



# THE NEXT TECH HUB 2022



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TECHNOLOGY IN THE USVI

**MAY 19-20**



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# WELCOME LETTERS

FROM OUR LOCAL OFFICIALS



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

On behalf of the people of the United States Virgin Islands, I enthusiastically welcome each of you to the “Next Tech Hub Business Attraction Summit 2022” hosted by the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park.

We also extend a special welcome to Mr. Tim Reid; today’s notable keynote speaker—an award-winning actor, director, producer and world-renowned speaker on creativity and innovation. We look forward to his insights on the dynamic merger of technology and humanity and how technologies can further assist our cultural diversity.

The Summit is appropriately themed: “The Next Tech Hub: Sustainability through Technology in the USVI”. The Territory is poised to be the Caribbean’s epicenter for tech. Geographically, the RT Park is ideally positioned at the doorstep of the larger Caribbean region and the US mainland, putting us in a unique position to support the next generation of innovations and research in technology and sustainability.

Currently, the Territory enjoys unprecedented economic growth due to a thriving tourism industry. We are also building back better from the hurricanes of 2017 by aggressively building in real resilience and sustainability in our infrastructure. This is our time, and we want you to be a part of it.

On the horizon, the RT Park plans to develop a 26-acre Tech Village that will focus on economic diversity, housing, education and will be unlike anything in this region. Through the RT Park and various incentive programs that are among the best in the nation, my Administration is working hard to make it easier for businesses to establish and grow in the Territory.

UVI is the only historically black institution to offer free tuition to our high school graduates, and its degree programs are steadily expanding to ensure a talented workforce. We continue to provide free and earn-as you learn training programs to prepare workers for the industries of the future, including technology.

But most importantly, we know that our Caribbean lifestyle, our culture, and our hospitality make us a top destination, not only to grow a business but to grow a family.

There is no obstacle to joining the VI tech sector, only opportunities. Lt. Governor Tregenza A. Roach, and the residents of our beloved Territory are looking forward to seeing your business flourish here in the U.S Virgin Islands.

Thank you to Executive Director Peter Chapman and his team at the RT Park for hosting this summit. And thank you to all the attendees for joining us for these two days. I am certain that your time invested will yield excellent returns. Have a wonderful summit.

Sincerely,

  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor



**RTPark**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

May 19, 2022

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

As Chairman of the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (RTPark), I welcome all the businesses, influencers, and Virgin Islanders attending our 2022 Business Attraction Summit. This year's theme is "The Next Tech Hub: Sustainability through Technology in the USVI." Today, considering the current state of the Caribbean and the world, the myriad resources the USVI can access place the territory in an advantageous position to lead the next generation of innovation and research in technology and sustainability.

The RTPark plays an integral role in the economic development of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and your attendance acknowledges our commitment to creating a sustainable Tech Hub in the Virgin Islands. Tech entrepreneurs are leaders in economic development and are the future of many communities and countries. Over the next two days, we hope to give you a better understanding of the economic landscape in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As your host, we are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and providing all the information you may need.

Best Regards,

Edward E. Thomas

Chairman, RTPark Board of Directors



+1 340 474 0922

Physical: 7 King Street (3rd Floor), Christiansted, VI 00820  
Mailing: 1131 King Street, Christiansted, VI 00820

May 17, 2022

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Research and Technology Park (RTPark) Corporation of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I am pleased to welcome you to our 2022 biennial tech and business attraction summit. Over the course of the next few days, we hope that the summit, our special guests, and informational discussions will provide you with a comprehensive overview of 1) why the Caribbean region as a whole is ripe with opportunities for the tech entrepreneurs to be innovative and successful in their ventures, and 2) how the USVI and the RTPark in particular offer a unique and advantageous platform for the tech community to thrive and scale.

Despite the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has no doubt had a negative impact on the regional and world economies, the RTPark, which has been recognized by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as one of the highest-performing economic development organizations in North America, has continued to make progress in expanding the base of technology and knowledge-based companies in the Territory. This underscores not only the resiliency of the tech sector and advanced industries, but also the outstanding dedication and effectiveness of the professionals who work at the RTPark. As I've said before, we have a *phenomenal* team.

Since adopting a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary economic development model, the RTPark continues to drive measurable progress across five key areas:

- 1) **Attraction of mature, mostly new-to-market companies** by harnessing a number of tools and resources, including a robust array of tax benefits. To date, the RTPark has built a portfolio of 78 traditional enterprises, 48, or more than 60% of which, were secured by the current business attraction team.
- 2) **Acceleration of promising early-stage firms through AccelerateVI.** The accelerator program, the RTPark's signature entrepreneurship support initiative, has completed three cohorts thus far, and is preparing to launch a fourth one in the Fall of 2022. Overall, we have served 21 founders, and have helped them raise nearly \$4 million in capital. It is also noteworthy that 100% of graduates are still operating their businesses and have increased revenues by \$1 million since completing the program.
- 3) **Talent attraction and retention.** Since the last summit we've launched two new workforce development programs, most notably VISTA+, an online database that connects tech talent within the Virgin Islands diaspora with opportunities to work in the Territory. We also implemented a youth coding initiative, VI STEM Kids, in partnership with the Caribbean Center for Boys and Girls of the Virgin Islands (CCBGVI) on St. Croix and St. Thomas.
- 4) **Access to capital.** With an initial \$5 million grant from the USVI Legislature, the RTPark has established the long-awaited Catalyst Fund, a much-needed source of patient, flexible financing for business ventures and real estate (re)development projects that enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem, or otherwise, help make the USVI a more attractive destination for high-impact economic development projects.



