

Haiti Project Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



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The Haiti Project @ Vassar College

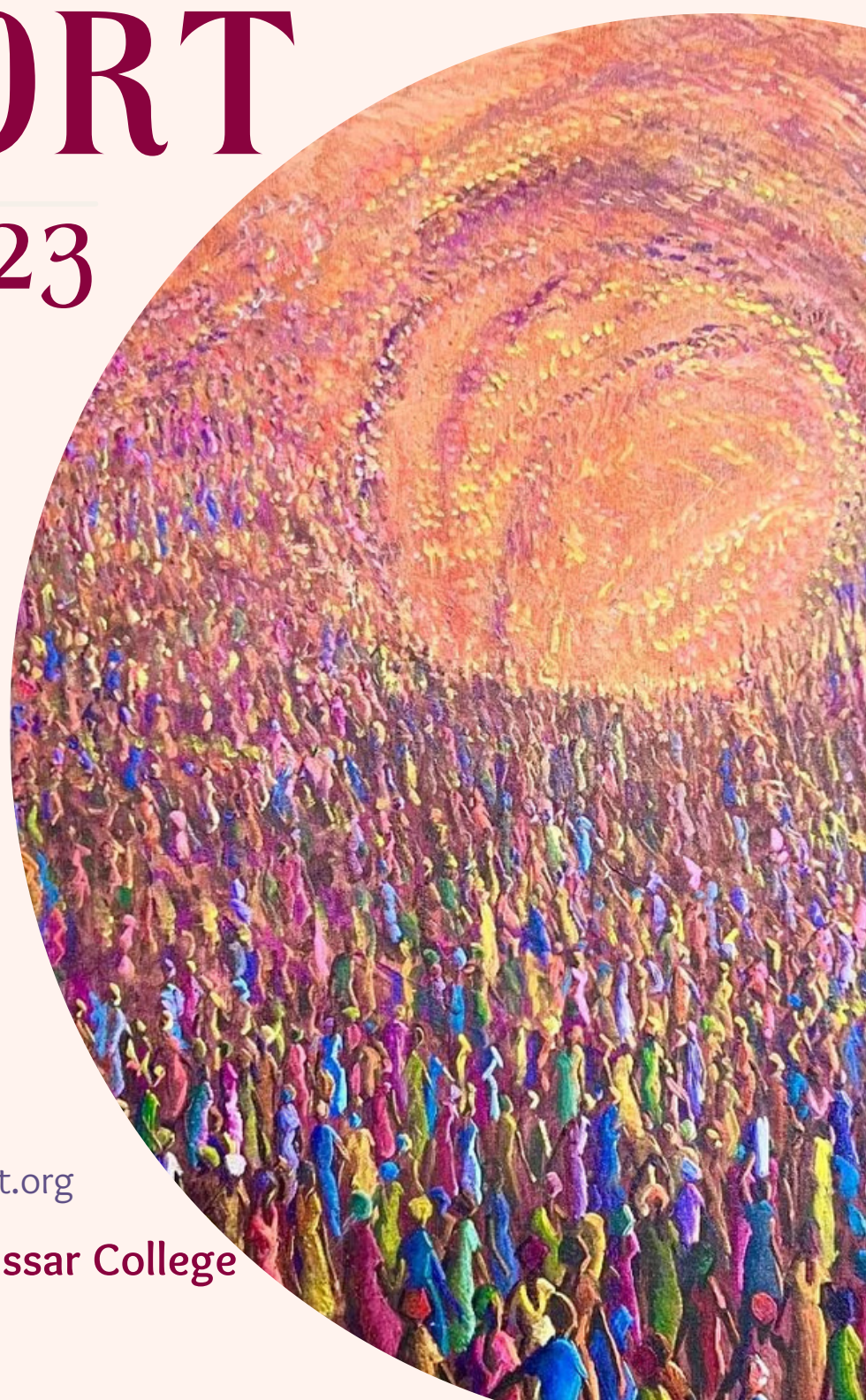




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Reflections from the Co-founders

We hope that you will enjoy reading this annual report. Our team created so much this past year despite the extremely difficult circumstances in Haiti. The chaos borne of covid quarantines gave life to new opportunities for us to relate and grow as a group. While the reality of not being able to go to Haiti endures as a harsh reality, we will continue to work diligently with the Board and student leadership to hone our work and create new ideas to further improve conditions for the people in the region we support.

We are eternal optimists but also pragmatic idealists. We believe that there are many roads to get us where we need to go. Sometimes the roads are not as straight as we'd like them to be, filled with many detours along the way. As we continually right our course, we are buoyed by the imagination, energy and ingenuity of the students who help us to negotiate all those detours! We laugh and cry as we make a difference for those Haitian people that we know from our 18 prior trips to Haiti, to whom we have a lasting commitment. Enjoy the road with us. And thank you for making the journey possible. We couldn't make the differences we are making without your support.

- Lila and Andrew Meade
Co-founders

Reflections from the Board of Directors

Since becoming a volunteer for the Vassar Haiti Project 10 years ago, most of my participation has been focused on building the board, board participation, and facilitating leadership development for the students. Over the years I have participated in five or six trips to Haiti, each one exciting, tough, and incredibly moving.

To say it simply, what keeps me participating is that working with the students brings me joy! Their energy, commitment, and hunger for learning energizes me and gives me hope for our planet. Though many of our students are international, I am always struck by their transformation to truly global citizens during their work and time with the Vassar Haiti Project.

After so many years volunteering and being on the Board, I love to meet with the alumni/ae of the program and see what incredible adults they have become. They carry the values learned in VHP and express these in their work in the world."

