



CFVI

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

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A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As the season of gratitude and giving quickly approaches, I'm happy to share our final newsletter of 2024, along with some exciting updates from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI).

Our ongoing efforts to support humanities projects and expand our grantmaking capabilities continue to be top priorities for the foundation.



In September, it was officially announced that CFVI has been appointed the Humanities Council of the Virgin Islands, the new jurisdictional humanities council to partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in supporting humanities throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands. We couldn't be more thrilled to serve our community in this capacity.

In the area of grantmaking, CFVI has stepped up our efforts to assist with Federal funding through partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Fordham University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Read on to learn more about these important initiatives.

Finally, we are launching our 2025 Angels giving campaign and I invite you to join what is the largest philanthropic network benefitting the territory. As you know, Angels support is vital to our mission of enhancing the lives of Virgin Islanders and strengthening our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of CFVI and for sharing this vision for our Virgin Islands.

Wishing you and yours a very happy, safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dee Baecher-Brown".

President, Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands

CFVI joins National Endowment for the Humanities' Network as the Humanities Council of the Virgin Islands

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced the appointment of CFVI as a new jurisdictional humanities council to partner with NEH in supporting humanities organizations and programs throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands.



CFVI, NEH's interim partner since 2020, joins the network of 56 state, jurisdictional, and interim humanities council affiliates that receive general operating support funding from NEH and work with the agency to bring humanities programs, events, and resources to communities across all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. jurisdictions.

"CFVI is proud to deepen our commitment to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands," said CFVI President Dee Baecher-Brown.

"This recognition aligns seamlessly with our mission to enhance the quality of life for Virgin Islanders by supporting the humanities, education, and community development. We are excited to leverage this partnership to further empower our local organizations and ensure that the unique stories and traditions of our islands are celebrated and shared for generations to come."

[Read the full article.](#)

CFVI Partners with Fordham University and the EPA on \$40 Million Flourishing in Community Environmental Justice Grants Program

The online application is now open for U.S. Virgin Islands entities to submit proposals



FLOURISHING IN COMMUNITY

Thriving Communities Grantmaker Program Region 2

CFVI is one of five organizations partnering with Fordham University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the \$40 million **Flourishing in Community** environmental justice grants program. The online application is now open for community-based organizations, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other eligible entities in the U.S. Virgin Islands to submit proposals for subgrants to fund environmental justice projects.

The EPA awarded Fordham University's Flourishing in Community a three-year grant through the Inflation Reduction Act to uplift communities in EPA's Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey,

Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and eight federally recognized Indian Nations. Subgrants ranging from \$75,000 to \$350,000 will support community-based solutions and address environmental challenges, including climate change, pollution, and other environmental stressors disproportionately impacting front-line communities.

Flourishing in Community is working with five statutory partners in the targeted areas, including CFVI, which is the only partner in the USVI, to review and select the projects receiving the environmental funds.

[Learn more about the grants and how to apply.](#)

CFVI Announces \$1.55 million USDA Grant Program for the Territory

The project is in partnership with and supported by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, December 5, 2024 (5 p.m. AST)

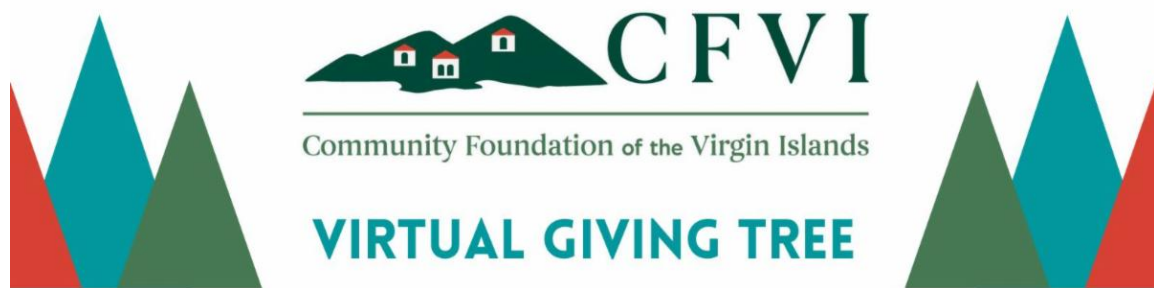
CFVI has been selected to facilitate the USDA's Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program in the USVI and will provide grant management for **\$1.55 million** of grant funding under the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). Funding is provided from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The RSFI program is designed to strengthen local and regional food systems by enhancing the "middle of the supply chain" activities. These activities include processing, storing, aggregating, distributing, and wholesaling agricultural products. The goal of the program is to build resilience in the food supply chain, particularly for small and medium-sized producers, by improving infrastructure and supporting market development.



