



WTJX



2021 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

“I am really amazed at the level of work that you guys are doing at the station... It’s definitely a really good mix of worldwide stateside news and some local programming that’s really awesome.”

- Naomi Herbert, WTJX Member

The Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System’s mission is to provide quality programming suitable for all ages throughout the Virgin Islands via television, radio, online, and our mobile apps. In doing so, WTJX strives to lead the community with relevant content that engages and inspires Virgin Islanders to have a deeper understanding and greater appreciation of the Territory’s culture, history, politics, and current events.

LOCAL VALUE

WTJX is a trusted and valued source throughout the Virgin Islands. As an NPR and a PBS member station, we are committed to bringing local content and community services to better educate, entertain, inform, and inspire Virgin Islanders, both locally and abroad. As we expand our programming, resources, and services, we aim to keep a finger on the pulse of our community and highlight Virgin Islanders excelling in their respective fields.

2021 KEY SERVICES

In 2021, WTJX provided the following vital services to our local community:

- Educational engagement, resources, and activities for students of the Virgin Islands
- Cultural programs and outreach initiatives that inspired our community
- Content and conversations that brought greater awareness to the public on matter that may have gone unheard due to the social restrictions in place this year.

LOCAL IMPACT

In year two of the pandemic, WTJX shifted our goal to focus on strengthening our existing educational programs and partnering with local organizations to bring sporting events, forums, celebrations, teach-ins, and discussions to an audience broader than any 2021 in-person event would have allowed.

As we approached our 50th anniversary on the air, WTJX reconsidered the way in which we deliver our content, and with the instability that plagued 2021, came a stronger need for breaking news and fact-checked information. By nature, Virgin Islanders are geographically distanced across four Islands and beyond. WTJX responded to this call by redesigning our website to streamline the best that WTJX has to offer and by releasing a mobile app to enhance the reach of local and national content from the most trusted sources to the people of the Virgin Islands.

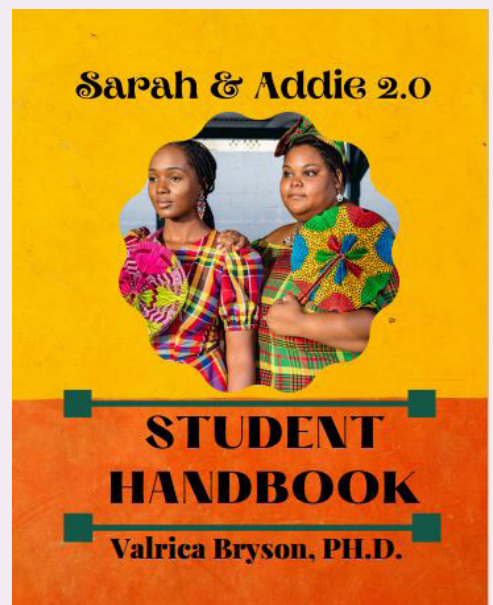
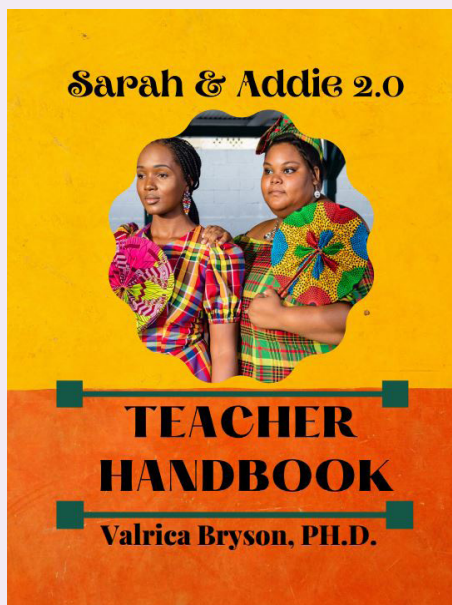
EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

Let's Learn!

WTJX kicked off 2021 by launching *Let's Learn*, a new educational program developed by WNET and the New York City Department of Education for children ages three to eight. WTJX made this new material available to the public and teachers to supplement their existing virtual learning syllabi.

Sarah & Addie Teacher Guides and Student Workbooks

In conjunction with the highly anticipated release of *Sarah & Addie 2.0*, Valrica Bryson, PhD and Sarah & Addie series director, designed another set of classroom tools to enhance the educational value of this program and encourage students of the Virgin Islands to learn their culture. This Teacher's Guide and Student Workbook are available on our website for all to use, along with an outline of the Common Core Anchor Standards, learning objectives, and biography of the original author of Sarah & Addie, Mr. Anton Teytaud.



2021 AFT TEACH Conference

With the continuation of remote learning, came another virtual TEACH conference for 2021, as organized by the American Federation of Teachers in the United States Virgin Islands. WTJX's Director of New Media, Dino Fontaine, elected to present on the basics of cybersecurity, in an effort to better inform and protect teachers and support staff who continued to engage with their students in a remote learning environment. Participation tripled this year with 70 attendees from the St. Croix district and 20 from the St. Thomas – St. John district. WTJX received positive feedback on this webinar's topic and presentation from this receptive group of educators.

