

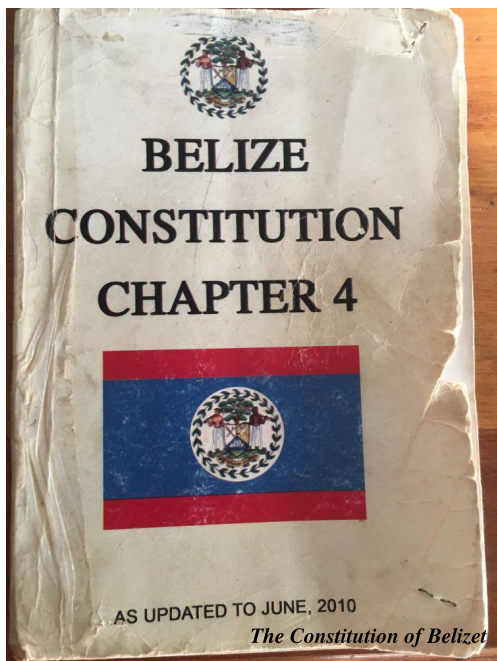
NEWSLETTER

# BELIZE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS



*"Making Belize Sustainable"*

## What the Constitution Says About City Rights



The Belize Association of Planners is an advocate for healthy and reformed governance frameworks that are designed to reduce spatial and gender inequities, eliminate economic and social disparity, and to improve the quality of lives of vulnerable populations and marginalized communities.

In this light, we have partnered with civil society organizations, the state and donor agencies and academia, to develop road maps for action to build adaptive capacity and community resilience to disasters and climate change, and now pandemics.

As a component of our 'Building Community Resilience to Natural Hazards and Climate Change-Reducing Vulnerabilities: Bridging Landscape-Seascape Connectivity' Project, we successfully completed a training for 12 representatives of two (2) communities and four (4) civil society organizations. The training focused on 'The Rights of the City' as enshrined in the Constitution of Belize and how to use disaggregated data for community advocacy and action.

The session was facilitated by Sandy Bradshaw and made possible through the support of our partnership with the University of the West Indies, Open Campus Belize.

Funding for the exercise comes from the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environmental Facility-Small Grants Program and OAK Foundation.



*Participants at July's Training Session*



*Facilitator for the workshop, Sandy Bradshaw*

# Increasing CSO Capacity in Governance and Decision-Making



On July 22, the Belize Association of Planners, in partnership with Research Triangle Institute International (RTI) and the Belize Network of NGOs, held a very successful Governance Improvement Summit on 'Increasing Civil Society Organization capacity for Governance and Decision making in Belize'.

There were 115+ participants representing over 35 organizations. Over the past twenty years, civil society has become more diverse and prominent in our political and developmental parlance, operating as either one-person army or as large organizations, in formal and informal capacity, and at multiple levels and in multiple sectors.

Not only have they embraced roles in parliament, influencing and shaping legislation, but they have also been intimately engaged in humanitarian work; from serving vulnerable and marginalized populations and communities to protecting our environment and borders. They have partnered with government to develop projects and fill service delivery gaps in areas where the state has been delinquent. Additionally they have challenged the state on issues ranging from corruption and mismanagement to constitutional violations.

More and more, we are learning that it is not just state institutions and policy initiatives, that essentially, are needed for a high standard of democratic governance, but also civil society.

If Belize is to deliver on the sustainable development goals and on its national development goals, of ending spatial and socio-economic disparities and gender inequalities, if we are to bring about a better quality of life for all Belizeans, and if we are to preserve the nation state of Belize for the next generation, the role of civil society in governance is key, and therefore their capacity must be strengthened. The Summit combined presentations, panel discussions and working group sessions on several topics, including: Incorporating, Registering and Operating a NGO; Organizational Capacity-Building and a Tool for Self-Assessment; the Belize NGO Directory; National Data Sources and Using Open Data Sources for Developing Policy Briefs; Using Data for Managing COVID-19 in Belize; Using Software for Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis and Accessing Free Software.

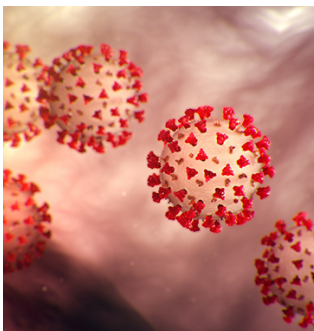
It also focused on grant writing, alliance building, fundraising and organizational sustainability; micro-studies on push-pull factors for women in governance and for improving advocacy for persons living with diverse abilities. The Belize Association of Planners thanks all presenters and participants. Our work will continue. Funding for the Summit was provided by the US Embassy CARSI Grant,



**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.

## FOR UPDATES ON COVID-19

Contact Ministry of Health - Belmopan



Telephone: 822-2325;  
822 2363; 822 0809  
Fax: 822 2942 or 822 2055

Email: Minister or CEO at  
[seniorsecretary@health.gov.bz](mailto:seniorsecretary@health.gov.bz) &  
Director of Health Services at  
[dhs@health.gov.bz](mailto:dhs@health.gov.bz)

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

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