

# Virgin Islands Council on the Arts

# 2020 Annual Report



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# Message from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you VI Council on the Art's (VICA) annual report for fiscal year 2020.

Since our inception we have awarded millions of dollars to strengthen the creative and cultural capacity of our community by providing all Virgin Islanders with diverse opportunities for arts and cultural participation.

Here at the Council we believe arts, culture and creativity are vital to quality of life for all residents and hold economic vitality for our community. VICA's Board of Directors, staff and myself take great pride in our role to sustain and enhance a dynamic art and culture ecosystem that extends throughout the community, while delivering meaningful opportunities for cultural and artistic participation and expression.

One of the primary ways we do this is through funding to local nonprofit organizations, individual artists, schools and churches to support arts and culture experiences like performances, exhibits, CDs, music videos and arts education. We are proud of the tremendous impact these programs and projects have had on the community and are pleased to share our year in review with you.

In these trying times I encourage you to support the arts! The arts also are a fundamental component of healthy communities, strengthening them socially, educationally, and economically.

Sincerely,

Tasida H Kelch

Executive Director

# The Year in Review

## Fiscal Year 2020

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA) is an agency within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources charged with the primary responsibility of enriching the artistic and cultural life of the Virgin Islands through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes accessible, excellence in the arts to all Virgin Islanders.

VICA receives funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency in Washington, D.C. which must be matched with local appropriations from the Government of the Virgin Islands. Federal and local funds are disbursed Territory-wide through a competitive grant award process to individual artists, arts organizations, schools and community-based entities.

In FY 2020 VICA received an NEA grant in the amount of \$294,260 which was matched with \$77,000.00 local appropriation to support Territory wide programs; the NEA grant is awarded for the following components: State Art Plan, Poetry Out Loud, Arts Education, and Arts in Underserved Communities. VICA also received \$200,100 thru the CARES ACT for COVID19 relief for our artists. These monies were used strictly for salaries, contractual services and facilities. VICA's Board reviewed these applications and awarded monies to twenty-six (26) eligible participants.

The Board of Directors and staff reviewed one hundred and thirty-three grants with requests for funding totaling \$618,433.33. \$381,260 was awarded to ninety-two grantees Territory-wide. As always during the course of a year, grantees may cancel or not be able to execute their projects and funds are returned. As there are continuous requests for funds during the year, these funds are re-granted in the form of discretionary/mini grants not to exceed \$1,000. This also enables VICA to give more support to a wide range of projects to include recording of cd's and videos, documentaries, art education programs, instruction in the making of traditional costumes and local crafts, book publication, jazz/music and arts festivals, multi-disciplinary arts programs for at risk and disabled children, cultural/living history programs and tours,

calypso competitions, professional development for teachers and individual artists and support to all arts presenters in the Territory.

Submission of 2021 and Grant Request: The Council completed and successfully submitted its FY 2021 grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts. We were successfully awarded \$301,135.00.

VICA concluded all components of state level competitions of Poetry Out Loud on March 14, 2020. This year VICA had 12 schools participating in Poetry Out Loud. Poetry Out Loud is a national initiative that encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performances. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to school wide competitions then move on to state competitions and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, D.C.; approximately 325,000 students participate annually.

This year the Virgin Islands territorial winner was Angelica Sterling, a seventeen-year-old senior at the St Thomas 7th day Adventist school. The Territorial finals were done virtually this year due to the COVID19 Pandemic. National Finals were cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic.

VICA prides itself with making meaningful and lasting partnerships. One of these partnerships with the USVI Delegates office allows us to coordinate the Congressional Arts competition each year. High school students in both school districts compete to have their paintings, photos and drawings exhibited in the Nation's capital. VICA coordinates the competition and awards prizes to the top three winners. VICA also sponsors the winner and chaperone's trip to Washington, D.C. in June to take part in the national exhibit hosted by the U.S. Congress. The winner this year was Ms. Haley Jennings from Antilles High School. This competition was also done virtually due to COVID19.

We have been pleased to have the Dorsch Cultural Center functioning as it was intended by its namesake meant for it. The Dorsch Cultural center has been the centerfold for many activities this year namely an Evening of Madras at the Dorsch with

Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, the annual Virgin Islands Council on the Arts Black History event. Where VICA brought a century of culture to life. The full house of patrons was treated to a century of music, dance, poetry, and fashion created and performed by three generations of local talent. MC Richard Nicks, Ay Ay Rhythm Ensemble, Cedelle Petersen Christopher, Mind, Body and Soul, Regal, Fashions, Richard Schrader, Geron Richards and students, Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Jay Watson, Chenzira Davis Kahina and Per Ankh Family Musicians performed. WE have also had several other events with Stanley and the Ten sleepless Knights one which was in partnership with the Kennedy Center and aired worldwide with the AY AY dancers showcasing our rich and colorful culture. The Dorsch Cultural Center has also been made available for rentals and our community has shown their appreciation by constantly making The Dorsch Cultural Center their first choice for events.