For example, two of our alums, Eilif Ronning '20 and Sonia Gollerkeri '21 recently facilitated a futuring process with our board of directors that produced incredible ideas and strategies for our future. Eilif is now a consultant working to develop sustainable food systems around the world and Sonia, after working as an executive assistant with VHP has just started medical school! (*see their reflections on page 9*)

It is impossible not to be moved by these students and the work we do in Haiti despite the devastating conditions that exist there currently. We continue to raise money and support the communities despite our inability to be there. It is my privilege and delight to participate with the Vassar Haiti Project.

- Jackie Eiting
Board of Directors

Reflections from the Student Presidents

What a ride it has been! This year has been absolutely PACKED, and so exciting from three off campus sales in Martha's Vineyard, Washington D.C and Greenwich, CT, to having our first in person Art & Soul Gala in four years. It has truly been a year of growth, personal development, and remarkable achievements.

As seniors, we cherish all the wonderful memories we have made at VHP. It has been a transformative experience, shaping us into the leaders we are today. We have learned valuable lessons in decision making, teamwork and community building. If you told our freshman year selves that we would be leading meetings, organizing art sales, and maintaining the VHP spirit like our fearless predecessors, we would not have believed you; or worse, we would have ran for the hills! But we are so happy we stuck around to embrace these opportunities for growth and push ourselves beyond our comfort zones, in a safe space like VHP.



We are immensely grateful to the entire VHP community. It is because of our community's collective effort and enthusiasm that we have been able to continue our work and achieve such remarkable milestones, like the solar panel lab at the clinic and breakfast and lunch programs at the primary school. We also can't help but feel proud of all the current and incoming student leaders who will continue the incredible work that VHP does. We are honored to have been part of this incredible journey and look forward to not only witnessing but being a part of VHP's future and continued impact.

As we bid farewell to Vassar, we hold onto the saying, "Once a VHP'er, always a VHP'er." Our time as VHP presidents may be ending, but our connection and dedication to the organization will remain forever.

-Laury Senecal '23 and Srashta Maharjan '23
VHP Co-Presidents



About Us

Mission Statement

Founded in 2001, the Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) is a student-centered collaborative with a three-fold purpose:

1. To engage and educate students in the theory and practice of global citizenship
2. To promote Haitian art and raise the nation's narrative through art
3. To foster sustainable development in Haiti

Our Beginnings

The Vassar Haiti Project was started after the devastating effects that 9/11 had on our world, when Andrew and Lila Meade decided it was time to stop talking about making a difference and get into action. They both had family roots in Haiti and decided that supporting education would be a great first step. Under the auspices of the Office of the Dean of the College, the Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) was initially focused on selling art to support a school in the rural village of Chermaitre, Haiti.. With the encouragement and energy of students, faculty, administrators, alumni and members of the community, VHP gradually evolved into two entities: a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the Vassar Students Association organization. We work closely to create programs and initiatives in Haiti.

École St. Paul de Chermaitre - Where it all Started...



2001



Today



Who We Are

Student Executive Board

Arlene Chen '25
Isabel Crawford '25
Eriola Hajro '24
Breille Irahoza '24

Amina Islam '23
Wyejee (Sara) Jung '23
Kate (Yichen) Li '24
Srashta Maharjan '23
Sudiksha Miglani '25

Jessica Porras '24
Hailey Rahimi '25
Sam Rahimi '25
Xinping Ran '23

Danielle Recco '24
Laury Senecal '23
Anusha Subedi '25
Yuhui (Aria) Wang '25
Summer Wu '25

Board of Directors

Christopher Bjork, PhD
Jackie Eiting
Caryn Halle
Daniel Katz, MD
Andrew Meade, PhD

Lila Meade
Sahara Pradhan '15
David Schwartz
Candice Lowe Swift
Jerry Duplessis Wonda

Medical Advisory Board

Nancy Belok
David Cho, MD
Diane Cicatello, MD
Ingrid Dodard, MD
Kim Heller, MD
Dan Katz, MD

Sarah Levin, MD
Andrew Meade, PhD
Lila Meade
Adam Rubinstein, MD
Sunhee Woo, MD

Partners in Haiti



Père André Wildaine
Partner on the ground in Haiti



Gueslin Joassainvil, MD
Consultant Physician for the clinic in Fiervil



Père Jean Jonas Laborde
Partner on the ground in Haiti



Bertrand Norvilus, MD
Physician in charge of the clinic in Fiervil



Clairvoix Adelphin
Primary School Principal



Marie Vierge
Midwife in the region



Benoit Profelus
Artist & Founder/Director of Galerie Benoit, Gros Morne



Amoly Joseph
Nurse at the clinic in Fiervil

Understanding How the Haiti Project Works

HAITIAN ART

The purchase of original artwork from Haiti supports the livelihood of hundreds of Haitian artists. The art is a rich, dynamic medium that showcases a different, beautiful side of Haiti that is neglected in mainstream media. Our art sales in turn fund not only the artists but also sustainable development initiatives in over 45 villages in Haiti.

ART SALES

Art sales in turn provide a source of revenue which funds sustainable development initiatives in over 45 mountain communities in Haiti. For every painting we sell, we in turn buy another piece from Haiti. Art Sales provide a space to showcase a different, beautiful, side of Haiti that is neglected in mainstream media.

INITIATIVES IN HAITI

For 21 years, we have partnered with the people of Haiti to support ongoing programs that include primary, secondary, and adult Education, as well as Healthcare, Reforestation, Water Purification, and a Women's Cooperative. These initiatives help to set up structures that will live for generations in the communities of northwest Haiti.

MENTOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP

VHP activities create a rich laboratory, providing Vassar students with a transformative experiential education in global citizenship. Students work closely with the co-founders, key members of the Poughkeepsie community, and partners in Haiti to prioritize organizational goals and plan events.



What We Want You to Know

Sustainability and Partnership

An ethos that has been central to our work from the very beginning is partnership, which in practice means to have our on-the-ground initiatives in Haiti be driven organically by our Haitian partners' priorities. Ongoing discussions with the people in Haiti with whom we work guide the foundation and direction of all funded efforts. This is especially important in Haiti, where good but unvetted ideas of many a U.S. - based organization have led to so many unfinished or irrelevant projects. Until recently, we would regularly hold these discussions during our twice annual trips, and follow up via email. Since the ongoing period of unrest, emerging technology has allowed us to maintain frequent communications via Zoom calls. In all cases, the goal is always to make sure we are meeting the needs as dictated by our Haitian partners.

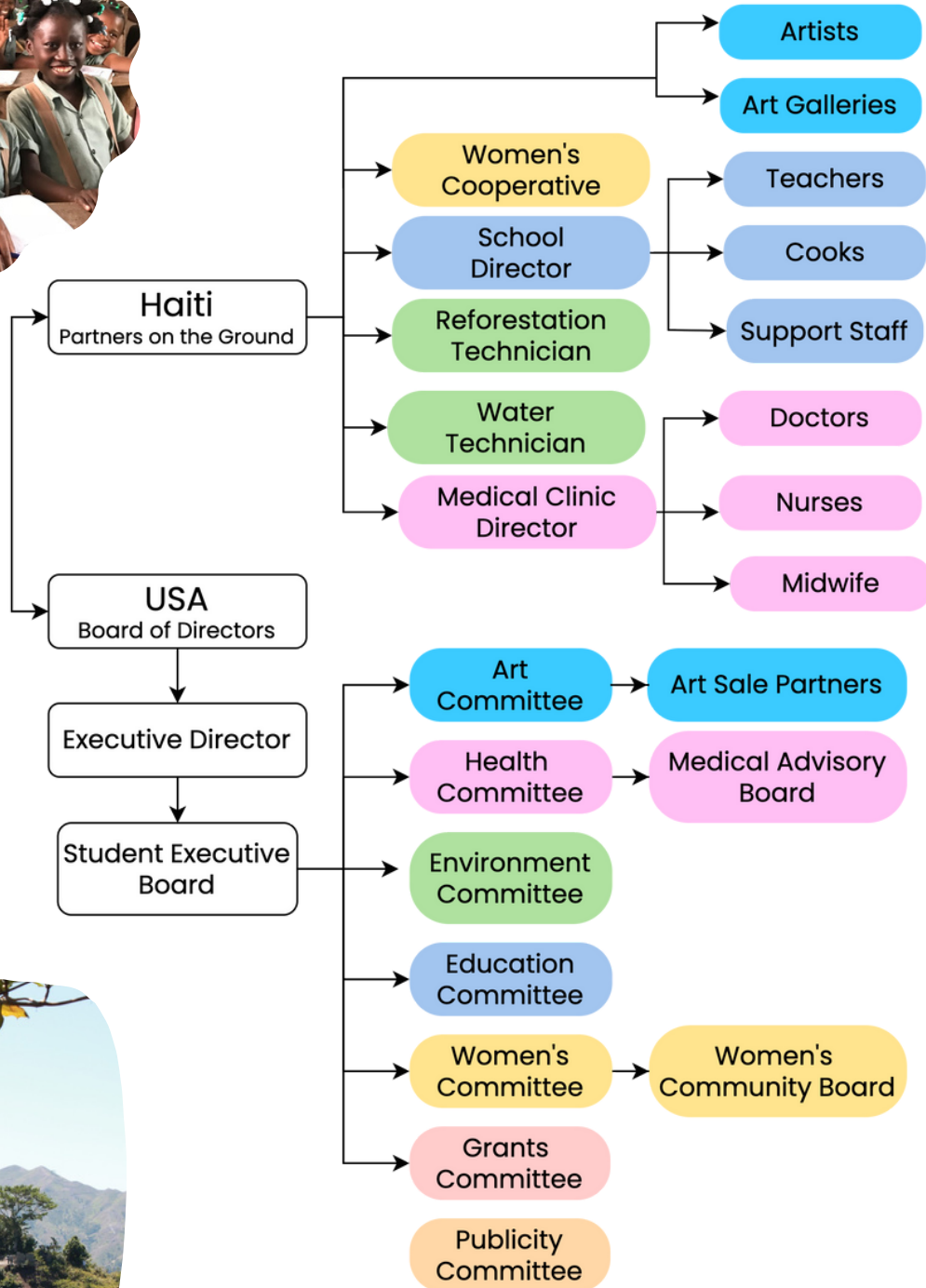
Reflected in our mission is the core value of sustainability. Our efforts are not simply to fund projects, but to work with our partners in search of longer-term solutions. As an example, the chicken program will reduce the cost of school breakfasts by providing an ongoing supply of eggs. Our community based reforestation program seeks to sustainably build environmental and food security alike. In particular, the planting of many thousands of coffee plants will provide the local women's cooperative with the beans to rebuild what was once a thriving coffee business. And the capacity building construction at the medical clinic includes the installation of solar panels to provide electricity ensuring that better health diagnoses can support our physician at the clinic. He is affiliated with the largest nearby hospital so that our most ill patients can be referred to the hospital with his input.

Be assured that every project that you help fund reflects our commitment to partnership and sustainability.

