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HISTORY OF HAITI'S FAMOUS CITADEL & SAN SOUCI PALACE SUBJECT OF DOCUMENTARY

At the turn of the 19th century, as newly independent Haiti began to mobilize itself, army general and self-proclaimed king, Henri Crhristophe commissioned the creation of an immense structure to overlook the many valleys and coast near [Cap-Haitien](#). Known as the Citadelle Laferrière, its purpose was to serve as the northern region's final defense against an invading French contingency. While that feared invasion never occurred, the largest fortress in the Western Hemisphere, complete with 100 cannons and countless cannon-balls, has since become a national symbol of the country's powerful history



and their tale of freedom. In an effort to better record the storied history of its most prized monuments, the Ministry of Tourism contacted [FAVACA](#) for assistance in providing a volunteer with the technical knowledge to create the first living document of the historic site of the Citadel and San Souci palace through a video documentary. To create the piece FAVACA contacted renowned Haitian-American filmmaker, director and veteran volunteer, Jacques Roc who was committed to once again volunteering his

time, as well as a portion of his crew's time, in order to make this momentous production possible. Roc created his own production company entitled Renaissance Films and is a well established producer and director from Brooklyn, New York. Acting Minister of Tourism, Patrick Delatour, served as the host and historian of the work; Delatour is very well versed on the history of the sites and wrote his dissertation on the fortress' history while at [Columbia University](#), and was also one of the key architects in the restoration of the monument. His experience and knowlesge were undoubtedly vital to this project's success. Other Renaissance expertise for the project included Production Manager Susan Lavlin, who has sound experience and holds a degree in film

production from [NYU](#) and Evans Ocvil a sound technician who assisted with Post montage and music. The Renaissance Film crew started a preliminary scouting of the Cap Haitien area as well as the [Citadel National Park](#) from September 13-16, 2007 to gauge the necessary equipment to bring and the logistics of shooting a documentary on top of a mountain. Additionally, from September 27-20, 2007 Roc and his crew were able to complete a second round of scouting the Cap Haitien area in order to start filming with the Minister of Tourism from October 8-14, 2007. The film has been expanded to include various tourist attractions in the north of Haiti, and the final edited version should be released in early November.

MARKETING & STRATEGY WERE KEEN IN HAITIAN MINISTER'S RECENT REQUEST

For generations, property ownership and proper title has been at the forefront of discussion for changes in the Haitian Constitution. Currently, the Constitution states that only Haitian nationals are able to own land in Haiti; which has hindered tourism development throughout the country because outside development groups are unable to own the very land they propose to develop. Marc Roger of the Ministry of Tourism requested assistance from [FAVACA](#) to help find a volunteer that could assist the Ministry with their overall tourism strategic plan, and to help with a marketing plan for several tourism destinations in Haiti.



Aaron Rose, president and CEO of [Rose Consulting](#), which provides advising to businesses of all sizes in global strategic expansion and business development, international growth management, and knowledge management. Dr. Rose's expertise is evaluating barriers of entry in foreign markets; creating strategic alignment between business operations and business strategy; assessing existing corporate, financial and operational plans; improving business performance to gain operational efficiencies and more effective resource allocation; and developing short and long-range operating plans with specific goals for measurement. Roger planned for Rose to visit three different priority cities for the Ministry of Tourism in order to assess the current infrastructure, the potential for growth in tourism for each city, and the social service that each city provided to the residents. Rose visited the artisan city of Jacmel, the sleepy beach town of Port Salut, and the historic city of Cap Haitian. Rose was able to consult with several ministry officials from the Ministry of Tourism as well as with the Minister of Culture. An assessment of the overall strategy for marketing these three sites to investors as well as an assessment on the overall strategy for increasing tourism to Haiti is forthcoming.

