

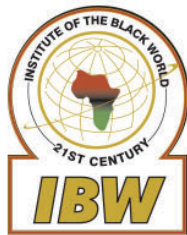


INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD 21ST CENTURY'S

GRENADA

ACTION AGENDA

Fostering collaboration with government and civil society to honor history and support people-based democracy and development in Grenada.



The Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW, IBW21) is committed to enhancing the capacity of Black communities in the U.S. and globally to achieve cultural, social, economic and political equality and an enhanced quality of life for all marginalized people. **LEARN MORE AT IBW21.ORG**

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Flashback: IBW delegation meeting with Grenada PM Dickon Mitchell, October 2023

Overview

Pursuant to the commitment noted in the **Baltimore Declaration** from the Institute of the Black World 21st Century’s **State of the Black World Conference V**, a high-level Delegation visited Grenada in October of 2023 to participate in **All Heroes Day**, the first Commemoration marking the 40th Anniversary of the martyrdom of **Prime Minister Maurice Bishop** and other prominent Members of the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada. In addition to participating in this historic Commemoration, a major goal of the Delegation was to explore ways of engaging with and supporting the Government of **Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell** and civil society organizations and agencies. This initiative was undertaken in light of the prospect of Grenada reemerging as a progressive force for change at home and the Pan African world, reminiscent to the era of the People’s Revolutionary Government.

The Institute of the Black World 21st Century was delighted that the Delegation was well received by **Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell** and leaders and organizations within civil society. As a result, several areas for cooperation, collaboration and support were identified as outlined in the **October 19th Communique**. Subsequently, **Dr. Ron Daniels**, President of IBW, was honored to attend the Commemoration of the **50th Anniversary of Grenada’s Independence** where additional consultations occurred to discuss programs, projects, initiatives and engagements that might be useful in achieving the goal outlined above.

These important visits to Grenada were instructive in informing IBW’s effort to identify the appropriate resource persons to participate in the implementation phase of the organization’s commitment to Grenada. Accordingly, June 27 – July 2, 2024, IBW organized a Delegation to Grenada comprised of African American Resource Persons to engage civil society organizations and agencies and the government on implementing specific programs, projects and initiatives.

Links to documents mentioned in overview



The Baltimore Declaration -
An action agenda outlining the way forward and synopsis of selected speeches and presentations. [IBW21.ORG /SOBWCV](https://www.ibw21.org/SOBWCV)



October 19th Communique -
Honoring the Life & Legacy of Maurice Bishop and the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada. [IBW21.ORG/OCT19](https://www.ibw21.org/OCT19)



Paying homage to Maurice Bishop and martyrs of the People’s Revolutionary Government

IBW is profoundly appreciative of **Dr. Terence Marryshow**, Director of the **Maurice Bishop Foundation**, for welcoming our Delegation and sharing first-hand information on the events leading up to the tragic events of October 19, 1983, including visits to sites that were historically significant to the fateful outcome. This powerful narration concluded with a pilgrimage to **Fort Rupert** where **Prime Minister Maurice Bishop** and seventeen stalwarts of the Revolution were executed by a military firing squad.



Butler’s House, where Maurice Bishop was under house arrest



Delegation at remains of Butler’s House



Delegation at Fort Rupert



Roses left on the walls of Fort Rupert

The site is being transformed into a historical memorial monument. The Delegation conducted a sacred ceremony on the grounds culminating with younger leaders in the Delegation laying a wreath at the site followed by members of the delegation laying individual flowers. These moving moments set the tone in terms of the importance of preserving the memory of the People’s Revolutionary Government as an inspiration for the potential rebirth of people-based democracy in Grenada.



Welcomed by Ellen Bishop Spielman

The Delegation was also delighted to be warmly received for a luncheon meeting at the home of Ellen Bishop Spielman, the youngest sister of **Maurice Bishop**. **Dr. Marryshow** explained that **Ms. Spielman** has devoted the latter years of her life to creating a major multidimensional educational, cultural, communications and vocational center in honor of **Maurice Bishop**, her brother.



Ms. Spielman sharing the family's history and her inspiration for the Maurice Bishop Institute.



Delegation tours the Maurice Bishop Institute



Delegation admiring the thoughtfully curated space for the Maurice Bishop Institute.



Director of the Working Families Party (of Grenadian Heritage), Maurice Mitchell shares his knowledge about Grenada's history

Ms. Spielman graciously conducted a tour of the massive multifaceted structure, which is under construction. When completed, it will be christened the **Maurice Bishop Institute**. The Delegation engaged in an extensive discussion of the mission of the Institute and ways that the Diaspora could be helpful in completing this extraordinary project.