LOCAL PROGRAMMING

Crucian Christmas Festival Parades

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the USVI Department of Tourism opted to take the beloved Crucian Christmas Festival virtual this year. WTJX presented an encore of the pre-pandemic 67th Annual Crucian Christmas Festival children and adults' parades to safely spread holiday cheer. Hosts Dodson James, LaVaughn Bell, George Silcott, Jr., and former WTJX Rediscover host Janeisha John guided viewers through the parade route with appearances from Gentlemen of Jones, Prestige Carnival Troupe, Simply Sophisticated Fun Troupe, Queen Ishani Rosa, Calypso Monarch Winner Blakness, and the most recent entry, Sanctuary Festival Troupe.

"Love ch12!! Thanks for presenting the parade!!" - Lesa Walcott

"Awesome anyway like being there for the FESTIVAL as I have in the past." - Kimmy Hicks

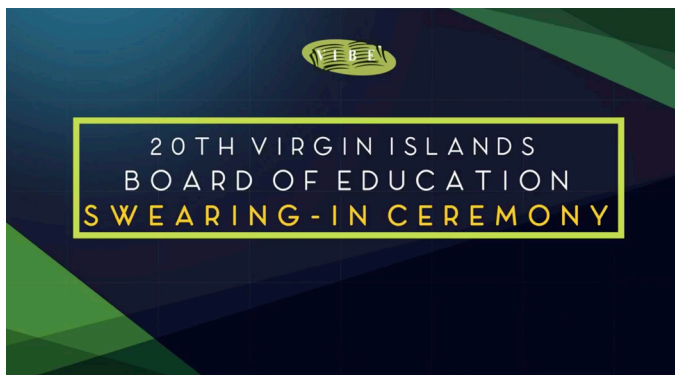
"Love to see these big troops colorful and beautiful and children doing something positive." - Carmen Viera

"I love it im home sick now ill be there next carnival." - Valencia Wilson

"Thank you WTJX!" - Dr. Renee George, MD

Swearing in the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education

The Virgin Islands Board of Education hosted a swearing-in ceremony for board members-elect, including Angel Bolques, Jr., Kyza A. Callwood, Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Shawna Richards, and Nandi Sekou. WTJX streamed this event live on our Facebook page with the Honorable Debra S. Watlington of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands acting as the officiating judge.



The 34th Legislature Gets Sworn In

On January 11, WTJX simulcasted the Swearing-in Ceremony of the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands from Emancipation Garden on St. Thomas. The feed, made available by LegiTV, chronicled the pomp and circumstance surrounding the oaths taken by the Territory's new legislative body.

"Thank you WTJX." - Anita Matos Maynard

2021 State of the Territory Address

On Monday, January 25, Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. delivered his third State of the Territory Address concerning the Territory's capital improvement projects, recovery efforts, and his administration's response to COVID-19. WTJX broadcasted live coverage from our St. Croix studio with a panel of notable members of the community, including former Senators Neville James, Almando "Rocky" Liburd, and Carol Burke, as well as Attorney Emile Henderson III and Dale LeFebvre. After the Governor's speech, we received feedback from the Delegate to Congress, the Senators of the 34th Legislature, and the community.



