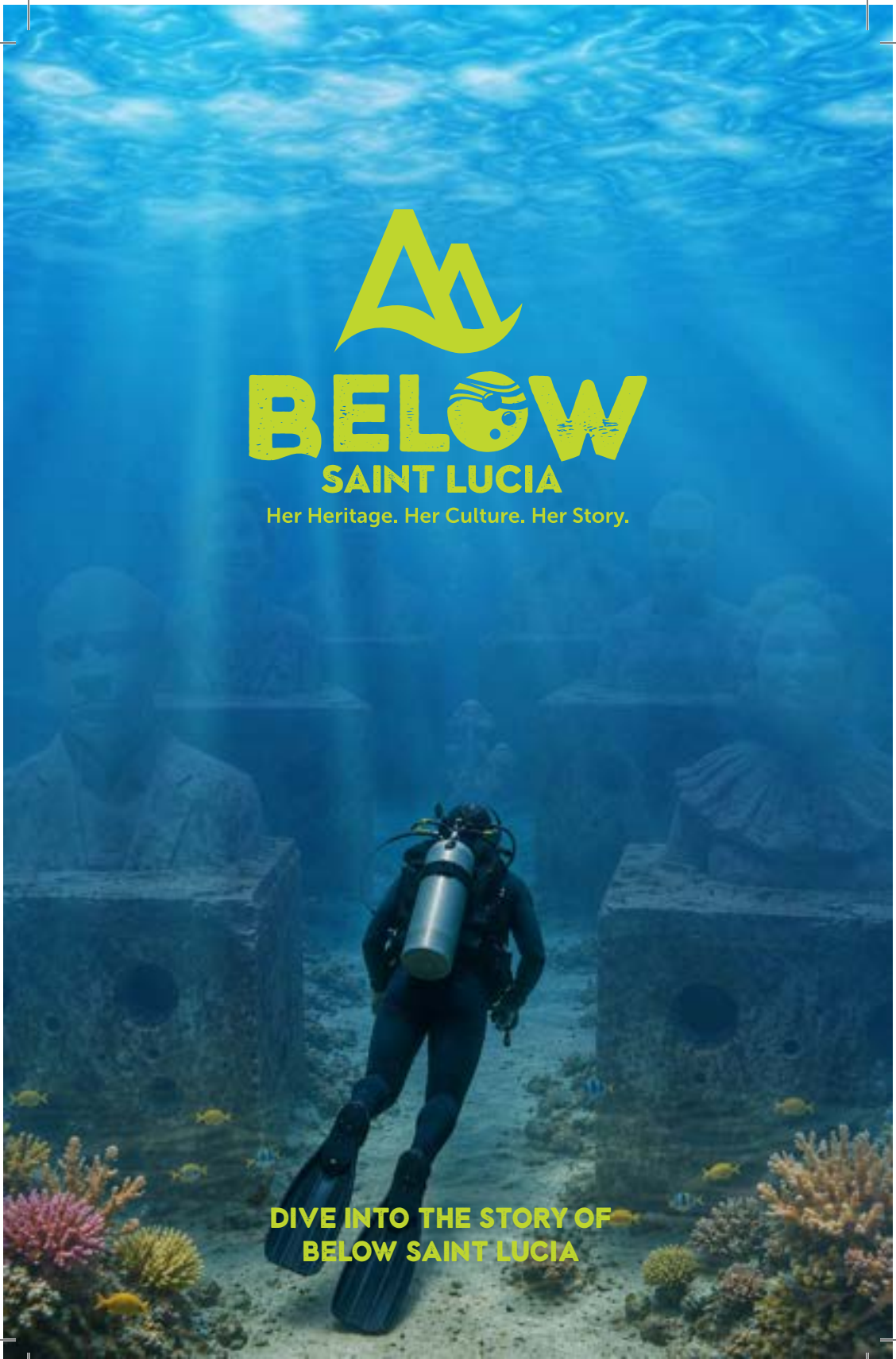
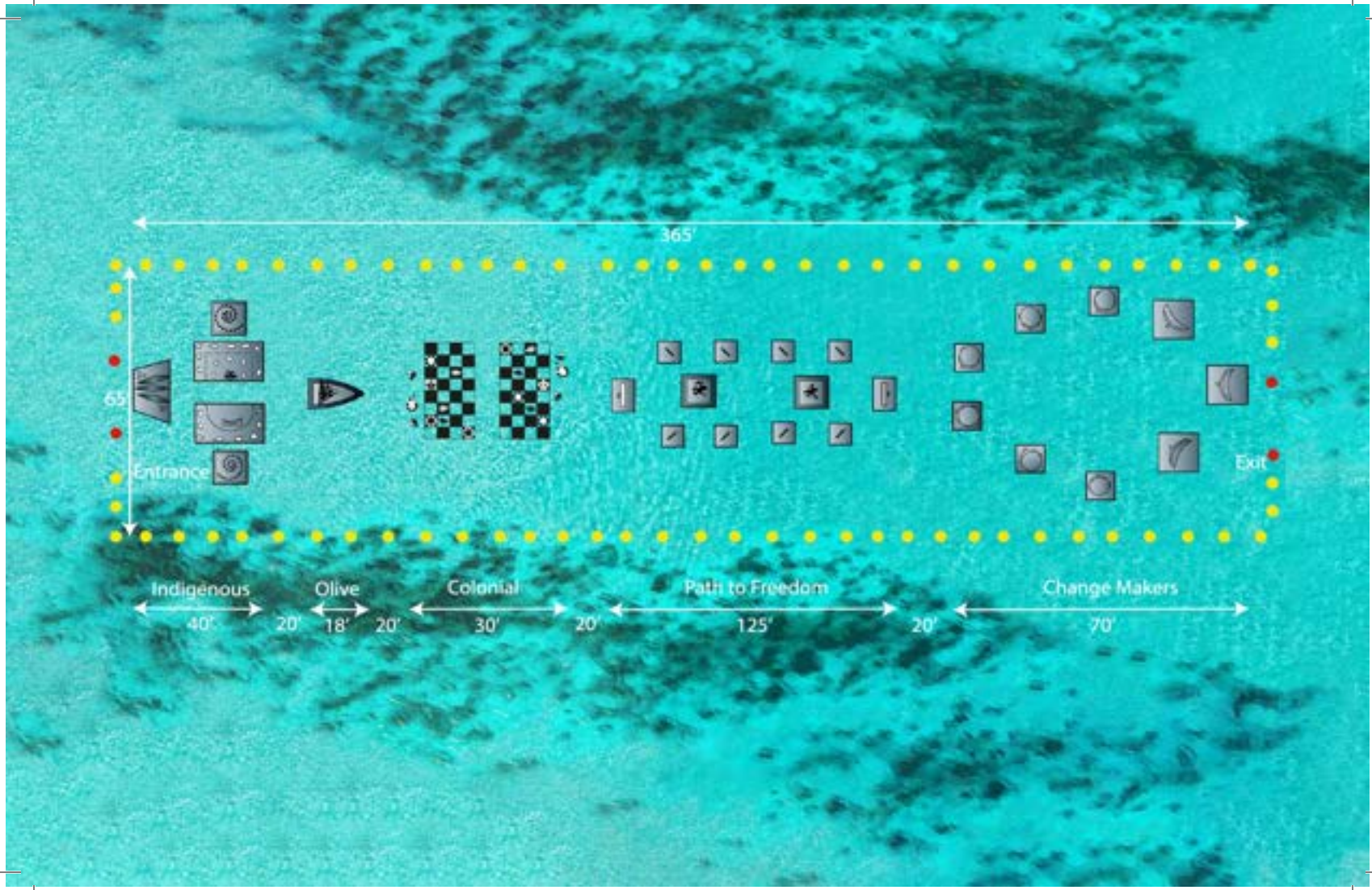

