

Good day my name is Edwin Thomas, booth owner and longtime festival participant. I'm here to call for more independence from the office of festivals for Saint Croix entertainment and day-to-day activities.

Presently the most glaring drawbacks are:

- Lack of transportation after 6 PM to Frederiksted.
- Existing village site and layout not conducive for parking and daily ingress and egress for booth owners.
- No visual of the stage and entertainment for both owners at the rear of the site because of the large tent, blocking view and large screen TV only for those who already have full sight of the stage.
- The poorly sewer pump station emanates noxious fumes at the rear of the village.
- Nightly entertainment that could change on a moment's notice.
- The potable water is not fit for human consumption, and it needs to be hooked up to be directly, hooked up directly to each individual booth.
- Lastly St. Croix festival picked our own entertainment, and while the performers are more international, we have no say so on what is on the docket. For the record I will read an old festival village schedule from 1996.

Maybe you do not know the history of festival which harkens back to 1953 in Christiansted and Frederiksted soon after. From the get-go our biggest impediment has been the 15 miles separation of both towns, and the need to bring the island together. There was initially a Ms. Frederiksted, and Ms. Christiansted separately eventually in the late 60s the selection was changed to Ms. St. Croix additionally

both committees operated a village separately one east and one west. During the Schneider administration both committees came together as one. The festival alternated each year one year west, and one year east. On or about 2001 a community center was built at the Christiansted DC Canegata village site and all activities were relocated to Frederiksted.

Eventually, many people want to see it return to alternating towns. This would be a separate hearing.