



**Report of the Subcommittee on Research and Data Collection  
to the 175<sup>th</sup> Emancipation Committee  
10/5/2023**

To: Chairman Carol Burke  
From: Subcommittee Chair Myron Jackson  
Members

Gerard Emanuel  
Franelle Gerard  
Monique Clendinen Watson  
Nadine Marchena Kean  
Chalana Brown  
Akeem McIntosh  
Malachi Thomas

Please receive this report of the quarterly activities and accomplishments of the Subcommittee on Research and Data Collection. The subcommittee chaired by Myron D. Jackson is composed of the volunteer members listed above, has met weekly since October 2022. During those two-hour meetings on Wednesday afternoons, the subcommittee heard from guest presenters in government, historical documentation, publication, and other activities connected to the 175<sup>th</sup> Emancipation Commemoration. The subcommittee made plans and voted on the activities that it would focus on as a group and assigned members to various tasks.

**Report of Third Quarter 2022 – July, August, September 2022**

**Activities:** Myron D. Jackson named Subcommittee Chair. He recruited above listed members to work on the Subcommittee and scheduled meetings to begin in October.

**Report of Fourth Quarter 2022 – October, November, December 2022**

**Activities:** The Subcommittee met to determine which activities they would undertake and to formulate a budget based on the \$150,000 budget parameter provided by the 175<sup>th</sup> Emancipation Committee. The Committee decided to work on:

- **The VIYA Telephone Book cover and insert**
  - a. Members reviewed various Virgin Islands artists and work and recommended to the 175 EC, El’Roy Simmonds’ Freedom Panel from the mural in the Virgin Islands Legislature as the cover art. Members researched various Virgin Islands Emancipation narratives and chose the work of the late historian Arnold Highfield’s “Emancipation and Beyond” from book *Crucian Recollections* for use as the central narrative because of its scholarship, readability, and access to copyright permission for republishing. Members researched and developed an article that explored traditional and contemporary narratives around the Virgin Islands Emancipation story, featuring Virgin Islands Emancipation artwork

around the Virgin Islands and Denmark. Members obtained copyright permissions for use of the literary and visual art used on the cover and in the insert and on the website. Members worked with Jennifer Matarangas King of VIYA regarding details of publication.

- **Provide historical content to web designer**
  - The subcommittee met with the web designer and provided him with the Arnold Highfield narrative and the Leo Carty images for use on the website.
- **Support the restoration/creation of exhibits at Fort Frederik, St. Croix and Fort Christian, St. Thomas**
  - Subcommittee members visited the existing exhibits at Fort Frederik and Fort Christian, noting their state of unacceptable deterioration in the 175<sup>th</sup> year and decided to devote part of their budget to restoration in time for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration and to the support of new exhibits.
  - Subcommittee members met with DPNR Territorial Curator Monica Marin, DPNR Director of Libraries, Archives and Museums Amy DeSorbo on the proposed restoration at Fort Frederik.
  - Chair Jackson met with the Cancryn School Principal and History and Art Department Chairs regarding the restoration of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Exhibition at Fort Christian.
- **Creation of a scholarly/creative publication which examined themes centered on Virgin Islands Emancipation**
  - Subcommittee members decided that the following themes would be examined in the proposed scholarly/creative Ongoing Narrative of Freedom publication:
    - Historical context, global, regional, local review, enslaved perspectives
    - Culture, spirituality, role of women
    - Summary of Events, Leadership and Planning, Attaining Property, Testimonies, On That Day – July 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Facing the Past, Embracing the Future, Healing Generational Wounds, An Unfinished Project
- **Creation of a historical documentary on Virgin Islands Emancipation.**
  - Subcommittee discussed different formats and different potential videographers to do the work and outlets for presentation.
- **Other Activities**
  - Chair Jackson met with Pan African Support Group about proposal for the Emancipation program on St. Thomas for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**The Subcommittee submitted the following initial budget to support these activities.**