Carol Burke
Panelist



"Channel 12.... the set is awesome." – Henry Schjang

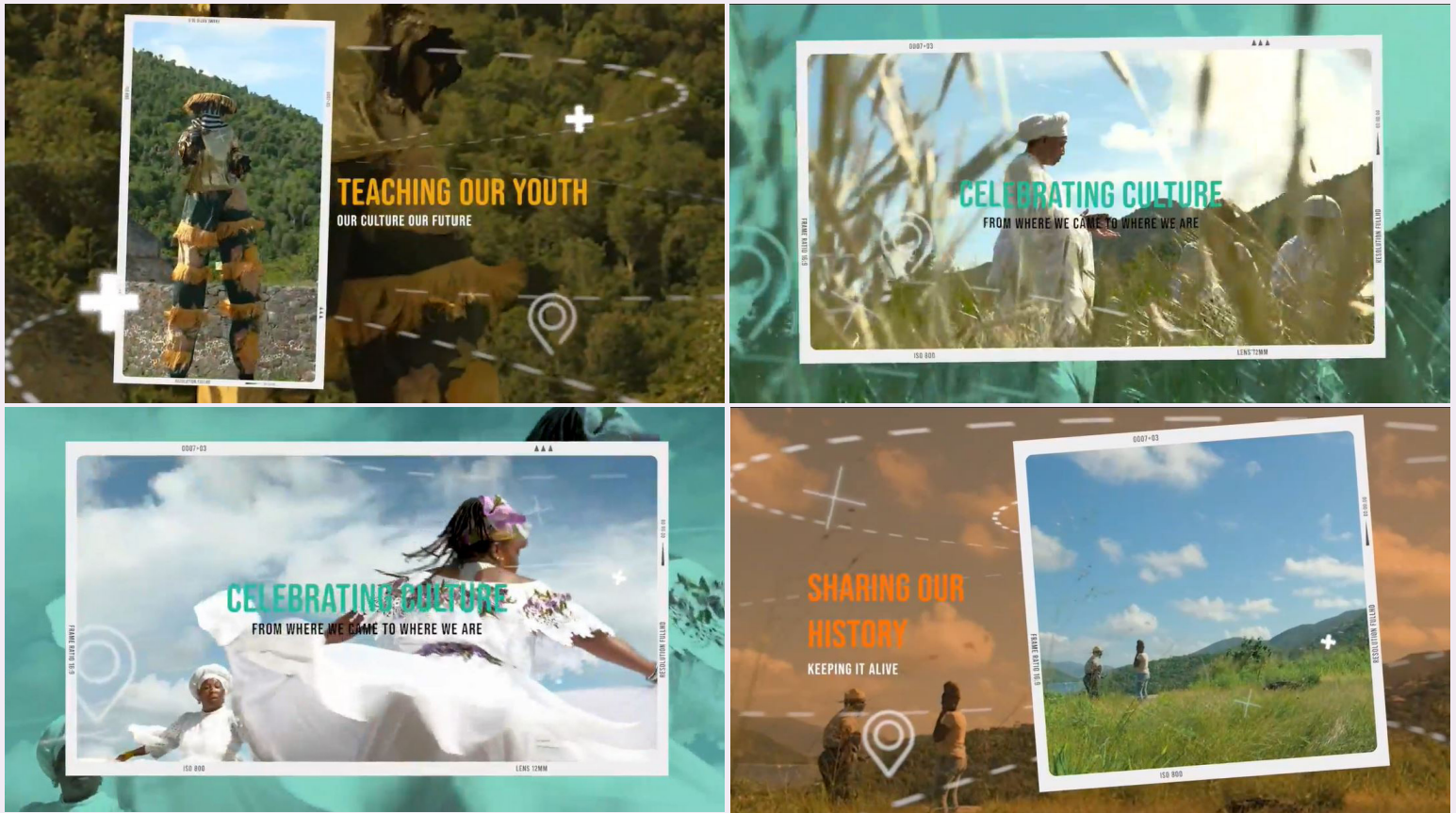
"Informative." – Nedarrey Knight

"Former Senator Neville James, does an excellent Job in this political arena. I can listen to him ANYTIME!" – Zee Testa

Folklife Festival 2021: Passing it on to Another One

Over Presidents Day weekend, WTJX partnered with the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Parks and the Virgin Islands National Park (VINP) to celebrate the hallmark 30th anniversary of St. John's Folklife Festival. This mini documentary wove inspirational tales told by Virgin Islands culture bearers, who have participated in the Folklife Festival through the years, in colorful interviews and demonstrations of their expertise in the cultural arts, music, and crafts of the Virgin Islands. Segments included presentations on moko jumbies, the art of bee keeping, wood turning, the healing properties of local plants, storytelling, drumming, and the history of Bamboula dancing. VINP Superintendent Nigel Fields, former Folklife Directors Jackie Clendinen and Denise Georges, and current Folklife

Festival Director Golda Hermon, provided commentary on festivals past and the value they hold for the people of the Virgin Islands.



“Thoroughly enjoyed this! Very professionally done! It inspired me to get more involved in my culture and history! Thank You all!” – Desha Brathwaite

“These are things our children should be learning to continue to carry-on the culture.” – Dr. Halima Shadia

“Beautifully done! Loved every minute!” – Ramona Graham- Smith

“Nice presentation of culture WTJX... This was really, REALLY nice!!!” – Kimberly Samuel

Sarah & Addie 2.0

On March 18, Sarah and Addie returned to the screen in a millennial remake of the classic skits created by Anton Teytaud. In addition to Mr. Teytaud’s skits, ten students in Ms. Dahlia Knowles’s 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) classes at Alfredo Andrews Elementary School were the winners of the “Sarah & Addie Scriptwriting Competition,” hosted by the Department of Education Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education (DVICE). The students’ adaptation covered a series of current events presented in the dialect and comical wisdom of the old-time market women, addressing national, regional, and local events, including the coronavirus, the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico, and police-reported abduction

attempts of minors on St. Croix. Each student had the opportunity to share their creative ideas for each topic discussed and WTJX brought their vision to life with the help of local actors and St. Croix cultural bearers.

"I love it. Lol. I remember reading the stage play in the library at UVI."

-Amber Brooks-Clark

"Great job to all of you! Kudos."

-Shammy Mercado

"Very well done!! Love it!"

-Sani Fahie Basco

"I love this! Keep em coming."

-Harriet Mercer

"Ya'll this IS classic."

-Tessa Cobbett

"We want MORE!!!!"