BELOW
SAINT LUCIA
Her Heritage. Her Culture. Her Story.
DIVE INTO THE STORY OF
BELOW SAINT LUCIA


365'
65'
Entrance
Exit
Indigenous
40'
20'
Olive
18'
20'
Colonial
30'
20'
Path to Freedom
125'
20'
Change Makers
70'

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

BELOW
SAINT LUCIA
Her Heritage. Her Culture. Her Story.

The Blue Economy has been identified as a priority for tourism development along the island's west coast. As part of the development of dive tourism, a sculpture park corridor consisting of three (3) parks is being implemented – Dive Park, Snorkel Park and Conservation Park. The Parks will celebrate the nation's history, culture and heritage.

The initiative is intended to stimulate private investment by Saint Lucian nationals in marine-based adventure tourism, enhance the marine environment and reduce pressure on existing dive sites and coral reef systems.

As a first step, the Ministry of Tourism launched a National Storyboard Competition where Saint Lucian artists and community creatives contributed concepts, themes and ideas rooted in the island's story around which the sculptures were developed.

Below Saint Lucia Dive Park is the first park implemented and represents an immersive journey through our history and identity — from our first settlers, through colonial conflict, enslavement and resistance, to the remarkable persons who shaped our country. It transforms important Saint Lucian stories into a sequence of seven (7) underwater galleries that divers can enter, explore and experience.

