



Believe...

St. Croix Foundation

Written against the backdrop of a global pandemic, historic national racial justice movements, regional uncertainty around a new hurricane season, and a Territory still on its journey toward recovery from the 2017 hurricanes, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development is filled with hope! Despite the magnitude of this moment in time, we are leveraging every one of our almost 30 years of experience to do what we do best: invest in holistic Community Development and progressive models of Community Resilience.

Foundation Announced as New Kids Count Grantee for USVI

In January of this year, St. Croix Foundation was officially tapped by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) to lead the KIDS COUNT initiative in the U.S. Virgin Islands!

Kids Count is a network of non-profits, foundations, and consortiums from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Launched in 1990 by AECF, a national philanthropy focused on child well-being, Kids Count provides data about child wellbeing at the federal, state, and local levels to catalyze informed policies and decision-making. Kids Count grantees are tasked with disseminating their findings publicly through a local data book annually.

Casey's Senior Policy Associate, Karina Jimenez stated that SCF's Nonprofit Consortium (NPC) "is a unique, emerging structure with core tenets that align very well with our outcomes in the KIDS COUNT theory of change: improved local alliances, aligned stakeholders from multiple sectors, and strengthened organizational capacity."

Today, recognizing that data by itself is insufficient to shift public policy without a concurrent focus on advocacy, St. Croix Foundation is grounding our Kids Count strategy in the educational systems research and policy investments that we have led for 15 years. We are also relying on our civic, public and private sector partnerships and our unwavering commitment to the *whole* child, to identify targeted pressure points that will *activate* the data, reduce vulnerabilities, build reinforced safety nets, and improve overall outcomes for *all* children.



CARE Fund Re-Launched as a Permanent Fund

As COVID-19 became a fixed reality around the world, St. Croix Foundation relaunched our CARE Fund as a permanent Philanthropic Instrument for nurturing resilience in the Virgin Islands. Established in the wake of the 2017 hurricanes, the fund has invested over \$1.5 million into local nonprofits and has supported both [immediate relief and long-term resilience efforts](#) such as the Solar Workforce Development Initiative and Farm Tienda Program. Today and into the future, the CARE Fund will serve to fortify vulnerable communities and build nonprofit capacity so that the Territory can better weather COVID-19 and any future crises through the following strategies:

1. **Open-Doors** – Stabilizing nonprofits who are caring for vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 with *operating support*.
2. **Direct Support for Frontline Nonprofits** – Awarding *program grants* to frontline civic organizations to implement or expand services.
3. **Data Collection on Unmet Needs** – Spearheading data collection initiatives to connect individuals and organizations with resources.
4. **Resiliency and Systems Innovation** – Developing and funding innovative, adaptive, and resilient programs that nurture equitable and sustainable new systems.

Support Our work! Visit us today!

<http://www.stcroixfoundation.org/care-fund/covid-19/>

St. Croix Foundation Celebrates Our 30th Anniversary in September 2020!

On September 24th, the Foundation will officially celebrate 30 years of Leadership and Service in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Established in 1990 to address needs arising from the devastation of Hurricane Hugo, all of us at the Foundation today feel so incredibly privileged to have been entrusted with the mission of such a special Organization. To all our past Staff and Board members, our wide circle of local and national Partners, ***Thank You for your Time, Talent and Treasure!*** We are proud to report that **over the course of the past 30 years, St. Croix Foundation has been a conduit of over 42 million dollars** in strategic, high impact investments in every priority area, including Community Revitalization, Nonprofit Capacity Building, Economic Development, and Education Policy into the Virgin Islands... And, we're only just getting started!

Building Local, Regional, National, and Global Networks Around Environmental Resiliency

One of the Foundation's core competencies is the art of collaboration, and our ability to convene diverse groups around a common cause and shared work. With our growing cadre of national partners, we are knitting together an international network of champions around climate and environmental sustainability while making an indelible impact in our community.



Nonprofits Host Town Hall Meeting on Restart of Limetree Bay Oil Refinery

In November 2019, the Environmental Sector of our Nonprofit Consortium hosted a Community-wide townhall meeting to learn more and ask questions about the reopening of the Limetree Bay Oil Refinery on St. Croix. The convening was standing room only with more than 100 residents in attendance.

