

**Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission**

c/o 10911 Palestina  
St. John, VI 00830

Pamela C. Richards  
*Chairman*

February 22, 2016

Gerville Larsen  
*Vice Chair*

Patrice Harley  
Lois Hassell-Habtes  
Myron D. Jackson  
Sonia Jacobs Dow  
Hans Lawaetz  
Ronald Lockhart  
Clement Magras  
Shawn-Michael Malone  
Colette Monroe  
Robert O'Connor  
Eugene Petersen  
Sammuel Sanes  
Charles W. Turnbull

The Honorable Myron D. Jackson  
Chairman  
Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Capitol Building  
Post Office Box 1690  
St. Thomas, VI 00804

Dear Chairman Jackson:

I am in receipt of your invitation to the Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission to appear before the legislative Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Hall on Monday, February 22, 2016. Unfortunately, I have been previously scheduled to participate in workplace training this morning; therefore, I cannot attend the hearing.

Nevertheless, I would like to place on record, the support of the Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Commission for the project entitled *In Search of Identity*. As you know, with our vice chairman, Gerville Larsen, we were able to witness, firsthand, the positive reception, encouragement and support provided by the Governments of the Virgin Islands and Denmark, NGOs in Denmark, particularly the Association of Owners of Historic Houses in Denmark (BYFO), and the two leading schools of architecture that we visited in October for the *Identity* project which focuses on the J. Antonio Jarvis Elementary School on St. Thomas and the Old Barracks Yard on Hospital Street in Christiansted.

We were able to tour both the Aarhus School of Architecture and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture, Design and Conservation and the commitment expressed and the level of excitement and support for this project is phenomenal. The Aarhus professors and students' experience in implementing a similar project on Puerto Rico was most encouraging and we hope to benefit from this kind of collaborative partnership that is primarily sustained through expert in-kind support and assistance. The service provided is invaluable and far beyond the capacity of the Virgin Islands to provide right now, when these buildings are in danger of permanent deterioration and when funding is needed for so many other critically-needed projects.

Kudos to all who support this project and congratulations on this thoughtful, well-conceptualized and executed plan.

Cordially,



Pamela C. Richards  
Chairman