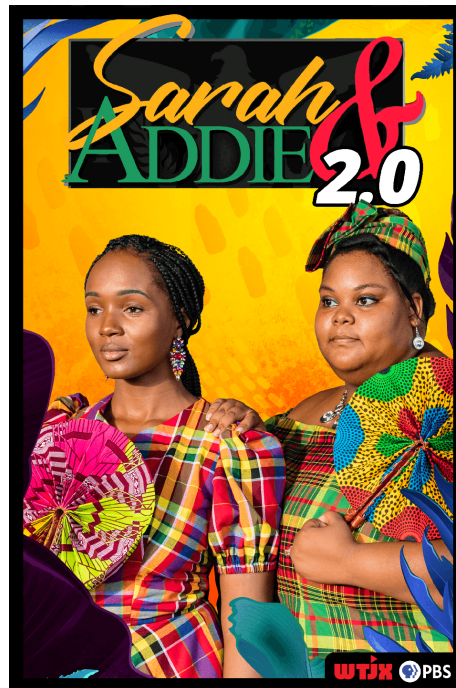
-AliBoo M. Brooks

"These actresses are amazing!... I remember watching the original version of this show on WTJX as a child in the 80s!"

- Lesley Comissiong

"Love it, looking for more."

-Malvina Rodgers



"Melee Sweet Mehson... well sah"

- Cliaunjel Mulley

"I truly enjoyed watching. Great job."

- Gloryvee Christian-Krieger, chief of staff, Office of Senator Kurt VIALET

WTJX Celebrates Women's History Month

In honor of Virgin Islands and Women's History Month, WTJX-TV produced four interstitial features on distinguished women from the U.S. Virgin Islands who have made significant strides in their respective fields. Honorees included Rashida Hodge, who was named one of Fortune Magazine's 40 Under 40 in Technology, in 2020; Cynthia Arnold, Vice President of Operations for Diageo USVI; Gianna Christopher, a fashion designer known for her use of madras; Aliyah Boston, who plays for the South Carolina Gamecocks Women's Basketball team and was named by the Associated Press as Preseason All-American in 2020; and Dr. Claudia Schrader, President of Kingsborough College. Dr. Schrader is the second female and the first African American to hold this position in the college's 63-year history.



"Thank you so much the discussion. I hope it inspires many more in the territory to explore and opt-in in STEM. Such an exciting career." – Shida AH

"Love the interview and her work speaks volumes." – Lili Cornelius, principal, Lew Muckle Elementary School

Recovery in Focus

Following a successful first season, WTJX continued to produce and air new episodes of Recovery in Focus in conjunction with the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) and the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA). Each month, ODR Director Adrienne Williams-Octalien and VIHFA Executive Director Daryl Griffith hosted local leaders to keep the public informed as we entered year four of the Territory's recovery process.



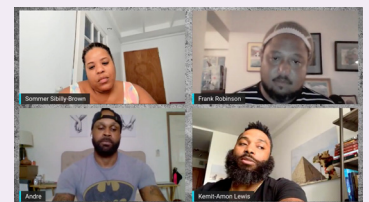
“Wonderful program. So much exciting things going on in the VI.” – Adrienne King

“Excellent information.” – Dr. Kerojo A. King Espada

“Job Well Done!!!!” – Aishah Thompson

Poli-Talks

Frank Robinson and Sommer Sibilly-Brown continued to conduct weekly episodes in another season of *Poli-Talks*, giving voice to young professionals and community leaders on a vast array of issues affecting the Territory. *Poli-Talks* allowed viewers to connect with the show’s guests in real time via Facebook and phone, which helped to further guide the dialogue towards professional solutions.



“I’m really enjoying the provocative thought process from you guys.” – Raymond Williams

In Conversation with AARP VI

In season two, AARP Virgin Islands State Director Troy de Chabert-Schuster engaged experts from within the Territory and beyond to tackle a breadth of topics, including cybersecurity, LGBTIQ+ rights, health and wellness, financial readiness for natural disasters, veteran services and more. In addition to streaming live on WTJX's Facebook page, this program was also broadcasted on television and radio to maximize its reach.

"Here to learn and grow! Thanks for the insight!" – K-Jae Jackson, Jr.

"This information is right on time." – Eilet Semper Smith

"This is An Awesome Presentation. Very important information. Welcome and Thank You." – Vera Lindcha

"Great Discussion!" – Tradewinds Breeze

Able to Raise

WTJX worked with the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands to produce a second season of *Able to Raise*. Host Amelia Headley Lamont interviewed guests one-on-one to better understand their personal journeys and the topics at hand. Some of this year's highlights included conversations on the history of the Virgin Islands, youth advocacy, employment and entrepreneurship, and other issues affecting the disabled community at home and abroad.

The Bookcase

In 2021, *The Bookcase* received great praise with the end of season one and the return of season two. Host Shawna Richards continued to feature one local author per episode, diving deeper into the sea of creative Virgin Islands talent by exploring the author's background, inspiration, and published work, and fostering a greater appreciation for the literary arts within our community beyond. Genres ranged from mystery and science-fiction to memoirs, short-stories, children's literature and historical texts.



"Nice show... made me think which is what the book is intended to do in the first place anyway."

– Arlene Morde

"Powerful."

– Nailah Copemann, Secondary English teacher, Virgin Islands Department of Education



"This is a very touching interview. Oh yes, how I love it."