- Andrew Meade, Ph.D.
Board of Directors



Our Organizational Flow Chart



Update on Haiti

Since 2019, Haiti has experienced considerable socio-political stress. Gangs are running most of the country, using kidnapping as their primary means of financial gain and preventing travel on most major roads. As a result, access to essentials such as food and fuel has been curtailed.

Yet, the proud people of the world's first Black republic are tackling this difficult mix of natural and manmade disasters with incredible resilience and resourcefulness. The magic of Haiti and the Haitian people—that same magic you feel in the art—persists, speaking to the resilience, power, dignity, and joy that is in every Haitian. And despite the uncertainty, chaos, and violence of this moment, our partners in Haiti are moving courageously and steadfastly forward. They are truly unstoppable.

The artisans and artists continue to ply their beautiful craft, and the galleries and shops continue to get their beautiful products to us so we can continue to support them and their families.

While we sadly have not been able to go to Haiti since 2019, our work there and here progresses. The life-giving, capacity-building work at our clinic continues. The construction of the first art school in Gros Morne continues. Education programs continue, nourishing the minds and bodies of the people in the community.

The Haitian people's resilience continues to amaze and inspire us. As we like to say, “anything is possible!”



Uncertain Futures, Exciting Possibilities

Reflections from the Alumni Board

It is one feat to develop an organization into an impactful and reputable change-maker—and another to ensure it continues to thrive. For 22 years, the Haiti Project has accomplished both. We have grown and delivered on our mission each and every year. Our increasingly volatile world prompted the Alumnae/i Board to initiate a process to reflect on the organization's direction. We began working more closely with the Executive Board to ensure the longevity of the Project and its impacts.

With the guidance of Sahara Pradhan '15, we designed and facilitated an in-person workshop this spring with the Board to discuss organizational resiliency. We considered how the Haiti Project can continue to fulfill commitments to our partners in Haiti in the context of intersecting shocks and stressors. How might the Haiti Project exist in a future impacted by political instability? Climate shocks? A changing donor landscape? We prompted Board Members to use these uncertainties to imagine multiple potential 'futures' for the Project. With narratives of these 'futures' we will begin to take steps to ensure the Project is ready and able to meet future challenges.

We feel immensely privileged to continue to collaborate with the Haiti Project and leverage skills from our emerging career back to the organization that launched them. It was surreal to stand in front of the Board and facilitate this kind of discussion. This is a testament to the Project's impact on us and countless others—developing and empowering passionate, capable leaders.

- Eilif Ronning '20 & Sonia Gollerkeri '21

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: PAARUL SINHA, MD

As a college student, it was truly amazing to develop my passion for medicine while interacting with so many doctors who are established in their careers and yet who carve out time to promote health equity and mentor. I became involved with our health initiative and was chosen to support the team on logistics for our annual fundraiser, Art & Soul. I not only worked on the guest lists and the endless “to do” and was so happy to connect the names of our guests by meeting and speaking to them about my experiences at the clinic.

I also remember sitting in a meeting with Dr. David Cho (Medical Advisory Board chair) discussing medications that needed to be stocked at our clinic for a year. This experience was key for me landing a job right out of college as an assistant to a Medical Director of a primary care clinic. Additionally, going to Haiti twice during my college career opened my eyes to the cultural barriers that need to be overcome in global health initiatives, and being able to verbalize this has put me at a huge advantage while applying to medical school and residency.



Paarul Sinha '17
Past VHP President
Family Medicine Resident



VHP is impactful in allowing students to develop passions, mentoring us to be able to pursue them, and training us with skills to allow us to thrive in our careers - and most importantly, to take on leadership roles! The fact that we are celebrating Haitian art and a year of healthcare in Haiti all with students at the forefront - is incredible. I am certainly one of hundreds of students who could tell you the specific ways in which VHP has set us up to dream big and achieve once we leave Vassar.

More than any tactical skill, it is the mindset VHP instills in us - one where we can think beyond the obstacles our thoughts create and believe that anything is possible - that really sets us up to succeed.

Ti pa, ti pa wazo fe niche li



Little by little, the bird builds its nest

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Student Leadership Retreats

Fall '22 & Spring '23



A common slogan in VHP is, “Anything is possible!” It rings true in VHP thanks to the greatest students who give their ideas, energy, and passion towards learning how to make a difference in Haiti. In the year I have been involved with VHP, I have gained a lot of valuable knowledge about leadership and organization, particularly through the VHP Leadership Retreat, which has played a key role in helping me work on my personal development and leadership skills. Leadership retreats happen twice a year at the beginning of every semester.

They are each codesigned by the student presidents and facilitated by members of our Board of Directors. These retreats offer us, the student leaders, a chance to reflect on our work in Haiti, our priorities as an organization as well as our personal goals. The leadership retreats teach us how to think like a leader, how to adopt a mindset like one, and how to reroute our self-doubt and other negative thought patterns. I took away a lot of lessons and have applied them to my day-to-day life, classes, job roles, and interviews. I have truly noticed a change in myself—a positive change—in my mindset, confidence, approach, and decisiveness.

-Walter Mwaniki '22 & Isabella Sagman '26

Virtual Trip to Haiti

Every time I have been in the presence of our Vassar Haiti Project alumni, I have been moved by their inspirational, lively and nurturing spirits. The time when they brought Haiti to us during the Virtual Trip to Haiti was one of the remarkable student-alumni experiences till date. All thanks to Paarul Sinha '17, Abby Tripler '15, Annika Rowland '20 and Sonia Gollerkeri '21.