**Special Projects:**

**Art Exhibits:**

- Evening of Madras at the Dorsch- STX
- Halloween short Films- STX
- Arts and Humanities Month- STT/STX
- Made in the USVI POP Up Shop
- Crime Prevention Music Concert-STX
- Live performance by One Luv-STX
- Live performance by F’sted Health Care, Inc-STX
- Community Plant and paint-STX
- Voices on the Streets Monologue-STX
- Book Signing & Discussion-STX
- Black History Program-STX
- Cultural Communication Showcase-STX
- Afro Fusion Sweat Session-STX

- Love Languages (VICA Sponsored)
- Wood Artistry-Bill Johnson
- Youth Art Month
- Faces of Gemini
- Art After Dark (VICA Sponsored)
- Kristin Mullane
- Sip and Paint

# Financial Summary

## SUMMARY OF FUNDS EXPENDED FY 2020

Total Federal Program Funds.....	\$294,260.00
Total Local Funds.....	\$375,000.00
Appropriated CARES Funds.....	\$201,000.00
<b>Total Funds Available.....</b>	<b>\$870,260.00</b>

The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts' Fiscal Year 2020 Budget was \$870,260.00. VICA saw an increase of \$201,000.00 due in part to the CARES funding received in May of 2020 to provide economic relief to artists and organizations who were directly impacted by the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Every year, VICA offers two separate grant opportunities for artists and organizations alike. The first being the Annual Grant opportunity, which offers Individual Artists up to \$5,000 and Non-Profit Organizations up to \$10,000 in funding for General Operating Support, Project Support, Arts in Education, and Arts in Underserved Communities.

Secondly, the Mini Grant and Technical Assistance grant which is offered to both Individual Artists and Non-Profit Organizations for funding up to \$1,000.

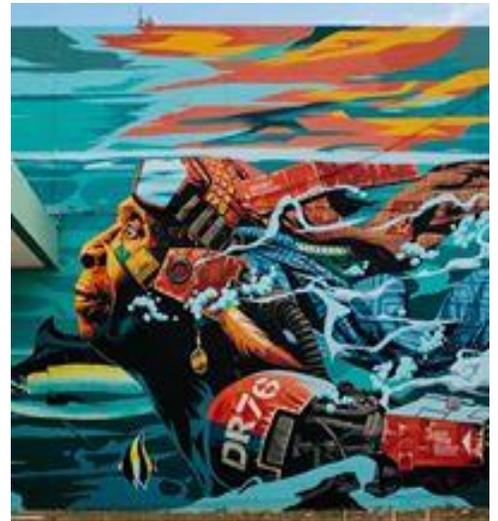
For FY 2020, the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts awarded 100 grants territory wide for a wide range of programming from Steel Orchestras to project support for the creation of Tropical Holiday Cards. 38 individuals and 62 organizations were awarded grants in total. The following is a list of Individual Artists and Non-Profit Organizations who have received funding from the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts for Fiscal Year 2020.

# 2020 Grantees

Priscilla Hintz  
French Ballet Theatre Inc.  
St. John School of the Arts  
St. John Singers  
Wesley Methodist Church  
Pointe Dance Academy  
St. Christian Academy  
Islands Center  
Unity of St. Croix  
St. John Arts Festival  
Caribbean Community  
Theatre  
Caribbean Chorale  
Reichhold Center for the Arts  
University of the Virgin  
Islands  
St. Croix Foundation  
Love City Pan Dragons  
VIVA for Children Inc.  
UVI Summer Music Camp  
We From Upstreet  
Friedensberg Moravian  
Church  
Mon Bijou Homeowners  
Association  
We Deh Yah Cultural  
Dancers Inc.

Susan Edwards  
Barbara Willock  
Eugene Petersen  
Emmanuella Perez-Cassius  
Ella Barr  
Danica David  
Denise Webster  
Oriell Cornwall  
Janet Cook-Rutnik  
LaVaugh Belle  
Niarus Walker  
Maria Stiles  
Kadeem Thomas  
Tristian Jones  
Daphne McIntosh Rodriguez  
Carmen Lindesay  
Carmen Dennis  
Joseph Bess  
Andrea Leland  
Anne Nayer  
Monique Schmidt  
Barbara Gelardi  
Freddie Rabuse  
Julia Eichner  
Kristin Forbes Mullane  
Amy Gibbs  
Debbie Sun  
Juliana Berry  
Randolph Donovan  
Lauren Jones Magnie

Caribbean Ritual Dancers  
Caribbean Museum Center for the  
Arts  
Gifft Hill School  
Finest Pan Fest Inc.  
The Virgin Islands Children's  
Museum  
The Forum  
All Saints Cathedral School  
Clean Sweep Frederiksted  
Black Power Theatre Inc.  
Pistarckle Theatre Inc.