We are deeply appreciative of **Dr. Marryshow** and **Ms. Spielman** for hosting our Delegation for these very impactful experiences.

Engagement and Action Items



Cross Generational Dialogue with Artistes, Creatives and Culture Workers in Progress

The Role of Art & Culture in Grenada's Development Process

As cited in the *October 19th Communique*, IBW's first Delegation began with a powerful and moving Cross-Generational Dialogue which left the participants who attended virtually demanded that IBW continue such sessions in future delegations. Because Summer recess rendered it difficult to mobilize students from various schools to replicate the initial Dialogue, IBW elected to engage young people by beginning the visit with a session featuring young artists and cultural workers presenting their thoughts and performing focused on the role of art and culture in building democracy and development in Grenada.

It was a spirited, informational, inspirational and action-oriented session organized facilitated by **Kim Poole**, the Founder and Executive Director of **Teaching Artist Institute** in collaboration with IBW's Executive Assistant and native of Grenada **Paulann Paterson**. **Michèle Voltaire Marcelin**, Poet, Stage Actor and Painter served as a Resource Person for the session and performed.

Artists, cultural workers and participants in the audience expressed a strong desire that the history, art and culture of Grenada be at the center of the nation's development process. There was overwhelming sentiment that the history and culture of Grenada be infused into the curriculum of public educational institutions. **Kim Poole** reiterated the foundational importance of art and culture in the movement-building, organizing, mobilizing and nation-building process.

In his summary remarks, **Dr. Ron Daniels** expressed sincere gratitude to the artists, cultural workers and audience for an amazing session. He observed that there is an explicable resistance by governments in the Caribbean and Africa to dismantling the Euro-Centric systems of education imposed during the colonial era. He asserted that the artists and cultural workers were on solid ground in insisting that the history and culture of people of African descent are foundational to the “re-education” and liberation of African people in the Caribbean and Africa.



Kim Poole moderating the dialogue and artiste' presentation

Action Items

1. With the support of **Teaching Artist Institute** and similar formations in the U.S. and the Global African Community, IBW pledged to continue the dialogue and engagement with artists and cultural workers in Grenada, reasserting that artist and cultural worker solidarity can be effective in supporting the process of democracy and development in Grenada and the Pan African world.
2. On the recommendation of **Kim Poole**, the Grenada Chamber of Commerce has agreed to accept a cultural institution as a full member. The purpose for this action is to ensure that the artists/cultural worker community has a seat at the table to have input into the private-sector business/economic development agenda.



Dr. Ron Daniels addressing the group

Business/Economic Development



Kenny John of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce addressing the Delegation



Economic development session



During the session, delegates share expertise and feedback to support suggested initiatives

In a major address during the **All Heroes Day** commemorative activities, **Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell** outlined a business/economic development agenda which was characterized by a heavy emphasis on self-sufficiency and self-reliance based on Grenada's human and material assets. His position was refreshing because many Caribbean nations that depend heavily on tourism import commodities to service tourists rather than produce them internally. In addition, overdependence on tourism can result in a neglect of other sectors of the economy. Magnanimously acknowledging the building blocks of his predecessor, **PM Dickon Mitchell** challenged the people of Grenada to utilize the human and material assets of the nation as the foundation for sustainable development in specific sectors. This charge seemed remarkably compatible with the vision of the Honorable **Marcus Mosiah Garvey**.

With this in mind a session on economic development and the vision of **Garvey** was incorporated into the agenda of the delegation along with a session on the role of faith-based institutions in economic development. Unfortunately, **Dr. Julius Garvey**, the son of **Marcus Garvey** and global Pan African icon, who agreed to deliver a Keynote Presentation on **Garvey's** philosophy of economic development was unable to attend. However, **Rev. Dennis Dillon**, Convener of the U.S. based Black Church Means Business Conference was able to attend. In addition, the Delegation included a stellar group of Resource Persons that included **New York State Senator James Sanders**, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, **Dr. Claire Nelson**, Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Caribbean Studies and a Futurist and **Dr. Michael Roberts**, a Black Enterprise listed billionaire and Futurist representing **Dr. George Fraser's** Fraser Net and Power Networking Conference.

Due to the looming hurricane, the two sessions were merged to maximize participation. Despite preparations for the hurricane Beryl, **Mr. Kennie John**, President of the Grenada **Chamber of Industry and Commerce** made a special effort to attend and participate in what turned out to be a remarkably productive working session on business/economic development in Grenada. **Mr. John** was very welcoming and expressed a desire to address longstanding failures of Caribbean nations to sufficiently focus on the utilization of internal assets to advance self-sufficient business/economic development. He stressed that the Chamber of Commerce will play a vital role in defining, refining and implementing Grenada's economic development plans in this period irrespective of which Party is in power. He emphasized that the engagement and collaboration with partners in the U.S. could be valuable and productive.

