On the 21st - 22nd April 2016, the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) conducted a two day Round Table Conference (R.T.C.) of national, regional and international experts to provide insights and input into the planning for a National Museum. The R.T.C., which was held at the Folk Research Centre, explored and provided guidance in the following areas:

1. The project site and structures, and ideas and proposals for the physical development of the site to serve the intended purposes;

2. Recommendations for interpretation of the site and outfitting the museum and ancillary facilities; and

3. Options and recommendations for the financial sustainability of the national museum and ancillary services.

In November 2005 the Government of Saint Lucia vested the property (Block and Parcel 0649 D 42) known as the Married Women’s Quarters in the Saint Lucia National Trust for the purposes of establishing a national museum and ancillary purposes.
The Married Women’s Quarters is located on the Vigie Peninsula, and in proximity to the National Archives. The site is a short drive from the George F. L. Charles Airport and the Castries harbour, the main ports of entry for air and cruise passengers. Its Castries location also places it within the most populous district in Saint Lucia and a twenty-minute drive from the tourism centre of Gros Islet.

The overall aim is to create a national museum and ancillary facilities that will maximize the sustainable use of the Married Women’s Quarters. Given its location, it will integrate well with, and complement Government’s plans for the redevelopment of the Castries Waterfront, as well as diversify the local tourism product as outlined in the Saint Lucia National Vision Plan in general, and the Saint Lucia Tourism Strategy and Action Plan in particular.

Saint Lucia does not have a national museum. As such, this project will fill a significant void in the cultural and educational landscape of the island. It will add to the diversity of the local tourism offerings, promote a sense of national pride and engender an appreciation among the local population of the island’s history and culture. The project is consistent with UNESCO’s Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage (2015-2019) which stresses the recent growth of cultural tourism and tourism related to nature, noting the significant potential of this untapped sector.

A National Museum will stand out as one representation of the Trust’s mandate which is the conservation and preservation of Saint Lucia’s heritage and patrimony. It will assist Saint Lucians in identifying with their past, encouraging a love of history, developing a sense of national pride, and many other benefits such as opportunities for learning, creativity, inspiration, socialization and entertainment. A National Museum will also inspire and entertain visitors and will provide them with the opportunities for learning, investigating and socializing.
SLNT Members will be given access to the full report on the Round Table Conference and other National Museum updates as soon as they become available.