- 5) **Revitalization and (re)development.** Working collaboratively with the USVI Legislature as well as the Governor's Office, the RTPark secured acquisition of a 26-acre parcel on St. Croix that will enable the organization to proceed with the Tech Village, a multi-phased planned \$50 million real estate project focused on addressing economic diversity, housing, and educational needs in the St. Croix community with innovative additions to our infrastructure. The project will be an integral component of an expansion dedicated to agricultural research and technology.

Together, these programs, partnerships and projects are helping us to fulfill our goal of becoming a tech hub of choice in the region and beyond.

The 2022 summit is intended to provide tech entrepreneurs, executives, and influencers--from near and beyond--with a clearer, more direct perspective as to why the USVI is becoming a preferred destination for knowledge-based companies, such as those that have entered the market via the RTPark. We've therefore scoped out what we believe will be an exciting and informative two days' worth of virtual learning opportunities with respect to the economic landscape, including an overview of our generous tax benefits; the network of support services that compromise the entrepreneurial ecosystem; and the unique cultural and quality of life dimensions that make the USVI an ideal location to bring your business.

We are extremely excited to share these wonderful opportunities with you and thank you for participating in this year's summit. We hope you seriously consider joining the RTPark Community in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter H. Chapman".

Peter H. Chapman

Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer  
USVI Research and Technology Park Corporation



# HAVE YOU ACCESSED WHOVA?

Many attendees have already downloaded and are using WHOVA to plan various activities, such as:

- Viewing the event agenda and planning their personal schedule
- Setting up virtual meet-ups with other attendees to connect and network
- Creating and conversing through various Discussion Topics in the Community Board
- Receiving updates such as last minute session changes from the organizers

Don't miss out! You can download the Whova app here: [Download](#)

If asked for an invitation code, please use: gfvryx2z2 (Please do not share this invitation code with people who are NOT attendees of the event).

Already used the Whova app in the past? Double-check that it is installed on your phone, and log in using your existing account email and password.

Have a great time at the event!

If you need more guidance on how to use Whova to attend the event, please visit [Whova User Guides](#).

Where are you joining from?! You can also upload photos from the conference that we'll share on social media! Whether you're tuning in from the white sandy beaches of the VI, or your high-rise office in the city, tag #UVIRTPark #RTParkTechSummit on your social media platforms to let us know where you're joining in from!

- RTPark Team

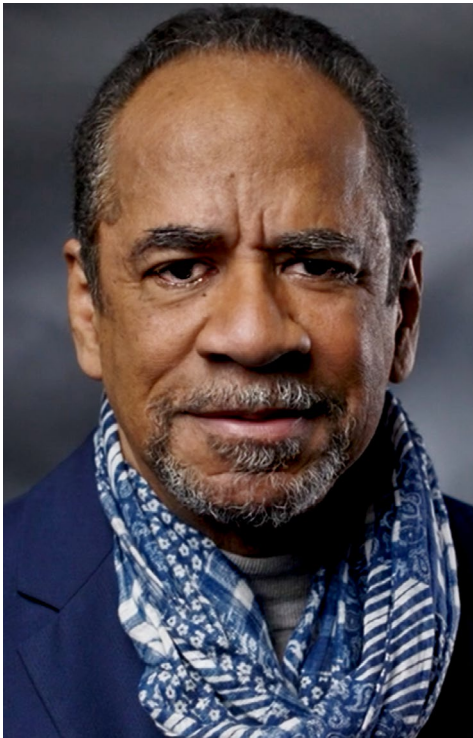
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# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

TIM REID // SUEZETTE YASMIN ROBOTHAM

# TIM REID



EMMY-NOMINATED ACTOR, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER, HAS APPEARED ON TELEVISION FOR OVER THREE DECADES, FROM *VENUS FLYTRAP*, ON *WKRP IN CINCINNATI* THROUGH *SIMON & SIMON*, *FRANK'S PLACE*, *SISTER, SISTER*, *THAT 70'S SHOW*, HBO'S *TREME*, AND RECENTLY OWN'S *GREENLEAF* AND *LOVE IS*.

He made his directorial debut with his critically acclaimed feature film, "Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored." Tim's other film projects include "Asunder," starring Blair Underwood, Debbi Morgan and Michael Beach, and "For Real", which Reid directed, and produced. He co-produced, with Atlantis Films Limited, "Race to Freedom: The Underground Railroad." The film starring Courtney Vance was nominated for Cable Ace Awards' Best Picture. Tim executive produced the critically acclaimed CBS movie "About Sarah," starring Mary Steenburgen, Kellie Martin, and Diane Baker for which he received a Christopher Award. He also created and produced the acclaimed Showtime TV series "Linc's", and has received the "Oscar Micheaux Award" from the Producer's Guild of America for outstanding lifetime achievement.

In 2012, Reid co-produced and directed "Keepers of the Flame", a film of Virginia's central role in American history, which runs in the visitors center of the Virginia State Capitol. He recently launched the TV series, *Legacy of a People*, described as a "Talkumentary."

Through his non-profit Legacy Media Institute, he instructs an international group of students and emerging filmmakers, promoting excellence and accountability in creating media that reflects a diverse global society.

Reid has received numerous Honorary Degrees and has been inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame. He was appointed by two Governors to serve two terms on the Board of Visitors of Norfolk State University, and he currently serves on the Richmond Forum Board.

