



ST. CROIX FOUNDATION



A Year in Review | 2025

## 2025: By the Numbers

**\$658,000+**

in grants & scholarships awarded this year.

**200+**

people convened for SCF initiatives.

**500+ guests**

attended SCF's annual fundraiser, Wine in the Warehouse, featuring Food Network celebrity chef Eric Adjepong.

**\$1,000,000**

national investment secured from a partner (first of its kind for SCF)!

**20**

current fiscally sponsored projects and organizations.

## Honoring Two Pillars of Our Community

We pause to honor the legacies of two extraordinary individuals whose vision, leadership, and generosity shaped our journey.



**Don Weeden**

A devoted supporter, former Board member, and champion of SCF's mission for over 2 decades, Don's generosity and steadfast belief in the power of community philanthropy helped fuel a generation of impact.



**Gerville Rene Larsen**

Former Board member, visionary architect, cultural steward, and beloved son, Gerville's work and wisdom shaped the very foundations of our community.

## Celebrating 35 Years of Leadership, Service, and Rooted Philanthropy



As St. Croix Foundation for Community Development (SCF) ushers in a new year and closes out the old, we are both reflective and propelled by 35 years of a progressive and prodigious body of work. While 2025 was a challenging year— one that stretched us and tested us, we

ultimately delivered some of our most impactful programming to date. Even after more than 3 decades of service to the Virgin Islands community, our organization continues to evolve.

As the host of the territory's largest active coalition of nonprofits (the St. Croix Nonprofit Consortium); as stewards of the KIDS COUNT USVI Initiative; and as one of the oldest Community Development nonprofits in the Virgin Islands, leading one of the most holistic town revitalization initiatives, SCF has remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing our unique place-based approach to philanthropy.

Today, we are proud to report that **we have been the conduit (not container) of over \$50 million in strategic investments over the past 35 years.** It's a remarkable milestone—not because of the money we've stewarded, or the size of our asset base, but because the pioneering vision of our founders has become a model for a growing number of younger place-based foundations.

As we look to the future, SCF will continue to lead with integrity and grit, building mastery around coherent, *rooted* community philanthropy and affirming the efficacy and power of place-based philanthropy. Join us as we take the next step in a journey of coherence and sovereignty.

# Activating Data, Igniting Change: SCF Marries Powerful Data Collection to Movement Building for Children & Community

This past August, SCF convened 82 community stakeholders for its **2025 KIDS COUNT and Nonprofit Consortium Alliance Summit**, focused on “Harnessing Community Genius” to co-design innovative new systems (what we call “System Bypasses”) that address the well-being of our children and our community as a whole.

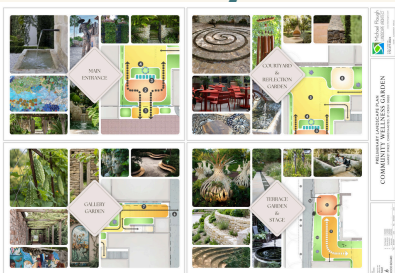
Facilitated by international systems change expert Tuesday Rivera of The Outside, the summit's overarching goal was to build a critical mass of community members armed with the tools, skills, and relationships needed to co-design new systems. 100% of attendees indicated they would share insights from the summit with others, and over 90% said the convening was the most valuable of any they had attended this year and asked for more...

**Our 2025 Summit also catalyzed seven grassroots initiatives, including a Youth Collaborative and a Community Wellness Campaign, that are already actively serving our children and community – and proving the power of coherence. Read more here!**  
<https://stxfoundation.info/2025SummitRecap>



The Foundation's 2025 Summit brought together activists, educators, artists, and young people to learn skills in collaborative practice and systems-thinking. Participants left equipped to tackle entrenched system failures with new tools and perspectives.

## Revitalizing Sunday Market Square Wellness, Creativity, and Community in Bloom



### Wellness Garden

In the heart of Christiansted, the Sunday Market Square Community Wellness Garden is beginning to blossom into a vibrant space for wellness, connection, and learning. Rooted in St. Croix's cultural and ecological heritage, this intimate garden, nestled within a courtyard of historic properties, will soon promote food security, environmental education, and community resilience.

Today, we've put the finishing touches on a blueprint for the garden! Through a series of community engagement sessions, residents, experts, and local partners have shaped the garden's design—from selecting native and medicinal plants to ensuring accessibility for all. Supported in part by AARP, the project models sustainable, inclusive community development across the Virgin Islands. Our community garden is scheduled for completion in 2026.

