



**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY 2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

JEAN-PIERRE L. ORIOL  
COMMISSIONER

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Departmental Budget Overview .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Budget Breakdown by Division / FY 2024 Initiatives .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix: FY 2023 Accomplishments .....</b>	<b>21</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

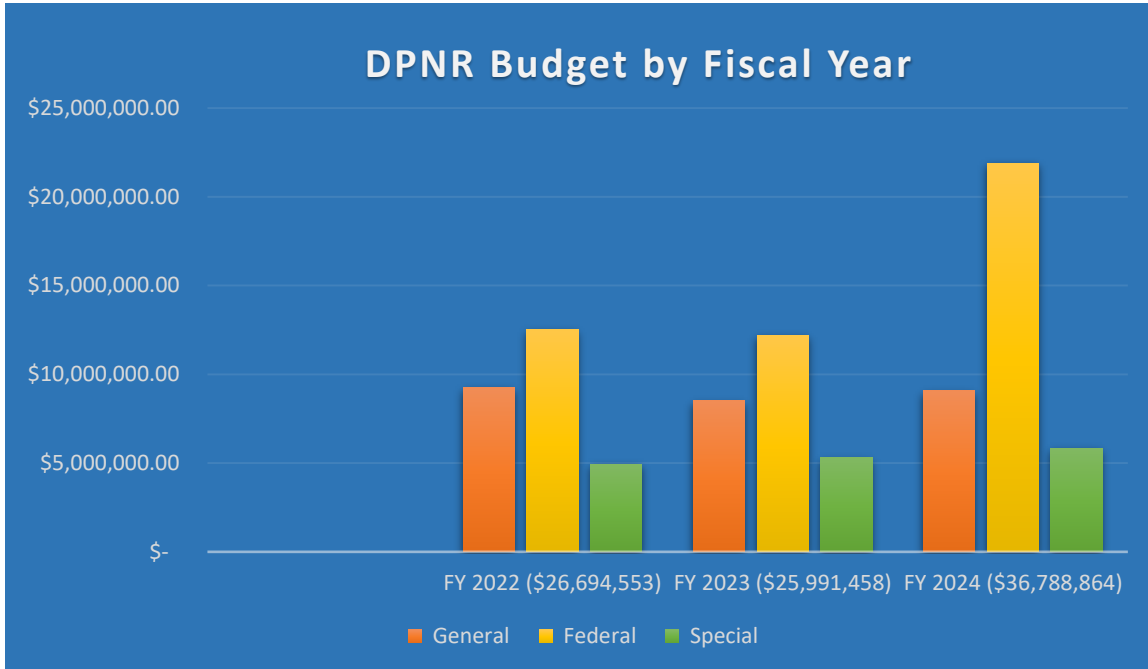
Good morning Honorable Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Chair of the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Committee on Finance, members of the Committee, other members of the 35th Legislature present, legislative staff, and to the public listening and viewing over various forms of media. I am Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources ("DPNR" or "Department"); I have present with me members of my Senior Management Team, Ms. Dianne O'Garro, Director of Business Administrative Services, and Ms. Celia Jackson-Williams, Personnel Relations Coordinator.

DPNR was established by Title 3 V.I.C. § 400(a) to administer and enforce all laws pertaining to: fish and wildlife; trees and vegetation; water resources, including the protection of safe drinking water; air and water pollution; flood control; preservation of mineral and other natural resources; preservation of the archaeological, architectural, cultural and historical heritage of the United States Virgin Islands, including public museums; pesticide control; coastal lands and off-shore islands and cays; mooring and anchoring of vessels within the territorial waters; earth change permits; and zoning. The enforcement powers of the department are codified under Title 12 V.I.C., as well as Title 29 V.I.C.

The Department is comprised of the following Divisions: 1) Business and Administrative Services (DBAS); 2) Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning (CCZP); 3) Coastal Zone Management (CZM); 4) Environmental Enforcement (DEE); 5) Environmental Protection (DEP); 6) the Executive Office; 7) Fish and Wildlife; 8) Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM); 9) Permits (DP); 10) the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO); and 11) the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts. Immediately below, detail on the overall budget for the Department is provided; followed by the breakdown of the budget by Division.

## DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Department has a total FY'24 recommended budget of \$36,788,864, which is comprised of a General Fund anticipated appropriation of \$9,063,584 (24.64%), contributions from Non-Appropriated Local Funds of \$5,835,199 (15.86%), and federal assistance from grantor agencies of \$21,890,341 (59.50%).



### General Fund Request

The FY'24 General Fund anticipated appropriation of \$9,063,584 for the Department's operations is a 6.72% increase, or \$609,411, above the FY'23 appropriation of \$8,453,913. The FY 2024 request includes \$6,519,059 for Personnel and Fringe Benefits; \$165,011 for Supplies; \$1,211,254 for Other Services and Charges; \$668,000 for Utilities; and \$500,000 for Capital Outlays. The Department notes that the \$9.0M anticipated appropriation includes obligatory match for several federal awards, mandatory obligations such as the Tutu Wells Mitigation site, the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission. Details with respect to each category are reflected in the table below, followed by a more detailed breakdown of Other Services.

	<b>FY'23 Appropriation</b>	<b>Requested FY'24</b>
Personnel	\$ 4,425,009	\$4,298,639
Fringe Benefits	2,239,204	2,220,420
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$6,664,213</b>	<b>\$6,519,059</b>
Supplies	158,000	165,011
Other Services & Charges	1,173,432	1,211,254
Utilities	458,268	668,000
Capital Outlays	0	500,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$1,789,700</b>	<b>\$2,544,265</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,453,913</b>	<b>\$9,063,324</b>

<b>Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	<b>FY '24 Allocation</b>
Debris Removal	\$ 3,150
Professional Services	11,000
Tutu Wells Litigation Site	374,000
Communications	119,197
Travel	25,500
Travel – Purchase Bulk Airline	14,000
Transportation – Not Travel	2,500
Automotive Repair and Maintenance	19,000
Repairs & Maintenance	47,178
Rental of Land & Building	480,939
Rental Machines/Equipment	2,000
Security Services	50,000
Bookmobile Insurance	0
Other Services	266,016
<b>Total Other Services:</b>	<b>\$1,211,254</b>

## General Fund Allocation by Division

Of the 11 divisions within the Department, nine rely on the General Fund appropriation, with the remaining two divisions (CZM and DFW) funded entirely by federal grants and/or other non-appropriated local funds. The following table indicates the recommended allocation of the General Fund for these divisions for the upcoming fiscal year.

### Allocation of General Fund by Divisions

Divisions	Allocation	Percentage
Executive Office	\$2,045,954	22.57%
Business and Administrative Services	1,260,492	13.91%
Environmental Enforcement	144,095	1.59%
Permits	977,759	10.79%
Libraries, Archives & Museums	2,462,739	27.17%
VI State Historic Preservation Office	217,028	2.39%
VI Historic Preservation Commission	200,000	2.21%
Environmental Protection	1,380,820	15.24%
Virgin Islands Council on the Arts	374,437	4.13%
<b>Allocation by Divisions</b>	<b>\$9,063,324</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Federal Funds

Most of the Department’s funding comes from federal awards. For FY 2024, federal grant funds will contribute \$21,890,341 or 59.63% of the overall budget, to the Department’s operations. Allocated across all categories, the estimated amounts are Personnel Services at \$5,632,390 which covers salaries and fringe benefits for 32 Exempt and 78 Classified positions (110 total); Supplies at \$380,411; Other Services and Charges at \$5,999,279; Utilities at \$15,500, and Capital Outlay at \$169,419. Below is a breakdown of federal funds by Division.

