



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

Office of the Commissioner

Telephone: (340) 773-1082
FAX: (340) 773-1716

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
FAX: (340) 713-2430
jamal.nielsen@dpr.vi.gov

May 8, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VICA OFFERS CARES ACT ASSISTANCE TO THE ART COMMUNITY

Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol announces that the VI Council on the Arts (VICA) has received \$200,100 in emergency funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to address the COVID19 pandemic and its related effects through CARES Act.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package provides economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for our American industries.

Many Artists, contract workers and cultural organizations, particularly those dependent on revenue from admissions and ticket sales, have been greatly impacted by this pandemic due to the widespread cancellation of events and production contracts.

VICA announces the availability of funds to provide short-term financial relief to those in the arts, cultural, and creative industries impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. Eligible individuals and organizations whose primary mission is to promote and provide connections through creative expression by sharing creative experiences, expressing our own creativity, or connecting us with others and ourselves are encouraged to apply.

Eligible applicants may apply from May 6, 2020 to May 18, 2020. Individuals can receive up to \$5,000 and arts and cultural organizations can receive up to \$20,000. For additional information and technical assistance call (340) 774-5984 or email vicastt@hotmail.com vicastt@yahoo.com or tasida.kelch@dpr.vi.gov .