Tim recently launched an international streaming service, "lgcytv.com." The network is intended to be an independent source of entertainment content that highlights and shares the history, lifestyles and culture of the African Diaspora, as they continue to play an essential role in shaping the destiny of mankind throughout the world.

# SUEZETTE YASMIN ROBOTHAM

VP OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TALENT ACQUISITION AT GARTNER, IS A SPEAKER, CONNECTOR, COACH, AND A LEADING BLACK WOMAN IN TECH.



She has nearly 20 years of leadership experience with expertise in talent acquisition, diversity & inclusion initiatives, leadership development, strategic planning and relationship building across various industry sectors. Over her career, she has worked in large urban school districts, as well as education reform organizations like Teach For America.

She has led Diversity, Equity & Inclusions Teams and Programs at both Facebook and Google, and has been tapped as a speaker by a number of organizations across the U.S., Canada,

Europe and Africa for her thought leadership in authenticity in the workplace and diversity and inclusion. She has been a featured TEDx Speaker (TEDxBeaconStreet 2015) and a TNJ 40 Under Forty 2019 Honoree. In December 2021, Suezette was featured in the premiere episode of the Meredith Corporation created SEEHER Multiplicity docuseries, focused on Women of Color and code switching on HealthMagazine.com.

An alumna of the University of Florida and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, Suezette currently lives, works, and plays in Brooklyn. Her words to live by: "You were brave before you were born." -Her Mommy



This year's summit theme is *"The Next Tech Hub: Sustainability through Technology in the USVI"*. Considering the current state of the Caribbean and the world, the myriad resources that the USVI can access today place the territory in an advantageous position to support next-generation innovation and research in technology and sustainability. Particularly when it comes to sustainability solutions, the RTPark understands that the Caribbean is in a powerful position to become leaders in this sector and we are positioning ourselves to be at the forefront of the innovation and research being produced in that space.

## AGENDA



## Together connecting you better

Broadband VI and Liberty have joined to provide the USVI with better service, best value and more ways to connect.

Liberty is a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Latin America, a leading communications company in Latin America and the Caribbean, with companies and brands such as Cable and Wireless, FLOW and BTC.

**broadbandvi**  **Liberty**

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# John Hope

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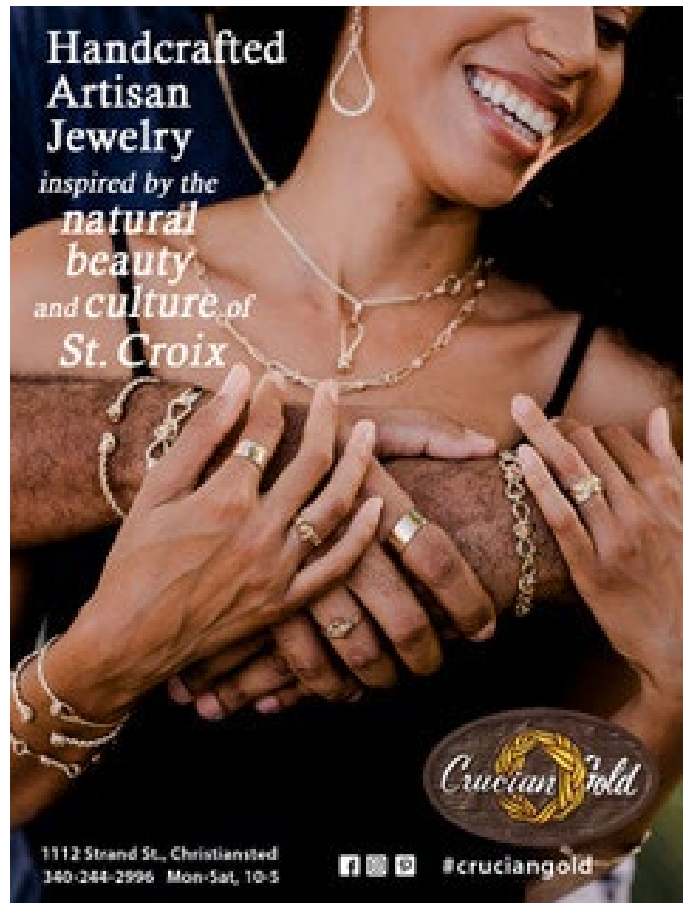
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# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

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# THE RTPARK AS A UNIQUE VEHICLE FOR GROWING THE VI TECH SECTOR

MAY 19 | 9:40-10:50 AM



## **PETER CHAMPÁN** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO, RTPARK

An accomplished economic and community (re)development strategist and practitioner, Peter holds over 20 years of executive leadership experience in several U.S. markets. During the course of his career he has conceptualized and implemented a diverse array of award-winning and nationally-recognized projects and initiatives promoting inclusive entrepreneurship, global commerce and the comprehensive revitalization of economically distressed regions.



## **MATT BEADLE SR.** MANAGER OF BUSINESS ATTRACTION & STRATEGIC PLANNING

Matt leads the RTPark's business attraction efforts, working to attract new tech companies to the USVI that align with the RTPark's efforts to diversify and strengthen the local economy. In addition, he also heads up the RTPark's strategic placemaking initiatives. Prior to joining the RTPark full-time, Matt was the first Summer Business Development Fellow at the RTPark in 2019, working on a variety of projects related to business attraction, business intelligence, and community development. In a past life, Matt also worked for over 10 years in healthcare IT.