### Alexander Theater Restoration

Just steps away from the Wellness Garden, the Alexander Theater is being reimaged as one of the territory's largest safe rooms and a premier performing arts venue, with classrooms and creative spaces for youth programs and cultural performances. The design also includes a safe room for use during times of disaster—reflecting a holistic approach to resilience and well-being.

While progress has slowed following the untimely passing of our partner and design architect, Gerville Larsen, his legacy lives on through the project's commitment to cultural preservation and architectural excellence.

For more information, call us at 340-773-9898.

[Watch a video walkthrough](#)



[Review the design concepts](#)



# The Power of Islands of Innovation: Unveiling SCF's Theory of Coherence & Advancing a New Model for Philanthropy

Each year, St. Croix Foundation hosts its Annual Philanthropy Retreat, bringing together national philanthropic executives and local civic leaders for an immersive experience in place-based philanthropy in action.

Our 2025 February retreat, themed “The Power of Islands of Innovation: A Living Laboratory of Philanthropy Rooted in Place,” convened leaders from the Kresge Foundation, Mellon Foundation, El Paso Community Foundation, One Eleuthera Foundation, Kataly Foundation, and Enterprise Community Partners, alongside members of our Nonprofit Consortium.

Through field visits, dialogue, and co-learning sessions, participants explored the Foundation’s Theory of Coherence—a model that reframes traditional philanthropy around alignment, relationships, and interdependence.. Together, we examined how data stewardship, civic infrastructure, and cultural revitalization are shaping systems of community sovereignty on St. Croix.

Since 2017, our retreats have convened more than 60 national funders, generating over \$5 million in philanthropic investment for the Virgin Islands. Each gathering strengthens trust between funders and local practitioners and affirms what we know to be true: island communities are not peripheral—they are pioneering.

As we continue to refine our Theory of Coherence and build stronger, more coherent systems of community support, we invite you to stay engaged in this movement. Together, we are demonstrating what sustainable, rooted, and self-determined development truly looks like.



*Making Connections! St. Croix Foundation introduces Alex Whittaker of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to St. Croix Nonprofits.*

## SCF's Philanthropy as an Economic Driver

St. Croix Foundation's role as a civic hub doesn't just build capacity for over 100 nonprofits through our fiscal sponsorship, grantmaking, coalition building, and convening...

It also has a direct impact on St. Croix's economy. In the past two years alone, SCF has convened 13 times, introducing **over 320** national philanthropic executives and subject matter specialists to St. Croix. With each staying an average of 4 nights, that is **a direct return on investment of over half a million dollars to our Hotels**. This does not include shopping, car rentals, and restaurants. [Read more](https://stxfoundation.info/2025HospitalityInvestments...) about how SCF is leveraging our community development work into a new brand of philanthropic tourism:

<https://stxfoundation.info/2025HospitalityInvestments...>



# St. Croix Foundation Awards Over \$500,000 to 13 Organizations

In May, SCF awarded \$534,000 to support cultural heritage projects on St. Croix, made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Humanities in Place Program!

Thirteen organizations received grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 to implement and expand oral history initiatives, cultural programming, and artistic expression. Awardees represent diverse organizations that support food security, art therapy, culture, and economic development rooted in our community.

Providing vital support for grassroots nonprofits often excluded from federal funding, this grant demonstrates the power of storytelling and heritage to foster social renewal, resilience, and economic growth. For more information about our awardees and their initiatives, visit:

<https://stxfoundation.info/2025HealingAwardees>.

