

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION, YOUTH AND RECREATION

9/22/2016-SPECIAL ORDERED TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION,  
YOUTH AND RECREATION

**BILL NO. 31-0472**

**Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 22, 2016**

An Act transferring Parcels No. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 Prindsens Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Parcels No. 21, 22 and 23B Hospital Line, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the former J. Antonio Jarvis Elementary School, to the Department of Planning & Natural Resources and authorizing the purchase of Parcels No. 14, 15 & 16 Kongens Gade, Crown Prince Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to be used as a School of Art for Conservation and Museum Science, a National Museum and a Cultural/Civic Center and other purposes; and authorizing the use of Parcels No. 21, 22, and 23 Hospital Street Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands as a school of architecture for the University of the Virgin Islands

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Myron D. Jackson

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1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2           **SECTION 1.** (a) Parcels No. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 Prindsens Gade, Kings Quarter, St.  
3 Thomas, Virgin Islands and Parcels No. 21, 22 and 23B Hospital Line, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas,  
4 Virgin Islands, formerly the J. Antonio Jarvis Elementary School, are transferred from the  
5 Department of Property and Procurement to the Department of Planning & Natural Resources to

1 be used for the School of Art Conservation and Museum Science, the National Museum and the  
2 Cultural/Civic Center.

3 (b) The School of Art Conservation and Museum Science, the National Museum and  
4 the Cultural/Civic shall:

5 (1) contain the Historical Preservation, Virgin Islands Council of Humanities,  
6 Virgin Islands Council of the Arts, the Virgin Islands Arts and Crafts Development Board,  
7 Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Institute, the University of the Virgin Islands Research  
8 Facilities, a historical museum, a conservation deposit, an art's museum and a vocational  
9 school that:

10 (A) has apprenticeships for its students at the Museum/Cultural Centers  
11 maintenance department as a course in the curriculum, and

12 (B) establishes education outreach partnerships with neighborhood and  
13 civic organizations to perform services within their skill set throughout the  
14 community; and

15 (2) be used for special events, local and international art exhibitions, display of  
16 local art, educational programs in co-operation with the Smithsonian Institute and by  
17 community organizations for activities associated with the arts, culture and humanities,  
18 such as: plays, olklore dances, storytelling, poetry readings, concerts and conferences.

19 (c) The National Museum shall encourage training in cultural research, anthropology,  
20 ethnomusicology, archaeology and museum studies; support existing organizations and the  
21 creation of new organizations devoted to the advancement of studies in these fields and ensure that  
22 members of its staff are trained in the arts and other areas of cultural administration.

1           (d)     The National Museum shall seek membership in the Smithsonian Affiliation, the  
2 Museums Association of the Caribbean, the American Alliance of Museums, the National  
3 Association for Interpretation, the National Association for Museum Exhibition and the American  
4 Association for State and Local History.

5           (e)     The Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Board of Education, shall  
6 provide three scholarships per year over the next five years commencing in 2017, in the areas of  
7 art, culture or cultural research, museum studies and museum management, archaeology  
8 conservation and historical architecture. The University of the Virgin Islands shall assist the  
9 Department of Education by identify colleges and universities that offer degree programs in the  
10 areas of studies listed in this subsection. The Government of the Virgin Islands shall undertake to  
11 have at least three persons trained in cultural anthropology, museum studies, archaeology,  
12 conservation, folklore, or black, African and Caribbean studies, within five years after the  
13 enactment of this Act.

14           **SECTION 2.** (a) The Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Department  
15 of Property & Procurement and in collaboration with the Department of Planning & Natural  
16 Resources, may purchase, pursuant to the requirements of 31 V.I.C. §231a (b), Parcels No. 14, 15  
17 & 16 Kongens Gade, Crown Prince Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

18           (b)     If acquired, Parcels No. 14, 15 & 16 Kongens Gade, Crown Prince Quarter, St.  
19 Thomas, Virgin Islands must be turned over to the Department of Planning & Natural Resources  
20 to be used for the purposes authorized in section 1 of this Act.

21           (c)     The Government of the Virgin Islands shall fund the purchase of Parcels No. 14,  
22 15 & 16 Kongens Gade, through a \$10,000,000 endowment to the Government of the Virgin  
23 Islands from the Government and private citizens of Denmark.

1 (d) The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands shall hold the \$10,000,000  
2 endowment in trust for the Government of the Virgin Islands. Of the 10 million dollars, \$1,500,000  
3 must be used to purchase Parcels No. 14, 15 and 16 Kongens Gade, Crown Prince Quarter, St.  
4 Thomas, Virgin Islands and the remaining \$8,500,000 must be used to construct the School of Art  
5 for Conservation and Museum Science, the National Museum and the Cultural/Civic Center.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Government of the Virgin Islands shall transfer Parcels No. 21, 22, and  
7 23 Hospital Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from the Department of Education to  
8 the Department of Public Works for the purpose of converting it to an architectural school for the  
9 University of the Virgin Islands. Upon the completion of the renovations, the building must be  
10 transferred to the University of the Virgin Islands to house the University of the Virgin Islands  
11 Architecture and Building Arts School.

12 **SECTION 4.** The University of the Virgin Islands Architectural and Building Arts School  
13 must be constructed with \$10,000,000 to be obtained from the following sources: appropriations  
14 from the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, monies raised by the Congressional Commission and  
15 the Virgin Islands Centennial Commission and donations from private citizens.

16 **SECTION 5.** The Department of Public Works and the Department of Planning and  
17 Natural Resources shall facilitate the construction of the School of Arts for Conservation and  
18 Museum Science, the National Museum, and the Cultural Center on St. Thomas and the  
19 Department of Public Works, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, The University  
20 of the Virgin Islands and the Centennial Commission shall facilitate the construction of the  
21 architectural school on St. Croix.

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**BILL SUMMARY**

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Section 1 (a) of this bill provides that Parcels No. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 Prindsens Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Parcels No. 21, 22 and 23B Hospital Line, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, will be transferred from the Department Property and Procurement to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to be used for the School of Art Conservation and Museum Science, the National Museum and the Cultural/Civic Center (“the Complex”). Section 1(b) and (c) state the uses of the Complex and the various activities that can be conducted at the Complex. Section 1(d) list the various entities that the National Museum must seek members in. Section 1(e) provides for the establishment of three scholarships and for the fields of study for which the scholarships will be granted. Section 1(e) also provides that the Government of the Virgin Islands will endeavor to train persons in the areas of cultural anthropology, museum studies, archaeology, conservation, black, African and Caribbean studies or folklore.

Section 2 authorizes the Government of the Virgin Islands to purchase Parcels No. 14, 15 and 16 Kongens Gade, St.Thomas with \$1.5 million of the \$10,000,000 endowment from the Government and citizens of Denmark. The remaining \$8.5 million will be used for the construction of the Complex. The \$10,000,000 will be held in trust for the Government of the Virgin Islands by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

Section 3 provides for the transfer of Parcels No. 21, 22 and 23 Hospital Street, St. Croix from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Works for the construction of the University of the Virgin Islands Architecture and Building Arts School and section 4 lists the funding sources for the construction of the school.

1           Section 5 states the entities that will oversee the construction of the Complex and the  
2 University of the Virgin Islands Architecture and Building Arts School.

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5 **BR-15-0510/ October 20, 2015/Revised SLR**

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