Action Items

1. It was agreed that **Dr. Michael Roberts** and **Dr. Ron Daniels** will work to connect the **U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce** under the leadership of **Ron Busby** with the **Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce**. **Rev. Dennis Dillon** will work to connect the **Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce** and **Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry** with the **Grenada Chamber of Commerce**. In both instances the objective is to promo mutually beneficial cooperation, collaboration and potentially joint ventures.
2. **Dr. Michael Roberts** shared ways that futuristic concepts like block-chain can be incorporated into Grenada's development plan. He offered to return to Grenada if invited by the Chamber to consult on utilizing futurist concepts and approaches.
3. There was a consensus that collaboration on the development of **Grenada's Medical Park** could be very beneficial. **Dr. Claire Nelson** and **Senator James Sanders** suggested that a "roots to the fruits" approach utilizing the highly successful **Mondragon Cooperative** model developed in Spain could maximize the impact of the **Medical Park**. This strategy could maximize the impact on the total population of Grenada.
4. **Senator Sanders** reported that he is incubating a **Mondragon Cooperative** in his senatorial district that will be available for as demonstration project that can inform the work in Grenada.
5. **Mr. Kennie Johns** agreed to invite a cultural organization to have full membership in the Chamber to offer suggestions and recommendations on how art and culture can enhance Grenada's business/economic development.
6. New York State regulations permitting, IBW is requesting that **Senator James Sanders** serve as Liaison to the Grenada Chamber of Commerce for the implementation for the implementation of these important action-items.

Honoring Louise Langdon Little, Mother of Malcolm X



Louise Langdon Little (1897-1991), Grenadian-born American activist and the mother of Malcolm X.



Mr. Terance Wilson relative of Malcom X



Delegation expresses appreciation to Terance Wilson and his dedicated work with the Malcolm X Foundation.

As a sign of IBW's firm commitment to uplift the life and legacy of **Louise Landon Little**, the mother of **Malcolm X**, who was born in Grenada, the Delegation visited the Village of La Digue to meet with **Terrance Van Wilson**, a relative of the family. **Mr. Wilson** has taken it upon himself to preserve and inform the nation and the world about the background, family and contributions of **Louise Langdon Little** who was engaged in civic affairs prior to departing for the United States.

This visit and meeting with **Mr. Wilson** in the town and on the grounds where the family lived was a very moving and exhilarating highlight of the Delegation. **Mr. Wilson** has begun work on creating a **Louise Lang-**

don Library on the site where the family lived. There are separate paths to the remnants of two homesteads where the family lived. An important goal of this Initiative is to create appropriate markers and monuments on these sites. Finally, working collaboratively with **Mr. Wilson**, ultimately IBW is committed to making the celebration of the life and legacy of **Louise Langdon Little** a Grenadian, Caribbean and global Pan African cause.



Delegation on the site of Louise London Little, mother of Malcolm X

Action Items

1. IBW will support efforts to mobilize human and material resources and funds to establish the **Louis Langdon Little Library** in La Digue.
2. IBW will reach out to artists and cultural workers in Grenada to design commemorative pathways to the two sites which served as homesteads for the **Little family**.
3. Similarly, IBW will explore the feasibility of initiating a national contest to design appropriate basic markers or monuments on the **Little family** homestead sites.
4. IBW will issue a call for a **global celebration of the life and Legacy of Louise Landon Little, May 19th, 2024**, the occasion of the **100th birthday of Malcolm X**. A national celebration in the Village of La Digue on that day would be the focal point of the national, Caribbean-wide and global celebration.



Dr. Daniels and Dr. Marryshow describes the martyrdom of the late PM Maurice Bishop and other leaders, at Fort Rupert where they were assassinated.



Young leaders in the delegation honoring the memory of the Martyrs through leading placing of roses.



Delegation departing the sacred site.

Special Action Items

1. The pilgrimage to **Fort Rupert** to pay homage to the **Martyrs of October 19, 1983**, and visit with **Ellen Bishop Spielman** reinforced the urgency of pressing the United States Government to reveal the whereabouts and status of the missing remains of those who were murdered on that fateful day. The U.S. must issue an apology for its role for withholding this information for decades. Working with the leadership of IBW, **Dr. Claire Nelson**, Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Caribbean Studies has agreed to take the lead in pursuing and fulfilling this mission.
2. IBW is eager to support the development of the **Maurice Bishop Institute** as envisioned and being constructed by **Ellen Bishop Spielman**. Accordingly, IBW has appointed **Rev. Kobi Little**, President of the Maryland, NAACP and longtime Pan African leader to be the Laison to **Ms. Spielman** to explore ways of being supportive in finalizing this powerful project.