Today, the sculptures have been fabricated and the story will be told through movement, scale, symbolism and discovery when installed on the seabed.

REMARKS BY
HON. DR. ERNEST HILAIRE

MINISTER FOR TOURISM, COMMERCE, INVESTMENT, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



The significance of this project goes far beyond the creation of another tourism attraction. We are creating a space where Saint Lucians and visitors can encounter our history in a completely new way. Beneath our waters, the story of Saint Lucia will be told, using sculptures, from the arrival of our earliest ancestors, through indigenous settlement, colonial conflict, enslavement and resistance, to emancipation and the emergence of our modern Saint Lucian nation. Although laid as objects on the seabed, the sculptures will become a living archive of our national journey.

For tourism, this project represents the kind of innovation that can distinguish Saint Lucia in an increasingly competitive global market. We have always been blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, but one of our greatest tourism asset is also our story. This park allows us to bring our history and identity into our tourism product in an immersive and memorable way, while creating another reason for visitors to explore our waters. It also demonstrates that tourism development and environmental stewardship do not have to be competing objectives. As the sculptures become part of the marine environment, they can evolve with coral and marine life, allowing the attraction itself to adapt over time.

A major aspect of this project is ownership. We asked Saint Lucians to help tell the story of Saint Lucia, and our artists and community creatives contributed some ideas from which these sculptures were developed. We are therefore not simply presenting Saint Lucia to the world; we are allowing Saint Lucians to define how our history and heritage are presented to the world. My hope is that when people dive into this park, they will not only discover our history, but leave with a deeper appreciation for the resilience of our people, the richness of our culture and the responsibility we all share to protect our heritage for generations to come.

E. Hilaire

GALLERY 1
THE ARRIVAL CANOES



Three sculptured canoes honour the maritime pioneers who journeyed north from South America to establish Saint Lucia's earliest communities. Their courage, navigation skills and knowledge of the sea made the crossing possible, while symbolic staffs represent the mariners, farmers, hunters, gatherers and leaders who shaped early island life.

A tribute to the people who laid the foundations of Saint Lucia's human story

GALLERY 1
THE SALADOID CHIEFTAIN'S HUT



The first settlers arriving around 600AD left their mark and laid the foundation for future civilizations. This dwelling represents the material culture and early period of indigenous settlements. Pottery including cooking vessels and reconstructed objects bring aspects of daily life beneath the sea, reflecting craftsmanship, food preparation, beliefs and community organisation.

In celebration of the Saladoids, join a Chieftain's meeting around the fire

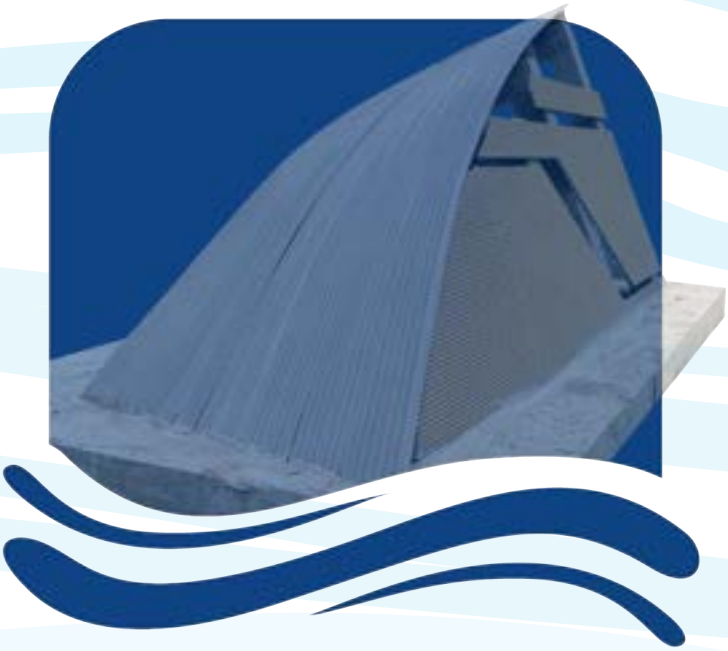
GALLERY 1
THE SUAZOID CHIEFTAIN'S HUT



These settlers (Caribs/Kalinago) represent the period of indigenous settlement starting around 1100AD. This structure explores changing customs, materials and ways of life. Its objects and scenes reveal a community shaped by craftsmanship, shared responsibility and intimate knowledge of nature.

