



## GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students have the opportunity to envision themselves as social justice warriors and to embody the spirit of Virgin Islands leader and activist David Hamilton Jackson through the **Art for Activism project "I am David Hamilton Jackson."**

The Division of Library, Archives, and Museums of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education of the Virgin Islands Department of Education are inviting students to create works inspired by David Hamilton Jackson's activism. November has been designated as the official month to honor Jackson's lifetime achievements in advancing the right to freedom of the press, voting rights, higher wages, worker's rights, and organizing the territory's first labor union, which enabled him to campaign for human rights and gain greater self-governance in an era when racial inequality was intolerable for the vast majority of Black Virgin Islanders.

Since the **Project's announcement on David Hamilton Jackson Day, also known as Liberty Day, both agencies have held a virtual meeting, which was attended by over 170 students.** Students may choose from a variety of mediums to create their symbolic works, which may include the following:

- **Drawing a self-portrait or creating a mixed media artwork**
- **A monologue or play via Tik Tok or another video app**
- **Digital art, animation, or photography**

The project teaches students about historical injustices and how to identify and act on contemporary issues affecting themselves, their local and global communities.

**A third creative session on the TEAMS app will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021.** Invitations will be sent via VIDE's internal email system and to interested private schools.

In early December, the project will be exhibited virtually for the community to view. **The deadline for this project is Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Students may submit their work to their teachers, guidance counselors, or to the representatives of the coordinating agencies whose email addresses are listed below.

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