Subcommittee Budget - \$150,000

Research, Documentation, Content Creation - \$75,000

Historical Documentary - \$30,000

Support of Exhibits - \$20,000

Administrative Costs - \$20,000

Miscellaneous Costs - \$5,000

## Report of First Quarter 2023 – January, February, March 2023

**Activities:** The Subcommittee continued weekly meetings and work on the following initiatives:

- **The VIYA Commemorative Emancipation Telephone Book cover and insert**
  - Simmonds artwork and Highfield narrative adopted by 175<sup>th</sup> Committee as content for VIYA insert.
  - Narrative completed and approved by 175<sup>th</sup> Committee.
  - Completed editing, proofreading and other tasks associated with the insert
  - Submitted completed draft to chair and VIYA for publication.
- **Provide historical content to web designer**
  - Continued to support web designer requests for content.
- **Support the restoration/creation of exhibits at Fort Frederik, St. Croix and Fort Christian, St. Thomas**
  - Continued discussions with DPNR Territorial Curator Monica Marin for restoration of exhibits at Fort Frederik and Fort Christian and for creation of new exhibits at Fort Frederik
  - Obtained copyright permission from Leo Carty family for use of Emancipation artwork
- **Creation of a scholarly/creative publication which examined themes centered on Virgin Islands Emancipation**
  - After meeting with UVI's Caribbean Writer Press editor Alscess Lewis Brown, the Subcommittee selected the Caribbean Writer Press as the publisher of the scholarly/creative publication. The Subcommittee advised the 175 ECC and in conjunction with the TCW editor and 175 ECC Chair issued a press release and ad campaign calling for abstracts from scholars and creatives of Virgin Islands history and culture by Friday May 12. The Subcommittee and Editor Lewis Brown decided on a 300-to-450-page publication with 700 printed copies with access to digital copies. The price will range from \$15,000 to \$25,000 to be taken from the Subcommittee budget.
- **Creation of a historical documentary on Virgin Islands Emancipation.**
  - Discussed possible formats and distribution with VIYA and WTJX
- **Other Activities**
  - Chair Jackson given task of sharing content on 175 Emancipation Facebook page.
  - Chair Jackson participated in the Caribbean Genealogy Conference – Caribbean History Conference Discussion on Family, Climate and Slavery at the University of the Virgin Islands
  - Chair Jackson participated in Committee Activities at the St. Croix Agricultural Fair.
- **Invoice Submissions**
  - No submissions

## Report of Second Quarter 2023 – April, May, June 2023

**Activities:** The Subcommittee continued weekly meetings and work on the following initiatives:

- **The VIYA Telephone Book cover and insert**
  - Subcommittee Members participated in the Government House, St. Croix unveiling ceremony which featured selected artists of the published VIYA Telephone Book insert.
- **Provide historical content to web designer**
  - Subcommittee supported any requests for content.
- **Support the restoration/creation of exhibits at Fort Frederik, St. Croix and Fort Christian, St. Thomas**
  - Subcommittee approved the request of Territorial Chief Curator Monica Marin of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Libraries and Museums for the restoration of the *Emancipation in the Danish West Indies Exhibit* restoration at Fort Frederik Museum, Frederiksted. The Subcommittee approved a budget of \$30,000 for the existing exhibit to be repaired in time for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration.
- **Creation of a scholarly/creative publication which examined themes centered on Virgin Islands Emancipation**
  - The Subcommittee received abstracts from local, national, and international scholars and creatives on Virgin Islands history and culture for 12 papers, 6 essays, 5 short stories, 6 poems and 2 special collections from its Call for Content. The Subcommittee reviewed abstracts and advised all those submitting abstracts to develop their ideas and submit finished products by August.
- **Creation of a historical documentary on Virgin Islands Emancipation.**
  - There was no activity on this objective in this quarter.
- **Organization of July 3<sup>rd</sup> Emancipation Commemoration activities**
  - Subcommittee members developed the Libation and Naming Salute to Ancestors of the 1848 Rebellion in two activities:
    - 6:00 am ceremony at silk cotton tree to the east of Fort Frederik with libation, drumming, conch shell blowing, cariso and calling of names to honor the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gathering of the enslaved at Fort Frederik at the hour of the gathering.
    - 10:00 am ceremony on the 175 Emancipation performance stage with libation, drumming, conch shell blowing, cariso, historical narrative, poetry and calling of names to honor the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enslaved demand for freedom at Ft. Frederik in 1848.
  - Subcommittee members got permission from researchers to use information in commemoration, organized student participation, drummers, readers, etc. for ceremony.
  - Subcommittee created virtual calling of names on social media, honoring the ancestors arrested, injured or killed in the rebellion.
  - Chair Jackson met with Dr. Gilbert Sprauve and Pam Richards for the organization of the St. John Emancipation Ceremony
- **Other Activities**