Divers are invited to swing in the world's first underwater hammock as used by the Suazoids to recreate

GALLERY 2
OLIVE BLOSSOM



A fractured vessel recalls the English ship that reached Vieux Fort in 1605 and led to the cultural collision that followed. Its broken hull holds messages of hope for the ocean, while also providing shelter for marine life and surfaces for coral growth.

A wreck becomes a living symbol of remembrance, stewardship and renewal

GALLERY 3
CHESSBOARDS

BRITISH



FRENCH



With over two centuries of rivalry between them. Seven monumental pieces represent British periods of control. Seven French pieces face their British opponents. Together, the two chessboards transform the prolonged British-French struggle for Saint Lucia into an immersive underwater game of strategy.

The boards reveal the calculated rivalry of empires—and the disruption experienced by the island and its people – Seven times British, Seven times French

GALLERY 4
THE GATEWAYS

GATEWAY 1A: THE ENTRANCE THRESHOLD



A dark, narrowing structure evokes confinement and loss of freedom. The bell recalls the sounds used to regulate plantation life.

GATEWAY 1B: INTO THE PASSAGE



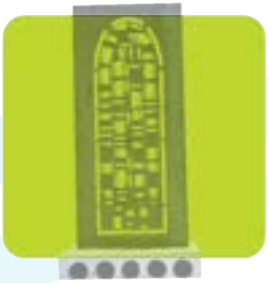
The enclosed passage continues the experience, evoking the loss of choice and control imposed through enslavement.

Together, the gateways create a solemn threshold into the history of oppression

GALLERY 4
THE STORY OF ENSLAVEMENT



ORIGINS
The Igbo, the Mandinka, the Yoruba, Akan – Senegambia, Bight of Benin, the Guinea and Gold costs. Explore the African regions, peoples and cultures from which enslaved Africans were taken, beginning with their identities and societies before captivity.



TRANSPORTATION
Confront the systems of forced Atlantic transportation and the reduction of human lives to cargo.



PLANTATION EXPANSION
Discover how plantation agriculture, slave labour, trade and colonial wealth transformed Saint Lucia from 1763 when the first plantation started.



HARDSHIP & TREATMENT
From the physical and psychological violence, enslavement was intended to control the black body. Encounter the realities of violence, punishment and oppression while recognising the resilience of family, culture and human dignity.

GALLERY 4
RESISTANCE & FREEDOM

UPRISING & RESISTANCE

From everyday defiance to organised armed struggle, discover maroonage and guerrilla warfare that was the Brigand War, Battle of Rabot and other acts of resistance.



ABOLITION

Resistance made the system untenable and unsustainable. Explore economic disruption and the social change that led to sustained pressure that challenged slavery.



EMANCIPATION

They refused to be slaves even while they were enslaved. Understand emancipation as a process shaped by armed resistance, the assertion of personhood and the demand for human dignity.



LEGACY & FREEDOM

Reflect on the generations who built communities, a culture of resilience that laid the foundation for a civilization.



GALLERY 5
EMERGENCE & THE CHANGE MAKERS
FROM FREEDOM TO POSSIBILITY



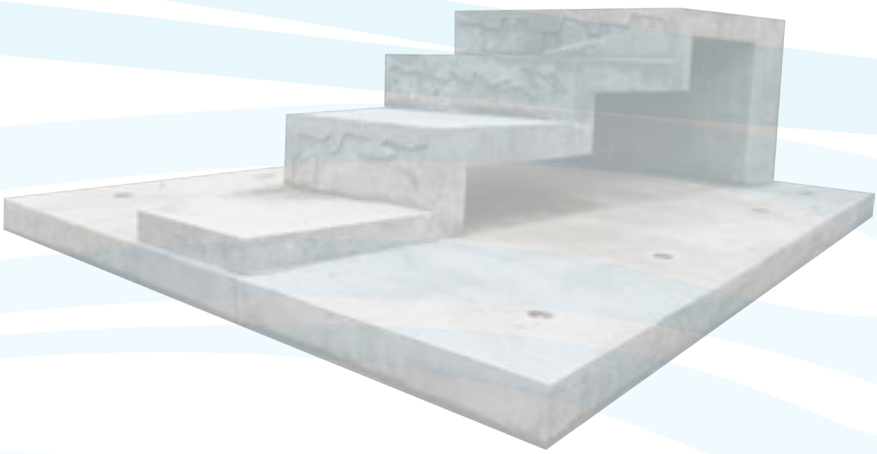
The second gateway reverses the experience
of the Path of Freedom.
The passage opens.
The space expands.
The journey moves from confinement
towards possibility.

