

NEWSLETTER

# BELIZE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS



*"Making Belize Sustainable"*



## INTRODUCING: MALIKAH CARDONA - BAP TREASURER

When she's not gardening, travelling, spending time with family, or "simply enjoying life", Malikah Cardona spends her time helping to propel the Belize Association of Planners into an organization that she hopes Belize's government will fully recognize and "integrate in the participation and development of its national strategies."

The 67-year-old widow, mother, grandmother, friend, and former Deputy Commissioner of Lands, says that in comparison to other planning associations in the wider Caribbean, BAP has made a name for itself by attracting interested and qualified individuals, locally, as well as from the Canada and the United States. Her first memory of BAP is the recognition and acceptance of the organization in the Caribbean Association of Planners, which has resulted in invitation to BAP members to attend regional conferences and shared experiences and best practices as it related to planning issues and development affecting various countries in the region.

It was while studying in Jamaica that Malikah says she realized that "there was not a comprehensible strategy for development in Belize", which resulted in sporadic planning. Years after returning home, she says Carolyn Trench Sandiford and Imani Morrison made the vision a reality. "It was an exciting moment and opportunity for me to contribute in this vitally important initiative," Malikah states. She joined the duo in becoming a founding member of BAP.

Though she has regrets about not being able to offer the assistance required due to time constraints, particularly being involved in other voluntary organizations, Malikah is content that BAP is growing "with younger and more energetic members who come with new and improved ideas". She admits that "Participating can be gratifying, knowing you can engage in issues to solve the problems relating to social and economic conditions in settlement patterns."

Her desire is for Belizeans and people in general to become more aware of BAP's existence, purpose, and achievements. She explains that BAP will continue to develop and evolve its character into a force that will be recognized locally and internationally. "It will have to play a more active and guiding role in identifying where settlements should take place that may minimize any negative impacts, whether social, economic and natural disaster."

### Mayflower Children Learn to Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle Garbage



The Mayflower Community Foundation, with support of the Belize Association of Planners, and with funding from the British High Commission, organized a successful workshop on re-using, reducing and recycling garbage. Fourteen teenagers 10-15 years, and seven children 7-9 years participated. The session included an education component with presentations on Garbage, Public Health and Community Pride by Tiffany Smith-Diaz of the Belize City Council; and on Plastic Pollution by Dareece Chuc, from the Belize Audubon Society.

The participants engaged in a plastic garbage scavenger hunt in the community, and later engaged in a segment on creating art from plastic. This component was facilitated by Leroy Green with a theme commemorating Garifuna Settlement Day. A future session is planned for creating Christmas ornaments from discarded plastic. Another session using garbage for alternate livelihoods, with an emphasis on plastic, is scheduled for adults in the upcoming week.

This activity was part of a project titled 'Leveraging Solid Waste Management for Community Resilience to Natural Hazards and Climate Change.' The purpose of the project is to turn a community health risk into a community resource and a community action for disaster and climate risk reduction. Other activities included a community clean-up held October 5th, 2019; piloting the use of an industrial heat press machine to produce items such as bags etc. out of recycled plastic, producing knowledge products on best practices in solid waste management; and to partner with the Belize City Council for a sustained and structured approach to solid waste management in the community.

## BAP NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES



### Using Garbage for Alternative Livelihoods and Employment

Meanwhile, 12 adults of Mayflower, attended a training on November 23, 2019, to explore using garbage for alternative livelihoods and employment. The session included educational presentations on Plastic Pollution by Varsha Clarke, from the Belize Audubon Society;; Rec-cycling as an opportunity for employment by Kenny Williams of the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority; and Opportunities for Entrepreneurship support, presented by Lorraine Herrera from Beltraide.

The participants engaged in several practical applications in converting garbage to employment opportunities including: a demonstration of the use of an industrial heat machine for converting disposal plastic bags into aprons, handbags and other types of useful items by Love Foundation. Participants also how to use plastic bottles to make cement blocks for construction, and using pallets to make furniture.

As with the children's workshop, this training was part the "Leveraging Solid Waste Management for Community Resilience to Natural Hazards and Climate Change,"The MCDP and BAP acknowledge the support of the Fisheries Department and the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project (MCCAP) in providing water bottles and bags for the workshops.



# New Traffic Lights at Neal's Pen Road

Traffic lights aid movement and the orderly flow of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, by giving right of way to some cars and not others. Not only do they help to make traffic safer, but they also help in preventing loss of lives to pedestrian traffic. They help to reduce the number of accidents and help to decrease collisions at intersections. This is important, particularly since traffic congestion can become a big problem for those living in cities. The increase in cars, poor road management and poor driver practices can all create traffic congestion.

In order to address some of these issues, the Belize City Council decided to install traffic lights at the intersection of Central American Boulevard and Neal's Pen Road earlier this month. Mayor of the Belize City Council told the media on December 5, 2019, when the lights were inaugurated, that "there are eight traffic lights and six pedestrian lights that add value to safety in the area. He told Love News that "...you have to continue to grow with development and ensure that you put in the necessary systems in place to ensure safety and the quality of life for our residents."

Belize City Councillor responsible for Traffic, Allan Pollard told News 5 that the system "will surely eradicate the various traffic concerns that have been increasing on Central American Boulevard and we can now be rest assured that our people will be safer while traversing this area."

The state-of-the-art lights, which the Council says cost in the six-figure range, were donated with assistance from the Republic of China on Taiwan; and was installed by contractors from San Ignacio.



New Traffic Lights at Central American Boulevard Intersection with Neal's Pen Road in Belize City (Photo Courtesy Channel 5 News)



## 'Shift and Share' -UNDP Workshop

BAP's Director for Professional Development Carren Williams presented project results and outcomes for the 'Bridging Landscape-Seascape Connectivity between and within Vulnerable Urban Communities in Belize City and the Marine Environment as a Mechanism for Building Urban resilience to Climate Change, during a workshop at the George Price Center for Peace and Democracy in Belmopan on November 27-28, 2019. The presentation was part of GEP's 'Shift and Share' session which highlighted "how to" aspects of the project with workshop participants, lessons from which their peers could possibly adapt. BAP's Treasurer, Malika Cardona; and Secretary Barbara Tillett-Abdulhadi also attended the session.



## BAP Celebrates World Town Planning Day

BAP's President Carolyn Trench-Sandiford delivered closing remarks at official ceremonies marking World Town Planning Day on November 8, in Belmopan.

The Belmopan City Council hosted the event under the theme: **"Belmopan Past, Present, and the Future"**.

## Upcoming BAP Activities

# Quarterly Board Meeting and Mixer Friday January 11th, 2020



**MISSION** – To address relevant planning and development issues in Belize by working in partnership with the public and private sector and civil society organizations, and the people of Belize through research, education, advocacy and action.



**VISION** – BAP is a proactive professional planning organization committed to assuring social justice and promoting sustainability in the natural and built environment.

**The Board of Directors of Belize Planners Association wishes all a safe and enjoyable holiday season!**

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