## **ERIC SONNIER** DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS ATTRACTION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Eric Sonnier leads key elements of the RTPark's business investment and attraction strategy in addition to building the RTPark's newly formed Entrepreneurship Program. Prior to joining the RTPark, Eric was Co-Founder and CEO of Lawgix, an enterprise software company that helps financial institutions scale legal models with real-time vendor collaboration and centralized compliance. Eric was also Co-founder of a venture capital backed, Y Combinator (S14) company, Local Lift, which specialized in alternative lending for small businesses through an online marketplace platform. Eric has a BBA from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas in Austin and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



## **ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ** ENTREPRENEURSHIP MANAGER

Alfonso Rodriguez Jr. plays a leading role in the day-to-day management of many of the RTPark's newly launched programs, with the goal of strengthening the brand of the RTPark. Prior to joining the RTPark, Alfonso consulted in healthcare operations as a Lean Six Sigma practitioner for about 10 years at International Capital and Management Company (ICMC). In his time at ICMC, he delivered an array of work for healthcare clients, which include facilitating rapid improvement events, delivering lean six sigma workforce training, implementing lean daily management systems, and new business development.

# BUILDING A TECH HUB IN THE USVI

MAY 19 | 11:00-11:50 AM



## **LOUISE STAPLETON** MANAGING PARTNER, LNL PUBLISHING, LLC

Louise Stapleton is the managing partner of LNL Publishing, LLC. The company develops, publishes and distributes online digital educational financial products for investing and trading stocks and commodities. LNL Publishing has been a client in the UVI RT Park since January 2012. Louise has more than 20 years of experience in website development and maintenance, online digital product development and publishing, online marketing including social media marketing, retargeting/remarketing, and email marketing. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration.



## **SEAN SNYDER** PRESIDENT & CEO, XINUOS

Sean has more than 30 years of experience leading and managing sales, marketing, and IT departments across a variety of industries. He has advised and assisted numerous multi-national companies, such as GlaxoSmithKline, Carrefour, Trans World Entertainment, and Saint-Gobain in areas such as sales & marketing strategy, branding, organization transformation, operational excellence and customer experience. Mr. Snyder worked for BearingPoint before founding TechCorps, a computer services company. He joined Xinuos in 2012 as President, became CEO in 2015, and currently sits on the Boards of Xinuos and Nava Software Support & Services.



## **DAVID WELLS** BOARD-CERTIFIED RADIOLOGIST

David is a board-certified radiologist with about 25 states licenses. He is credentialed at about 100 facilities across the United States where he provides tele-radiology services from the St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Wells has been practicing for 20 years.

# STATE OF THE USVI ECONOMY & OVERVIEW OF THE VI VALUE PROPOSITION

## MAY 19 | 2:00-2:50 PM



### **MARK WENNER** PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, UVI

Mark D. Wenner is a visiting professor of economics at the University of the Virgin Islands. He is an international development economist with 31 years of professional work experience with expertise in fiscal analysis and public debt management, financial markets, microfinance, rural finance, tourism, extractive industries, national resource management, and agricultural pricing and trade policy. He is the author of more than 120 publications and has worked in 33 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Previously he worked for the Government of the Virgin Islands as Chief Economist for thirteen months and the Inter-American Development, a multilateral lending institution, for 21 years.



### **DARYL WADE** CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (CIO) AND SR. VICE PRESIDENT - VINGN

Daryl Wade was born on St. John, USVI, and at just 15 years old, obtained an apprenticeship as an IT and fiber optics technician. He earned a Computer Engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh and worked as a software programmer at IBM and Hewlett-Packard. For over 18 years, he worked as a tech entrepreneur; managing businesses that specialized in web hosting, software development and print media. In 2012, Daryl joined viNGN in as Executive Director of IT & Network Operations, where he played a vital role in the design and construction of the network. He oversaw the build-out of the USVI's first and only 100% fiber network, enabling the territory to offer broadband services exceeding the FCC and US mainland standards. He is currently Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Senior Vice President.



### **NICOLE DELONE**

Niki Delone is a Television Producer currently working in Chicago on the well known Dick Wolf series "Chicago Med." She is also known for her work on "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia," "Nashville," "Star," and "The Gifted." She lives with her husband and six year old daughter in Atlanta, GA. She was born and raised in St. Thomas, USVI and attended All Saints Cathedral School. It has been a lifelong dream of hers to produce and shoot a television series in the Virgin Islands.



### **DR. ESTHER ELLIS** EPIDEMIOLOGIST FOR THE VI DEPT. OF HEALTH

Dr. Ellis received her PhD in Tropical Medicine from the University of Hawaii's John A. Burn's School of Medicine in 2011. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke National University of Singapore in the emerging infectious disease department and went on to complete a two-year Epidemic Intelligence Service fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focusing on the epidemiology of dengue virus. Thanks to her passion to serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands through public health interventions that prevent disease, Dr. Ellis has been the territorial epidemiologist for the United States Virgin Islands department of health since 2014. In that role, she has led the Department of Health's efforts in response to Chikungunya, Zika, and now COVID-19 outbreaks.

# NAVIGATING THE TAX INCENTIVE AND POLICY LANDSCAPE

MAY 19 | 3:00-3:50 PM



## **SIOBHAN CIOPPA** SENIOR MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS

Siobhan has worked with the RTPark in numerous capacities since 2015 in the areas of business development, finance, administration and compliance. She works directly with RTPark clients to guide through the application processes, ensure their businesses remain in compliance with program requirements, as well as connecting clients to enrichment opportunities with the University of the Virgin Islands.