# Partnerships

## *(Yacht Haven Grande - Public Arts Initiative)*

The Charlotte Amalie Waterfront Public Arts Initiative was conceived in 2019 in partnership with Yacht Haven Grande. The initiative was created to provide a platform to Virgin Islands based artists to create and display their artwork in the public forum of murals and sculptures throughout the Yacht Haven property. The four amazing artists involved in this project were Heidi Gonzalez, Jannet Prosper, Jasmine Lindquist, Saudia Jones and Edney Freeman. The final mural was completed in March



(Mural by Jasmine Lindquist)

## *(D-U-N-S Number Workshop)*

The VI Council on the Arts partnered with Sharmila Richardson of the Department of Property and Procurement to create a D-U-N-S number workshop at the Turnbull Library. The purpose of this workshop was to clarify and explain the use of the D-U-N-S number to our grantees.

## *(Youth Art Month)*

Originally scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020; the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts partnered with Maria Aurora Stiles to present the 2nd Annual Youth Art Month Exhibit on St. Thomas. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Ms. Stiles decided to host the exhibit virtually on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> via Facebook. The exhibit grew daily to include youth artwork from St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. The 2019/2020 theme was “Art Can Make a World of Difference”.

## A Virtual Quelbe Concert

This collaboration between Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, WTJX, Division of Festivals and VICA showcased the world renowned Ten Sleepless Knights on a virtual platform that was well received by the viewing audience.



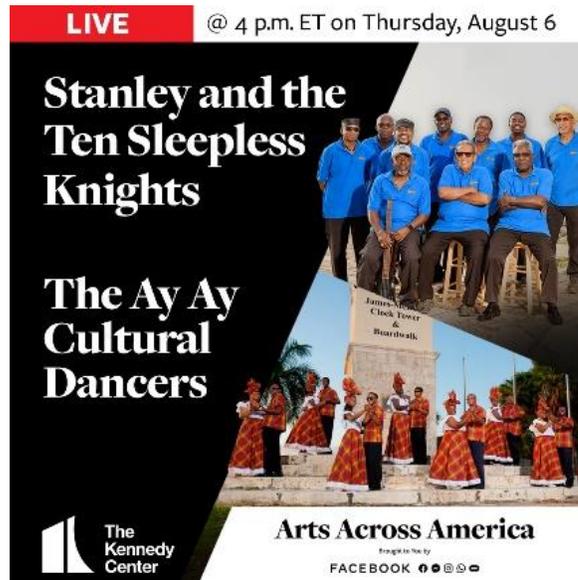
## Emancipation Day Virtual Concert

Another collaboration between Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights, WTJX, AARP and VICA to host a virtual concert. This concert celebrated one hundred and seventy-one years of emancipation of enslaved people of African descent.



## The Kennedy Center: Arts Across America Video Series

In collaboration with arts organizations coast to coast, The John F. Kennedy for the Performing Arts presented 20 weeks of free, online programming. The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts was given the opportunity to showcase cultural traditions of the Virgin Islands to include Quelbe music from Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights and quadrille from the Ay Ay Cultural Dancers.



## Made in the USVI- Pop Up Shop

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and the V.I. Economic Development Authority's Enterprise Zone Commission, coordinated a special opportunity for locals and tourists to select locally made home decor items, clothing, soaps and body lotions, spices and seasonings, jewelry, accessories, gifts for children, books written by local authors and tasty treats, too. The array of items represents approximately 30 homegrown artisans and small manufacturers operating on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix.



**Poetry Out Loud** - POL school competitions began in November 2020. A total of 12 schools hosted their in-school competitions: five schools on St. Croix and seven on St. Thomas. Originally scheduled for March 14th, 2020, the POL Territorial Competition was cancelled due to the pandemic. We were able to host the competition virtually with students uploading their recitations via drop box. Angelica Sterling a student of the St. Thomas/St. John Seventh-day Adventist School captured first place; Angelica received a \$700 cash prize & her school received \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials. Second place was captured by Anika Hahnfeld of Antilles School; Anika received a \$400 cash prize & her school received \$200 for the purchase of poetry materials. Third place was captured by Jedell Titus of the Free Will Baptist School; Jedell received a \$200 cash prize. The top five competitors were Shana Sargeant, Angelica Sterling, Jedell Titus, Anika Hahnfeld and Vivian Morris.