– Dr. Kerojo A. King Espada

"Thanks for bringing the world a bit closer to home... Continue the superb work."

– Laurene Robles, retired teacher, Virgin Islands Department of Education

"Great program."

– Chalana Brown, director, Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education

The Welcome Mat

As *The Welcome Mat* entered its second season, it really came into its own, concentrating on more intimate topics and shedding light onto some of the taboos that affect millennials and generation Z here in the Virgin Islands. This Monday-night staple became a conversation starter, encouraging further discourse during its airing on social media as hosts engaged with viewers in the comment section.



The Welcome Mat
MONDAYS AT 8:30PM
 RE-AIRS SATURDAYS AT 7:00PM



“What an education.” – Rosalie Javois

“Great convo. Thank you!” – Sabrina King Léonce, director of Human Services, Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority

Graffiti Street

WTJX produced 13 new episodes of its seminal teen talk show and community favorite, *Graffiti Street*. Students engaged remotely to tackle what they deemed to be the most pertinent issues affecting the Territory’s adolescent population. Some of this year’s highlights included discussions on the challenge posed by virtual learning, the impact of gun violence and the realities of sexual assault, the importance of preparing for natural disasters, the art of storytelling, and the impact of cancel culture.



“This is why I love the virgin islands cause the culture never dies and people respect others view.”
- Mamadou Thioune

“Awesome lessons at a young age.”
- Treasrea Cornelius

“Our future in the Virgin Islands looking great”
- Yvonne L. Milliner

The Washington Report with Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett

Following the reelection of our Delegate to Congress, *The Washington Report with Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett* returned to WTJX with six new episodes in 2021. Engaging political leaders and community activists in an intimate setting, Congresswoman Plaskett tackled topics including vaccine hesitancy and voting rights, Temporary Protective Status and immigration, the American Rescue Plan and how it may benefit the residents of the Virgin Islands.



“Yes! It is certainly informative, scientific, and this presentation is proving that this Delta variant is a killer. Thank you, Delegate Plaskett for your concern and love for the people of this territory as you hosted this program.”
- Laurene Robles

“I wish all people in the Virgin Islands would see this excellent presentation!” - Susan Silverman

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



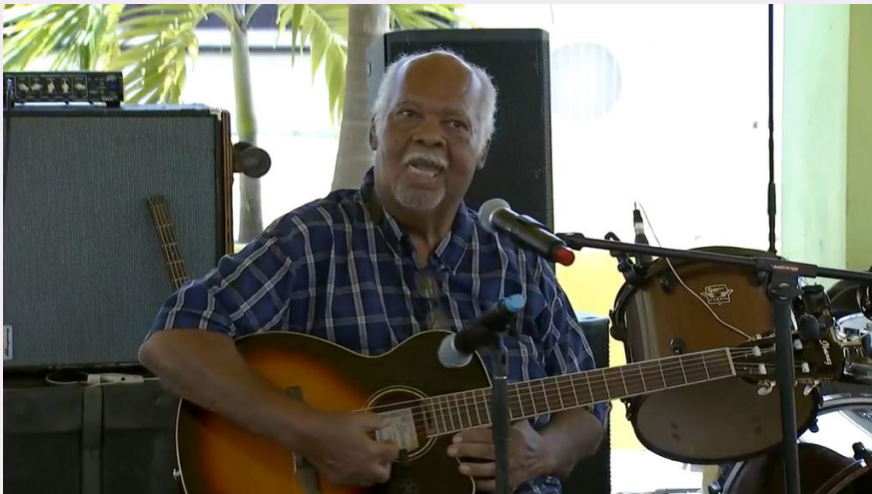
WTJX LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

WTJX Local News Briefs

In addition to simulcasting Governor Albert Bryan Jr.'s weekly COVID-19 press conferences on our Facebook page, WTJX began airing Local News Briefs as interstitials, allowing viewers the opportunity to become more informed between our regular programming on local developments from January 5 through the end of April 2021.

Communities of Strength: Honoring Older Americans Month

In May, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS) held a celebration in honor of Older Americans Month at the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged. The purpose of the ceremony was to celebrate senior citizens Territory-wide in a production featuring remarks from the DHS officials with musical guests and story telling segment. Participants included DHS Commissioner Kimberley Causey-Gomez, Stanley & The Ten Sleepless Knights, Eugene "Doc" Petersen, folklorist, and guitarist Cedell Christopher, Cariso singer Asta Williams, and storyteller Izhani Rosa.



"Excellent program! Congratulations to all!"

- Lisa Bourgeois

Vision 2040

The Economic Development Authority revealed the U.S. Virgin Islands' 20-year economic strategy in a virtual presentation, outlining the broad aspirational and macroeconomic goals that it hopes will pave the way to a more sustainable and prosperous future. WTJX simulcasted this presentation from VIEDA CEO Wayne Biggs, Shanell Petersen, the authority's managing director of marketing, and Dan Gunderson, principal and senior vice president at Camoin 310, the national economic development firm selected to oversee the project, live on television and our Facebook page, as a bookend to last year's virtual town hall.