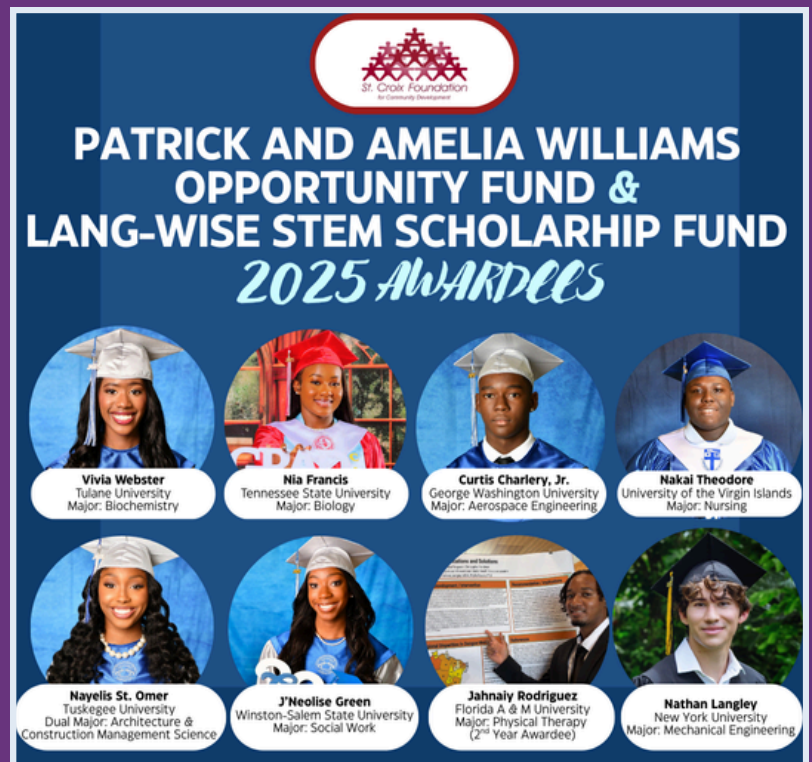


## Eight St. Croix Youth Receive Scholarships Totaling \$28,000

In 2025, St. Croix Foundation awarded \$28,000 in scholarships through our Spring Scholarship Cycle, supporting eight outstanding university students through the Lang-Wise STEM Scholarship Fund and the Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund.

These scholarships invest directly in the future of St. Croix. The Lang-Wise STEM Scholarship Fund supports students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, while the Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund uplifts public high school graduates who have persevered through significant challenges.

Since 2018, these two funds have awarded **\$154,900 to 40 young people** attending colleges and universities across the country. And this year, we proudly celebrated **three** scholars who received four consecutive years of support and are now pursuing master's degrees—a powerful testament to the long-term impact of sustained, donor-driven investment!



*We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors and advisors of both Funds, as well as the Foundation's Grants & Scholarship Committee. We couldn't do this without their generosity! To learn how you can support these funds and empower more young people, visit our website or call us at 340-773-9898.*

# 2025 KIDS COUNT USVI Data Book Spotlighting Youth Voices

Exciting news! On November 19, 2025, the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development launched our 2025 KIDS COUNT® USVI Data Book, **"When Data Speaks: The Voices of Our Children."** This publication not only tracks child well-being across the U.S. Virgin Islands but also emphasizes that the data is not just numbers, but represents the voices of our children.

This year's data book showcases the perspectives of 10 remarkable young people. Among them is Yosairy Rodriguez-Sanchez, a student from Giffit Hill School. During the virtual presentation, she shared her powerful experiences with economic disparity, urging the need for better-paying jobs and career pathways. **"...Kids shouldn't have to depend on luck or favors to have the same opportunity,"** she emphasized, reflecting the struggles many young people face.

St. Croix Foundation's KC Team has been activating the data by taking concrete steps;

- 1) regularly convening cross-sector partners to align priorities;
- 2) training nonprofits and agencies on how to apply the data in programs and advocacy;
- 3) lifting up Opportunity Youth to highlight system gaps that must be addressed;
- 4) sharing community-driven solutions and strengthening collaborations to direct resources where they are needed most;
- 5) publishing an Op-ed series on the epidemic of youth violence and mental health; and
- 6) testifying before the legislature to offer policymakers clear indicators, proven best practices, and model policies.

Learn more and explore our Data packages by visiting:

<https://www.stxfoundation.org/kids-count-usvi/>



At St. Croix Foundation, placing children at the center of our work is essential to everything we do. We publish annual data books and have launched the territory's first free, online KIDS COUNT Data Dashboard, activating this data daily to serve our community's youth. But our commitment goes beyond numbers.

Of course, our organization has expert project and financial managers, content developers, data analysts, and compliance administrators. But they are also uncles and aunts, godparents and grandchildren, daughters and sons, mothers and fathers.

In fact, in 2025, a member of our team became a new mother. When she works out of our office, she sits on the floor with her computer, while her 6-month-old daughter plays with our President's stuffed Aflac duck. The baby is swept up by a passing colleague and transported down the hall to those in finance, whose numbers become laughter and music during their break. When mom has a radio show and no babysitter, another colleague jumps in her car and drives to the station to watch over our smallest. And even when they are not in the room, when both of their chairs are empty in the office, big and small, we think of the baby as we plan our work, ensuring the support system is strong for her mother, that the tools (toys!) and steady hands she needs to grow and thrive are available.