## Congressional Arts Competition

Originally scheduled for May 4th, 2020, the Congressional Arts Competition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to host the competition virtually with students uploading their artwork via drobox. These are the winners:

1st place: Haley Jennings (Antilles School)

2nd place: Letisha Ayala (St. Croix Central High School)

3rd place: Jayveon Boland (C.A.H.S)

People's Choice Award - Haley Jennings (Antilles School)



(Haley Jennings)

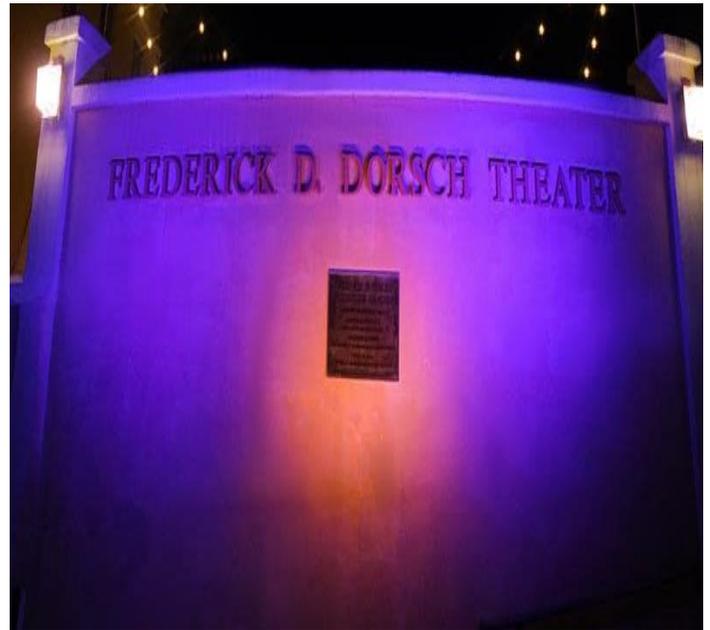
## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valentine's Day Exhibit

This year's exhibit challenged artists and participants both to explore their love language. Our featured artists; Anthony Nibbs, Chunkii George, Jasmine Lindquist, Kennedy Foyer, Makeda Joseph, Ned Auradou and Via Donovan-Hoge all created amazing bodies art!



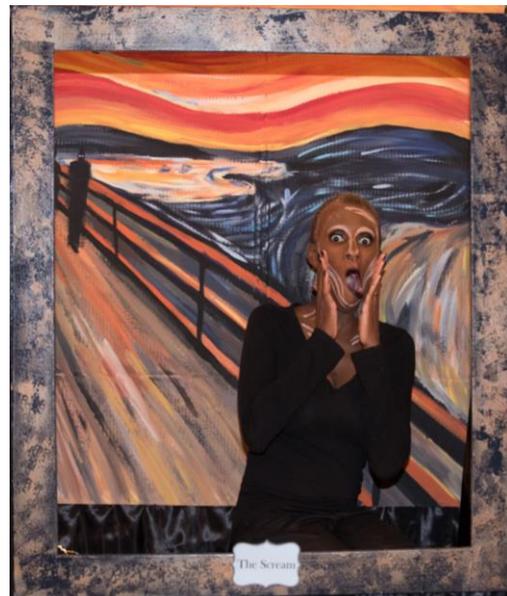
## Forward Into Light Campaign

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women’s constitutional right to vote we lit our offices in purple and gold on August 26, 2020 as part of the nationwide Forward Into Light Campaign, named in honor of the historic suffrage slogan, “Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light.”



## Art After Dark

Held on Halloween night, artists Chunikwa George and Shary Cruz turned live models into iconic works of art such as the Mona Lisa, Frida and Van Gogh. Jasmine Lindquist created the amazing backdrops and Kristen Forbes-Mullane exhibited her collection of visual arts.



## An Evening of Madras at the Dorsch

An Evening of Madras at the Dorsch is one of VICA's annual events. It is an evening featuring Crucian mainstays Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights. Guests are invited to dance to the traditional sounds of St. Croix's favorite musical son until midnight. Almost everyone in attendance arrived wearing their finest Madras attire, the bright colored cloth that has been a source of cultural pride here in the Virgin Islands and throughout the Caribbean.



## A Century of Black Life History and Culture

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts brought a century of culture to life at the Dorsch Cultural Center for Black History Month. The community was treated to a century of music, dance, poetry, and fashion created and performed by three generations of local talent. MC Richard Nicks, Ay Ay Rhythm Ensemble, Cedelle Petersen Christopher, Mind, Body and Soul, Regal, Fashions, Richard Schrader, Geron Richards and students, Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Jay Watson, Chenzira Davis Kahina and Per Ankh Family Musicians performed.



# Board of Directors

**Jose Raul Carrillo** – Chairman

**Claire Roker** – Vice Chairwoman

***Karen Thurland*** – Treasurer

**Vernon Araujo**

***Vernon Finch***

***Glenn "Kwabena" Davis***



VICA Annual Board Retreat Sip and Paint