MICRO-LENDING ORGANIZATION IN HAITI RECEIVES VALUABLE TRAINING

[The Office of Development for the Episcopal Church of Haiti](#) (ODEH) has requested training in business development for a micro-loan program which provides small loans to businesses from throughout the country. In 2007 ODEH invested \$125,000 in micro-loans to primarily women's groups but also provided loans to small businesses and individuals starting new businesses all throughout Haiti. Father Frantz Cole, director for the Office of Development for the Episcopal Church of Haiti, contacted [FAVACA](#) in order to find an expert with a background in entrepreneurship and loan development in order to help train ODEH's 23 credit agents and 10 university students in business development and business creation so that they may in turn take the new information and apply it towards training the women's groups, small business owners, and individuals who receive loans. Maxine Pierson, Business Development Manager with the [Florida Women's Business Center](#) in Delray Beach, Florida agreed to offer her experience and time to conduct a workshop on business development for the Office du Développement de l'Eglise Episcopale d'Haiti from September 28-30, 2007. Pierson has over eight years experience in economic development and community redevelopment endeavors and was a Senior Vice President at Seaview International Trade Corporation where she focused her efforts as an international

business marketer and trade development executive. Pierson was able to provide materials and training for over 30 participants and hopes to return to Haiti to provide additional trainings to the Office of Development

FAVACA & MAYOR OF OUANAMINTHE LOOK TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In 2006, for the first time in several years, Haiti held free and fair elections for many elected positions from congressional seats to municipal leaders. In the early months of 2007, many of these appointed mayors from throughout the country, who may or may not have had the related experience or background, took office. One such newly elected mayor, Rony Pierre, is working for the city of Ouanaminthe, a rapidly growing town in the [Northeast](#) department of Haiti, that owes much of its recent growth to a newly created free-trade zone on the Haitian-Dominican boarder where several large companies such as [Levi Strauss](#) have opened up large manufacturing plants. The newly elected mayor



is a very competent and bright individual who has taken over a city that could be the next major focal point in Haiti. Many in the capital city and in the United States hope the mayor succeeds in the further development of Ouanaminthe. One important step in achieving this is the effective management of waste water throughout the city. In response to the city's request for assistance in this area, [FAVACA](#) contacted Bernard Eugene, Project Manager for the [Broward County-Water and Wastewater Services](#) to help teach the mayor strategic planning for areas of the city which are at times decimated by heavy rains, causing damage to the infrastructure and carrying trash with disease borne illnesses into residents' homes. Eugene was able to point out several key problem areas in which the mayor needs to focus his attention in creating canal systems to divert water from residential areas. In addition to working with the mayor on water issues affecting the city, Eugene was able to try to work on finding ways in which to collect trash which has overwhelmed the city due to the influx of the free trade market which brings close to 40 thousand people per week and a myriad of trash. Mr. Eugene's stay in Haiti, from September 27 - 30 was very productive and a detailed strategic plan is being produced that will include recommendations on how to deal with the water and sanitation problems of the city in a prudent manner when there is little to no budget allocation for cleanup services.

MANY REACHED IN COMMUNITY CYBER CAFÉ COMPUTER TRAINING

Much like its counterparts in many suburban malls throughout the United States, GIPTO, a small cyber cafe located in Ouanaminthe, Haiti, strives to provide internet access to all residents of the city, especially school age children, who wish to use the world wide web. GIPTO provides computer services such as internet access for a minimal charge and offers free classes in computers for all residents in Ouanaminthe. In addition to offering these services, GIPTO has been contracted by all the local schools of the area to provide computer training to all school children. Directors Emile Fils Mompoin and Jose Laguerre contacted [FAVACA](#) and asked for assistance in computer programming and networking in order to help their cyber cafe expand their services. FAVACA responded to the call and found two Haitian-American volunteers willing to donate their time and services. First time volunteer Kerry Dera, founder of [Dera Computers](#) and first time volunteer Pierre Bertrand of Smarttech Id Co. Inc traveled to Haiti September 19-24, 2007 to help participants build proficiency and literacy in personal computer skills. The pair discussed the purposes of individual hardware components, troubleshooting and maintenance, and provided training on networks, several types of software, and taught the participants how to become an internet provider for the entire town. The training was widely successful and very helpful for the 20 participants enrolled in the courses. GIPTO hopes that the volunteers will be able to return to add to their successful training and help make the students and town of Ouanaminthe .

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The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.

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