



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Office of the Commissioner

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### ***BLACKFULLNESS: EMANCIPATION 2024 ART SHOW***

### ***EXHIBITION GUIDELINES***

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Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources is pleased to announce that the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums will present its annual Emancipation Day Art show at Fort Frederik Museum opening on Emancipation Day, Wednesday, July 3, from 12:00-6:00 pm. This year's Emancipation show is entitled: ***BLACKFULLNESS: EMANCIPATION 2024***

**Eligibility:** Open to all artists post-high school, with special consideration to artists that have roots or connections to the US Virgin Islands, and/or the Caribbean Diaspora. Collaborative submissions involving more than one artist are permitted.

**Guidelines:** Work must relate to the topic and address histories of freedom and resistance against colonialism in the Virgin Islands. We are accepting new work that preferably has never been exhibited on St. Croix before. Artists of all disciplines may submit work, a small body of work (3 total), or a project (such as an installation or performance proposal) in any media, including but not limited to:

- Digital art or photography printed or projected.
- Short Video works, animation (including music videos and short films)
- Sound pieces or live musical performances
- 2-D drawing/painting, mixed media, or collage
- Sculpture, installation, or artistic intervention
- Performance, movement-based, spoken word, or experimental theater
- We will also accept written works (poetry/essays), and archival projects

#### **Submit the Following in a Single Document**

- Artist Bio - 150-300 Words Maximum
- Project Statement - 250-500 words max (must submit a project statement to be included)
  - Please describe how this work responds to themes of resistance against colonialism in the USVI.
- Slide List - Include:
  - Artwork *Title*, Year
  - Medium

- Dimensions
- Work description- installation requirements, equipment and technical specifications, and support needs.

Name the PDF as such: Jane Doe Emancipation 2024 Application

**Submission:** Please email your completed application with required materials to: [monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov](mailto:monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov) and place “Emancipation 2024” in the subject header. Large files should be sent via a file transfer system (such as Dropbox or WeTransfer), using the same email address for notification purposes.

**Deadline for submissions: Monday, June 17, 2024**, by Midnight AST email: [monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov](mailto:monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov)

**Artist Notifications:** Artists will be notified whether their entry has been accepted by Wednesday, June 19, 2023.

**Artwork Delivery Deadline: Monday, June 24, 2024**, 4 pm local time. Installation pieces are to be installed by the artists or their appointed representatives.

Delivery Address: Fort Frederik is located at 198 Strand Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix, USVI 00840

**Exhibition Install and Deinstall Requirements:**

Artists are responsible for organizing the production, delivery, shipping, and handling of the accepted submissions. Artists are also responsible for the collection of their entries at the end of the exhibition unless otherwise arranged.

Artists must provide their own equipment.

Artists must dismantle and collect their artworks and any equipment they own within two weeks of the exhibition's closure. The Fort Frederik Museum will not be responsible for any work or equipment left after that date.

**Queries:** For any questions about this project, including the availability of equipment, please email: [monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov](mailto:monica.marin@dpr.vi.gov) and place “Emancipation 2024” in the subject header, or call the Fort Frederik at 1 (340) 722-2021 ext. 8222 to the attention of the DPNR’s Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums Territorial Chief Curator Monica Marin.

The curator proposes some of the following questions and themes that can be explored among others:

- With the completion this year of the 175<sup>th</sup> commemoration of Emancipation in the USVI, what is next?
  - What are the liberation tools for the future?
  - What new structures can we build and what old ones can we reconstruct?
- What are some examples of emancipatory efforts that continue to serve as cultural resistance and survival?
- How has the history of Black protest and activism in our region influenced transatlantic Black radicalism and liberation?

- How can archives be used to challenge dominant narratives?
- How have Africanisms passed down to each generation such as storytelling, and spoken word serve as a space of resistance?
  - How can these art forms be used to challenge dominant narratives today?
  - What is the role of the artist in critiquing the social ills of the day?
- What are the histories of colonialism that are etched into the landscape? What remnants remain and what is our new coloniality?
- To quote Audre Lorde in *Above the Wind*: “How can we use our differences to work together better against the exploitation and destruction of our children, our land, our resources, our planet? And, as hyphenated people, and members of the African Diaspora, what is our relationship to the Indigenous peoples of those lands we call home?”
- How do we promote inside-out growth in our region instead of continuing to overvalue outside thinking and development?
- What does Blackfullness mean to you?