Divisions	Allocation	Percentage
Coastal Zone Management	\$ 1,578,110	7.21%
Fish and Wildlife	4,926,003	22.50%
Environmental Enforcement	592,297	2.71%
Libraries, Archives & Museums	92,639	0.42%
VI State Historic Preservation Office	434,230	1.98%
Environmental Protection	13,948,827	63.72%
Virgin Islands Council on the Arts	318,235	1.45%
<b>Allocation by Divisions</b>	<b>\$21,890,341</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Non-Appropriated Local Funds

The FY 2024 recommendation from Non-Appropriated (Special) funds is \$5,835,199 or about 15.86% of the Department’s total request. These funds, derived from fees, fines, and rentals of submerged and filled submerged lands provide support to the Executive Office, DEE, Permits, CCZP, CZM, and DEP. Fees collected are deposited into the following funds: General, Coastal Protection, Legal Publication, Fish and Game, Underground Storage Tank, Natural Resource Reclamation, and the Air Pollution Control. Collections thus far in 2023 are in the amount of \$4,699,889; total collections in FY 2022 were \$6,430,879.

Breaking down the Special Funds by category, the estimated amounts are: \$3,120,017 for Personnel and Fringe Benefits Services, which fund 39 positions within the Department; \$413,000 for Supplies; \$2,117,182 for Other Services and Charges, \$110,000 for Utilities and \$75,000 for Capital Outlay. The table below provides the Allocation of Special funds by Division.

**Allocation of Non-Appropriated Local Funds by Divisions**

Divisions	Allocation	Percentage
Executive Office	\$2,728,271	46.76%
Environmental Enforcement	1,050,452	18.00%
Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning	552,485	9.47%
Coastal Zone Management	901,222	15.44%
Environmental Protection	478,039	8.19%
Permits	124,730	2.14%
<b>Allocation by Divisions</b>	<b>\$5,835,199</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## BUDGET BY DIVISION

The following portion of the presentation provides an overview of each of the roles and responsibilities of the 11 divisions, and for your review, the estimated FY 2024 budget for each division. Here I will focus my discussion on the major initiatives that each division will embark upon for FY 2024.

### BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Division of Business and Administrative Service (DBAS) is responsible for all fiscal matters pertaining to budgeting, personnel, payroll, revenue collection, and other fiscal matters involving general, federal, and other special funds. Below is the breakdown of the estimated FY 2024 budget for the division.

Division: DBAS	# Of Personnel	Existing: 15	Vacant: 4
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$756,580		
Fringe	428,429		
Supplies	16,000		
Debris Removal	1,050		
Rep & Maintenance	500		
Rental of Land/Bldg.	9,933		
Rental Mach/Equip	500		
Communications	11,000		
Transportation-Not Travel	500		
Travel	2,000		
Other Services	3,000		
Electricity	20,000		
Water	11,000		
Totals	\$1,260,492		

### COMPREHENSIVE AND COASTAL ZONE PLANNING

Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning (CCZP) formulates long-range plans and policies, including the development of a comprehensive plan to properly guide and manage the physical, economic, and social growth and development trends in the territory. The Division is also responsible for administering DPNR's zoning map amendment, subdivision, planned area development and group dwelling processes, and reviewing their effectiveness and appropriateness. It serves as a resource center for government agencies and the public and coordinates territorial planning activities and capital projects between the public and private sector. Below is the breakdown of the estimated FY 2024 budget by category.



Division: CCZP	# Of Personnel	Existing: 4	Vacant: 0
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel			\$219,220
Fringe			93,944
Supplies			45,000
Prof Services			79,455
Training			20,000
Rental-Land/Building			19,865
Communications			10,000
Adv & Promotion			20,000
Transp. Not Travel			20,000
Travel			20,000
Electricity			5,000
Totals			\$552,484

**FY 2024 Initiatives**

For FY 2024, CCZP will continue its focus on the completion of the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (VI Comp Plan). Efforts started this year have gone very well, receiving lots of support from the public.

In addition to the VI Comp Plan, CCZP will seek to implement additional fees for services, primarily for the processing of zoning certifications and business license review fees. Currently, we have no charge for zoning certification reviews, and a \$20 charge for business license review. Our aim is to have a \$40 charge per review; based on FY 2022 reviews, this would generate approximately \$177,000 in revenue, enabling us to create a sustainable funding source for additional staffing support.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**

The Division of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), serves to protect, maintain, preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of the environment, while promoting economic development and growth in the coastal zone. CZM also permits and regulates all development within the first tier of the coastal zone; develops, manages and promotes the St. Croix East End Marine Park; oversees the negotiation and implementation of submerged and filled land leases; and assists in the protection of marine environments, particularly coral reefs, via implementation of erosion and sedimentation control regulations and programs and non-point source pollution control policies and programs.

CZM receives two (2) Cooperative Agreements from NOAA that support the operation of the program. Along with the non-federal match generated by the collection of fees and penalties, these funds support 23 positions for the implementation of the tasks outlined in the awards. Below is the breakdown of funds for FY 2024.

Division: CZM	# Of Personnel	Existing: 26	Vacant: 6
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel		\$454,155	\$555,246
Fringe		235,058	275,976
Supplies		36,668	20,000
Repairs & Maintenance		0	3,000
Professional Services		150,000	15,000
Communications		0	10,000
Transp. Not Travel		0	2,000
Travel		0	10,000
Sub-Grants		0	0
Other Services		594,239	10,000
Indirect Cost		107,990	0
Totals		\$1,578,110	\$901,222

FY 2024 Initiatives

CZM, in conjunction with the Division of Permits, will host a series of permitting workshops across the islands. With the release of the electronic permitting (e-permitting) system set for July 10, 2023, it will be necessary to continue workshops started in FY '23. With over 150 applications received annually in just Tier 1, the goal is to reduce the amount of incomplete applications for more timely processing of application.

CZM will continue to implement small projects identified in several watershed management plans. Thus far, 13 watershed plans have been completed and we have been able to receive financial support through other federal awards for the implementation of projects. Larger projects are being done in concert with the Department of Public Works, and smaller projects are being completed either in-house or with private and non-profit partners.

In FY 2024, CZM will continue the work of updating the Coastal Zone Management Act (12 V.I.C. §§ 901-914) and regulations (12 V.I.R.R. §§ 901-1 thru 914-20 and 12 V.I.R.R. §§ I-IX), the Open Shorelines Act (12 V.I.C. §§ 401-404) and update the enforcement and violation statute and regulations that pertain to the St. Croix East End Marine Park (12 V.I.C. §§ 98-99a; 12 V.I.R.R. §§ 98-1 thru 99-1). These updates may include making substantive changes; revising vague language, definitions and artificially limiting language; internalizing the process to allow for more efficient implementation; as these updates are being conducted, additional statutes and regulations may be identified for update.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Division of Environmental Enforcement (DEE) serves as the law enforcement arm of the Department. Its primary functions are to enforce all boating safety and permitting laws of the United States Virgin Islands and to protect, conserve and preserve the natural resources of the Territory. Its secondary functions are to support the philosophy of “zero tolerance” to illegal drugs by assisting when called upon by federal and local enforcement agencies, and enforcement of Homeland Security duties through land and marine patrols focused at preventing terrorist attacks. The Division has 16 staff across the territory, of which ten (10) are active enforcement officers. Below is the breakdown of funds for FY 2023.

