Magloire was a prominent member of the government's advisory council during the post-Aristide transitional government from 2004 to 2006. Following her service to the government, Magloire became the executive director of the Haitian office of the Canadian NGO Droits et Démocratie, where she directed human rights advocacy



NORMA POWELL

Secretary

Former General Director of the Center for Facilitation of Investments (CFI), Haiti's national investment promotion agency. Founding member of the Haitian Liberal Party and of the Haitian Association for the Fight against Poverty. Powell's engagement with philanthropy includes working to establish the Association for the Management of Risks and Continuity of Activities, a private sector initiative that works with local authorities to help prevent and respond to disasters. She is also a board member of Haven, a housing and community development NGO based in Ireland that is working with Haitians to build or repair thousands of homes and restore public hygiene and sanitation in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.



JEAN-JOSEPH EXUME

Member

He is a very reputable lawyer specializing in civil and commercial law. He was Minister of Justice and Public Security twice, notably during the government of Michèle D. Pierre-Louis (2008-2009). He is a pro-bono advocate of the group of victims against Duvalier, the Collective against impunity. He was a member of the presidential commission set up in January 2012 for the Revision of the 180-year-old Haitian penal code and a draft revision of the Penal Code was submitted in March 2015.



ELISABETH COLIMON WOOLLEY

Member

She is a militant lawyer with Dantes P. Colimon and a member of the Port-au-Prince Bar since 1978. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies from the Faculty of Law and Economics in 1980. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Law Society of Port- Administration of the Haiti Arch and the Haiti Fund for Women's Aid; Member of the Ethics Committee of the GHESKIO Centers and the Soroptimist International Club of Port-au-Prince. She is also interested in micro-credit, ethics and personal development (motivation and selfknowledge).

CREDITS

GRANTEE: Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans ak Libète

Annual Report Grant Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

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