



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR CELEBRATES LIBERTY DAY WITH “I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON” CHALLENGE

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (DLAM) is excited to invite all territorial Middle/Jr. High and High Schools to participate in the **2024 “I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON” CHALLENGE**, an inspiring Art for Activism project designed for Virgin Islands students.

The project aligns with curriculum goals in Language Arts, History, and Art, as it integrates creative expression, critical thinking, and social awareness. “We believe that this project will inspire students to explore their own potential as advocates for change, learning from the past to shape the future”, said Commissioner Oriol.

ART FOR ACTIVISM PROJECT: “I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON”

As part of the Department’s month-long tribute to David Hamilton Jackson and his groundbreaking contributions as a journalist, labor leader, educator, and civil rights activist, DLAM is calling on students to create symbolic works of art and literature of Jackson’s efforts to advance press freedom, human rights, worker’s rights, and self-governance in the Virgin Islands. Students will have the opportunity to highlight a present-day Virgin Islander, their leadership, activism, education, or community service that exemplifies David Hamilton Jackson’s legacy.

Participation Options

Students can choose from a variety of mediums to express their interpretation of this year’s theme:

- **Drawing a portrait** or creating **mixed media artwork** that reflects Jackson’s impact.
- Designing **digital art, animation, or photography** inspired by Jackson’s fight for equality and justice.
- **Essay, Short Story, Poem, or Music** that aligns with Jackson’s efforts to influence modern-day struggles for equality and self-determination in the Virgin Islands and beyond.
- Performing a **monologue, spoken word, or play** via TikTok or another video app, capturing the spirit of his activism.

Students are encouraged to take part in the **#IAmDHamiltonJackson** social media challenge, showcasing modern-day Virgin Islanders that embody the values and leadership qualities of Jackson. It's a great way to connect their creative work and give students a platform to showcase their creations and share their voices with the broader community.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, October 30, 2024.

Exhibition and Prizes

Premiering November 4th, student projects will be exhibited at DPNR's Forts, Libraries, and virtually for the entire community to view. Individual prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Junior High/Middle School category, while a class prize will be awarded to High School participants.

"We would love to see your school's involvement and look forward to collaborating with teachers on this meaningful initiative as we empower the next generation of Virgin Islands leaders and activists", concluded Amy de Sorbo, Director of DLAM.

Please feel free to contact the Division with any questions or concerns at 340.773.5715 ext. 7314.