Division: DEE	# Of Personnel		
	Existing: 17		Vacant: 5
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$ 96,857	\$211,564	\$387,035
Fringe	61,554	105,368	191,535
Supplies	0	55,958	30,000
Repair & Maintenance	0	0	240,000
Auto Rep & Maintenance	0	0	5,000
Small Tools & Minor Equip	0	0	50,000
Professional Services	0	0	10,000
Communication	0	0	44,882
Transp. - Not Travel	0	0	2,000
Travel	0	0	20,000
Other Services	0	67,406	0
Electricity	0	0	40,000
Water	0	0	27,500
Indirect	0	152,001	2,500
Totals	\$158,411	\$592,297	\$1,050,452

### FY 2024 Initiatives

In FY 2024, the Division of Environmental Enforcement (DEE) will continue to enhance our outreach program with the ability to provide an onsite mobile outreach lab that will allow the Division to introduce the Boating Safety program to schools, the boating community, and major events where outreach is promoted. This Mobile outreach lab will be unveiled in the next fiscal year.

DEE will be advancing its initiative to create two marine enforcement terminals, one on St. Thomas, and one on St. Croix. Funds were secured this fiscal year to create the terminals. The new terminals will provide the spaces necessary to house the newest vessels in our enforcement fleet currently in production. The spaces are currently in design, and we hope to be out for bid in the early part of FY 2024.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The goal of the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to protect and conserve the territories’ natural resources and to ensure that residents are protected from hazards and environmental risks. DEP staff is focused on strategic measures to protect human health and our environment. The division’s core goals are to provide residents with clean air, clean water, conversation of land, and safety from harmful chemicals. The enclosed budget request will enable the division to support our main priorities and achieve our most important goals for the territory.

Division: DEP	# Of Personnel Existing: 25		Vacant: 25
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$616,247	\$2,177,437	\$294,651
Fringe	292,247	1,090,462	139,138
Supplies	0	84,332	8,000
Debris Removal	1,050	0	0
Rental of Land/Bldg.	20,969	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	2,307	0	5,000
Communication	12,500	0	0
Ad & Promotion	1,000	0	0
Transportation - Not Travel		0	4,000
Travel	2,000	0	12,250
Bulk Ticket Purchase	2,500	0	0
Sub-Grants		0	0
Other Services	374,000	10,551,414	15,000
Electricity	51,000	0	0
Water	5,000	0	0
Indirect Cost	0	0	0
Machinery & Equip.	0	45,182	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,380,820</b>	<b>\$13,948,827</b>	<b>\$478,039</b>

FY 2024 Initiatives

The major initiative for DEP in this fiscal year will be recruitment. We have lost a significant number of employees in this division over the last two years. We have received support from our federal grantor agency in augmenting our awards to increase starting salaries to be more competitive. We hope that this will make vacancies more enticing to prospective applicants.

In FY 2024, we will complete all of the necessary requirements to have the program restored to normal status and remove the high-risk designation. We have completed the updates to our

SOPPs, we are finalizing the training for staff, and soon after, we will be requesting an on-site visit from our federal grantor agency to move forward with the end to our high-risk status.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

The Executive Office coordinates the operations of DPNR. The Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Media Relations, and the office of Human Resources all fall under the Executive Office. Below is a breakdown of the requested budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Division: Exec. Off	# Of Personnel	Existing: 6	Vacant: 6
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$498,718		\$670,504
Fringe	205,487		292,767
Supplies	9,285		70,000
Debris Removal	1,050		0
Rep & Maintenance	0		20,000
Auto Rep & Maintenance	0		10,000
Rental of Land/Bldg.	363,108		10,000
Rental/Mach & Equip	0		25,000
Prof. Services	1,000		675,000
Communication	17,000		25,000
Ad & Promotion	0		10,000
Printing & Binding	0		5,000
Transp. - Not Travel	0		10,000
Travel	0		40,000
Bulk Ticket Purchase	0		10,000
Other Services	22,388		750,000
Electricity	45,000		40,000
Water	3,000		0
Machinery & Equip.	500,000		75,000
Totals	\$1,666,036		\$2,728,271

FY 2024 Initiatives

The Executive Office continues to push forward with its plans of developing its own permanent office space in the St. Thomas district. The designs are currently at 70% completion, and we anticipate completion in August 2023. It is our goal to have the department in our new office facility in December 2024.

The Executive Office oversees the implementation of all FEMA-funded disaster recovery projects (PWs). Three renovation projects are set to begin this summer – the St. John Office renovation, the renovation of the Charles W. Turnbull Library and the renovation of the Athalie McFarland Petersen Library. Once started, all three projects should conclude in 2024. A fourth project, the renovation of the Enid Baa facility, was out for public bid earlier this year; however, only one bid was received, significantly higher than estimated. As such, we are reposting that bid by July 2023.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) implements scientific projects and public awareness programs for the conservation and appreciation of the natural heritage of the Virgin Islands. DFW provides Territorially mandated natural resource work is completed using federal grants apportioned annually to US jurisdictions and competitive grants awarded to the Division. All projects are based on long-term strategic plans for safeguarding wildlife and marine resources. Special project funds like the federal Technical Assistance Program grant awarded this year for creating an aquaculture demonstration facility and the Regional Wetlands Program to update our wetlands databases are won through competitive awards written, planned, and executed by the staff biologists.

Division: DFW	# Of Personnel	Existing: 36	Vacant: 12
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel		\$2,347,202	
Fringe		1,003,615	
Supplies		326,575	
Debris Removal		6,000	
Repair & Maintenance		28,119	
Auto Rep & Maintenance		26,022	
Rental of Land/Bldg.		119,477	
Prof Services		338,971	
Security Services		5,000	
Communications		26,161	
Ad & Promotion		29,404	
Printing & Binding		15,572	
Transp. - Not Travel		33,574	
Travel		93,639	
Sub-Grants		132,526	
Other Services		211,121	
Utilities		25,500	
Capital Outlay		157,525	
Totals		\$4,926,003	

FY 2024 Initiatives

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is updating multiple strategic plans including: a new Plant Conservation Strategy; the Marine Conservation Strategic Plan (last updated in 2005); the National Wetlands Inventory (last updated in 2007); the State Wildlife Action Plan (last updated in 2017); and a new Aqua and Mariculture Strategic Plan for the USVI. These plans will include historic topics like recreational and commercial bird and fish stocks as well as new sections on aquatic invasive species, baitfish, sargassum, aquaculture, conservation opportunity areas, rare bees, and water siting for FADs, offshore energy, and fishing. These cutting-edge evidence-based management documents will include actionable, measurable goals to guide the Division across the next ten years and qualify the Virgin Islands for tens of millions of federal dollars across the next decade.

