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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPNR AND VIDEOE CELEBRATE LIFE OF D. HAMILTON JACKSON
WITH ART FOR ACTIVISM PROJECT**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM) in conjunction with the Division of Cultural Education of the VI Department of Education will celebrate the life and activism of David Hamilton Jackson through the ART FOR ACTIVISM PROJECT, "I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON".

November has been designated as the official month to honor Jackson's lifetime achievements in advancing the right to freedom of the press, voting rights, higher wages, worker's rights, and organizing the territory's first labor union. All of which enabled him to campaign for human rights and gain greater self-governance in an era when racial inequality was intolerable for the vast majority of Black Virgin Islanders.

DLAM and the Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education are inviting students to create works inspired by David Hamilton Jackson's activism. Students may choose from a variety of mediums to create their symbolic works, which may include the following:

- Drawing a self-portrait or creating a mixed media artwork
- A monologue or play via Tik Tok or another video app
- Digital art, animation, or photography
- Poetry, spoken word, or a short story

Students will have the opportunity to envision themselves as social justice warriors and to embody the spirit of a great Virgin Island leader and activist. The project will also teach students about historical injustices and how to identify and act on contemporary issues affecting themselves and their local and global communities.

A creative session on the TEAMS app will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Invitations will be sent via VI Department of Education's internal email system and to interested private schools.

In early December, the project will be exhibited virtually for the community to view. **The deadline for this project is Tuesday, November 30, 2021.** Students may submit their work to their teachers, guidance counselors, or to DPNR's Monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov or VI DOE's Stephaniebrownavi@icloud.com