



Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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Library of Congress Center for the Book | National Book Festival

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[Visit our Website](#)

[Make a Donation](#)

CFVI Named Library of Congress' Center for the Book

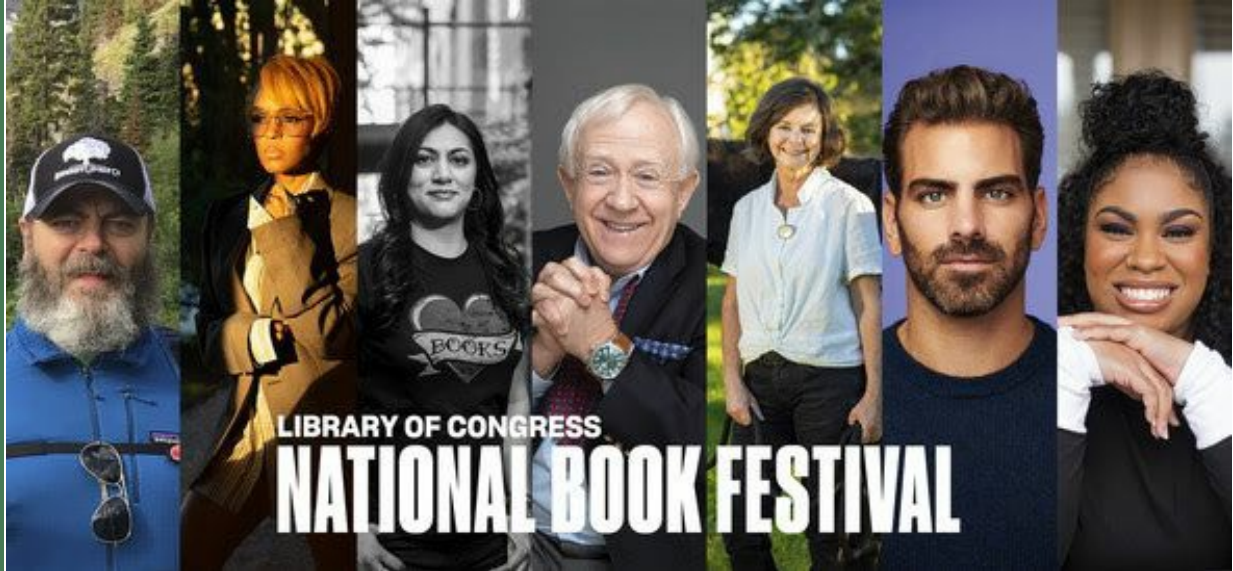


The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) has been honored by the Library of Congress with an invitation to serve as the Center for the Book for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The inclusion of CFVI as the USVI Center for the Book completes the list of participants to include all 50 States, Washington, D.C. and each of the U.S. Territories. As the USVI affiliate, CFVI will collaborate with the Library on literacy programming, services, and collections, develop independent local programs and literary heritage projects, including developing initiatives and public programs to promote literacy, reading, book arts, poetry, and USVI literary heritage.

“We are pleased to welcome the new U.S. Virgin Islands Center for the Book as the newest affiliate to help promote reading with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “CFVI and the USVI Center already have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of promoting books, reading and literacy with its many programs.”

[To read the full article, click here.](#)



SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

As part of its role as a Center for the Book, CFVI will host a table at the 2022 National Book Festival on **Saturday, September 3rd** at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

The festival, free and open to the public, is one of the most prominent literary events in the United States, with an anticipated attendance of more than 200,000 visitors. Established in 2001, the festival is an opportunity to bring together best-selling authors and thousands of readers for author talks, panel discussions, book signings, and other activities.

As part of the festival, each state and territory Center for the Book is invited to name an adult book and a children's book as its designated Great Reads for 2022 and a list of the books is distributed during the festival. Books may be written by authors from the state, take place in the state, or celebrate the state's culture and heritage. More information about the USVI's designated books will be announced soon.

If you're in the D.C. area during the Labor Day weekend, stop by our table at the festival and say hi!

[To learn more about the National Book Festival, click here.](#)

Friends of CFVI Reception in the Nation's Capital

In conjunction with its participation in the National Book Festival, CFVI is hosting an invitation-only "friendraising" reception in Washington, DC on **Thursday, September 1** from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about CFVI and how they can support the work we do! For more information and/or to provide contact information for Virgin Islands friends or



CFVI Voted The Best Of The VI for Nonprofit Organizations!



Dee Baecher-Brown, CFVI President (middle), proudly displays the coveted 2020-2021 Best Of The VI award for Nonprofit Organizations with her colleagues Tess Monsanto-Bailey (left) and Una Pascal (right).