We are continuing support of community initiatives like the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue Network, funding UVI Youth Ocean Explorers scholarships, our collaboration with Sports, Parks, and Recreation to host youth Take Me Fishing and Archery clinics, community art like SeaWalls, and our ever-popular kayaking trips. We are planning on debuting contact information booklets for commercial fishers through the Reef Responsible Sustainable Seafood Initiative; Wildlife Control Operators through the Invasive Species Community Eradication Program; local nurseries and gardens through our VI Wild plant program; and small boating access community grants through our Boating Access Program. Lastly, look for installation of street signs indicating the watershed where you are driving, which means that dirt, water, and debris in that area flow downstream to a central output in the ocean.

**LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS**

The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM) provides library and information services, through the development and preservation of its historical and archival collections. The Museums Unit is responsible for the interpretation of the history, arts, and culture of the USVI. This unit is responsible for preserving and maintaining two coastal Danish fortresses, Fort Christian, and Fort Frederik Museums National Historic Landmark sites. Below is a breakdown of the requested budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Division: DLAM	# Of Personnel	Existing: 31	Vacant: 9
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$1,291,378	0	
Fringe	718,461	0	
Supplies	26,500	\$ 7,639	
Rep & Maintenance	15,000	0	
Auto Rep & Maintenance	1,000	0	
Rental of Land/Building	50,400	0	
Security Services	50,000	0	
Communications	32,000	0	
Transp. - Not Travel	1,000	0	

Travel	6,000	0	
Other Services	0	85,000	
Electricity	245,000	0	
Water	26,000	0	
Totals	\$2,462,739	\$92,639	

FY 2024 Initiatives

In 2024, as we bring library facilities back online, DLAM will promote programs in accordance with the goals outlined in its five-year plan. These include programs to combat literacy, to provide flexible spaces for community engagement, and bridging the digital divide by providing access to online resources. We will also be operating at extended hours and weekends for all open facilities.

In FY 2024, using an IRA grant in the amount of \$3M, DLAM will undertake a major archival initiative to restore and digitize some of our most precious historic resources. This project began in FY 2023 in partnership with former Danish archivist, Asbjorn Hellum, for this digitization of Danish archives in our possession. Having secured the additional resources, we will now contract with professionals to extend the digitization to our most important documents, where afterwards, we will be able to provide access through our website, to our library card holders.

Lastly, in FY 2024, DLAM will complete conceptual plans and exhibit development for both Fort Christian and Fort Frederik. Using funding being provided to the Territory from the US Economic Development Authority, DPNR submitted project proposals for development of exhibits within the Fort to enhance our tourism product. The proposals received preliminary approval in February and NEPA review was concluded in March. Once DPNR receives word from the Office of Management and Budget that EDA has fully approved the project (which we anticipate sometime in July) we will begin our requests for proposals. The outcome for the project is to enable patrons to conduct self-guided tours in each of the Forts using interactive audio and visual materials.

**PERMITS**

The Division of Permits reviews and issues several types of construction permits, including flood, demolition for existing structures, and inspects all construction activity throughout the Territory to ensure compliance with the local and national building codes. Following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, Permits is the sub-recipient of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) award, managed by VITEMA (Virgin Islands Territory Emergency Management Agency), of \$7.3M for building code enforcement. With this grant, there have been 17 staff hired, including inspectors, plan reviewers, administrative staff, and permit technicians. There was also a purchase of 7 vehicles, various offices, and field equipment. We have conducted on-the-job training, including webinars, to assist with our continuing education for staff. The term for this grant has been extended for three (3) years.



Division: Permits	# Of Personnel	Existing: 28	Vacant: 2
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$585,382		0
Fringe	305,377		0
Supplies	6,000		\$25,000
Rep & Maintenance	3,000		2,500
Auto Rep & Maintenance	7,000		0
Rental of Land/Building	0		39,730
Rental Mach/Equip	1,000		0
Professional Services	0		10,000
Communication	25,000		10,000
Ad & Promotion	0		2,500
Transp. Not Travel	1,000		0
Travel	4,000		10,000
Other Services	0		25,000
Electricity	35,000		0
Water	5,000		0
Totals	\$977,759		\$124,730

FY 2024 Initiatives

In FY 2024, the Division of Permits will continue providing code enforcement services for all construction projects in the territory. Our office will focus on certification for staff. Workbooks and online seminar training will be provided to help staff prepare for certification testing. Permits will work on the completion of the first phase of the United States Virgin Islands Flood Hazard Index. This project is funded through an HMGP Flood Plain Management Improvement Grant. Due to the five years needed to provide research and field testing with the allotment of time, it was not sufficient for the project's completion. DPNR has broken down the scope of work into phases. This Flood Hazard Index will be a tool that can assist our community in design and mitigation as stakeholders plan and develop a property.

Permits will focus on outreach to the trade industry. These trainings will be in partnership with the International Code Council (ICC) and other leading companies in the construction trade and code enforcement industry. Training will also include changes to the VI Code, once promulgated by the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature. I note that the legislation we are speaking of was first submitted to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, then again to the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO) preserves and protects the archaeological resources and historic built heritage of the Virgin Islands. This mission is accomplished through consultation reviews, education and outreach initiatives, regulatory

oversight, and by sponsoring and/or assisting projects that promote historic preservation and archaeology in the Virgin Islands.

Division: VISHPO	# Of Personnel	Existing: 11	Vacant: 2
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$110,392	\$240,556	
Fringe	57,136	111,183	
Supplies	10,000	4,000	
Rep & Maintenance	2,000	0	
Auto Rep & Maintenance	1,000	0	
Rental of Mach/Equip.	500	0	
Communication	14,000	0	
Travel	1,500	0	
Bulk Airline Ticket	1,500	0	
Sub-grants	0	40,000	
Other Services	0	38,491	
Electricity	15,000	0	
Water	4,000	0	
Totals	\$ 217,028	\$434,230	

FY 2024 Initiatives

In Fiscal Year 2024, VISHPO looks forward to ramping up the Historic Buildings Recovery Program into the repair and restoration phase. In this next phase historic buildings and houses damaged by the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria will get funding for the needed repairs/renovation work. The Program is anticipating funding repair work for approximately 66 historic properties in the St. Croix District and the St. Thomas-St. John District.

The VISHPO will continue its assistance to the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission on the updating of the preservation guidelines for the historic town districts. This comprehensive user guide will provide general information on the steps required for making improvements and changes in the historic districts of Christiansted, Frederiksted, Charlotte Amalie, and Cruz Bay. The new Historic Districts guide will also have links to the DPNR website for further information on Historic Preservation resources.

Lastly, VISHPO will seek to begin the historic rehabilitation and construction work on the DPNR/VISHPO Archaeological Laboratory, Storage, and Museum Facility in downtown Charlotte Amalie. Our last attempt to receive bids went non-responsive. As such, we will augment the SOW and resolicit for bid in the upcoming fiscal year.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA) is an agency within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources charged with 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 federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, 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.

Division: VICA	# Of Personnel	Existing: 3	Vacant: 0
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund
Personnel	\$193,975	0	
Fringe	93,236	0	
Rental of Land/Bldg.	36,529	0	
Communication	7,697	0	
Grants/Ind Gov't Agencies	40,000	0	
Electricity	3,000	0	
Other Services		\$318,235	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$374,437</b>	<b>\$318,235</b>	

FY 2024 Initiatives

In FY 2024, VICA will continue to embark on an ambitious initiative to provide spaces for the presentation of visual and performing artists and provide administrative services to artists. To that end, a portion of the Council's St. Thomas office will be established as a gallery/performance space to present art exhibitions, African drumming, classical and jazz recitals, woodworking demonstrations/exhibitions, recycled art, handmade jewelry exhibitions, movie making headquarters, symposiums, historical celebrations, location for shooting commercials and other community-based art events. On St. Croix, we will be undertaking repairs to the Dorsch Cultural Center that will allow us to expand its use for functions, including the very popular "Dorsch After Dark" series.