- Chair Jackson assisted with organization of Keepers of the Flame and Living Legends ceremony in St. Thomas-St. John district and participated in the St. Croix ceremonies
- Chair Jackson contributed and participated in the African Liberation Day and African Heritage Week on May 25 in the Legislature Building
- Chair Jackson participated in Emancipation Committee activities during Virgin Islands Carnival.
- **Invoice Submissions**
  - Diverse Multimedia (Ft. Frederik exhibition) - \$8,000 – 5/8
  - Original Cancryn Invoice (Ft. Christian exhibition) - \$5,555 – 5/24
  - Ralph Motta and Niarus Walker Invoices (Ft. Frederik exhibition) - \$5,000 – 6/15

### **Report of Third Quarter 2023 – July, August, September 2023**

**Activities:** The Subcommittee continued weekly meetings and work on the following initiatives:

- **Support the restoration/creation of exhibits at Fort Frederik, St. Croix and Fort Christian, St. Thomas**
  - Subcommittee continued to receive and process invoices for the Emancipation exhibits
- **Creation of a scholarly/creative publication which examined themes centered on Virgin Islands Emancipation**
  - The Subcommittee received the finished 13 scholarly papers, 8 essays, 5 short stories, 25 poems and 2 artwork from local, national and international scholars and creatives on Virgin Islands history and culture. Finished work was submitted to The Caribbean Writer and the process of reviewing and editing submissions has begun.
- **Creation of a historical documentary on Virgin Islands Emancipation.**
  - There was no activity on this objective in this quarter.
- **Contribution and participation in July 3<sup>rd</sup> activities**
  - Subcommittee members participated in the Libation and Naming Salute to Ancestors of the 1848 Rebellion in two activities:
    - 6:00 am ceremony at silk cotton tree to the east of Fort Frederik with libation, drumming, conch shell blowing, cariso and calling of names to honor the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gathering of the enslaved at Fort Frederik at the hour of the gathering.
    - 10:00 am ceremony on the 175 Emancipation performance stage with libation, drumming, conch shell blowing, cariso, historical narrative, poetry and calling of names to honor the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enslaved demand for freedom at Ft. Frederik in 1848.
  - Subcommittee launched virtual calling of names on social media, honoring the ancestors arrested, injured, killed, or executed in the rebellion.
- **Other Activities**
  - Chair Jackson worked with Division of Cultural Education in making presentations in Ulla Muller Elementary, Jane E. Tuitt Elementary, Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on the history of D. Hamilton Jackson.

- Chair Jackson participated in Dollar for Dollar tour and distributed VIYA Commemorative insert
- **Invoice Submissions**
  - The Caribbean Writer Invoice for printing - \$18,500 – 8/17
  - Revised Cancryn Invoice (Ft. Christian) - \$11,130.22 – 8/23
  - The Frame Up (Ft. Frederik) - \$6,180 – 9/28