## **MARJORIE RAWLS ROBERTS** MARJORIE RAWLS ROBERTS, P.C.

Marjorie, known as "Jorie," founded her private practice in 1999 after 19 years of working in both the private and public sectors in the US Virgin Islands, Washington, D.C., and London, including as Chief Counsel for the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue for seven years. Her firm, Marjorie Rawls Roberts, P.C., specializes in taxation, corporate and securities law, estate planning, and business law in the territory. Jorie works closely with the University of the Virgin Islands RTPark and the Economic Development Commission, enabling her clients to obtain tax-incentive benefits in exchange for providing employment, investing capital in the territory, and collaborating with local civic organizations and the university to expand the territory's technology sector.



## **GREGORY BRYANT** CPA & ATTORNEY AT LAW

Gegory Bryant, CPA and Attorney at Law, is the founder of BILT group, a boutique law firm focused on international tax and business law. He has over 35 years of experience in finance and law, a Partner in a large regional law firm, a Partner in a large regional accounting firm, as Big 4 National Tax Director, and as VP of Taxes and Shared Services for a Fortune 1000 multinational.

# TELECOM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

MAY 19 | 4:00-4:50 PM



## **CHARLES JACQUAY** NETWORK OPERATION CENTER MANAGER, BROADBAND VI/LIBERTY VI

Charles Jacquay was born and raised in a small French Canadian village just north of the Vermont/Quebec border. He went to school(s) in Montreal, Ottawa, Lachine, and Las Vegas, and attended college at Concordia University in Montreal where he majored in Chemistry, Thermodynamics and Mathematics. Jacquay continued his education after college to include Microwave Engineering and Quantum Mechanics. He holds 23 chemical process patents internationally for an industrial waste remediation process that is being adopted in Europe and Asia. He came to St. Croix in 1990 shortly after Hurricane Hugo. On the heels of 9/11, Jacquay became involved with fixed wireless design and deployments, and helped build one of the first fixed wireless microwave networks to utilize phased array systems in the Caribbean on Puerto Rico in 2003. After an active period of semi-retirement, he became involved with the team at Broadband VI in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma & Maria and hasn't looked back since.



## **TROY VEITENHEIMER** VICE PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER - NTEST

Troy Veitenheimer was born and raised in modest circumstances in rural Minnesota. Troy graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering from St. Cloud State University and an MBA with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He was also hired at ADC where he spent two years as an expatriate in Canberra, Australia and two years in Stockholm, Sweden as managing director. Troy also worked in ADC's Fiber Optic division where he experienced the 2001 Telecom crash first-hand and decided to buy a product line that ADC was closing with his business partner Jorge Cano, which became NTest. Together, they've run a profitable company for twenty years.



## **MORRIS REID** CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (CTO) - VIYA

Morris Reid has served as Viya's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) since 2019. He has oversight and leadership of Engineering, Construction, Plant, Network Performance, Maintenance and other technical operations of Viya's core Hybrid Fiber Coaxial (HFC) infrastructure and its 4G LTE mobile network. Under his direction, Viya has expanded network capacity enabling it to be the first provider to launch 1 Gig Internet service in the Territory in 2020. Reid has a Master of Business Administration degree in Technology Management, a Bachelor of Science Management degree in Computer Engineering Technology, an Associate of Science degree in Telecommunication Engineering, and an Associate of Science degree in Computer Engineering Technology. With over 28 years of experience in the Telecommunications industry throughout North America and Caribbean, Reid has led technical teams at Cable and Wireless Communications, Columbus Communication Jamaica Limited, Comcast Cable Corporation, and AT&T Broadband (Media One) Inc.



## **STEPHAN ADAMS** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) & PRESIDENT

The California native received his B.A Degree in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. His business acumen and interest in technology led to his becoming CEO and Co-Founder of Adamation, Inc., an award-winning global enterprise media and content design company, where he raised \$12M in venture capital for his market vision and, in 2012, launched its 3D-printing, content design and web application development divisions. Here, Adams secured national brand licensing with Boy Scouts of America, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. He further diversified his career path with consulting engagements, including Vice President Business Development for Crucian Global, where he was a key author of what has become the UVI Research & Technology Park (2003-2006); and Business Executive Consultant at KANA Software (2006-2010) where he facilitated the smooth transitions of vendor licensing, asset reallocations and strategic messaging during the acquisition by Accel-KKR. As President and CEO of viNGN, Stephan Adams' main areas of focus include maintaining current growth, elevating service levels to customers (local Internet Service Providers); expanded corporate involvement in the community, and the continued professional development of its employees.

# PLANTING ROOTS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR LIFE IN THE TERRITORY MAY 20 | 9:00-9:50 PM



## **DIANNE O'REILLY CANEGATA** RE/MAX ST. CROIX, INC., SALES ASSOCIATE

Born and raised on St. Croix, Dianne takes pride in her rich island heritage. As a RE/MAX sales associate, she has many opportunities to share her love and intimate knowledge of St. Croix. Besides real estate, Dianne's diverse background in psychology, teaching, ministry and business as prepared her to meet the various needs of her clients. Whether educating a first-time buyer, finding the perfect property for a savvy investor or assisting in the sale of a beloved home, Dianne is well equipped and will go the extra mile to make each dream come true. Her passion for education motivates her to continue learning, growing and teaching. She actively shares in her church and community. Dianne's widespread interests include exploring nature, writing, art and bonsai. Mostly she enjoys spending time with her family.



