

## Símon Bolívar Cultural Centre

### BACKGROUND

The Urban Development Corporation (UDC) is collaborating with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) to construct the Simon Bolivar Cultural Centre, located at North Parade and Love Lane in downtown Kingston. The construction of the centre is intended to strengthen the cross-cultural links between the Caribbean and Latin America and seeks to re-establish Parade as the Cultural District of the city. The restoration of this building will complement other cultural facilities located in the Parade area such as the Ward Theatre and the former headquarters of the late Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Liberty Hall.

The development of the proposed facility is based on two primary objectives. The first is to provide exhibit space to commemorate Simon Bolívar’s stay in Jamaica, to highlight what is reputed to be his greatest written work, the “**Jamaica Letter**,” which he completed on September 6, 1815 while living at 33 Princess Street, downtown Kingston. The original building has been demolished and the present building is now used for commercial purposes.

The second objective is to build on the concept of ‘cultural enlightenment’ that is part of the Bolivarian Process by providing a facility that will offer opportunities for young children to be exposed to the diverse range of cultural performing arts of the region. This facility, through its programme of events, would further memorialize the Venezuelan Liberator/National Hero and Jamaican Resident, **Simon José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar**.



**SCOPE OF WORKS:**

The scope of works includes the refurbishing of an existing structure for a 350 seat Multi-Cultural Centre and the restoration of a historic structure to house the Simon Bolívar Exhibit Hall.

**FINANCING**

The project is being funded by the Governments of Venezuela and Jamaica. The Venezuelan Government has provided a grant of US\$2,000,000.00 and a total of US\$640,000.00 is to be provided by the Government of Jamaica.

**STATUS**

Preparatory works already carried out include demolition works, hoarding of the site and scaffolding along Church Street.

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