

Decision

The board of the **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribbean Region (PBCCG)**, considering the devastation caused on Saba, St. Eustatius and especially St. Maarten by the passing of hurricane Irma on September 6, 2017, decided to allocate the amount of **NAF 100.000** (one hundred thousand Netherlands Antilles guilders) towards a special fund to aid in the recovery and rebuilding of culture and nature on St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius. In her general meeting of September 8, 2017, the PBCCG established the **Nature and Culture Relief Fund**.

This fund is especially intended to provide critical funds in the coming months to enable the nature and culture organizations on the Dutch Windward Islands to reestablish themselves and start the process of rebuilding.

Special Considerations

- Only NGOs that the PBCCG has helped in the past are eligible to apply for a grant. We choose to limit this initiative to previous recipients of PBCCG subsidies because we already have ample experience with them and can thus waive the usual need to also submit supporting documents such as Statutes, Chamber extracts, financial reports, etc. We do however encourage collaboration with NGOs we do not have a relationship yet and will consider grants requested 'on their behalf'.
- The board feels the funds must be spread around as much as possible, yet recognizes that perhaps the priorities require differently. With this in mind, the board initially sets the maximum amount of US\$ 5000 per grant and will allow NGOs to request 2 grants for their own purposes. NGOs may request a third grant 'on behalf of' NGOs we do not currently have a working relationship with.
- This grant program is for groups that have experienced tangible losses as a result of hurricane Irma. The amount of the grant is determined by tangible property damage, which must be substantiated by (audio-) visual proof and/or insurance damage report.
- The board recognizes that the amount offered is not nearly sufficient to repair all damages, yet we do not wish to exclude possible building expenses we can feasibly cover. Therefore, unlike regular subsidies from the PBCCG, these special grants may be applied to building-related matters, only if these expenditures are a direct result of damage incurred during the storm. Building improvements for non-damage related items are excluded.
- NGOs may also apply for funds to replace critical materials for their operations such as computers, printers, furnishings, instruments, sound systems, sub- and/or dance floors, tools and such. In order to spread the funds as much as possible, the PBCCG will seek to cover primarily the essentials and expects the non-profit organizations to engage goods and services at the best price possible.
- Grants may cover the shipping costs of items purchased or received (i.e. donations from third parties).
- Grants cannot be applied to cover loss-of-income due to the hurricane.
- The PBCCG will not pay for coordination fees and other such costs.
- The PBCCG expects groups to return funds to her in case they get the same items paid out by insurance as well. Said refunds go back into the fund.

Procedure

The board believes that in this disaster lies an opportunity to rebuild even better and therefore hopes that the funds offered would be used to bring people together, foster collaboration, and be a catalyst for further sustainable development and rebuilding efforts.

The PBCCG board mandated her chairman to work out the details of the procedure for application and their evaluation with the (former) board members of islands, but has agreed to provide a 'fast tracked' application and decision process for this fund. If needed, the PBCCG can accept applications as they come and decide on these weekly for as long as funds are available. Once the details are known, the board will be informed and requested to approve the procedure.



The PBCCG will accept applications for this fund until March 1, 2018. After which remaining funds will be returned to her regular reserve for general grant making.

Administration

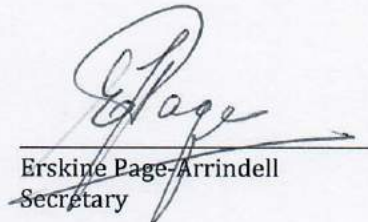
The PBCCG will administer these funds on a sub-account and will not apply any administrative charges for this fund, but will deduct any bank charges incurred by the transfer of grant funds from the amount available for disbursement.

Additional funding

The PBCCG will accept additional funding from third parties for the purposes as outlined above; said funds must be deposited with the PBCCG before allocation to NGOs and may not be conditioned for purposes other than that outlined above. The PBCCG commits to providing full disclosure and financial justification for any funds provided to her by third parties for these purposes and making it known that they also contributed.



Michèle Russel-Capriles
Chairman



Erskine Page-Arrindell
Secretary

Willemstad, September 8, 2017