## **WILLIAM "BILL" BUGG** HEAD OF SCHOOL, GOOD HOPE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

William ("Bill") Bugg is the Head of School at Good Hope Country Day School (GHCDs), an independent school on St. Croix that serves 365 students in nursery school through grade 12. Offering a college preparatory curriculum and a depth of fine arts and athletic opportunities, the school "cultivates reflective, creative and compassionate students prepared to excel in college and empowered to better their island and the world." Prior to joining GHCDs in 2019, Bill served as head of school at Thetford Academy in Vermont from 2012-2019, and was assistant head of school at Ohio's Western Reserve Academy. A graduate of Davidson College (BA) and the University of Georgia (MA), Bill launched his educational career at Darlington School in Georgia, where he taught Latin, history, and journalism.



## **SHANNON HARRIS** HEAD OF ANTILLES SCHOOL

Shannon Harris is the Head of Antilles School, an independent, coeducational day school for toddlers through grade 12. A senior administrator and strategic partner in the academic and operational management since 2006, her experience includes admission, development, communication, and marketing. A New Jersey native with Caribbean roots, Shannon holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Douglass College and a master's degree in educational administration from Cheyney University. Her professional journey has taken her from an urban public school district to an independent school in the Virgin Islands - with a few stops along the way. At the center of it all has been a commitment to quality education, and more importantly, to children.



## **LIZ KINSELLA** FUTURE HEAD OF SCHOOL, GIFFT HILL SCHOOL

Liz Kinsella will rise to the position as Head of School at Giffit Hill School on June 30, 2022. Since 2010, Kinsella has worked as a teacher, middle school dean, Upper Campus principal and curriculum director at St. John's only toddler through 12th grade school. Prior to coming on board with GHS, Liz earned a BA in Sociology and a Master of Teaching degree from the University of Virginia, where she also earned an education specialist and administrative endorsement. Kinsella worked in public education in Fairfax, Va., rising to associate principal before she moved to Bermuda to work as education program director for the Bermuda Sloop Foundation. Liz's leadership skills inspire GHS educators to challenge, support, and inspire students while preparing them for colleges, careers, and their roles as environmental and social justice advocates.

# PLANTING ROOTS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR LIFE IN THE TERRITORY CONT., MAY 20 | 9:00-9:50 PM



## **JEAN-PAUL KYRILLO** CO-FOUNDER & CRO, FARMSHELF

Jean-Paul Kyrillo is a co-founder, chief revenue officer and board member of Farmsshelf. As chief revenue officer, he helped build a sales, marketing and field operations organization. Farmsshelf customers include the world's largest and most prestigious food service and hospitality companies including Compass Group, Aramark, Sodexo, Marriott, Hilton, Think Food Group by José Andrés and Marcus Samuelsson Group.



## **LEON HUGHES** FOUNDER & CEO, NEARIX

Leon Hughes has over 20 years of combined experience in designing and implementing Business Intelligence strategies and solutions for Enterprise Information Management, Business Performance Management, and Work-Flow Automation. With a proven track record of delivering measurable results for several Fortune 100 companies (both public and private) and delivering within key performance areas, Leon provides an extensive yet unique blend of proprietary knowledge and experience having consulted to various Fortune 100 companies across a multitude of industries including private and public sectors as well as government and municipalities, amongst others.



## **JUSTA ENCARNACION** HEALTH COMMISSIONER & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE, VIDOH

Justa E. Encarnacion, affectionately known as "Tita", is the Health Commissioner and Chief Public Health Officer for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health. Born and raised on St. Croix, Commissioner Encarnacion developed an early love for healthcare as a volunteer in the Nursing Education Department at Charles Harwood Hospital at the age of 14. A pediatric nurse by trade, she received her Associate of Science in Nursing from the former College of the Virgin Islands, earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Barry University and her Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix. Commissioner Encarnacion has over 30 years of experience in healthcare with 15 years of experience leading staff in inpatient and outpatient settings. Encarnacion has served in several capacities in both the private and public sectors.

# BUILDING A FUTURE-PROOF WORKFORCE IN THE USVI

MAY 20 | 10:00-10:50 PM



## **DR. SUZANNE MAGRAS** DIRECTOR, UVI CELL

Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras is the Director of the University of the Virgin Islands, Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning (UVI CELL). She has over 20 years of experience in education program management, online education, and career and technical education. With expertise in training design, facilitation, and leadership development, she is also an advocate for reentry education and criminal justice reform. Suzanne earned her PhD in Education Technology and e-Learning from Northcentral University and holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Education. In addition to her role with UVI CELL, she serves as Chair of the VI State Apprenticeship Council, Secretary for the VI Board for Career and Technical Education and is a member of the VI Workforce Board. She is also a member of UVI's Institutional Review Board (IRB).



## **GARY MOLLOY** COMMISSIONER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Gary Molloy serves as the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Labor (VIDOL). Commissioner Molloy's professional experience demonstrates that he is a business-savvy educator with thirty (30) plus years of experience. Mr. Molloy is known as a creative, resourceful, out-of-the-box, innovative thinker and a visionary team leader who believes in capacity building. He is data and results-driven and experienced in developing, planning, managing, and effectuating performance and operational changes and achieving stated goals.



## **DAVID THOMPSON** CTO & CO-FOUNDER, EXIGO

David Thompson is the CTO and co-founder of Exigo with 25+ years of experience in technology and software architecture. David helped grow Exigo from an idea to a market leader in the Platform-As-Service for direct sales companies. Prior to Exigo, David started and ran a consulting company and designed enterprise solutions for clients in banking, payroll, and government sectors. To give back, David has helped launch EpicU, an organization with a mission to teach anyone who has the grit and aptitude, how to program (regardless of prior education or experience), and facilitate employment opportunities.