“Looking forward to seeing the impact of the actual implementation of these.”

– Priscilla Lynn

David Hamilton Jackson Liberty Day Celebration



On David Hamilton Jackson Day, in lieu of in-person festivities, WTJX simulcasted the Office of the Governor and Grove Place Action Committee's David Hamilton Jackson\Liberty Day Celebration.

David Hamilton Jackson Day, is also known as Liberty Day, in honor of the esteemed labor leader, journalist, politician, educator, statesman and community activist from St. Croix who established the first labor union and started the first privately owned newspaper, “The Herald,” to write about social injustice.

Among his many accomplishments, D. Hamilton Jackson also served as a judge under the U.S. Naval Administration and was instrumental in the formulation of the Organic Act of 1936, which guarantees civil liberties and became the foundation of the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

D. Hamilton Jackson felt the suffering of the people and through the power of the press was able to bring about social and economic change to better the lives of residents of the Territory.



“Yes passing on history and our VI Culture.”

– Amanda Jackson-Acosta, unit chief, Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Senior Singalong Series

In anticipation of yet another socially distanced holiday season, WTJX coordinated with St. John Singers, Inc. to broadcast a series of singalong programs, designed to provide seniors throughout the territory with a way to safely celebrate with holiday cheer. Each installment of this four-part series included stretching, warm-ups, and instructions on various harmonies to better engage the viewer in the comfort of their own home.



"Love it. Sing your souls happy." – Laurene Robles

"Love this!!!!" – Anna Fisher

"I am enjoying this rehearsal and rendition of this wonderful song. Great job!!! Blessings – Berchards Jacobs

Voices That Count - A More Accessible U.S. Virgin Islands

On December 14, WTJX aired Voices That Count - A More Accessible U.S. Virgin Islands, the 17th annual disability policy forum organized by the UVI Leadership and the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD). Activist Nina Garcia explored the vision for a more accessible U.S. Virgin Islands, pinpointing some of the issues that affect people with mobility disabilities here in the Virgin Islands and projecting how we might address these challenges moving forward. Featured speakers included UVI President Dr. David Hall, Provost, Dr. Camille McKayle, UVI Deans Dr. Moolenaar-Wirisy and Harris Brown, and VIUCEDD staff and Dr. Kimberly Mills, Sharon Williams, and Shelley Timmons, DPT.



NINA GARCIA



DR. DAVID HALL



DR. SHELLEY
TIMMONS,
PHYSICAL THERAPIST



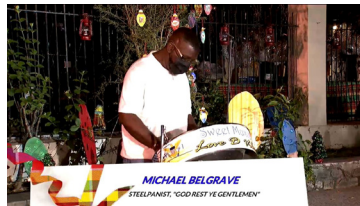
DR. PAMELA
MOOLENAAR-WIRISY

"Excellent, Ms Garcia. You are an Inspiration... This issue is so important."

– Dr. Bethany Bradford, DVM, Territorial Veterinarian of the USVI

Ah Glow in the Park – Light Dem Up! Festival of Trees: The Crucian Cultural Group

In partnership with the Christiansted Community Alliance, WTJX presented the 3rd Annual Ah Glow in the Park – Light Dem Up! Festival of Trees from Limpricht Park on St. Croix with musical and dance selections, Crucian tales of the holidays past, a madras fashion show, and more. Participants included Ay Ay Cultural Dance Company, Territory VI Models, Zulema Llanos Models, Guardians of Culture Moko Jumbies, We Deh Yah Cultural Dance Models, Gentlemen of Jones, Michael Belgrave, Asherray Crump-Morris, Eliza Combie, Sasha Alexander, and Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights.



"Thank you for the video, bring back a lot of memories." – Pancho Gonzalez

"Y'all having fun mehson. Wish I was there, but at least I'm able to still enjoy it down here in Louisiana." – Geri Simpson

45th Annual Challenge of Carolers

WTJX streamed the 45th annual Challenge of Carolers event live from Emancipation Garden on St. Thomas on Christmas morning, highlighting the boisterous voices of the Territory's finest choirs with popular melodies of the season and garnering viewers from around the U.S.



"Thank you WTJX for Sharing for us States Side who are not able to come home due to Covid19 and his cuz. Merry Christmas God bless." – Randolph Christian

"Merry Xmas... yo keeping up your culture... Love this tradition." – Kelvin Fredericks

"Big up WTJX !!!... Enjoy the cultural! Merry Christmas" – Deborah Dorsett

"Good morning and thank you for making today feel a little bit more normal. Merry Christmas!" – Jason Budsan

"Merry Christmas from Orlando and thank you WTJX!" – Roger Joseph

1. WTJX Sports Emerges in Response to Limited In-Person Attendance

In the spring of 2021, sporting events began to return to the Virgin Islands. However, the VI Department of Health’s pandemic precautions prevented many from attending in person. WTJX responded by taking our new, state-of-the-art mobile production vehicle to the USVI National Men’s soccer match against Antigua & Barbuda. WTJX covered this FIFA 2022 Qatar World Cup Qualifier with play-by-play commentary between Kevin “Tigan” Sheppard and Leonard “Iba” Appleton live from the Bethlehem Soccer Complex on St. Croix. This coverage was broadcasted on television and streamed live online for those who were unable to attend this vaccinated-only event. WTJX also provided live coverage of the USVI Men’s National Team’s fourth and final game of Group A, Round 1 match in the FIFA World Cup Qualifier against El Salvador from our St. Croix studio with live analysis from Vernon Araujo and Jamaal Carroll.



