

# *Issues & Advocacy Roundtable*

*Society of American Archivists*

17 June 2013

The Honorable Anthony Boatswain  
Minister for Education and Human Resource Development  
Government of Grenada  
Botanical Gardens, Tanteen  
St. George's, Grenada, W.I.

Dear Minister Boatswain,

On behalf of the Issues & Advocacy and the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtables of the Society of American Archivists, we would like to applaud you for your recent efforts to reopen and restore the Sheila Buckmire Memorial Library.

As archivists ourselves, we firmly believe that a country's national library and national archives are crucial components of a people's lasting cultural, political and social heritage. When those institutions are threatened, so also threatened are that people's freedoms, its right to open governance, and its national identity. Likewise, when a public library system comes under threat, citizens run the risk of losing access to sources of information, enlightenment, and entertainment that are all necessary parts of the human experience.

We are, therefore, very happy and most gratified to hear of your actions in taking steps to secure the continuity and the future of your nation's library and archives. We deeply appreciate your evident commitment to preserving the cultural legacy and the ongoing education of the people of Grenada, and welcome you as a statesman who recognizes the inherent value of libraries and archives.

If we can be of any assistance to you in providing advice or information on this or in future endeavors of this type, we stand ready to lend our experience as information professionals to you and to the government and people of Grenada.

Yours very truly,

Laura Starratt and Jeremy Brett  
Co-Chairs, Issues & Advocacy Roundtable, Society of American Archivists

Steven De'Juan Booth and Derek Mosley  
Co-Chairs, Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, Society of American Archivists