By taking us through the bumpy roads of Haiti, colorful art markets and an exciting hike up the mountains in Chermaitre, our alumni let us into their hearts and souls to demonstrate the impact Haiti has had on them both personally and professionally. Their stories touched us and reconnected us with our sense of purpose in VHP. We could see before our eyes how impactful the VHP experience can be for life after Vassar. Paarul shared with us the life-changing moments from her trip to Haiti where she had come face-to-face with the inequalities of access to healthcare. She expressed that during the difficult times of her medical career, VHP has been her “why” for pushing through. At the end of the session, everyone followed up with questions and deep reflections, powerfully engaging in this intimate space. Since we have not been able to travel to Haiti for a long time, this honest and heartfelt presentation brought us a little closer to the place and its people, and boosted our drive to continue contributing to making a difference in the lives of the Haitian people.

-Amina Islam '23

HAITI IN THE VASSAR CURRICULUM

The Magic of Haitian Kreyol

I have had the privilege of contributing to the VC curriculum as the Haitian Kreyol tutor, sharing the magic of this special language with students who have an interest in Haiti. Some want to learn it because of their involvement with the Vassar Haiti Project, and others because they want to connect with their heritage as Haitian Americans. I grew up in Haiti and Kreyol is my native language.

To truly appreciate a culture, it is not enough to learn the history, taste the food, listen to the music, and appreciate the artistic creation of its people. Learning to speak the language allows you get deep into the heart and soul, that is the magic of the culture.

Kreyol is phonetic and has its unique characteristic. Born as a result of the interaction between slaves originating from diverse African tribes and French owners, it has evolved to become the identity of the first black led republic and the first colony to declare its independence from French control and slavery in 1804. The richness of Kreyol is found in its storytelling and proverbs. Today, Haiti is struggling more than ever before. Yet, as any Haitian would tell you: "Tout otan ou gen tèt, ou ka mete chapo." (Literally, as long as you have a head you can wear a hat. Meaning, "As long as you are alive, you can accomplish anything." That is the Kreyol magic.

- Sabrina Marzouka

Words in KREYOL

we love you...nou renmen ou

thank you...mèsi

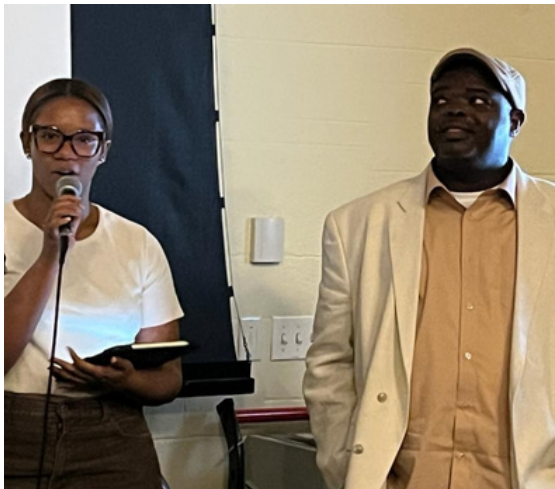
please...tanpri

welcome...byenveni

hello...bonjou



Jacquil Constant - Film: Haiti is a Nation of Artists



What a joy it was to have the renowned Haitian-American independent filmmaker, Jacquil Constant, present his film, "Haiti is a Nation of Artists" to us at Vassar! The anticipation in Blodgett auditorium was palpable as VHPers, community members and Vassar students gathered to experience Constant's well crafted exploration of the resilience of Haitian artists following the devastating 2010 earthquake. Before we are launched into this world, however, Constant revealed to the audience that it took over ten years to create this labor of love, unveiling the dedication and passion poured into every frame. The film beautifully captured not only the spirit of Haiti and its rich cultural heritage, but also the challenges that many Haitian artists have faced, particularly after the 2010 earthquake.

The sense of community that many of the artists tried to build in their neighborhoods, despite economic and political hardships, is a true tell of the power of art to heal and unite. The film left a lasting impression on all of us present that evening, sparking conversations and fostering a deeper appreciation for the transformative impact of art in even the most challenging of circumstances. As questions filled the room, an underlying message emerged: "What can we do?" or "What comes next?". It was truly heartwarming to witness the collective motivation to support and empower Haitian artists, ignited by the profound impact of the film. This beautiful moment inspired conversations about what we can do next to ensure that their talent and resilience continue to shine brightly.

- Laury Senecal, '23

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Breakfast Program



Many children in the NW mountains of Haiti walk hours to get to the school in Chermaitre. Because of limited access to food, this long morning walk takes place on an empty stomach. By the time the children reach school, they are very hungry, making it hard for them to focus on their studies. Julia Humiston's generous funding of VHP's Breakfast Program, as well as our passion and persistence, has made VHP's Breakfast Program become a reality and now a tradition! The children now arrive at school with a fresh plate of breakfast in the morning, hunger pains and anxieties mitigated.

The Breakfast Program serves nearly 250 students, supplementing VHP's existing lunch program. The menu includes bread, bananas, eggs, juice, fruits, and coffee.

-Hailey Rahimi '25

Adult Education

With the help of our Haitian partners on the ground, the Adult Education program has provided the men and women of Chermaitre to learn the skills they need to advance personally and academically. Some of the program's offerings include co-op management and leadership in addition to literacy skills such as reading, writing, and math. A recent highlight has been bringing the women's cooperative back together after being disbanded for almost a year. With additional fundraising efforts and initiatives, the Adult Education program will be able to be sustained and continue to enrich Haitian men and women in the village of Chermaitre.



Our next goal will be to disperse small micro-financing loans to the women. This is their ask to us and our next campaign will be assisting them financially with small amounts of money so that they can then use that money to create small businesses. We're looking for a donor who can help us start a program for \$5,000 with a small group of women who will be part of our test pilot program.