2. Celebrating the Spirit of Carnival Safely

This Carnival season, in the absence of in-person festivities, WTJX joined forces with the USVI Division of Festivals to present Festival Arts Dialogues, a three-part series and inside look at the stories behind carnival celebrations in the U.S. Virgin Islands:

Road to Royalty: The Queens and their Reign

Six former carnival queens met up to relive and reflect on their reign. Participants included Carmen Sibilly, the first carnival queen recognized within the Territory, Shani Smith, Cherrisse Woods, Janelle Sarauw, April Petrus, and Tasida Kelch. Tasida led the conversation as these queens recounted their regal memories.



“This was nice!... I love seeing and hearing Mrs. Sibilly... Thank you for giving us a taste of Carnival.” – Naaiq Aime

“Loving this.” – Wendy Walters

Talking Music: V.I. Calypsonians

Set at Percy's Bus Stop, the prime hub for musicians in the 1980s, Halvor Hart III, executive director of the VI Carnival Committee, sat down with Willis Pinney, Dr. Bernard Liburd, King Whadablee and General Val, to discuss the VI Calypso scene. They laugh, sing, and disagree as they share their musical experiences and vision for the future of Calypso within the Virgin Islands.



"Terrific discussion!!" – Patsy Wiltshire

V.I. Costume Making Workshop: Fabrics of Our Garb

Luana Wheatley interviewed the brain trust behind some of the Virgin Islands Carnival's most impressive costumes. Alrid Lockhart, Alfred Hayes, and Simone Edwards walked viewers through the costume-making process, from conceptualizing through production, discussing how they got into the field and where they think this art form is headed.



"Very nice." – Sonia Chesterfield

3. WTJX Mobile App: Connecting Virgin Islanders On the Go

The launch of the WTJX mobile app was one of our crowning achievements for 2021. The app, which was made available for Apple and Android mobile devices, allowed Virgin Islanders to effortlessly connect with all that WTJX had to offer, including the best of PBS, NPR, WTJX original programming, and local information. Users were able to play, pause, and rewind audio streams and on-demand video content. They could set alarms to wake up to their WTJX favorites and conveniently cast these programs using Google Chromecast and Apple Airplay. WTJX also utilized the app's push notification feature to inform users of breaking news headlines and to remind them when noteworthy programs were set to begin. It also included a digital version of Take Twelve, our monthly programming guide to ensure that viewers never missed a beat. In a year where information was constantly changing and headlines were breaking left and right, we were proud to know that residents could keep WTJX and its trusted sources close at hand.



Joining Forces to Connect Virgin Islanders in Conversation on Past, Present, and Future



At the end of 2020, WTJX organized a panel discussion to address the future of Caneel Bay. In 2021, with the assistance of a grant from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and in partnership with the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park and St.JanCo: The St. John Heritage Collective, WTJX expanded this dialogue to include a larger and longer conversation on environmental justice and identity. At the helm of this three-part series was Hadiya Sewer, PhD and founder of St.JanCo.

The first installment took the form of a teach-in and picked up where we left off last year, examining the challenges posed by the closure of the Caneel Bay Resort on St. John and the controversy that ensued. The goal was to foster a better understanding of the socio-historical context and to explore potential pathways for change.

Next, we commemorated Emancipation Day in the U.S. Virgin Islands with a discussion on the importance of Virgin Islands Creole to the history, identity, politics, and culture of its people. This panel traced conceptions of belonging, the evolution of language, and the process by which Virgin Islanders use speech to negotiate identity, given the Territory's relationship to the United States of America and the wider Caribbean.

The final discussion examined how real estate development, conversation, tourism, and natural disasters have all intersected to shape the lives of historic and contemporary communities. Panelists shared their thoughts on how small island communities can protect themselves from disaster capitalism in the wake of devastating hurricanes and a global pandemic.



"Thank you for putting this forum together. Excellent presentation."

- Priscilla Hintz Rivera Knight, VI curator & arts activist

"Thank you for holding this session."

- Jean Elizabeth Kinsella

"Thank you. This was a very informative session."

- Jennifer Lux

"So glad you are doing this."

- Sharon Coldren, volunteer president, Coral Bay Community Council

"Thank you everyone who participated, lots to listen and learn from here!"

- Tonia Lovejoy

Despite the challenges presented by year two of the pandemic, WTJX was able to push forward in 2021 with deeper conversations, educational supplements, and vibrant VI-centric entertainment to soothe those suffering COVID-19 fatigue. We continued to churn out local programming and streams as well as concentrate on fixing our infrastructure amid challenges presented by the pandemic and supply chain delays.



