

Sint Eustatius, July 22, 2021.

Dear (deputy) government commissioner,

In addition to my recent letter dated July 18, 2021 in which I mention three points which we believe are important to take note of in the near future, hereby further input from our side.

On behalf of and with the group of concerned Statians, I hereby make the following recommendation to you (whereby I attach importance to mentioning that, as far as we are concerned, the "suggestion" does not imply non-commitment). The following group of experts and community members seem to us to be suitable, relevant and in order:

Experts

Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William & Mary. William & Mary had worked in Sint Eustatius under the late Norman Barka. The Institute does bioarchaeological research involving public engagement and currently have contracts with Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown through the U.S. National Park Service. Their expertise is to bring archaeology and the public together, and can provide advise on interdisciplinary studies as well.

Grace Turner, research consultant for the Antiquities, Monuments & Museum Corporation in Nassau, Bahamas. Turner is author of the book Honoring Ancestors in Sacred Space: The Archeology of an Eighteenth Century African Bahamian Cemetery.

Teresa Leslie, an anthropologist whose paternal lineage originates in Statia. She has published the book Eight Years on Statia: Race Coloniality and Development. Early in her career she worked in bioarcheology and has scientific publications in the field. Leslie also worked on the African Burial Ground in New York City and has extensive experience in community engagement.

Community

Dorette Courtar, practicing gynecologist on the island. Feels the local community should be given the opportunity to be engaged in the activities surrounding their ancestry and would like to offer support in this process.

Community member # 2. A concerned Statian will be selected by the community group of concerned and involved Statians who has experience managing government projects on the island.

With regard to the costs: these are borne by the Public Entity of Sint Eustatius. After all you have let it get so far that an independent group has to be formed, where independent implies that not only you appoint the group but also the population of Sint Eustatius.

With regard to the formulation of the assignment: the aim should be to excavate as little as possible. The "do nothing" option (i.e., reburial with the utmost respect for the human remains and artifacts already excavated) should also be considered. And should research be considered it will be in the form of "in situ" research.

I would be pleased to hear from you.

With kind regards,
together with a group of concerned Statians,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MSc MBA,
Bellevue Road 4, Upper Round Hill,
Sint Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands.

*Cc: Chairman and members of the Kingdom Relations Committee of the Lower House
Cultural Heritage Agency
Members of the Island Council of Sint Eustatius*