

III. Fiji Arts Council

1. Institutional Overview

The Fiji Arts Council (FAC) is located in Suva, Fiji, and was established under the Charitable Trust Act of 1964. It is a national body solely responsible for the safeguarding of the Art. Although this function has changed considerably, because of the evolving characteristics of Art, FAC continues to function and strive in achieving excellence in the promotion of the art at all levels for all communities in Fiji's Multi-Cultural Society.

FAC is one of the four agencies of the Department of National Heritage, Culture & Arts which implements the policy and legislative coordination functions of the latter.

Vision:

A Dynamic, Interactive and Progressive Arts Sector

Mission:

The Fiji Arts Council will strive to create a dynamic, interactive and celebrated Arts Sector through the:

- Preservation, revival, protection and promotion of art forms and knowledge unique to Fiji;
- Promote good governance and accountability within the art sector
- Provide opportunities and support for professional development of the arts sector;
- Encourage investment and develop infrastructure to achieve artistic excellence;
- Advocacy (awareness), education for formal recognition, and valuing of art and artists.
- Setting guidelines and standards for the art;
- Promoting culture and arts through touristic initiatives;
- Enhancing exchange and appreciation for all arts, all levels of abilities and all communities

Most of the activities are carried out in Fiji, but others, such as the Pacific Arts Festival and the Melanesian Arts Festival, World Craft Council, IFCCA, New Zealand Trade Aid, Atea Oceania, New Zealand , etc are carried out at the regional and international level.

As far as ICH is concerned, the FAC specialises the promotion of the arts. The arts cuts across the 5 domains of UNESCO.

Organisations affiliated with the Fiji Arts Council are listed below.

- CreatiVITI, established in 1993, is a membership-based organisation representing artists from across Fiji. It is home to Fiji's only pottery production studio and second-largest art gallery. Its mission is to develop arts and crafts in Fiji through training in the arts and promoting the enjoyment of creative expression in a setting accessible to the whole community. Their products are pottery objects, custom ceramic commissions, paintings, drawings, sculpture, handicrafts, pottery classes, kids craft activities, bi-monthly exhibitions, seasonal craft markets, annual art competition.
- Fiji Craft Society's objectives are to promote and sustain crafts to the highest level of proficiency as well as to seek expertise in different crafts forms. The Society also develops and improves skills in various fields and crafts and works in collaboration with the FAC and other associations involved in promoting heritage arts in Fiji and overseas. The Society selects the best craft artist to represent Fiji in regional, national, and interantional exhibitions. Lastly, the Society capitalises on existing markets and purses opportunities for the organisation's infrastructure and marketing.
- Fiji Voyage, also known as Fiji Islands Voyaging Society, seeks to lead the rebirth of Fiji and Rotuma's proud maritime heritage—in particular to preserve and develop traditions of ocean voyaging by double-hulled canoe, which is commonly known as the magnificent Drua. The Society is a member of Pacific Voyagers, a pan-Pacific network of voyaging societies with country representation from American Samoa, the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Tahiti, Tonga, Western Samoa, and Fiji. The Society's mission is to revive and sustain traditional Fijian canoe building, sailing, and navigational knowledge, skills, and customs as well as to revive canoe building and voyaging to re-establish cultural links and traditional sailing routes in ancient canoe art, skills, and knowledge. To establish sailing schools in strategic locations throughout Fiji as the centers for revival and

education programmes and to contribute to sustainable development and the preservation of the Fiji Islands marine and land environment through resource renewal and public education programmes are also part of the Society's mission. The Society also undertakes open-ocean voyages along ancient Pacific migratory routes to contribute to reviving and strengthening Pacific regional links and forms alliances with other voyaging societies on projects to contribute to the Pacific movement of ocean voyaging revival and cultural and environmental sustainability. The Society works alongside government organisations and other public and private organisations with similar aims and objectives to assemble a group of experts who will assist the Society in regulating the use and care of traditional sailing canoes, and to ensure the cultural integrity of its programmes. Lastly, the Society advocates for the national protection of the IP rights of Fiji canoe designs and associated sailing and navigation knowledge and skills.

- Fiji Visual Arts Society established in 2007
- Performing Arts Society focuses on the teaching of the traditional dances, choral music and the use of musical instruments.
- Design Arts Society established in 2008 after the Festival of Pacific Arts from American Samoa.

The FAC receives its main budget from the government, but FAC also receives supporting funds from local and international sponsors and donors to run workshops and exhibitions.

2. Information Building and Sharing

The FAC has done and is doing activities in identification, documentation, inventory making, and using digital contents for information building and sharing activities of the institute. The organisation also focuses on craft fair exhibitions, art exhibition, and most of the latter's work on database/archive building is carried out through field work and documentation.

3. IP in the Institute

The FAC is working with FIPO in addressing the issue of IP protection for the art. It undertakes tasks related to intellectual property and the contact people are:

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The FAC has a principle for protecting IP aspects of ICH and its visions are to be a Fiji art organisation that is vibrant, innovative, and distinctive, and that contributes with integrity to a heritage that is protected and valued. The organisation's mission is to preserve, revive, and protect art forms and knowledge unique to Fiji and to provide platforms for communities to generate income and sustainable careers through the arts and provide opportunities for professional development of the sector. Also the organisation encourages investment and infrastructure development to achieve artistic excellence, and it influences and advocates for the recognition and the value of the artist. The organisation also encourages difference and innovation as well as enhances exchange and appreciation of all arts at all level of abilities for all communities.