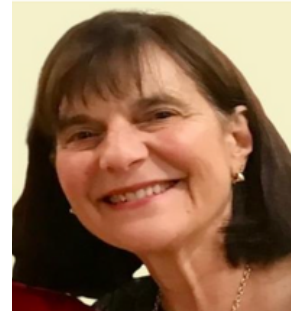
- Sara Neequaye '26

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE

Art & Soul: Honorees

This year's Art & Soul Gala honored two special individuals who help advocate for and bring accessible healthcare to the people of Haiti. The 2023 honorees are Nancy Belok and Gueslin Joassainvil, MD. Thanks to them, the clinic is currently undergoing construction of a solar-powered laboratory and serving 3000+ residents of the 45 villages in the mountains of northwest Haiti.

Poughkeepsie Nancy Belok is a founding member of the Vassar Haiti Project's Medical Advisory Board. In 2012, she invited prominent local physicians to form our Advisory Board, connecting us at the start with its first chair, Danny Z. Aronzon, MD, and also Dan Katz, MD, both of whom guided the functions of the clinic and annual fundraising efforts. Through her vast network, Ms. Belok has been a champion for the Vassar Haiti Project, offering guidance and ideas to enhance the capacity of our work in Haiti.



Dr. Gueslin Joassainvil, former director and physician of the Fiervil clinic, launched its opening in 2014, bringing professional medical standards and promoting healthcare education. During his tenure as director (2014-2022), Dr. Joassainvil would take the bus from Port au Prince to Gonaives, two motorcycles from Gonaives to Fiervil, and cross the river, often by foot, to arrive at the clinic perhaps seven hours later. He considered this sacrifice necessary as he wanted to contribute to the goal of saving lives in the villages that previously lacked healthcare. He is a source of inspiration and motivation for our VHP students who had the opportunity of collaborating with him on the development of the clinic.

-Jessica Porras '24

Girls' Health

The Vassar Haiti Project's Health Committee has been working on girl's health education ever since VHP students noticed negative views of menstrual health during a trip to Haiti many years ago. Since that time, we have researched pedagogical methods of teaching menstrual and female health and collaborated with alums and physicians from our Medical Advisory Board, both here and in Chermaitre, to find the best ways to educate and empower young women about their bodies.

Two outcomes of these efforts are a brochure and a booklet that present information about menstrual health in a positive and supportive light. We are in the final stages of preparation to send these resources to Chermaitre, where they will become part of the curriculum for a menstrual health class for the girls and young women of the area. This class is the culmination of years of student and community effort and will be the first step towards our goal to address the larger health and social issues that the girls and women of northwestern Haiti face.



- Isabel Crawford '25

SUPPORTING HAITIAN ART

Families' Weekend Sale at Vassar

The Families Weekend Art Sale is a vibrant celebration of Haitian art that unites Vassar students and alumnae/i with community volunteers and attendees from Poughkeepsie and beyond. I have been actively involved in this annual sale since my first year, and each year has offered me a completely new and enriching experience. As president this year, I not only focused on ensuring the sale ran smoothly and successfully, but also on fostering a welcoming environment for new volunteers while always looking for ways to improve.



It is not just a sale of Haitian art; it is a celebration of Haitian culture and community. It is also a chance to support the work of Haitian artists and help promote a positive narrative of Haitian culture. Furthermore, the proceeds from the sale contribute to funding the primary school (for over 20 years) in Chermaitre, making a tangible impact on the education and well-being of that community.

This year's art sale was particularly special because of the presence of Pere Andre Wildane, one of our esteemed partners in Haiti. Pere Wildane tirelessly conducts the groundwork in Haiti, and plays a pivotal role in making all of our work in Haiti possible. While I had previously interacted with him through Zoom, having the opportunity to see him in person was truly extraordinary! It felt like meeting a celebrity, and I cherished every moment of our conversations. It was a humbling experience as he shared insights and anecdotes that provided me with a clear glimpse on the tangible impact our efforts are having on the lives of the Haitian people in Chermaitre. His words served as a powerful reminder of the profound impact our collective efforts have and inspired us to continue making a positive difference.

-Srashta Maharjan '23

Art Sale in Greenwich, CT



We embarked in February on our third off-campus sale of the year at the Second Congregational Church in Greenwich, CT, accompanied by a dedicated group of student volunteers. Among them were enthusiastic freshmen eager to learn the ins and outs of VHP art sales, together with experienced students who had previously honed their skills. It was inspiring to witness the latter assume mentorship roles, guiding and motivating the newcomers as they skillfully managed various responsibilities.

Together, they crafted the perfect display at the handcrafts table, arranged the art displays, efficiently handled cashing duties, and engaged with customers. We transformed the walls into a vibrant space that showcased Haitian art, fostering conversations, deep appreciation, and commitment to VHP's mission.

A big highlight was honoring Sheri Chin and Gordon Ng, parents of VHP alum Alex Ng'19 and longtime supporters of our organization. They had graciously hosted our VHP students during previous Greenwich sales, making the evening even more special. When I say 'hosted' I mean...they put 20 of us students in their homes and fed our souls and bodies. To express our gratitude, we prepared a video featuring words from their friends and family, alongside photos from past art sales and Alex's time in VHP at Vassar.

The sale was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for VHP to share Haitian art with the Greenwich community once again. We were delighted to welcome familiar faces among returning customers, while also forging new connections. The Second Congregational Church also played an integral role in our success, extending unwavering support throughout the event. Their dedication was important in creating an inviting atmosphere and ensuring the smooth execution of the sale.