For the second consecutive time, CFVI has been awarded the Best Of The VI in *The Virgin Islands Daily News*' annual reader's poll. CFVI was voted Best Nonprofit Organization for 2020-2021. The Foundation also won the 2018-2019 designation for Best Youth Oriented Organization.

Every year, the readers of *The Virgin Islands Daily News* vote for their favorite businesses, places, and people in the Virgin Islands to find out who will claim the title of The Best Of The VI.

"It is an absolute honor and privilege to be recognized by our community and Daily News readers in this way," said CFVI President, Dee Baecher-Brown. "But we couldn't do the work we do without all of our wonderful nonprofit partners throughout the territory. This award is dedicated to them."



Building Forward to a Better Tomorrow

2022 Angels Giving Campaign

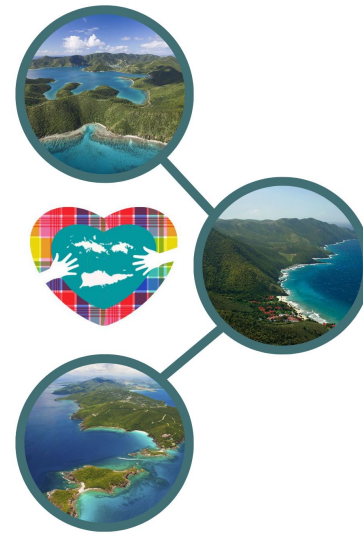
Donation Deadline to be a 2022 Angel: August 31, 2022

The CFVI Angels community is the largest philanthropic network in the territory. Since 1999, Angels have provided **\$7.3 million** in unrestricted funding from individual and business donors who contribute \$500 or more annually to the Foundation.

Angel gifts directly contribute to the well-being of our Virgin Islands community. Since the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020, CFVI has provided nearly **\$6.5 million** in grants and services to the territory.

Help us continue to bring positive change and

enrich the quality of life in the Virgin Islands.



**Become a CFVI Angel Donor
Today!**

Together we can do great things.

[To learn more about CFVI Angels, click here.](#)

CFVI Awards \$162,631 in Scholarships to 57 Virgin Islands Students

The Foundation has distributed more than \$3.4 million in scholarships since 1996



CFVI awarded \$162,131 in scholarships to 57 Virgin Islands students for its 2022-23 academic scholarship cycle. Applications were submitted by a competitive applicant pool of 175 students. Award recipients were selected by a review committee of more than 20 individuals who reviewed materials and made recommendations based on the specific criteria for each scholarship.

"The Foundation is proud to have supported the educational goals of Virgin Islands students for the past 26 years, and we look forward to working with our wonderful donors and students in years to come," said CFVI President Dee Baecher-Brown.

Amira Claxton (pictured), a junior mathematics major at the University of Tampa, received one of the Next Generation Scholar awards for \$2,500. "My goal is to become a professor of mathematics and one day teach at the illustrious University of the Virgin Islands," she said. "Receiving this scholarship means more to me than I can ever express in words."

[For a full list of scholarship recipients and to read the full article, click here.](#)

CFVI Awards \$170,000 in 2022 Youth Summer Program Grants

Funding supports 17 organizations throughout the territory

CFVI awarded \$170,000 in summer program grants to 17 USVI organizations to support a variety of programs serving children and older youth throughout the territory.

Of the total, \$85,000 was distributed to nine organizations on St. Croix, \$55,000 to six grantees on St. Thomas, \$20,000 to two grantees on St. John, and \$10,000 to one organization serving St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island.

Funding priority was focused on applicants who were able to demonstrate the ability to serve children of lower-income families, essential workers, and other families experiencing COVID-related challenges.



[For a full list of grant recipients and to read the full article, click here.](#)

CFVI Awards \$50,000 in Humanities Grants

Special funding was awarded from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in support of its "A More Perfect Union" initiative

CFVI awarded two \$25,000 humanities grants to the University of the Virgin Islands and St. JanCo. The grants, entitled "A More Perfect Union: Understanding the Importance of Culture and Community in the U.S. Virgin Islands," are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

The **University of the Virgin Islands** was awarded a \$25,000 grant for its "Mosaic Population of the U.S. Virgin Islands" project, which will research, analyze, and collect the history of the U.S. Virgin Islands arts, music, and sports that has led to the current-day cultural melting pot to sustain and preserve a thriving culture and community in the USVI for future generations.

St. JanCo, based in St. John, was awarded a \$25,000 grant for its "Public Libraries: A VI Historical Study" project. The project will study the public libraries and the women after whom they are named: Enid M. Baa, Elaine Lone Sprauve, and Florence A. Williams, to deepen the understanding of gender and its relationship to USVI heritage, culture, society, families, social mores, traditions, norms, behaviors, natural environment, and regional influences.