One upcoming event we would like to highlight - VICA has partnered with Stanley and The Ten Sleepless Knights to coordinate both the St. Croix and St. Thomas Folklife Festivals. On St. Croix the Folklife festival begins on June 21 and will culminate on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Emancipation Day. On St. Thomas, the festival will take place on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at the Reichold Center for the Arts. This Cultural festival will include a series of culture-based workshops, folklore, and traditional dancing and activities. The activities will help expose participants to the various cultural and traditional art forms celebrated in our community, for example, head tying, basket weaving, storytelling, ole time games and re-introduction of the maypole, and Quelbe music. This is a new initiative and we encourage everyone to come out and participate.

## CONCLUSION

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources achieved many accomplishments over FY 2023. For ease of reference, provided below as an Appendix to this testimony is a summary by division of FY 2023 accomplishments to date. Some of these accomplishments include:

- Launching the Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan;
- the removal of derelict barges in Krum Bay, St. Thomas, and the removal of sunken vessels in the district of St. Croix;
- completing and launching the redesigned DPNR website;
- continuing to bring Science Saturdays to the public via FaceBook Live on the second Saturday of every month at 10:00 am;
- expanding the online vessel mooring and registration program;
- upgrading existing fleet for Enforcement Officers, to include new vehicles, protective armor and rapid response vessels;
- implementing the Wildlife Control Operator program and executing the bounty program for the invasive red-tailed boa;
- opening the commercial fishing registration to new applicants, as well as passing new regulations for recreational fishing;
- hosted community events like the Lionfish Derby, fishing clinics, and archery competitions;
- hiring new staff and opening the Elaine Ione Sprauve Public Library on St. John;
- increased our art and video shows reflecting Virgin Islands culture at our Forts;
- increase operational times in STT district by opening Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm;
- executed over \$1M in subrecipient agreements under our Historic Disaster Recovery Program;
- we highlighted Virgin Islands culture and arts through public art displays and music festivals

These accomplishments and many more listed below in the Appendix highlight the fortitude of the 170 men and women of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources and I thank them all for their service. Their efforts collectively allow the Department to meet its mission, which is to foster economic development while protecting, maintaining and managing the natural and cultural resources of the Virgin Islands, enabling present and future generations to live safer, fuller lives in harmony with their environment and cultural heritage.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature for the opportunity to present the FY 2024 budget for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. With the support of the Legislature, and in combination with our federal assistance awards, the department is poised to undertake actions that make our operations more efficient, provide additional services to our people, and support the overall mission of the Bryan-Roach Administration - building a more resilient Territory for our residents and our guests. The road will be difficult, filled with challenges, especially those related to funding, but the staff at the Department of Planning and Natural Resources are ready to meet those challenges head on. Thank you and I am prepared to answer any questions that you may have.

## APPENDIX I: FISCAL YEAR 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### COMPREHENSIVE AND COASTAL ZONE PLANNING

- The Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan's contract was executed on June 29, 2022, and DPNR, along with its selected contractor, Horsley Witten, conducted the first Town Hall Meetings (in person and virtual) on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup> as part of the public engagement needed to develop the plan. The second set of public engagement activities will occur in July 2023.



- The division recently hired a Planning Technician for the St. Thomas/St. John district, bringing the division to three technical staff and one administrative staff.



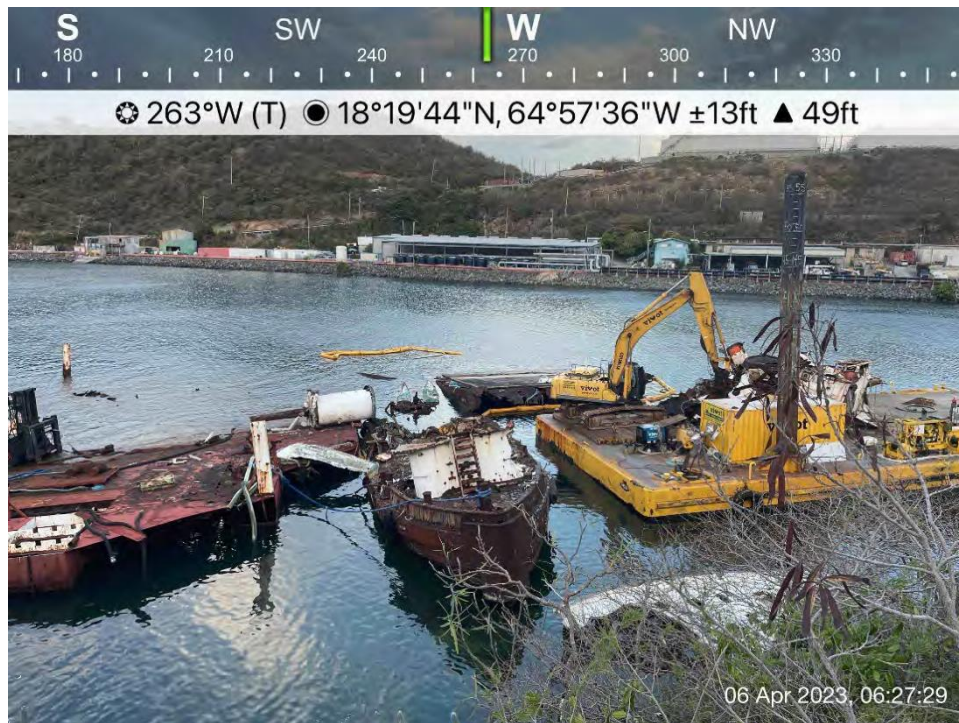
Keshoi Samuel

- The division participated in the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Program at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School. The hope is to interest the younger generation in planning and encourage them to pursue higher studies in that field. The division hosted two high school seniors for 13 weeks (about 3 months) and had them assist in the zoning processing of business license and earth change applications. The division looks forward to the continued partnership with the St. Croix Educational Complex JAG Program.



## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

- Work commenced on the derelict vessel removals project in Krum Bay in December of 2022 and has been progressing well, despite a few hiccups. This project is expected to be complete in the summer of 2023. This project is completely funded by NOAA's Marine Debris Program to the tune of \$3M.



- CZM was successful in applying for a NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship position and that person has been selected and will be working on advancing the territorial parks development.
- CZM, through its VI Clean Coasts Initiative, applied for and received from the National Fisheries Marine Service Habitat Restoration Program a grant to support residential stormwater and erosion control projects that will serve as low-cost demonstrations for the community. This funding is worth approximately \$900K over 3 years.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**

- The Division purchased a Boating Skills Virtual Trainer which will offer a realistic and sophisticated water physics boating experience simulator which will allow us to bring the boating experience to the general community. Our outreach effort of the National safe boating program was promoted in several schools throughout the territory, reaching about 400 students.