The program offers two types of grants: Infrastructure Grants, which can range from \$100,000 to \$500,000, and Equipment-Only Grants, which are smaller, ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The RFSI program emphasizes support for underserved communities, such as new and beginning farmers, limited-resource farmers, and veteran producers.

[Learn more about the grants and how to apply.](#)



CFVI Virtual Giving Tree Project Returns for the Holidays

USVI nonprofit organizations asked to submit holiday-related needs by November 18

CFVI's Virtual Giving Tree project is back for the fifth year. Nearly \$300,000 has been distributed to USVI nonprofits since the program was launched in 2020.

Last year, the project distributed \$78,950 to 34 USVI nonprofit organizations. Funding was used to provide seniors, low-income families and children, the homeless, and others with a variety of needs, including food, personal care products, holiday gift baskets, clothing, toys, and much more. For a detailed list, read the [press release](#) from last year.

The Foundation has once again set up an online form and is asking USVI nonprofit organizations to submit specific needs and requests by **Monday, November 18, 2024**. The form can be accessed by visiting cfvi.co/2024VirtualGivingTree.

2025 Angels Giving Campaign

CFVI's **2025 Angels Giving Campaign** raises funds that directly contribute to the well-being of Virgin Islands residents. Programs, operating costs, and much of our community outreach are provided each year through generous Angel donations.

The CFVI Angels community is the largest

philanthropic network supporting the territory. Since 1999, Angels have provided more than **\$8 million** in unrestricted funding from individual and business donors who contribute \$500 or more annually to the Foundation.

Please join us in celebrating a legacy of giving and providing an even brighter future in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Your contribution to CFVI's Angels network will have a direct impact on:

- Operational Excellence: Strengthening our organizational capacity.
- Community Empowerment: Expanding our programs.
- Innovation and Resilience: Investing in tools and resources.
- Unity and Collaboration: Enhancing partnerships.

Together we can do great things!

Click here to make your Angel donation



Communities in Action: Building a Better Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

CFVI President Dee Baecher-Brown attended a Communities in Action: Building a Better Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands event at the White House on Sept. 19.

Communities in Action: Building a Better America is a series of events that brings local elected officials and community leaders to the White House to highlight the investments of the Biden-Harris Administration and their impacts in communities throughout the country.



This series brings the Building a Better America “roadshow” to the White House by lifting up the voices and examples of local leaders who are delivering real results for working families.

Each half-day forum invites local leaders to share the ways that the Administration is supporting their efforts to create opportunities and improve people's lives, and provides briefings for local leaders from senior Administration officials and Cabinet Members. Communities in Action will eventually feature all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the territories, and tribal communities.

United We Stand: Connecting through Culture



On September 16 and 17, 2024, CFVI Vice President of Development and Capacity Building, Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, traveled to Oklahoma City for a special United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture convening hosted by Oklahoma Humanities in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities to strengthen communities and

maximize the impact, scale, and visibility of the humanities to address hate-motivated violence. In attendance were members from other state and jurisdictional humanities councils, from Guam to Massachusetts, who came together to assess their own experiences creating anti-hate humanities programming but also to collectively experience spaces and organizations that are documenting the history of and response to acts of hate-based violence in their communities.

2024 Euan P. McFarlane Award

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 15, 2024

CFVI invites nominations for the annual **Euan P. McFarlane Environmental Leadership Award**. Since 1987, 32 individuals from 19 Caribbean islands have been recipients of the Euan P. McFarlane Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership on behalf of the environment in the insular Caribbean and whose efforts have served as models for the region.



The current geographic focus of the McFarlane Award is the Virgin Islands archipelago, with nominations open to environmental leaders in both the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.

The Euan P. McFarlane Award was endowed by the late Laurance S. Rockefeller and was administered by Island Resources Foundation from 1987-2014. The award is now managed by CFVI as a part of its philanthropic portfolio of support for youth, learning, families, and the environment.

[Learn more.](#)

2024 Maria Rodriguez Van Heurck Award

Individuals may be nominated for a \$5,000 award



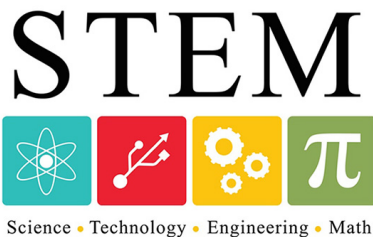
CFVI invites nominations for the 2024 **Maria Rodriguez Van Heurck Award**. Nominees will be evaluated based on the pillars of a giving spirit, selfless service, love for community, and choosing to find beauty in life. The nominee selected will receive \$5,000 to be used in the USVI or BVI in support of eligible charitable activities.