[To read the full article, click here.](#)

**Pilot Maria Rodriguez Memorialized
with Plaque at Charaf Family Heliport**



CFVI, Schneider Regional Medical Center, community members, family, and friends honored Maria Isabel Rodriguez at a ceremony where a plaque was installed on the Charaf Family Heliport at the hospital to commemorate the late helicopter pilot's legacy and her numerous contributions to the community of the Virgin Islands.

"We are thrilled that our vision years ago has helped in so many ways and supported the important work of Maria and her colleagues. We are honored to recognize her life's accomplishments in this way," said Ricardo Charaf.

[To read the full article in *The Source*, click here.](#)

Family and friends of Maria established the Maria Rodriguez Foundation at CFVI to recognize those who selflessly serve the community of the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.

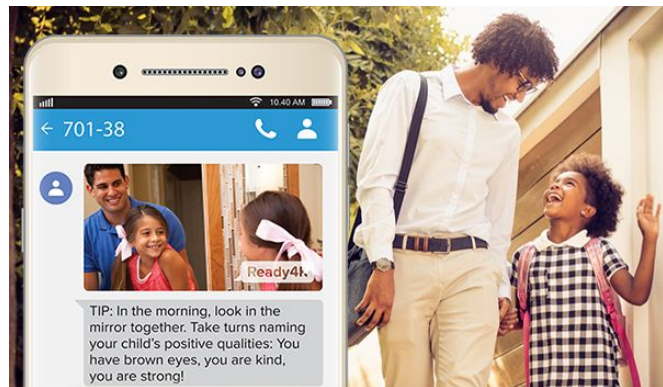
For more information about the Maria Rodriguez Foundation or to make a donation, [click here.](#)

Ready 4K Promotes Child Development

Text-based curriculum is available FREE through the end of the year

Ready 4K, a text-based based family engagement curriculum, promotes child development from birth to fourth grade.

Parents and caregivers receive daily texts that consist of fun facts and easy tips on how to promote their child's development by building on existing family routines.



Join the families of more than 860 children in the territory already using Ready4K! Simply text the code **CFVI** to **70138** to start receiving messages today. By entering your cell phone number you agree to enroll in the program and receive ParentPowered text messages from 70138. While there is no cost for enrolling, data and message rates may apply. You can cancel the text messages at any time by texting STOP to 70138.

Grantee Highlights

Children's Museum of St. Croix

When school starts in August, a group of 4- and 5-year-olds will have an advantage on that first day because they attended Count Down to Kindergarten



during the summer.

Around 40 children attended the 20-week program, hosted by the [Children's Museum of St. Croix](#) and funded with a grant from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. Classes were held one day a week for three hours in two sessions. Parents and grandparents attended workshops while their children learned through enrichment activities how to be successful in school.

According to Ellie Hirsh, Children's Museum board member and Count Down facilitator, the program focused on health, nutrition, social skills as well as

school subjects.

[To read the full article in *The Source*, click here.](#)

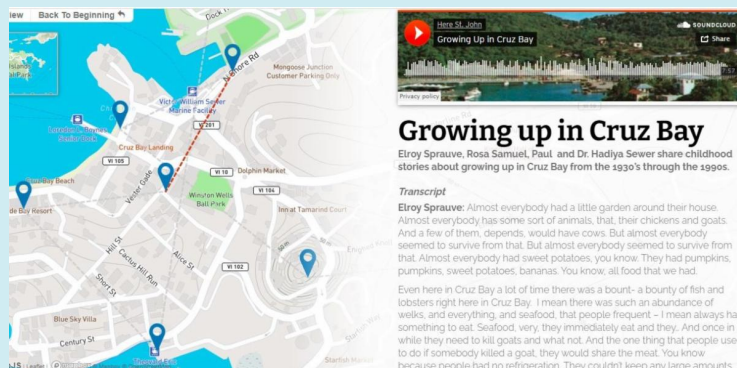
Friends of Virgin Islands National Park

CFVI awarded a grant to [Friends of Virgin Islands National Park](#), with funding from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), to produce a seminar series, entitled Community

Matters, hosted by WTJX/NPR in the Virgin Islands, and curated by the St. Jan Co/Dr. Hadiya Sewer. Those recorded broadcasts served as community engagement events where critical discussions were held on topics pertaining to cultural preservation and the challenges that academics, artisans, educators and citizens face on St. John, and in the Virgin Islands, as a result of, or in relation to, cultural tourism. The grant was also used to fund the production of an audio tour of places on St. John, and in Virgin Islands National Park, as told by St. Johnians and Park Rangers. This piece serves as a timeless self-guided interpretative tool that will be shared with park visitors in the Visitors Center, on the Friends website, and with schools (along with a resource guide of activities for educators).