A deliberate movement from remembrance towards achievement, responsibility and hope

GALLERY 5
EMERGENCE & THE CHANGE MAKERS
THE TRIUMPHANT STEPS

Ascending steps represent the possibilities that emerged with emancipation.

They lead people upward and forward, recognising the generations who built families, communities, institutions and a modern nation.



BELOW SAINT LUCIA
Her Heritage. Her Culture. Her Story.

GALLERY 5
THE CHANGE MAKERS



FLORE BOIS GAILLARD
Freedom Fighter • Resistance Leader
A courageous leader of the freedom fighters who challenged British rule during the Brigand Wars in the late 1790s. After escaping plantation oppression, Flore joined the Maroons and became part of the Armée Française Dans Les Bois.
Her legacy is one of courage, resistance and the pursuit of freedom



PETRONILLE DWINE
Nèqwès Mawon • Revolutionary
An enslaved woman who defied brutal oppression on the Fond D'Or Plantation. Her resistance to plantation work led to her tragic death and became a catalyst for protest and further acts of defiance.
Her legacy lives on as courage in the face of injustice



MARIE GRACE AUGUSTIN
Pioneer • Educator • Politician
A pioneering Saint Lucian from Mon Repos who broke barriers in business, law and politics and became the first woman appointed to the legislature.
Her legacy opened doors for generations of Saint Lucian women



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS
Economist • Nobel Laureate
A globally influential economist whose work transformed thinking about economic development. He became the first Black Professor at the London School of Economics and won the 1979 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.
His legacy and Intellectual excellence serves as pathways to economic development

GALLERY 5
THE CHANGE MAKERS



SIR DEREK WALCOTT
Poet • Playwright • Nobel Laureate
A literary giant whose mastery of the English language and its use to explore Caribbean identity, colonialism, belonging and history, earned him the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature.
His legacy continues to give the Caribbean a powerful voice on the world stage



DAME PEARLETTE LOUISY
Educator • Scholar • First Female Governor-General
Saint Lucia's first female Governor-General. Dame Pearlette Louisy broke barriers in national leadership while championing education, culture, Kwéyòl Language and the performing arts.
Her Legacy, intellectual excellence, public service and leadership contributed to women's empowerment



HAROLD "HARRY" SIMMONS
Artist • Historian • Folklorist
Widely regarded as the father of modern arts and culture in Saint Lucia, Simmons documented and protected the island's stories, traditions, music and folklore.
His Legacy preserves Saint Lucia's cultural identity for future generations



HERALDINE ROCK
Educator • Farmer • Politician
In 1974, Heraldine Rock became the first woman elected to Saint Lucia's Parliament and the country's first female Cabinet Minister. Today, one of the Government Buildings on the Waterfront is named in her honor.
Her Legacy, political leadership and advocacy for women contributed to women in politics

GALLERY 5
THE CHANGE MAKERS



SIR GEORGE CHARLES
Trade Unionist • Political Leader
A champion of workers' rights who fought for universal adult suffrage and helped guide Saint Lucia into the era of mass democratic participation. He was Saint Lucia's first Chief Minister from 1960-1964 and was named one of the first national heroes in 2015. The airport in Castries was named in his honor as George F. L. Charles Airport in 2002.
His Legacy, workers' rights and political empowerment paved the way for the selection of National democratic leadership



SIR JOHN COMPTON
Statesman • Father of the Nation
A visionary leader who helped steer Saint Lucia through the historic journey from colonial rule, to self-government, and ultimately to nationhood. He was the first Prime Minister, leading the country to Independence on February 22, 1979. He was declared a national hero in 2015 for shaping the country's modern political, economic and infrastructural development.
His Legacy, nation-building and leadership lead Saint Lucia to independence



SIR JOSEPH QUENTIN CHARLES
Entrepreneur • Business Leader • Philanthropist
He was a pioneering businessman and industrialist. A forward-thinking entrepreneur who transformed J.Q. Charles Ltd. into one of Saint Lucia's leading locally owned enterprises; while pioneering greater financial inclusion by expanding access to credit for ordinary Saint Lucians through the innovative "Penny Bank" - now First National Bank.
His legacy, entrepreneurship and economic independence has contributed to national development

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Saint Lucia's First Underwater Sculpture Park is a living archive of the island's journey and also serves as an underwater attraction.

From the first canoes to the rise of a nation, these sculptures honour the people, struggles, achievements and ideas that have shaped Saint Lucia.

Beneath the water, the story continues to evolve.

Coral grows
Marine life returns
The sculptures transform
New stories emerge

DIVE INTO THE STORY
*
EXPLORE
*
DISCOVER
*
REMEMBER
*
PROTECT


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