Through this work, St. Croix Foundation is linking organizations and programming in four sectors: youth and education, health and human services, arts and culture, and the natural and built environs. Our Consortium is providing a safe and structured convening space for nonprofits to strategize, to nurture resiliency in our Community, and to collectively build a progressive, sustainable and environmentally just Community Vision for St. Croix.



Federal Reserve Bank Taps Foundation for National Community Advisory Group

In January of this year, St. Croix Foundation President, Deanna James, was invited to serve on the *Community Advisory Group* established by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The group is sponsored by the NY Fed's Communication and Outreach Group which aims to capture perspectives on the economy of individuals, households, and communities.

The Advisory Group meets three times annually with NY Fed President John C. Williams to discuss topics related to the economy while providing the NY Fed with a real-time view on the socio-economic conditions facing a diverse set of communities. Other members include the heads of community-based organizations and nonprofits. Our President is being afforded the opportunity to share a unique perspective on the US Virgin Islands and its specific challenges in the face of Covid-19 and Climate Change.



The Climate Change Declaration

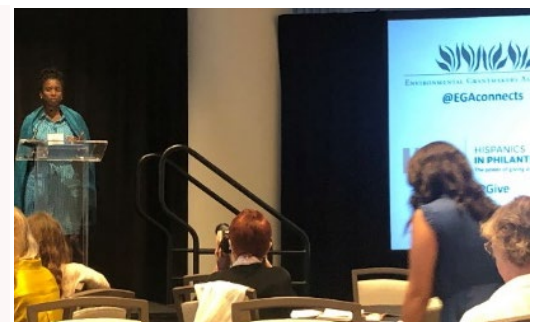
This past February, St. Croix Foundation joined over 70 organizations across the nation (from Guam to the outer banks of Maine), in signing the Climate Strong Islands Declaration, highlighting the needs and incredible potential of small islands to collectively find solutions to the Climate Change Crisis.

The Declaration seeks to correct the struggles and underinvestment that many U.S. islands have endured for 50 years. This historic inequity is about basic fairness, as the world's islands produce only 1% of the emissions that are heating up the planet but are disproportionately bearing the brunt of the consequences.

The Foundation has joined forces with American nonprofits, foundations, and universities to advocate for access to clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy; food security; and highlight the value of U.S. island communities to respond to the accelerating and urgent crisis of climate change.

Expanding Horizons, Raising Awareness

Also in February, our President again hit the road, this time presenting at the Environmental Grantmakers Association's Winter Briefing in San Juan on the vulnerabilities of the Region the USVI's status as an unincorporated American Territory. Speaking to a roomful of the nation's largest environmental funders, Deanna provided an update on the status of the Territory's recovery and the Foundation's investment in our community's Social Infrastructure (i.e. nonprofits). She also advocated for greater national philanthropic investment in the Caribbean, which is currently standing on the frontline of climate change.



Demonstrating the Power of People & Place at Our 4th Annual Philanthropy Retreat

During the week of February 10th – 15th, the Foundation hosted our 4th Annual Philanthropy Retreat as a vehicle for engaging national funders and exposing them to the distinctive realities of the U.S.



Caribbean. This year's retreat, entitled *The Power of People and Place: Status Matters*, connected over 20 local nonprofits and 15 national and international Senior Foundation Executives and Board Members from Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Council on Foundations, the Southeastern Council of Foundations, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, LASCO Chin Foundation of Jamaica, Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, and Grantmakers for Southern Progress (above).

Over the course of several days, St. Croix Foundation led local nonprofit partners and foundation guests in a focused conversation around political status, social equity, community resilience and nonprofit capacity building. Members of our Nonprofit Consortium offered guests an unfiltered opportunity to learn about the inherent challenges and assets of the U.S. Virgin Islands which included an island tour with visits to the Juan F. Luis Hospital, The Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls (CCBG), Frederiksted Health Care, Inc., and Sejah Farms of the Virgin Islands.

Through the national partnerships being nurtured, the Foundation has been able to connect local nonprofits to relevant intellectual brain-trusts and funding networks in targeted 'sectors' including arts & culture; the environs; health & human services; and youth & education). Learn more about our annual retreat here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85qRa1oMhhA>

St. Croix Food & Wine Experience Canceled for First Time in 16 Years

While our 2020 annual benefit was slated to be a celebration of "Simple Abundance" in honor of the inherent assets and bounty of St. Croix, the Foundation made the not-so-difficult decision this spring to forego our St. Croix Food & Wine Experience. In these uncertain times, the health, safety, and peace of mind of our friends, families and colleagues must be the central priority—both locally and globally, for us all.