Read and watch the Seminar Series here: <https://friendsvinp.org/community-seminars/>

Listen to the Audio Tour here: <https://friendsvinp.org/stjohn-voices/>



United Jazz Foundation

CFVI awarded a grant to the [United Jazz Foundation](#), with funding from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), to support the Caribbean Music Institute Online for junior high, high school, and college students. The program used music literacy to enhance students' life skills, social intellect, music writing and notation skills, and self-determination and expanded their knowledge of musical cultural history to preserve and



sustain the heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Courses included music technology classes, workshops, ensembles, private instruction, and recording sessions utilizing the enormously rich palette of the fundamental abilities that music education gives access to.

[To learn more about the United Jazz Foundation, click here.](#)

St. George Village Botanical Garden

CFVI awarded a grant to the [St. George Village Botanical Garden](#), with funding from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), to relocate and create an enlarged African Provision Garden (APG). The garden was planted with crops enslaved peoples used to augment their diets, to tell the story of the enslaved peoples and post-emancipation workers. Signage identifies the plants, their origin and their usage, as well as information on why these gardens played an important role for enslaved people, and then the post-emancipation plantation workers. The project offers both horticultural and historical education as well as expanding an awareness of the plight of the enslaved as they attempted to survive their harsh lives, and how they forged a new culture in which food played and continues to play a prominent role in identity.



[To learn more about St. George Village Botanical Garden, click here.](#)

Want more grantee highlights? We post weekly on social media and our website!



2022-2023

Directory of Community Organizations

To access the directory via a print/PDF version, or to be included in the directory, visit <https://cfvi.net/local-nonprofit-directory/>.

To request a hard copy of the print version, contact general.info@cfvi.net.

[To learn more, click here.](#)

Share Virtue of the Week with Others!



Do you know someone who would like to receive the Virtue of the Week? Simply forward this email to them and they can sign up by clicking on the button below.

The Virtues Project, a global grassroots initiative to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, sparking a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity in more than 100 countries.

The Project defines virtues as "the essence of the human spirit and the content of our character." The mission of The Virtues Project is to inspire people of all cultures to remember who we really are, what we aspire to be, and to live by our highest values.

Sign up to receive the Virtue of the Week!

CFVI is an Amazon Smile Charity

Did you know that CFVI is an Amazon Smile charity?

Shop at smile.amazon.com, select Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands as your charity, and Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to CFVI—no fees, no extra cost. Same products, same prices, same service.

Experience feel-good shopping today at smile.amazon.com!



CFVI a Participating Charity in Combined Federal Campaign



The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season supports eligible non-profit organizations, like CFVI, that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

[To learn more about the CFC, click here.](#)

CFVI Combined Federal Campaign Information:

CFC Sunshine Zone 22

CFC# 45789

EIN 66-0470703

For Grantees: Grant Recognition Guidelines

We appreciate an acknowledgement of your grant from CFVI in whatever ways are within your organization's communications capabilities. We encourage you to send us press releases or copies of publications or media coverage that mentions your grant. Please refer to the [CFVI Grant Recognition Guidelines](#) for more information, or contact Sean Liphard, CFVI Communications Manager, at seanl@cfvi.net.

New Funds and Fiscal Sponsorships

Popular VI Community Fund - Field of Interest Fund

Descendants of Aaron Wolff - Donor Advised Fund

VI-PR Friendship Chamber Orchestra - Fiscal Sponsorship



Spread the Good News!

Help us spread the word about the important work CFVI is supporting throughout our U.S. Virgin Islands. Forward this newsletter to your colleagues, friends and family, and invite them to follow us on social media and join our mailing list!

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

We are proud to have earned Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency by sharing our key metrics and highlighting the impact we're making.



We are proud to have earned the Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

CFVI Staff

[Dee Baecher-Brown](#)

President

[Davica Brathwaite](#)

Grants & Programs Manager

[Jeanne Brennan Wiebracht, CPA](#)

Director of Accounting & Finance

[Susan Clark](#)

Controller

[Sean Liphard](#)

Communications & Development Manager

[Tess Monsanto-Bailey](#)

Development & Donor Relations Manager



Beth Nuttall
Executive Manager

Una Pascal
Staff Accountant & Office Administrator

We are proud to be a vetted organization by GlobalGiving, which recognizes CFVI as a trusted partner and change-maker in the world.

CFVI is a proud member of the



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

CFVI Office Hours

Please call or email us before visiting the CFVI office as our hours fluctuate due to the ongoing pandemic.

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Connect with us