## **TRINITY AUSTIRE** TYSAM TECH

Trinity Granger-Austrie is the owner and founder of Tysam Tech, the only registered Women-Owned Engineering Firm in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The firm was founded with the goal of providing the Caribbean with engineering and environmental management services that address the unique needs and challenges of operating island-based businesses, government agencies, and industrial facilities. Prior to founding Tysam Tech, Ms. Granger-Austrie spent 8 years working with Diageo USVI at their Captain Morgan Distillery. There, she pioneered and sustained the Environmental Management Program in support of the opening and successful operation of their new Captain Morgan North America plant.

# SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN THE USVI

## MAY 20 | 11:00-11:50 PM



### **DR. RICHARD WARBURG** FOUNDER, IMPACT TRAITS

Dr. Richard Warburg has been a resident of the islands for over 12 years. He has a background in molecular biology and law, particularly intellectual property law, and for more than 30 years has worked to develop plants with unique traits. He started the company Impact Traits VI to provide sustainable agriculture to the USVI and will discuss this in his presentation.



### **DR. PAUL JOBSIS** DIR. OF THE CENTER OF MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, UVI

Dr. Paul Jobsis is the Director of the Center of Marine and Environmental Sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI). He attained his Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego in 1998 and then completed postdoctoral fellowships at Duke University Department of Cell Biology and National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Jobsis is a US Patent holder and conducts marine science research throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands.



### **PRASAD GULLAPALLI** FOUNDER & CEO OF SRINERGY

Prasad Gullapalli is Founder & CEO of Srinergy, a global solar energy development company with design and development capabilities, providing turn-key smart solar energy solutions for commercial, industrial and residential customers. Founded in March 2010, Prasad started Srinergy with a passion and vision for creating "Socially Responsible Individuals" through implementing solar projects and promoting solar energy throughout his community, Michigan and beyond.



### **SOMMER SIBILLY-BROWN** FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GOOD FOOD COALITION

Sommer Sibilly-Brown is a local foods system development advocate and the Founder and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition. Sommer's vision is to aid in the revitalization of agriculture in the Virgin Islands and unite local food producers, businesses, and consumers to create a sustainable network of local food options. She believes that collaboration, partnership, and the creation of a shared vision is the only way we are going to be successful in increasing local food production and bridging the gap between food producers and entities in the public and private sectors.

# A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE

MAY 20 | 2:00-2:50 PM



## **DARYL JASCHEN** DIRECTOR OF VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (VITEMA)

Director Jaschen is Governor Bryan's nomination for Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA). Director Jaschen previously served the territory in the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), Joint Force Headquarters. He spent 11 years in the VING serving in various Deputy Chief of Staff Positions to include Strategic Plans & Doctrine, Exercise, Operations, Information Management, and in his last four years, Army Chief of Staff. He has 30-years of military service in the army as a field artillery officer in both the active duty and national guard components. He retired in 2016. His experience in the private sector includes 3 years as Corporate Quality Systems Manager / ISO 9001 lead auditor at ADC Telecommunications in Minneapolis, Minnesota and 7 years as the Manager of Information Systems at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative in Richmond, Virginia.



## **KYLE FLEMMING** DIRECTOR OF VIRGIN ISLANDS ENERGY OFFICE

Kyle Fleming returned to his home on St. Croix, USVI to fulfill his professional goal of transforming the energy sector within the territory. As Director of Virgin Islands Energy Office, Mr. Fleming has focused policy and program development around the following core pillars: Sustainability, Resiliency, Work-Force Development, and Efficient Energy Resource Utilization. In 2021, Mr. Fleming was elected as Chairman of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's governing board with an intent focus on disrupting the traditional power plant mentality, shifting to an Energy as a Service strategy to better serve the evolving energy needs of the community.



## **KIRK CHEWING** OWNER & CO-FOUNDING PARTNER AT CANE BAY PARTNERS VI

Kirk Chewing is an executive and serial entrepreneur in the financial services industry. His background includes building fintech companies serving banks, lenders, and credit unions. He is involved in the strategy and the details of technology, underwriting, and management frameworks for startups to large scale organizations. Today, he is the owner and co-founding partner at Cane Bay Partners VI, a fintech consulting firm. Over the years, Chewing has developed the skills to assist in data analytics for public and private lender clients.

# THE NEXT TECH HUB AGENDA

## THURSDAY, MAY 19

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

**Summit Virtual Check-in**

9 AM - 9:30 AM

**Opening Plenary**

**Welcome Remarks and Summit Overview** by Executive Director Peter H. Chapman

**Welcome Remarks from:**

- Hon. Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Edward Thomas, UVI RTPark Board Chairman
- Dr. David Hall, President of the University of the Virgin Islands

9:40 AM - 10:50 AM

**Panel Discussion: The RTPark as a Unique Vehicle for Growing the VI Tech Sector**

Learn more about the advantages of becoming a member of the RTPark and its history as an award-winning economic development organization focused on sector-based business attraction and entrepreneurship.

11 AM - 11:50 AM

**Panel Discussion: Building a Tech Hub in the USVI**

Hear directly from companies currently operating in the territory through our business attraction program. They will share their experiences and perspectives about the growing tech ecosystem in the US Virgin Islands.

