PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
To expand the economic, cultural, social and inward investment opportunities between the City of Tallahassee, Florida, U.S.A. and St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles

It is the intent of this Partnership Agreement to outline:

- The **benefits** of a Partnership Relationship between the City of Tallahassee, Florida, U.S.A. and the Island of St. Maarten, N.A.
- The **goals** the partners set out to achieve by entering into the aforementioned partnership and;
- The **roles and responsibilities** of each partner, which are founded on the principle of reciprocity.

Benefits:

- Tallahassee and St. Maarten are featured as international communities.
- The opportunity to coordinate business conferences to promote business-to business networking.
- The opportunity to coordinate professional and student exchanges.
- Trade, educational, cultural, and sports programs to promote and exchange advance knowledge will be available.
- The opportunity to serve as host-community for the parties of this Agreement.
- To provide citizens of Tallahassee and St. Maarten the opportunity to share their culture through social and cultural activities.
- To promote and develop tourism exchange.

Goals:

The ultimate goal of this partnership is to expand the economic development, cultural, social and inward investment opportunities and to enhance their exposure in today's ever-growing global economy.

In order to reach the set goals, relationship building, cultural events and exchanges should have high priority. This approach will lay a solid foundation on which to pursue future business plans.

Therefore, the short-term goal of this partnership is to:

Establish and enhance the relationship between Members of the Tallahassee City Commission and the Executive Council of St. Maarten. Equally important is the establishment of a relationship between the business community of Tallahassee/Leon County, the Tallahassee Partnership Committee and their counterparts in St. Maarten.

This goal can be achieved by:

- Establishing routine communications on business and cultural issues between the two entities;
- Setting up periodic conferences between the two government bodies to address issues of common concern;
- Identifying specific trade/economic development projects that can be undertaken in partnership between the two entities.

Ideas and concepts which have been identified for further review and consideration are as follows:

1. Establish a Student Exchange Program to allow students of specified ages to visit their sister community.
2. Establish a work exchange program between officials in each community to gain a better understanding of the private and public sector and how their peers operate in another country.
3. Establish a "best practices" program to gain valuable insights about how each of our governments work. This program will allow for the exchange of ideas in areas such as the environment, waste disposal, recycling and leisure services.
4. Arrange exchanges for community groups, women's groups, historical societies, civic organizations, etc. to gain insight and to experience each other's culture first hand.
5. Set up business-to-business linkages and opportunities for inward investment, joint ventures, and business expansions.
6. Explore the potential partnerships between the universities and institutions of higher learning in each community.
7. Work to establish regional business and cultural relationships that will enhance the partnership.
8. Establish a twinning program between at least two schools from each community.
9. Match churches in each community to work towards establishing a culture of brotherhood among various denominations.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Island Government of St. Maarten, together with the St. Maarten Promotion Committee Foundation (SMPC), will be responsible for:

Establishing a partnership committee in St. Maarten (e.g. St. Maarten Partnership Promotional Committee/SMPPC) that will be specifically assigned to develop a program for enhancing St. Maarten's business and cultural relationship with Tallahassee.

Keeping Tallahassee counterparts informed about the relevant activities and events taking place in St.Maarten and the investment opportunities St. Maarten has to offer.

Sharing the culture and heritage that is unique to St. Maarten through video, art exchanges, festivals, and parade activities.

Establishing, to the best of its ability, a youth and work exchange program, cross-cultural events and additional programs that will enhance the relationship with Tallahassee.

Hosting visitors from Tallahassee, scheduling activities and serving as liaisons between potential business connections.

Promoting tourism to Tallahassee.

The City of Tallahassee, together with the Caribbean Carnival International, Inc. (CCI), will be responsible for:

Establishing a partnership committee in Tallahassee (e.g. Tallahassee Partnership Promotional Committee/TPPC) that will be specifically assigned to develop a program for enhancing Tallahassee's business and cultural relationship with St. Maarten.

Keeping St. Maarten counterparts informed about the relevant activities and events taking place in Tallahassee and the investment opportunities that Tallahassee has to offer.

Sharing the culture and heritage that is unique to Tallahassee through video, art exchanges, festivals, and parade activities.

Establishing, to the best of its ability, a youth and work exchange program, cross-cultural events and additional programs that will enhance the relationship with St. Maarten.

Hosting visitors from St. Maarten, scheduling activities and serving as liaisons between potential business connections.

Promoting tourism to St. Maarten.

Signed in duplicate, in the English language, this 23rd day of September, 1999.

The Honorable Theodore Heyliger
Commissioner of Tourism, on behalf
of the Executive Council

Arthur J.R. Lugisse
Vice President
St. Maarten Promotional Committee Foundation

Scott Maddox
The Honorable Scott Maddox
Mayor, City of Tallahassee
September 22, 1999
City Commission Approval Date

Maria Henry
Maria Henry, President
Caribbean Carnival International Inc./
St. Maarten Sister City Committee
Foundation