



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USVI FESTIVAL DUCHESS TALIA SIMMONDS TO HOST STORYTIME AND LITERACY EVENT AT FLORENCE WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPR) announces that the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums will host a special Storytime and Literacy Promotion featuring USVI Festival Duchess 2025–2026 Talia Simmonds on Saturday, July 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Florence Williams Public Library in Christiansted, St. Croix.

During the event, Miss Simmonds will read *Dr. Seuss's ABC* and encourage children and families to develop a lifelong love of reading.

“Miss Talia is a wonderful role model who promotes the importance of literacy,” said DLAM Director Amy DeSorbo. “We encourage parents and guardians to spend at least 15 minutes each day reading with their children. Those few minutes can make a lasting difference.”

The public is invited to attend this free family-friendly event. Children's books are also available in audio and digital formats through the U.S. Virgin Islands Digital Library on Hoopla Digital with a valid USVI Public Library System patron card.

For more information, contact Amypatrice DeSorbo, DLAM Director, at amy.desorbo@dpr.vi.gov.