Despite the cancellation, the reason behind our FWE Giving Season remains! We are deeply grateful to all of the sponsors and ticket buyers who generously agreed to have their contributions re-directed to support our work. Rest assured, the Foundation and all our partners hard at work, while looking toward 2021 in hopes we can once again raise a glass together in solidarity and gratitude for Simple Abundance. Until then, we extend [our deepest appreciation to our sponsors and partners](#) who stand with us.

Racial Equity: An Imperative for Philanthropy

In early June, the Association of Black of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE) issued a formal [Call to Action](#) to Foundations and Executives in the field of Philanthropy with specific imperatives for the philanthropic sector which include: 1) Building Agency, 2) Pushing Structural Change, 3) Encouraging Shared Responsibility, 4) Using Endowments, 5) Centering Black Experience, 6) Fostering Trustee Accountability, 7) Engaging Black Businesses, 8) Lifting up Gender, 9) Reaching Out to the Diaspora, and 10) Addressing Disparities in Prisons. The Foundation has joined this call along with over 70 national philanthropies including Ford Foundation.



Concurrent with signing ABFE's historic statement, President James penned a powerful letter to our community, outlining issues of systemic racism within philanthropy and in the Territory. This letter comes at a time when Philanthropy on a whole has begun responding in resounding accord to Anti-Black Racism in America. As stated by our President, "St. Croix Foundation fundamentally believes that healing and evolution can come from shining a light on the interplay of Race, Power, and Privilege everywhere, even here. But, more specifically, for the field of Philanthropy, where high net worth often represents disproportional, sometimes unchecked power, Light and Courage must both be our tools!" The letter was re-published in several national philanthropic forums. To read the entire letter, please visit us at <http://www.stxfoundation.org/philanthropy-and-race-in-the-u-s-virgin-islands/>.

The Patrick & Amelia Williams Fund and Foundation Scholars Fund Award \$16,000 in Scholarships!

In June, St. Croix Foundation held a virtual Awards Presentation, announcing \$16,000 in scholarships to 6 St. Croix graduates through the Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund and our Foundation Scholars Fund! The Committee applauds awardees Djamel, Jayme, Jhylie, Quincy, Shedajah, and La' Monique who will be heading to Arizona State University, Florida A & M University, University of the Virgin Islands, Howard University, and Morgan State University. Among other criteria, applicants had to demonstrate perseverance despite incredible odds. Despite having endured the 2017 hurricanes *and* Covid19 throughout their high school experience, we are confident that our scholarship recipients will indeed have bright futures.

To date, the Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund has provided a total of \$35,000 in scholarships to local students who have had to overcome obstacles in their efforts to continue their education.

The Foundation extends its deepest appreciation to the Williams and Gaspard family, as well as ProTouch Communications, for their support of our young people!



Fiscal Sponsorship Spotlight: Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Built Heritage and Crafts

Amid a pandemic and ongoing hurricane recovery, nonprofits are often key to ensuring the wellbeing of our community. For nearly 30 years, St. Croix Foundation has supported local nonprofits by serving as the Territory's preeminent Fiscal Sponsor. Far different from grantmaking, fiscal sponsorship allows charitable projects to operate under the Foundation's 501(c)3 umbrella while still maintaining their individual identity and mission.

Our spotlight this quarter falls on *the Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Built Heritage & Crafts (VIAC)*, a sponsored project of the Foundation's, whose progressive agenda aims to build the Territory's first Architectural and Construction Arts Academy. VIAC's mission is to "empower its student body through education and training in traditional architecture and building arts to instill expertise, craftsmanship and design in the preservation, enrichment and knowledge of the global African Caribbean architectural heritage." VIAC plans to offer courses that culminate in an Associate Degree.

This sponsored project is another powerful example of how philanthropy can institutionalize equity and racial justice.

Thank you for the past 30 years!

Stand by us for the next 30 years and beyond!
Please support us with a Special Anniversary Gift.

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As a certified 501c3 all donations to St. Croix Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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