- DEE was awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) -4340-0070 FEMA-4340 DR-VI) of \$122,434.58. The award was granted to install a stand-by 40 kw generator plus enclosure that will house the generator and a 400-gallon diesel tank at the Anna's Hope Office. This project was completed in March of 2023, and with this enhancement the facility is now deemed a Tier 2 structure for critical facilities in Wind Zone 4 (USVI).



- The Division acquired 3 new vehicles: 2 Jeep Wranglers for patrol and 1 Chevy Silverado 1500 crew cab pick-up truck for the district of St. Croix. These assets will be utilized for patrols and/or hauling of vessels.
- DEE is poised to unveil its rapid response personal watercrafts soon. These vessels are currently in the territory and will be suited for patrols upon officer's successful completion of the Personal Watercraft Certified Training offered through NASBLA (National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators).





- In keeping with the initiative to expand current marine patrol inventory, a professional service contract PO-22-800-8002 -10 was formed between the Government of the US Virgin Islands and Metal Craft Marine Inc. This contract was procured through the Department of Property and Procurement on behalf of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources and Metal Craft Marine Inc. to design, fabricate, and deliver four (4) marine patrol vessels to DPNR Enforcement. Each District will receive two vessels. The 1.5-million-dollar funding for these vessels was acquired from the US Treasury’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund ERP Proj. V 9900 approved in mid -July 2022. The department anticipates completion by August 2023 and delivery by the start of the new fiscal year.



Boat Registration	3815
Mooring Registration	586
Anchoring	131
Cruising Permit	1
Multi-Vessel Moorings	25

## FISH AND WILDLIFE

- The Division of Fish and Wildlife addresses short-term and long-term challenges for fish and wildlife resources in the Territory by providing training opportunities for staff to provide technical guidance to national and international committees and agencies. In FY 2023, DFW staff learned to identify wetlands with the Army Corps of Engineers, attended NOAA Oiled Wildlife Response trainings, chaired the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council's Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plans Technical Advisory Panel, and published eight peer-reviewed scientific papers.
- DFW hosted the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Association's Director's Meeting at Government House in St. Croix in March 2023, showcasing our Territorial resources to a variety of federal agency heads, 15 different state agency heads, and many non-profit partners.
- DFW responded to 56 calls with field visits for assistance with nuisance wildlife to-date in 2023. The fourth annual Exotic Pet Amnesty Week was held on all islands in February of this year and included demonstrations with invasive species at the Agriculture and Food Fair. The event resulted in more than a dozen new permits for Exotic Species.



- DFW responded to over 200 requests for information on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Sixty-seven groups were permitted to conduct scientific research or take species in the Territory in FY 2023. DPNR-DFW provided the Ocean Conservancy, Friends of Virgin Islands National Park, and the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue (STAR) Network with support for volunteers, monitoring, and sea turtle strandings and unusual events, like the rare loggerhead turtle that was disoriented in Frederiksted, St. Croix and needed rehabilitation before its release – that turtle is now back in its ‘normal’ range near South America.
- More than 400 members of the fishing industry have been granted \$6 million in direct aid for losses associated with the 2017 hurricane season with final payments of over \$2 million this year to finalize direct aid payments associated with the grant. An additional 1 million dollars was provided to the University of the Virgin Islands and The Nature Conservancy for replanting coral reefs in important fishing areas. We worked with the Economic Development Authority to provide \$98,300 in direct aid as a response to losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- In FY 2023, DFW hosted over a dozen interns across Districts. Our student interns and volunteers worked on diverse projects including fisher data compliance, freshwater invertebrate sampling, offshore cays biological assessments, and fishing clinics.

## **LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS**

DLAM achieved many accomplishments and goals in 2023 by forming partnerships with nonprofits and other government agencies.



Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library increased operational days and hours, providing the public more opportunities to utilize DLAM services. The new hours are Tuesday–Friday 9 am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 6pm. The Beulah Smith Harrigan Children room was a hub for exciting literacy programs. Elementary school students visited to attend programs. Weekly Story time is also held every Wednesday.

THE DPNR DIVISION OF  
LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS  
ANNOUNCES

# EXTENDED HOURS!

at  
**Charles W. Turnbull  
Regional Library**

**NOW OPEN:**  
TUES - FRI  
9:30AM - 7:00PM  
SATURDAY  
9:00AM - 6:00PM



**hoopla** Tap into Discovery.  
Instantly Read, Listen, and  
Watch with Your Library Card.

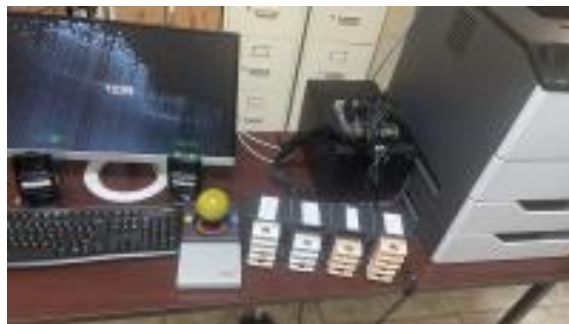
NEW Online Digital Library  
**OPEN 24/7**  
Visit [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS



For more information contact Territorial Director DeSorbo at 340-718-2250

Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Challenged, also known as Talking Books Library improved technical services and operations with the new Duplication on Demand system. This system increases the borrowing of books now as a cartridge can hold up to twenty books instead of one cartridge per book.



Outreach programs at Talking Books Library include the popular Monthly Book Club hosted by St. Croix District Librarian II Ms. Nina Garcia. The book club celebrated its one-year anniversary with a reception after the book club discussion.



Talking Books Library participated with DLAM under the DPNR Tent at The St. Croix Agricultural Fair. The DLAM Team promoted all the services and opportunities offered to attendees.



Education continues to be instructed on DLAM's Digital online Library Hoopla. Digital Online Services have helped bridge the digital divide. Digital online library provides library services 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The Books on Wheels Program, which provides outreach library services at various locations that are not in proximity of the library, has successfully expanded to partner or collaborate with The Office of The First Lady, St. Croix Children's Museum, Virgin Islands Fire and Service, Department of Sports Park, and Recreation and the Virgin Islands Children's Museum and Senior Centers.



The DLAM Traveling Story time has provided Literacy programs with Sports Park and Recreation Summer Campers on St. Thomas and St. John bringing Library outreach to camps. DLAM has also hosted programs at Fort Christian Museum for Virgin Islanders both young and the young at heart. Senior citizens and children enjoyed the programs. Most recently we had an event to Celebrate EMS Week. VI Fire and Emergency Service Assistant Director Evelyn was our guest reader.



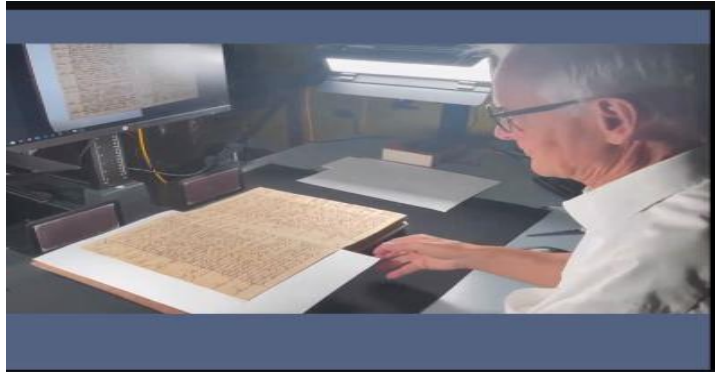
In FY 2023 using ARPA Cares Act funding, DLAM purchased three library outreach vehicles; one for each Island. Tablets were also purchased to assist patrons to access our new online digital library. This year DLAM has partnered with the Office of The First Lady. Our Summer Reading Program. Tablets will be provided (while supplies last) when patrons of the US Virgin Library System register for the program.