Impact of Hurricane Beryl



A drones view of Hurricane Beryl damage in Carriacou (Credit: Arthur Daniel)

Active engagement by civil society and government agencies and leaders with the Delegation was short-circuited by **hurricane Beryl**, including the cancellation of a special session on growing gun violence in Grenada. **Andre J. Robinson**, Director, Community Violence Intervention, **Man Up Inc, USA** participated in the Delegation to consult with local representatives of law enforcement and public safety on this crucial matter. IBW remains committed to following up with civil society and government officials in Grenada on this vital issue on request.

In addition, since CARICOM was scheduled to meet on July 2-4 and the crisis on Haiti was to be on the Agenda, **Jocelyn McCalla**, Senior Policy Advisor for the **Haitian American Foundation for Democracy** was invited to participate in the Delegation in hopes of sharing information and perspectives on the current crisis that might be useful. IBW remains interested in facilitating the sharing of pertinent information with **Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell** during his tenure as the rotating Chairman of CARICOM.

Finally, IBW responded to the hurricane by posting a list of credible relief agencies in Grenada on our website with Instructions of where donations of various forms of assistance and donations could be made.

Conclusion



Dr. Terence Marryshow (l). Dr. Ron Daniels (r) holding the October 19th Communique during day one orientation

IBW views this **Action Agenda** as a positive step forward in fulfilling commitments made in the **October 19th Communique**. Successful implementation will require ongoing engagement and support by the Government of Grenada and collaboration and partnership with key civil society agencies, organizations and leaders.

Forward Ever remains the order of the day!

Appreciation

Dr. Ron Daniels, President of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and **Paulann Paterson**, Executive Assistant to the President would like to express our sincere appreciation to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Export Development** and **The Grenada Tourism Authority** for extending courtesies to the IBW Delegation.



Granadian National flag



<https://www.puregrenada.com/grenada-tourism-authority/>

The IBW Delegation Participants



Delegates at the conclusion of a successful pilgrimage to Grenada

- **New York State Senator James Sanders**, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banks, Queens, NY
- **Dr. Michael Roberts**, Black Enterprise Top 100 Entrepreneur, FraserNet, Rep. St. Louis, MO
- **Milton Allimadi**, Editor/Publisher, Black Star News, New York, NY
- **Dr. Claire Nelson**, Futurist, Founder, Institute for Caribbean Studies, Washington, DC
- **Kim Poole**, Founder, Teaching Artist Institute, Baltimore, MD
- **Maurice Mitchell**, National Director, Working Family's Party, New York, NY
- **Thenjiwe McHarris**, Movement for Black Lives, New York, NY
- **Rev. Dennis Dillon**, Editor/Publisher, New York Christian Times, New York, NY
- **Rev. Kobi Little**, President, Maryland State Chapter NAACP, Baltimore, MD
- **Michèle Voltaire Marcelin**, Poet, Stage Actor and Painter. Brooklyn, NY
- **Jocelyn McCalla**, Senior Policy Advisor, Haitian American Foundation for Democracy, Brooklyn, NY
- **Andre J Robinson**, Director, Community Violence Intervention, Man Up Inc, USA, East New York, NY

Convenors/Facilitators

- **Dr. Ron Daniels**, President, IBW
- **Don Rojas**, Director of Communications and International Relations, IBW
- **Paulann Paterson**, Executive Assistant to the President, IBW
- **Yolande Cadore**, Program Consultant and Advisor, IBW
- **Transportation:** Taxi and Tours by Vie: Viedelle Pascal, Proprietor
- **Photography, Audio Video Services:** Sonix Productions: Kaiem Joseph, Proprietor: Lead Assistants: Angello Findlay, Jonathan Liddell, and Linus George



About the Institute of the Black World 21st Century

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Learn more about us at [IBW21.ORG](https://www.IBW21.ORG)



We need your support!

Dr. Ron Daniels and the Board of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century need your support to make IBW's critical projects, programs and initiatives self-sufficient, and to enhance IBW's vital role as a Resource Center promoting collaboration for Black Empowerment in the U.S. and the Pan African world.

Contribute to our mission today at [IBW21.ORG/SUPPORT/GENERAL](https://www.IBW21.ORG/SUPPORT/GENERAL)



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