Dear Friends

It has only been three months or so, since we formed The Society. During that time we gathered a small portion of artifacts from the Societies’ current members and put on a display at Jump-Up, which was a wonderful success and where we met many of you for the first time. Then we moved our display and presentation to the last Starving Artist Day, hosted by the Whim Plantation, where again your support was overwhelming! We have been amazed at the response given to our presentation, and from the long lines of people that came by to view the artifacts and ask questions. Most people who looked over the artifacts were very much surprised by the detail and beauty of these pieces, from small amulets and hand tools, to the ancient pottery with their detailed adornos. Many could not believe that these pieces were anywhere from five hundred to two thousand years old! Again, many thanks for being there and showing your support! It’s a real pleasure to introduce the people of St. Croix to the ancient history of our Island. This is a part of the history of St. Croix that has been overlooked in the past, but not really so surprisingly, when people are presented with this history along the material remains of these cultures, they seem to want to learn much more about these people who "discovered Columbus".
Well, having a show or two under our belts on a folding table is great and informative, but the goal has been to create a permanent museum, and eventually a research and archive center, so we are happy to announce that we have secured a fantastic site for the museum. Thanks to great generosity of David Hayes, we will be locating the museum in the Old Apothecary Hall property, in downtown Christiansted, next to Luncheria Restaurant. This space is a dream come true for us, its in the historic building, surrounded by exposed stone walls, tiled floors, even the lighting is in place. We’ve purchased several display cases, which will begin to display the artifacts and pottery quite well. We have written for our first grant, which will be used to further secure the site, and we are moving forward with expanding the permanent Pre-Columbian collection, through the generosity of local collectors and local entities, and working on a game plan to bring you the best possible and most informative museum on the Pre-Columbians we can.

Now, the above sounds like we are about to open the doors. Unfortunately it’s not quite that simple. True, most of the basic ingredients are there, which must be a world record for starting a museum from scratch, but we still need your help! No, we don’t need your money now, we do however need MORE DISPLAY CASES, along with more artifacts to display, and eventually volunteers to help with shows and management of the museum. Also, we will need to work with anyone with the ability to help us with our visual printed displays, which will be a very important part of the museum. We feel it’s important to add to this that any artifact loaned for display to the museum will remain the property of the lender. It’s also important that any known information regarding the artifact, i.e. its provenance, where it was found and when it was found, be given if possible. This is very important in placing the artifact in a historically correct time line.

All these things bring joy and knowledge to our lives. At a time when there is so much bad news, we have only good news. Please contact us on how you can get involved further, @ 692-2365 or 773-1519.

Thank You

Looking forward to the past!

*The St. Croix Archaeological Society*