



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

CALLING ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS: JOIN THE 2025 “I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON” CHALLENGE!

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources is excited to announce the launch of the 2025 “I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON” Challenge, hosted by the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. This inspiring Art for Activism initiative invites Junior High and High School students throughout the Virgin Islands to creatively explore and celebrate the enduring legacy of David Hamilton Jackson through visual art, writing, and performance.

Aligned with curriculum goals in Language Arts, History, and Art, this challenge encourages students to engage in critical thinking, creative expression, and social awareness. It’s a powerful opportunity for young minds to reflect on the past and envision a better future—becoming advocates for change in their own communities.

Art for Activism Theme: “I Am David Hamilton Jackson”

As part of our month-long celebration honoring David Hamilton Jackson—renowned journalist, labor leader, educator, and civil rights activist—students are invited to create symbolic works that reflect his enduring impact on press freedom, human rights, workers’ rights, and self-governance in the Virgin Islands.

Participants may also spotlight a modern-day Virgin Islander whose leadership, activism, education, or community service embodies Jackson’s legacy.

Creative Submission Options

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

- **Visual Art:** Self-portraits, mixed media, digital art, animation, or photography inspired by Jackson's fight for justice.
 - **Literary Works:** Essays, short stories, poems, or music that connect Jackson's legacy to current struggles for equality and empowerment.
 - **Performance:** Monologues, spoken word pieces, or short plays shared via TikTok or other video platforms to capture the spirit of activism.
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Social Media Challenge: #IAmDHamiltonJackson

Students are encouraged to participate in the **#IAmDHamiltonJackson** social media challenge by showcasing present-day Virgin Islanders who reflect Jackson's values and leadership. This is a great way to amplify student voices and connect their creative work with the broader community.

Important Dates & Contact Information

Submission Deadline: October 27, 2025

We look forward to your school's participation and to working with educators to empower the next generation of Virgin Islands leaders and changemakers.

For questions or more information, please contact:

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