"Each year Virgin Islanders have the opportunity to nominate an individual that shows up for people the way my mom did – with a smile on their face and with nothing expected in return," said Charlotte Van Heurck, Maria's daughter.

In partnership with CFVI, the Maria Rodriguez Foundation Fund was founded in 2021 by family and friends to recognize a member of the Virgin Islands community who embodies Maria's spirit of selfless service. The Fund seeks to honor Maria by continuing her legacy of giving back to the community, in both big and little ways.

[Learn more.](#)

Grantee Spotlights



Engineers for Tomorrow Outreach

CFVI awarded a grant to Engineers for Tomorrow Outreach, with funding from the J. Raymond Jones Fund, to support the Engineering Explorers program. This initiative aimed to enhance math and science education for elementary and middle school students in grades 3-7 by

introducing them to engineering at a young age. The program consisted of 14 after-school and Saturday workshops, engaging up to 32 participants. The workshops were hands-on, allowing students to build circuits, assemble and program robots, and experience the excitement of engineering. Facilitated by engineers, the program was designed to foster enthusiasm for STEM fields and provided an engaging and focused learning environment.

Patient Assist VI

CFVI awarded a grant to Patient Assist VI, with funding from the Hodge Senior Citizen Assistance Fund, to support their mission in addressing healthcare disparities for seniors over the age of 60 lacking insurance or who are underinsured. This initiative supported medication and financial assistance to 54 individuals in need, continuing to foster a healthier and more resilient population by providing sustained community assistance.



[Learn more about Patient Assist VI.](#)



Love City Pan Dragons and Baby Dragons Youth Steel Orchestra

CFVI awarded a grant to Love City Pan Dragons and Baby Dragons Youth Steel Orchestra to provide funding supporting the hiring of a new Executive Director to enhance and grow the program. This funding has supported and transformed the organization, which had previously operated on a volunteer basis. With this leadership role, the

orchestra has been able to establish long term planning strategies which have benefited the students, volunteers, and instructors. The band also achieved remarkable milestones, including performing at the Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference Prayer Breakfast, recording promotional songs, and being featured on a radio station.

[Learn more about Love City Pan Dragons.](#)

Directory of Community Organizations

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

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

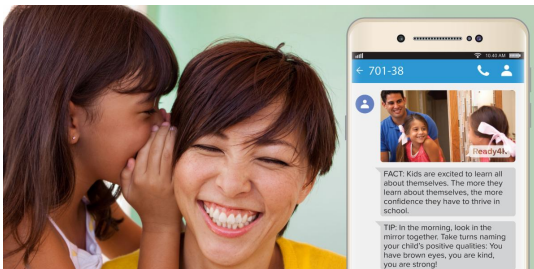
[Learn more.](#)

Promoting Child Development

Text-based curriculum is available FREE through 2025

We believe in empowering caregivers as at home learning partners. So we're partnering with ParentPowered, formerly Ready4K, to offer a text-messaged

parenting curriculum that is mapped to the moment from birth through 4th grade. No extra time or supplies needed! Simply text the code **CFVI** to **70138** to start receiving messages today.



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 other families in the territory already using the curriculum! 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.

For Grantees: Grant Recognition Guidelines

We appreciate an acknowledgment 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

Rashida A Hodge Scholarship Fund

Schneider Regional Medical Center Foundation Agency Fund



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](#)



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

[Sonia Barnes-Moorhead](#)
Vice President, Development & Capacity Building

[Jeanne Brennan Wiebracht, CPA](#)
Vice President, Finance & Administration

[Susan Clark](#)
Controller

[Sean Liphard](#)
Communications Manager

[Beth Nuttall](#)
Director of Grants & Programs

[Una Pascal](#)
Accountant

[Demi Trimm](#)
Grants and Programs Associate



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



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.



CFVI was voted Best Nonprofit Organization for 2020-2021 in The Virgin Islands Daily News' annual reader's poll. The Foundation also won the 2018-2019 designation for Best Youth Oriented Organization.

CFVI Office Hours

Our office is staffed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with employees working remotely Mondays and Thursdays.

Please call or email us before visiting the CFVI office as our hours can fluctuate.

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Connect with us



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