-Srashta Maharjan '23

SUPPORTING HAITIAN ART

Art Sale in Washington, DC



As soon as our Families Weekend Sale at Vassar ended, we found ourselves amidst the rigorous task of preparing merchandise and detailing the logistics for another art sale. While it seemed daunting, the excitement was very much alive as we were going back to St Mark's Church in Washington D.C. for the first time since the pandemic. Most of the student exec board had never left Vassar for a trip off-campus, so we packed our bags with great anticipation and a tinge of uncertainty. Little did we know that navigating the unknown together would bring us so much closer! We bonded while rushing across train station platforms, sleeping in bunk beds and sightseeing around our new favorite city.

I was in the second team of students who arrived D.C. on the night of our opening day. Our fellow peers welcomed us with so much enthusiasm that it instantly took away our tiredness from the 8-hour long journey. They had transformed the venue with spectacular Haitian art and led a successful opening reception. Inspired by their energy, we gladly took over the logistics for the art sale the next day. A day at an art sale is never predictable, but our strength lies in our ability to dance with everything that comes our way. I proudly watched my peers overcome their nervousness and work harmoniously fulfilling what the moment asked of us—to accomplish something bigger than ourselves. Through our teamwork, shared vision, and commitment to the Haitian people was made easier by sharing the beauty of its art with returning and new customers.

The sale was a great success. We returned to campus with a stronger team spirit and hearts filled with pride. “They said it couldn't be done... but we did it!” - (Lila Meade)

-Amina Islam '23

Galerie Benoit

Watching Benoit grow, not only as a talented young artist but also as an art teacher has been so inspiring. His love and passion for art have bloomed into the dream of having his own art school, studio and gallery where he can teach the local young people how to paint. The dream took off when the mayor of Gros Morne agreed to donate a parcel of land.

We began a fundraising campaign and with the assistance of Patti Kenner and a Rotary District Grant, construction has begun! The school will be named in honor of Lucinda Franks and Robert Morgenthau, who mentored the Vassar Haiti Project over the years, playing a huge role in the growth of our organization.

Benoit emphasizes that the art school will keep young people engaged so that they do not join gangs. His ultimate dream is to make the northwest of Haiti a new hub and center for Haitian art. Our belief in him has only grown over the years, and we are excited to see this dream fulfilled.



-Isabella Sagman '26

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

MONTHLY DONORS

Our monthly donors help sustain our secondary school scholarships Benoit's art gallery and other ongoing projects. Please consider becoming a monthly donor! Any amount makes a huge difference.

Jackie Eiting
Jamie Fleischman
Christine Hauck '80
Susan Joseph
Eugene Lai '05
Carly Ritter '09
Diane and Philip Seeman
Samin Shehab '11
Marie Jose Montanez
Jeanine Morelli, MD and Peter Morelli, MD
Dr. Kay Metres and Dr. Philip Metres
Christ Episcopal Church of Sag Harbor

BREAKFAST PROGRAM SPONSOR

**Julia Humiston, in memory of:
Lt. Michael Henry Hodes**

ART & SOUL SPONSORS

Our Art & Soul Gala annual gala event sustains our medical clinic in Haiti paying physician and clinic salaries along with medications for our 3000+ patients.

Neal Allen + Helen Rubel
Mort Alterman, MD
Nancy and Adam Belok
Carole M Berotte Joseph
Carla M. Burns
Megan and Bruce Chipkin, MD
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Julia Humiston
Daniel and Molly Katz
Eleanor Katz

Nancy K. Kaufman
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Cathy Schwartz
David Schwartz + Susan Levinson
Gilbert and Arlene Seligman
Amy Sherman
Mardoche Sidor, MD
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Susan Wilson
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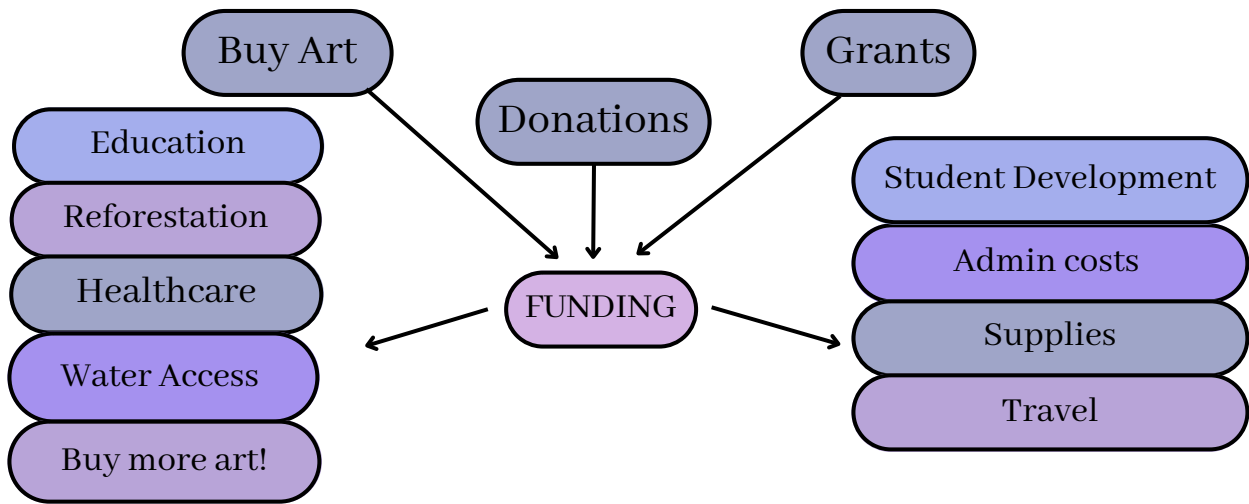
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Priscilla Sevilla '13
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Michelle Spark and Bernard Handzel
Rosalind and Robert Stowe
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Jean Vitalis
Karl Volk
Cora and Peter Weiss
Jane Winchell

Money Flow



Two For One...It's a Wonderful Thing!

