



# Vanuatu Cultural Centre

**Subscriber's Newsletter**

[vanuatumuseum.gov.vu](http://vanuatumuseum.gov.vu)

February 2025

Volume 01

## VKS 2025: A Year of Cultural Celebration & Preservation

As we enter 2025, the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta (VKS) embarks on an exciting journey to safeguard and celebrate the nation's rich cultural heritage. With a commitment to ensuring Vanuatu's stories, traditions, and knowledge continue to inspire future generations, this year promises a wealth of engaging programs and initiatives.

VKS is proud to introduce several key projects for 2025, including the highly anticipated 5th National Art Festival, the digitization of valuable archival materials and research into various aspects of our cultural heritage. These initiatives, alongside new museum exhibitions and fieldwork, enrich cultural knowledge across Vanuatu, ensuring that our history remains alive for years to come.

## Strategic Goals for a Vibrant Cultural Future

Our mission for 2025 revolves around four key goals:

1. Document, preserve, and promote Vanuatu's cultural heritage.
2. Enhance public access to cultural resources.
3. Support grassroots efforts to sustain indigenous practices.
4. Build strong local and global partnerships.

We are also placing a special emphasis on inclusivity. Programs like the Women's Culture Program celebrate the vital role of women in preserving our traditions. By collaborating with local communities, national stakeholders, and international partners, we aim to strengthen Vanuatu's cultural identity and ensure it's accessible to all Ni-Vanuatu.





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## Strengthening Partnerships and Operations

At the VKS, collaboration is at the core of our mission. In 2025, we're committed to forging stronger partnerships with communities, regional organizations, and international allies to amplify our cultural preservation efforts. Internally, we're enhancing governance by reviewing policies, improving financial transparency, and upgrading facilities. These efforts will support the VKS team in its continued drive to protect Vanuatu's heritage while fostering a sustainable future for our cultural projects.

## Securing a Sustainable Future

A key priority for 2025 is ensuring financial sustainability at the VKS. With diversified funding sources—government grants, international donors, corporate sponsorships, and earned income from museum activities—we're expanding our capacity to protect and promote cultural heritage. The VKS is also focusing on smart investments in infrastructure, eco-friendly energy solutions, and the development of emergency funds to safeguard its financial future.

## Expanding the National Heritage Register

In 2025, we will expand the National Heritage Register with the documentation of 10 new heritage sites. Through field surveys and archaeological work, including excavations and the Traditional House project, VKS will help preserve the history of Vanuatu for future generations. The findings will be published, ensuring these sites are recognized and protected.

## A Thrilling Year Ahead for the National Museum

The Vanuatu National Museum is preparing for a dynamic year of cultural preservation and community engagement. Our artifact conservation program will protect invaluable cultural treasures, while fieldworkers continue to document oral histories and traditional knowledge. We're also embracing digital transformation, updating our collections database and launching the first virtual exhibition to make Vanuatu's heritage accessible to a global audience. Visitors can expect at least three interactive exhibitions that bring Vanuatu's history to life, along with hands-on programs for schools that make learning fun and engaging. Infrastructure upgrades are also on the horizon, ensuring that the museum continues to be a hub for cultural learning and exploration.



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## Preserving History at the National Archives

The National Archives is undergoing a transformation to ensure Vanuatu's historical records are preserved and accessible. In 2025, we're focusing on digitizing key documents, including government records, audiovisual materials, and independence-era documents. Our goal is to have 20% of key historical collections digitized by the end of the year, making these valuable resources available online. Capacity-building efforts will also strengthen operations, and a public awareness campaign will ensure researchers and institutions can easily access these materials.

## Expanding Knowledge with the National Library

The National Library is focused on expanding its collection, enhancing digital access, and reaching remote communities across Vanuatu. In 2025, we'll assess new acquisitions, digitize rare documents, and launch a mobile library project to bring books and literacy programs to underserved areas. Technology upgrades will improve cataloging, and staff training will enhance service delivery, ensuring that the library remains a vital resource for all Ni-Vanuatu.

## Engaging the Community at the Public Library

The Public Library has an exciting year ahead, once it is open to the public, with initiatives designed to engage the community and inspire a love of reading. Weekly children's storytime, creative arts workshops, and book sales will bring people together to celebrate literature. A focus on technology upgrades, including improved Wi-Fi and digital resources, will make accessing information easier for everyone. However, we also face infrastructure challenges, and plans are underway to repair the building or construct a new facility to better serve the public.





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## Preserving Vanuatu's Audiovisual Heritage

At the National Film, Sound, and Photo Unit, the focus is on preserving and sharing Vanuatu's audiovisual heritage. We'll expand our digitization efforts, adding thousands of hours of film, audio recordings, and digital photos to our archives. The digitization of 1,000 hours of reel-to-reel tapes will also improve storage conditions for these irreplaceable treasures. Public engagement will be a priority, with live-streamed cultural events and new documentaries helping to share Vanuatu's stories with the world.

## Empowering Women in Cultural Preservation

The Women's Culture Program continues to play a central role in preserving Vanuatu's cultural heritage. In 2025, the program will enhance the Women's Artefact Collection, create a comprehensive database of traditional crafts, and launch a mentorship initiative pairing young women with elder cultural experts. These efforts will bridge generations and empower women to continue preserving Vanuatu's traditions.

## Empowering Fieldworkers for Cultural Preservation

The VKS Fieldworkers Program is preparing for a year of growth, with workshops on ethnography and oral history collection. Fieldworkers will focus on researching traditional gardening practices and contribute to the 5th National Arts Festival. A significant part of their role will be advocating for Kastom Skuls, ensuring traditional education is integrated into schools across Vanuatu.





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## Promoting Vanuatu's Culture

The Marketing Section is enhancing the visitor experience at the VKS through initiatives such as a redesigned Museum Shop, which will feature new culturally-inspired merchandise and a VKS calendar to promote the National Museum. The Traditional Costume Project, funded by UNESCO, will document and exhibit Vanuatu's traditional costumes, ensuring they are preserved for future generations.

## Conclusion: A Year of Cultural Pride

The VKS 2025 Annual Plan is an exciting roadmap for preserving, promoting, and celebrating Vanuatu's rich cultural heritage. By strengthening partnerships, enhancing accessibility, and embracing innovation, the VKS is dedicated to ensuring that Vanuatu's diverse cultural legacy continues to thrive. Together, we will protect our heritage, celebrate our traditions, and inspire future generations!