After a two year hiatus, Paradise Jam returned to the territory in 2021. The U.S. Virgin Islands Paradise Jam is a NCAA college basketball tournament that takes place annually in late November. The men's tournament typically takes place the week before Thanksgiving, with the women's tournament occurring during Thanksgiving week, airing on ESPN. We were happy to partner with Basketball Travelers by providing the usage of our mobile production unit on St. Thomas so this tournament could be seen by its audience and showcase the territory.

We continue to build the station's infrastructure as we finally installed a new dish to receive PBS programming. Our old dish was destroyed in Hurricane Irma in 2017 and, through funding from FEMA, we were able to get this dish up and running in November of 2021. This is a relief to our viewers as we were using an old dish that was limited and subject to the mildest of rain fade. Our new dish has resiliency in that it is automated and can be stowed to help prevent wind damage. The ASC Signal 7.6-meter earth station antenna provides high gain and exceptional pattern characteristics. The electrical performance and versatility provide the ability to configure the antenna with a choice of linearly polarized or circularly polarized 2-port or 4- port combining networks. The 7.6-meter antenna is capable of operation at Ku-band and K-band with the selection of feed and combiner systems. This antenna features a computer-optimized dual reflector Gregorian system. We can now provide programming from all the satellites, resulting in a better viewing experience for our viewers.



"WTJX has really contributed a lot to my family. I always recommend the programs to my friends. I love watching it. I think I like just about everything that you have to offer."

- Leonor Gillette, retired teacher & Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism volunteer

We revamped our website to be more visually appealing and engaging. The website has a focus on local information, streaming the television channel live on the home page, archived programs, and much more features. We expect the website will inspire greater traffic to our station platforms.

The collage displays several key website features and content pieces:

- Top Navigation:** WTJX PBS npr logo, Schedule, Watch, Live TV, Education, Programs, PBS Kids, Support Us, DONATE, and a search icon.
- Main Content Area:** A large featured article titled "Cervical cancer kills Black women at a disproportionately higher rate than whites" with a silhouette of a head. To the right, there are news snippets: "WTJX Premier American Experience: The American Diplomat featuring Virgin Islander Terence Todman", "BIR Offers Tax Tips for Filing 2022 Tax Return", "Department of Health Updates Residents On Legionella Bacteria Found in Both Districts", and "VIPD Leads Multi-Agency Cleanup of...".
- Radio Section:** A "LISTEN NOW | WTJX FM - 93.1" banner with a "TUNE IN" button and a message: "Oops. There was a problem loading the player. Please try again."
- Program Promotions:** A row of program tiles for "ANALYZE THIS WITH NEVILLE JAMES" (Weekdays 8-10 AM), "Sarah & Addie 2.0", "The Welcome Mat", and "LISTEN NOW WTJX-FM 93.1 FM YOUR LOCAL NPR STATION".
- Featured Shows:** A section titled "Featured Shows" with a "ABLE TO RAISE" tile and a "Bookcase" tile.
- NewsHour Extra:** A section for "PBS NEWS HOUR EXTRA" with a note: "Note for PBS NewsHour EXTRA users: For now, all of our old content will remain available on the website." It includes "NewsHour Extra" and "Subject Areas" tabs.
- PBS NewsHour Classroom:** A section titled "Welcome to PBS Classroom!" with a note: "For PBS NewsHour EXTRA users, we'll be updating our new site, NewsHour Classroom. For now, all content will remain available on the website." It features a "Daily News Lesson: COVID-19 for student mental health" by Amna Nawaz and "Remembering the life of Colin Powell".
- WTJX Passport:** A section titled "WTJX Passport" featuring "Betty White: First Lady of Television" (Special | 56m).
- WTJX Videos:** A section titled "WTJX Videos" with a "NEWS AND MEDIA LIT" tile and a "Read more from Educator Voice" link.
- WTJX | PBS NEWS HOUR:** A section with a video player for "Racism, human rights: Allegations mar marquee sport events" (Clip | 5m 23s | 2022/02/13). Below the video are three smaller tiles: "Meet a journalist fighting for press freedom in Myanmar" (Clip | 7m 45s | 2022/02/13), "Why gas prices could remain high for some time" (Clip | 4m 33s | 2022/02/13), and "Why gas prices could remain high for a while".
- WTJX | NPR:** A section with several news snippets: "Sea shanties, revisited: Maine couple resurfaces works thought lost to time", "Ketanjivi Brown Jackson, a former public defender, is on Biden's Supreme Court list" (Judge Jackson also served for eight years as a federal trial court judge, and last June was confirmed for a seat on...), "Judge to dismiss Sarah Palin's defamation suit against 'New York Times'" (Palin sued the newspaper over a 2017 editorial that wrongly linked an ad by her political action committee to the...), "As state medical boards try to stamp out COVID misinformation, some in GOP push back" (State medical boards have an obligation to investigate complaints about doctors, such as those who spread COVID...), and "U.S. women will face Canada in the Olympic hockey gold medal match".