We tell you this story because, like so many things in life, placing youth at the center of our work and our lives is a **state of being, not just a stated aim**. As our President, Deanna James, often says, we cannot truly hope to program our way out of the challenges before us. Likewise, policy and grantmaking alone will not move the needle forward for all Virgin Islanders. It is our **relationships**, our **collective work and vision**, that will drive the change we all seek.



**KIDS COUNT USVI**

2025 Data Book

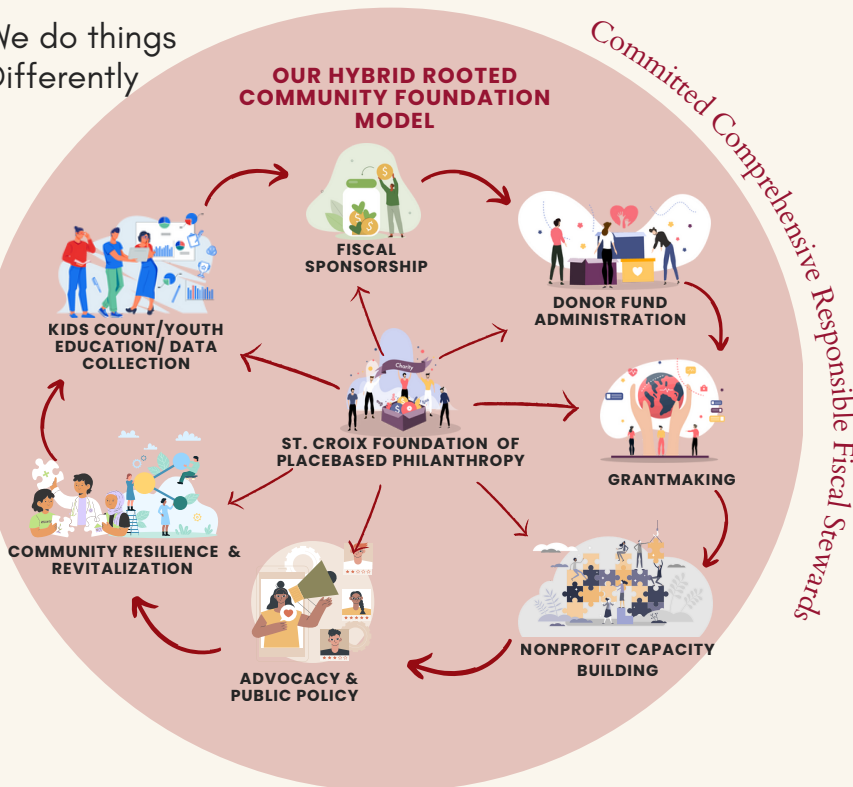
*When Data Speaks: The Voices of Our Children*

# Together We Can Make a Difference

St. Croix Foundation has made significant achievements possible on St. Croix and across the territory...

***BUT- there's more to be done!***

We do things  
Differently



## OUR VALUES

- **Collaboration over Competition:** We prioritize collective progress over individual gain, uplifting inclusive decision-making over top-down authority.
- **Conduit over Container:** We facilitate the strategic flow of resources rather than blocking, restricting, or hoarding.
- **Enoughness over Unbridled Capitalism:** We value sustainability, abundance and shared prosperity over unchecked accumulation and scarcity.
- **Systems Thinking over Siloed Priorities:** With the recognition that Everything is connected to Everything, we address root causes through interconnected solutions rather than isolated myopic efforts.
- **Equity as a Practice over Equity as a Promise:** Because Equity is inculcated in our consciousness as a state of being, we embed equity into every action and investment, not just as an aspiration.
- **Fiscal Integrity:** We ensure that every dollar invested is maximized for community impact and systemic transformation, maintaining transparent financial management and compliance with national philanthropic standards.

## OUR MISSION

**To encourage greater philanthropic activity, to marshal resources, and to act as a catalyst to benefit the people of St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands.**

## OUR VISION

- St. Croix Foundation will **encourage greater philanthropic activity** by increasing the public's awareness of current and emerging needs in our community.
- St. Croix Foundation will **marshal resources** by providing an **accessible vehicle** for donors of all abilities to use and by presenting the Foundation, both locally and nationally, as a worthwhile recipient of monetary, in-kind, and volunteer support.
- St. Croix Foundation will **act as a catalyst** by exerting and promoting leadership and advocating for positive change and by providing exemplary grants to local nonprofit organizations.



nationally recognized for our work in youth and education, downtown block development, and economic development.