This year, DLAM participated in a program with the Department of Labor that gave three interns a chance to work in the Library and Fort.

**Archives:**

In 2023 DLAM purchased two scanners that digitize microfilm with ILMS Pacific Grant Funding for our Archival work.

DLAM hosted a visiting Archivist from Denmark, who was able to scan records, logs, and ledgers from the 1800's. Documents will be scanned, digitized, and translated from Danish to English and returned to the department to be shared with the people of the Virgin Islands.



DLAM staff were provided Disaster Training through a federal grant, to be better poised to handle books and archival material after natural disasters. Emergency plans were also developed. DLAM team members also attended and completed Grant Writing Class at UVI Cell.

### **Museums:**

DLAM has been activating our Fort Museums with powerful programming and community partnerships.

DLAM programs included: Student Art workshops, which had Students select their favorite work and made artwork, short videos, and poetry inspired by their favorite artwork from the exhibit: The Revolution is Not a One Time Act – featuring 17 VI artists.

The DLAM David Hamilton Jackson Art Programming was developed and presented by Curator, Monica Marin. It includes a PowerPoint presentation on the history and legacy of David Hamilton Jackson and Romare Bearden and social justice collages by art students. The opening of The Student Art Exhibition was attended by over 500 because of partnering with the nonprofit Group Holiday in the Night Skies toy drive event featuring Fireworks at Fort Frederik.

In celebration of Black History Month, DLAM developed and presented PowerPoint presentations on Important VI and Caribbean artists who contributed to the Harlem Renaissance to St. Croix Educational Complex art students

In celebration of VI History Month, DLAM partnered with the VI Department of Education for the **EMANCIPATION NOW! UNDERSTANDING HISTORY, LIVING THE LEGACY, AND CREATING A JUST FUTURE FOR ALL AH WE** initiative. DLAM Curator developed and presented PowerPoint presentations and led discussions about cultural legacies of resistance and freedom in VI history. Also installed DLAM Student artwork as part of Youth Art Month Art Show opening at CHANT.

DLAM has also partnered with the 175<sup>th</sup> Emancipation Committee to organize 2 major exhibits to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Emancipation: 1) Restoring the 1848 Emancipation Exhibit at Fort Frederik and 2) Adelita Cancryn students restoring Transatlantic Slave Trade exhibit at Fort Christian.

Ongoing Capital improvement projects:

- The Elaine Ione Sprauve Library and Cultural Museum in St. John had its ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Library services are now available on St. John.

- Florence Williams Public Library CIP (Capital Improvement Project) improvements are nearing completion.
- The Charles W Turnbull Regional Library contract is in the execution phase and should begin in late June/early July.
- Enid Baa Public Library is going out to bid as the previous bid process yielded only one bid, which was deemed non-responsive.
- Fort Frederik Museum is currently around 30% design, and we are working with the architects
- Fort Christian Museum is waiting for approval of the Scope of work (SOW) by FEMA.



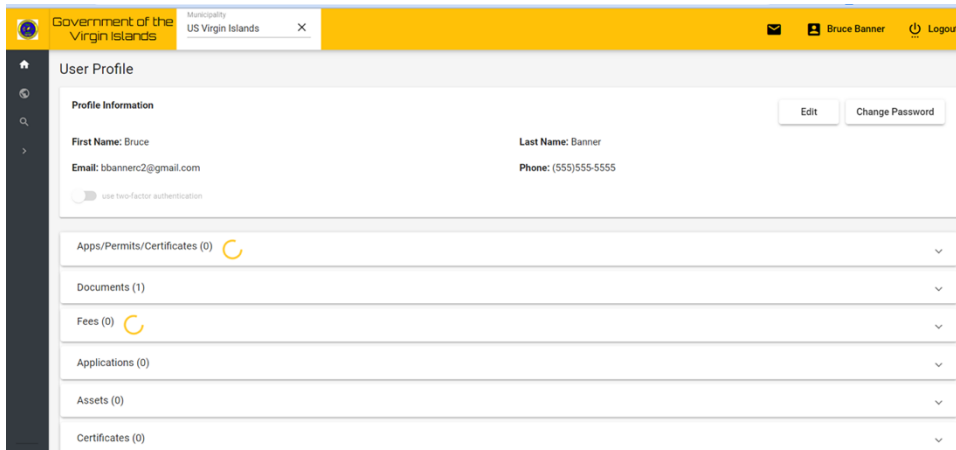
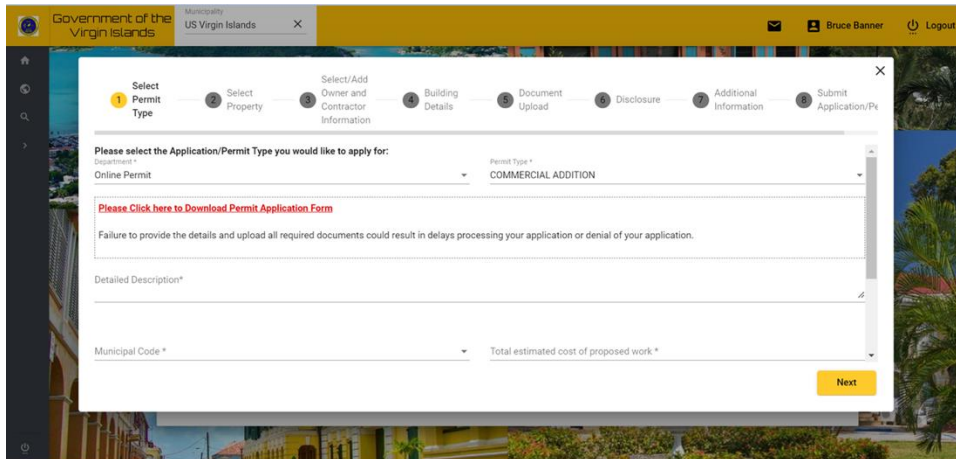
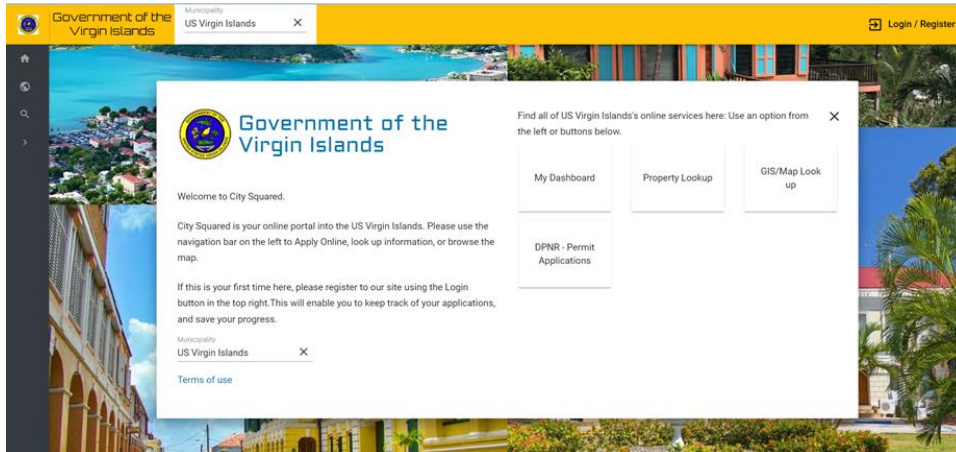
## PERMITS

