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## *Congratulations to the New Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba*

Toronto – The new National Archaeological Museum Aruba, with a collection spanning over four thousand years of history, was opened on July 26 by Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and husband Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven. Lord Cultural Resources, who worked intensively with the Museum in the planning, design and installation of the 10,000 sq ft permanent exhibition, was on-hand to share in the celebrations.

The National Archaeological Museum Aruba is dedicated to researching, preserving, interpreting and raising awareness of the material history of Aruba from prehistoric times to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Their collection spans over four thousand years of island history and documents the lives of Pre-Ceramic, Ceramic and Historical peoples. Each of these groups has left their mark on the landscape, architecture and population of the island. Their presence can still be felt in the customs, language and lifestyle of Arubans today.

“It was a pleasure to work with such passionate and committed staff, led by Project Director Arminda Franken-Ruiz, to make sure that this museum tells a local story that school children and residents can be proud of, and that also resonates amongst international tourists”, says Senior Vice-President Maria Piacente, who, with Creative Art Director Yvonne Tang, led the Lord Cultural Resources team.



HRH Dutch Princess Margriet tours the museum on opening night.

The Museum's first visitors enjoy the exhibits.

As part of the opening events, over 40 people attended a workshop by Lord Cultural Resources and fabrication partner Xibitz, which gave tips on how to ensure the Museum's story comes across powerfully to all visitors. It also spoke about the importance of content development, effective contract negotiation, and the latest trends in education and responsible design.

The National Archaeological Museum Aruba came about as a result of a twenty-year effort, which included an international bidding process for world-class exhibition planning and design. In 2007, Lord Cultural Resources and Xibitz were awarded a contract to design and build the permanent exhibition.

An article entitled "Finding Your Voice" in *Interpretation Journal* (August 2008) was written by Maria Piacente detailing the development of the interpretive plan for the new Museum. The article and the workshop presentation are accessible on our website at [http://www.lord.ca/Media/AHI\\_Journal\\_V13\\_No3.pdf](http://www.lord.ca/Media/AHI_Journal_V13_No3.pdf) and [http://www.lord.ca/Media/Enriching\\_the\\_Experience-NAMA-28July09.pdf](http://www.lord.ca/Media/Enriching_the_Experience-NAMA-28July09.pdf).

**Lord Cultural Resources, founded in 1981, is the world's largest global professional practice dedicated to creating cultural capital worldwide having conducted over 1,700 cultural projects in 45 countries on 6 continents. We collaborate with people and organizations to plan and manage cultural places, programs and resources that deliver excellence in the service of society.**

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*For more information on Lord Cultural Resources, please visit our website at [www.lord.ca](http://www.lord.ca).*