



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR MOURNS PASSING OF GERVILLE R. LARSEN
ARCHITECT, HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST, AND CULTURAL BEARER

The Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) joins the community in mourning the loss of Gerville R. Larsen; a visionary architect, devoted preservationist and cherished cultural bearer whose life's work helped shaped and safeguard the built heritage and architectural legacy of the Virgin Islands.

Commissioner and State Historic Preservation Officer Jean-Pierre L. Oriol shared his deep sorrow at the passing of Mr. Larsen, whose contributions to the preservation of the Virgin Islands history were both profound and enduring. "Gerville used his voice, talents, and work to be a catalyst for change in the field of historic preservation. His invaluable contributions to preserving built heritage, rich history, and vibrant culture have left a lasting impact. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations," said Commissioner Oriol.

Mr. Larsen's architectural achievements were recognized nationally by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., where he also served as an advisor representing the Virgin Islands. A passionate advocate for cultural heritage, he served numerous local committees, boards and working groups dedicated to the protection and celebration of the Territory's historic architectural and cultural heritage. He was a former Director of the Division of Permits within DPNR and was a sitting member of the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission (VIHPC) on the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee (St. Croix HPC).

Mr. Larsen's advocacy as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation was instrumental in securing congressional funding to the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service for a \$10 million dollar Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant to assist the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office's (VISHPO), most impactful initiatives to date, the post 2017 Hurricane Historic Recovery Grant Program. Through the Historic Recovery Program, Mr. Larsen and his fellow VIHPC Members helped guide the restoration of historic properties damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with some projects receiving grants of up to \$200,000. Gerville's technical expertise, thoughtful reviews, and compassionate site visits with local homeowners were hallmarks of his service on the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee.

Commissioner Oriol extends his heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Gerville R. Larsen on behalf of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, VISHPO and the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission Family. Gerville's passionate advocacy for historic preservation, artistry, and unwavering commitment to the Virgin Islands will be deeply missed and forever remembered.