The Division of Permits' main function is reviewing applications, issuing permits, and conducting inspections. The following permits were issued within the first three quarters of FY 2023:

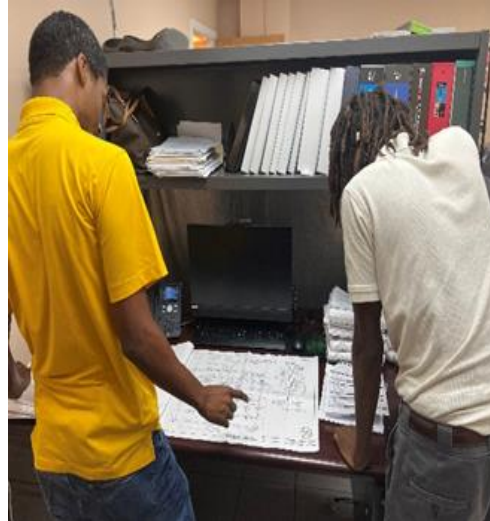
- 846 Building Permits
- 599 Electrical Permits
- 290 Plumbing Permits
- 58 Demolition Permits
- 762 Renewable Energy Permits
- 2 Mechanical Permits
- 132 Flood Zone Permits
- 9 Wireless Facility Permits
- 68 Certificate of Occupancy /Use

- The Division conducted over 2848 Inspections and continues to ensure construction complies with all applicable codes of the USVI. The Division is committed to seeking ways to better implement effective enforcement on noncompliance construction within our territory.





- Division of Building Permits implemented the Connect phase and end-user phase for E-Permitting (Municipity). The E-Permitting System will better manage accountability of work and timelines. E-Permitting gives the public (the end user) a tool to track and submit projects remotely. Twenty Tablets have been purchased for the inspectors to use in the field with Municipity Connect and computers were procured for the workstation (kiosk) which will be placed in designated areas for end users who come into the office to make submissions.
- Building Permits staff worked with students through the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduate), and the School-to-Work programs. These students learned both code enforcement through reviewing proposed projects for construction and conducting site assessments for preconstruction sites. This hands-on job training helps to educate our future students interested in pursuing careers within the construction or code enforcement field. The division continues to work with St. Croix Educational Complex to spark interest to students in choosing careers within the building industry.





- Building code updates were placed in bill format and waiting on Legislature implementation into our VI Code.
- Floodplain Management Program has rolled out the education of Risk 2.0 to the public. provided training to the building industry. The Division of Building Permits has continued to provide guidance to sister agencies with projects. This guidance for development was pertaining to elevation, drainage and stormwater storage on site, and perimeter clearing in areas close to the flood plains. Staff have been active in their participation in the DPNR federal consistency meeting for compliance.
- Staff attended the USVI 1st Flood Hazard Manual Webinar (November 9<sup>th</sup>). This seminar spoke on development within the flood plain, how to identify areas, and how to mitigate existing site develop areas.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

- The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office provided mandatory Section 106 Consultation Reviews for several federally supported projects in the Territory and provided historic preservation technical assistance to private sector property owners and Virgin Islands governmental agencies. In all, over 34 Section 106 reviews have been conducted through June 2023.
- The National Park Service’s Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund on behalf of the Historic Recovery Program has funded 7 projects for reimbursement and 3 approved projects for repairs and restoration work totaling \$1,088,521.62. Listed below is a summary of those projects;

**Completed Projects:**

1. Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charlotte Amalie (Roof & exterior)	<b>\$200,000</b>
2. St. Thomas Historical Trust, Hassel Island (Dock Repairs)	<b>\$48,165.00</b>
3. Snegle Gade 6, Charlotte Amalie (Roof and exterior repairs)	<b>\$24,023.77</b>
4. Dronningens Gade 25, Charlotte Amalie (Roof and exterior repairs)	<b>\$29,385.10</b>
5. Government House, Charlotte Amalie (Historic exterior & interior repairs)	<b>\$547,581.75</b>
6. Norre Gade 12A, Charlotte Amalie (Historic Wall and Fence Rebuild)	<b>\$3,860.00</b>
7. The Memorial Moravian Church (Belfry Roof Repairs)	<b>\$7,579.00</b>
<b>Reimbursement Sub Grants to Applicants</b>	<b>Total \$860,594.62</b>

**Projects Approved for Funding:**

1) Frederick D. Dorsch Cultural Activities Center, Frederiksted (Exterior repairs)	
<b>\$44,787</b>	
2) Garrison House, Hassel Island (Exterior Repairs)	<b>\$17,640</b>
3) Catherineberg 8D, Charlotte Amalie, (Exterior Repairs)	<b>\$165,500</b>
<b>Approved Recovery Repair Projects for Funding</b>	<b>Total \$227,927</b>



DPNR Commissioner Oriol presents a \$200,000 Historic Recovery Reimbursement Sub-Grant check to Pastor Merle Malone of the Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, for their 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria Repair, Restoration, and Mitigation Project.

- VISHPO assisted with the renovation of Dronningens Gade 5 Kongens Quarter in the Charlotte Amalie Historic District. This project involved a \$42,112.30 sub grant award to the USVI EDA Enterprise Zone Commission from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund annual grant to restore the historic house's roof, north and west elevations and install new windows on the north (street façade). This was a wonderful project for our program, and we look forward to doing more of the same.



### **VIRGIN ISLANDS COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts (VICA's) mission is to enrich the arts and cultural life of the Virgin Islands through focused leadership and programming that preserves, supports, and makes accessible excellence in the arts to all Virgin Islanders.

Through a competitive grant award process, VICA provides support to schools, arts organizations, individual artists, non-profit organizations for art programs, and other entities that meet the funding criteria, demonstrates need and accessibility, are financially accountable and engages in projects and programs that addresses the Council's mission.

The Council recognizes that the arts are integral to the social, educational, cultural, and economic well-being of the citizens of the Virgin Islands and that VICA is charged with the responsibility of ensuring sustained financial and technical support for the arts and culture. To that end, the vision must be that the Council functions as a catalyst for stronger support and access to artistic experiences for everyone.

- The Board of Directors and staff reviewed seventy-six (76) grants with requests for funding totaling \$1,144,664.00.
- \$313,135 was awarded to forty grantees Territory-wide. During a year, grantees may cancel or not be able to execute their projects and funds are returned. These funds are re-granted in the form of discretionary/mini grants not to exceed \$2,500. This also enables VICA to give more support to a wide range of projects.
- VICA has increased their grants awards from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for organizations and from \$5,000 to \$7,000 for individual artists.
- Submission of 2024, and Grant Request: The Council completed and successfully submitted its FY 2024 grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts. One of the grant's

requirements is that we match the grant 1-1. The full required match would enable VICA to award more funding to artists, organizations, and non-profits. VICA was successfully awarded \$370,280.





2023 Poetry Out Loud winner Annelia Graham