**"We're not waiting for systems to fix themselves. We're building the bypasses now."**

# Because of Us. . .

*St. Croix's nonprofit civic sector is stronger and more unified than ever before*

For more than 35 years, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development has served as fiscal sponsor to over 250 nonprofits and community initiatives, helping move more than \$22 million directly into programs that serve our People and Place. Through fiscal sponsorship, grassroots organizations are able to access grants, raise funds, and deliver critical services under our 501(c)(3) umbrella.

This work extends far beyond financial management. In a community where nonprofit organizations often fill gaps left by the lack of municipal systems, fiscal sponsorship is essential to building a strong, resilient civic sector. Our stewardship has helped incubate and sustain some of St. Croix's most impactful initiatives, including the St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade, the VI Good Food Coalition, H.O.P.E., Music in Motion, and Farmers in Action.

This work continues only with your support. Fiscal sponsorship is relationship-driven, resource-intensive, and largely unfunded—yet it remains one of the most powerful ways we strengthen community-driven solutions.

We invite you to give today and help sustain the systems that allow our nonprofits—and our community—to thrive.

## Fiscally Sponsored Projects & Organizations:

- Artists Guild of St. Croix
- Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (C.H.A.N.T.)
- Florabelle Petersen Creative Craft Center, Inc.
- Jamaican 55th Anniversary Fund
- Society of Virgin Islands Historians, Inc.
- St. Croix Seashell Society, Inc.
- Virgin Islands Puerto Rico Friendship Day
- STAR Sea Turtle Assistance and Rescue, Inc.
- Virgin Islands Institute for Social Impact, Opulence, and Noetics (VIISION)
- Diane Hampton VI Breast Cancer Project
- Friends of the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged
- V.I. Police Department Community Partnership Fund
- Cane Bay Cares
- Team Paladin Youth Sailing
- V.I. Chefs and Cooks Association
- V.I. Literary Festival and Bookfair

## Support the Work

Your contribution helps support the work of St. Croix Foundation.

Please return this form and your tax deductible contribution via the email or mail listed below.

DONOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options .

- ☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to St. Croix Foundation.
- ☐ Please invoice me. We agree to pay the full amount by \_\_\_\_\_ (date).
- ☐ Credit Card; Wish to give online? Visit us at <https://www.stxfoundation.org/sponsor-pledge/>

**THANK YOU!**

# St. Croix Foundation Welcomes 3 New Board Members

St. Croix Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of three new dynamic members to our Board of Directors: Biko McMillan, Dr. Martha Jallim Hall, and Beverly Nicholson-Doty.

At St. Croix Foundation, our team is a unique and strong blend of talent, expertise, and passion, encompassing the full spectrum of civic leadership and community service. We are grounded in our work, in our Place, and in our People.

Biko McMillan, a Crucian native and policy analyst, brings his passion for problem-solving and understanding of the local economy. Biko's relationship with the Foundation began 20 years ago as a young Math & Science scholarship recipient. We are honored to have him join our Organization as the youngest member of our Board in a full circle moment! Dr. Martha Jallim Hall, an experienced educator and leader, and CHS Alum is giving back to the Virgin Islands after 40 years abroad by offering her expertise in education, strategic planning and organizational advancement. Beverly Nicholson-Doty, a respected regional tourism executive, is bringing a wealth of knowledge in marketing and community development.

St. Croix Foundation welcomes Biko McMillan, Dr. Martha Jallim Hall and Beverly Nicholson-Doty. We look forward to their valuable contributions as we work towards a stronger, more resilient, and equitable community.



Biko  
McMillan



Dr. Martha  
Jallim Hall



Beverly  
Nicholson-Doty

## Our Board of Directors

**Miguel Tricoche**, Chair

**Willard John**

**Michael Dunham**, Vice Chair

**Shomari Moorehead**, Secretary

**Shawn Williams**, Treasurer

**Deanna James**, President & CEO

**Ronald Belfon**, Esq.

**Biko McMillan**

**Martha Hall**, PhD

**Beverly Nicholson Doty**

## Our Staff

**Deanna James**, President & CEO

**Kalila Quow**, Fiscal Controller

**Jenna Boland**, Senior Staff Accountant

**Claver Lazare**, Fiscal Sponsorship Staff Accountant

**Haley Cutler**, VP of Programs & Properties

**Magali Roldan**, Operations Manager

**Tajielle Rose**, Fiscal Compliance Administrator

**Latoya Martin**, Project Manager

**Lilli Cox**, VP of Communications

**Chevon Miles**, Development Director

**Jacklyn Lawrence**, Junior Program Officer



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