The Vassar Haiti Project is somewhat unique in that not only do we raise funds through our generous donor community, but a large portion of our income is raised by supporting the livelihoods of Haitian artists. We sustain the artist community while also supporting our projects in northwestern Haiti. It's two for one!

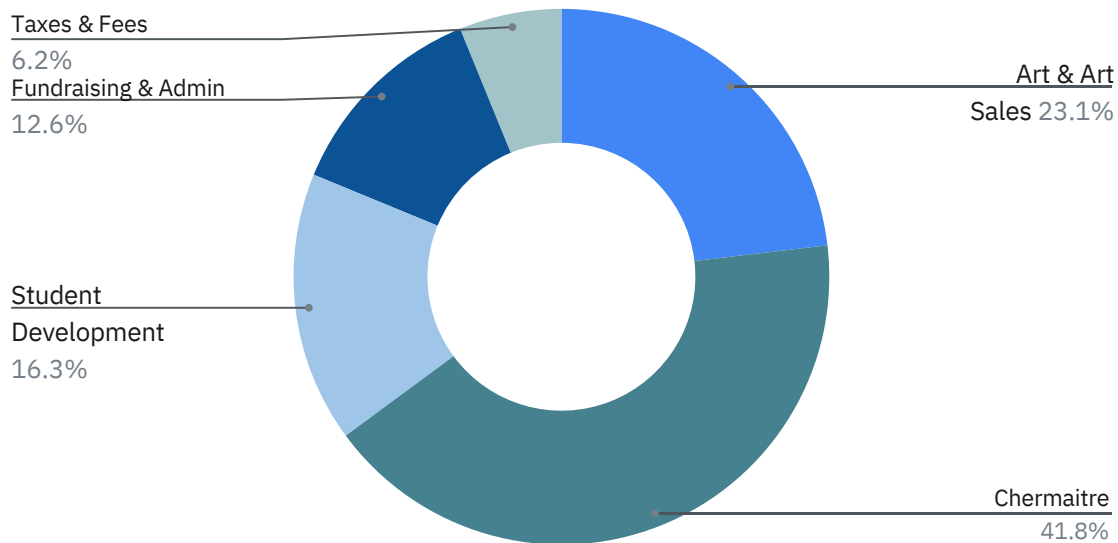
In our 20+ years, we have purchased over 6000 pieces of Haitian art from hundreds of artists and artisans, in addition to the purchase of tens of thousands of handcrafts.

So when you purchase a piece of art, you're not only supporting the communities of northwest Haiti, you are also supporting the artists community throughout Haiti (and their families).

It's a wonderful thing!

- David Schwartz,
Board of Directors

The Haiti Project 2023: Where Your \$\$ Goes



2022 - 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts	\$277,422	\$239,956
Investory	\$69892	\$60,477
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,414	0
Total Assets	\$356,165	\$309,484
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities	\$9,793	-\$9,529
Equity	\$0	\$0
Opening Balance Equity	\$0	\$0
Retained Earnings	\$300,323	\$223,728
Net Income	\$46,049	\$76,595
Total Equity	\$346,372	\$300,323
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$356,165	\$309,846
REVENUE		
Donations	\$94,971	\$170,964
Sale of Art	\$119,607	\$111,787
Grants	\$96,494	\$30,814
Art & Soul	\$42,085	\$34,701
Total Revenue	\$353,157	\$348,266
EXPENSES		
Artwork Purchases	\$71,025	\$59,910
Chermaitre Initiatives	\$128,263	\$112,298
Student Development	\$50,144	\$48,691
Fundraising Expenses	\$17,312	\$14,127
Taxes, Fees and Bank Charges	\$18,973	\$13,273
Administrative	\$21,391	\$23,372
Total Expenses	\$307,108	\$271,671
Net Income (Change in Assets)	\$46,049	\$76,595

Please note: All figures will be confirmed by our tax accountants

NEW PROJECTS THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT

People often ask, "How can I help?" Our work in Haiti has been ongoing with proven results for over 21 years as you can see from all the articles in this report. We assess the needs of the villages and work closely with our partners to determine "What's next".

Here are some programs that you can help support:

Adult Education: Annual Goal: \$7,000

Women and men of the village are excited to learn the basics of reading and mathematics. Continuing this program will help to create a more educated population. Recent graduates have been able to take out loans using their new skills.

Chick Program: Annual Goal: \$5,000

We are offering each child in our primary school a single chick that can be taken home and nurtured. When the chick matures, their laid eggs can be used as a form of nutrition for not only the families in Chermaitre but each child will be able to bring in eggs to help supplement the breakfast program.

Primary School Lunch Program: Annual Goal: \$10,000

This was our very first funding program, and it remains essential to this day. As was true then and still is today, rural mountain families often will not send their children to school unless they will receive food.

Reforestation Program: Annual Goal: \$10,000

It is essential that we continue planting trees in the area, which helps to minimize soil erosion and also to enhance community food security. 40,000 trees have been planted to date.

Women's Program - Microfinancing: Start-up Goal: \$10,000

The women are very excited to start little businesses to help supplement their income by selling food and other necessities.

Questions?
Contact us.

www.thehaitiproject.org
contact.us@thehaitiproject.org
845-797-2123



THE VASSAR
HAITI PROJECT