

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON" – 5TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITION - SPECIAL AFTER-HOURS RECEPTION WITH ARTISTS AT FORT FREDERIK MUSEUM

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) invites the community to celebrate creativity and history at a special after-hours reception honoring participating students and teachers on Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the fifth annual "I AM DAVID HAMILTON JACKSON" Student Art Exhibition, hosted at the Fort Frederik Museum.

This year's exhibition showcases symbolic self-portraits and written reflections by students of St. Croix Educational Complex High School (SCECHS), guided by art teacher Danica David. Using photography and AI-driven digital collage techniques, students reimagined themselves in Jackson's era—immersed in the transformative energy that shaped Virgin Islands history. Each piece is accompanied by a personal affirmation beginning with "I am David Hamilton Jackson," connecting Jackson's courage and integrity to the students' own aspirations as changemakers. Ms. Davids' students will also be reading their writing/artist statements.

Additional works—including digital art, poetry, and essays—created by students under the guidance of Ms. Cleone Lynch further enrich the exhibition.

Mr. Percival Edwards from Farmers in Action will be the keynote presenter, sharing his immense knowledge about David Hamilton Jackson and his impact on labor organizing.

The exhibition is free to attend during the special reception and will remain on display during regular museum hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. General admission is \$10, with free entry for students under 18 and a \$5 discounted rate for Virgin Islands residents.

For more information, please contact: Amy Parker DeSorbo, DLAM Director: amy.desorbo@dpnr.vi.gov or Monica Marin, DLAM Chief Curator: monica.marin@dpnr.vi.gov or call Fort Frederik Museum: 340-772-2021.