12 PM - 12:50 PM

**Lunch**

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

**Keynote Speaker – Tim Reid, Emmy-Nominated Actor, Director, and Producer**

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Panel Discussion: State of the USVI Economy and Overview of the VI Value Proposition**

Hear economic experts, community stakeholders, and RTPark clients discuss the current economic trends and conditions of the territory, the advantages of operating in territory, as well recent development in the USVI across various sectors.

3:00 PM - PM 3:50

**Panel Discussion: Navigating the Tax Incentive and Policy Landscape**

The RTPark's business attraction team is joined by local tax experts to break down our tax incentive program. They will also review relevant changes in federal tax law and their implications for tech firms exploring locating a business in the USVI via the RTPark program.

4:00 PM - PM 4:50

**Panel Discussion: Telecom for the 21st Century**

The U.S. Virgin Islands is home to some of the fastest broadband connections in the Western Hemisphere. Key players in the USVI's telecommunications industry discuss the modernization of the territory's infrastructure, including leveraging its state-of-the-art fiber-optic network and high-speed broadband access to connect the local economy to the global marketplace.

# THE NEXT TECH HUB AGENDA

## FRIDAY, MAY 20

8:30 – 9:00 AM

**Summit Virtual Check-in**

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

**Panel Discussion: Planting Roots in the Virgin Islands: Practical Guidance for Life in the Territory**

There's more to the U.S. Virgin Islands than just business; our islands are also wonderful to live and play in. Hear from local real estate agents, school representatives, and current RTPark clients about relocating and living in the USVI.

10:00 AM - 10:50AM

**Panel Discussion: Building a Future-Proof Workforce in the USVI**

The U.S. Virgin Islands is building a strong workforce to support the innovative and sustainable jobs of the future. Hear from workforce development stakeholders in the territory who are actively working to build an ecosystem and "future-proof" the pipeline of USVI talent which our RTPark clients can tap into.

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

**Panel Discussion: Sustainability through Technology & Innovation in the USVI**

An exciting discussion exploring how the USVI and the Caribbean define sustainable solutions and how we can incorporate technology and innovation into the fabric of regional sustainability practices. Hear local and regional experts from the agriculture, energy, and blue/marine sectors share their perspectives on the advantages of performing research and development for sustainable solutions and innovation in the USVI.

12:00 AM - 12:50 PM

**Lunch**

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

**Suezette Yasmin Robotham, VP of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Talent Acquisition at Gartner; Speaker, Connector, Coach, and a Leading Black Woman in Tech**

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Panel Discussion: A More Resilient Future**

As the U.S. Virgin Islands continues its physical, social, and economic recovery from the devastating 2017 hurricane season, as well as the ongoing pandemic, we discuss the exciting opportunities and proactive projects that are creating a more resilient territory for the future. Hear from disaster recovery leaders and experts working on the front lines in the USVI to develop and build best practices that support our economy's and community's ability to adapt to future threats quickly and efficiently.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**Panel Discussion: Next Steps with the RTPark**

Our closing panel, led by Executive Director Peter H. Chapman, will guide you on actions and conversations necessary to take to take the next step in joining the RTPark.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

**Farewell Remarks:**

**Executive Director Peter H. Chapman & Hon. Governor Albert Bryan Jr.**



# **VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY**

ST. THOMAS • ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN

## EARLY INHABITANTS

The first residents of the present United States Virgin Islands (USVI) were the Ciboney, Caribs, and Arawaks. In 1493, Christopher Columbus visited these islands. He had been searching for a route to India and consequently he called the people he encountered Indians. Columbus named the beautiful islands 'The Virgins' in reference to the legendary beauty of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins.



## ST. THOMAS, ST. CROIX AND ST. JOHN

In the early 1600s many countries took interest in the Caribbean and in "the Virgins"; Holland, France, England, Spain, Denmark and the Knights of Malta all sought colonies. England and Holland colonized and jointly inhabited St. Croix in the 1620s. The neighboring Spanish on Puerto Rico invaded the small colony; the French then quickly moved in, removing the Spanish and taking over themselves. St. Croix remained a French colony until 1733.

The Danish West Indian Company first attempted to settle St. Thomas in 1665. They successfully established a settlement on St. Thomas in 1672 consisting of 113 inhabitants. They expanded and settled on St. John in 1694. The Danish had claimed St. John as early as the 1680's, however hostility from the neighboring British on Tortola prevented the Danes from establishing a settlement. The British, in order to maintain hospitable relations with Denmark, eventually ceased their opposition. After the Danes settled St. John, plantation agriculture developed rapidly.

The Danish West Indian Company purchased St. Croix from the French in 1733, bringing St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John together as the Danish West Indies.

## SLAVE TRADE AND EMANCIPATION

In the Danish West Indies slaves labored mainly on sugar plantations. Cotton, indigo and other crops were also grown. Sugar mills and plantations dotted the islands' hilly landscapes. Each island's economy prospered through sugar plantations and slave trading. While St. John and St. Croix maintained a plantation economy, St. Thomas developed into a prosperous center of trade. Slave rebellions on St. John and St. Croix are well documented. Legitimate trade and business on St. Thomas influenced a different society where many more slaves were given freedom and an opportunity outside of plantation life.

A July 2, 1848, rebellion on St. Croix, where some 5,000 blacks were freed while another 17,000 remained enslaved, prompted liberal governor Peter von Scholten to declare what he had long pressed for, that all unfree in the Danish West Indies were from that day free. While his proclamation was in direct contradiction of the King of Denmark's orders and while plantation owners refused to accept the proclamation, slavery was abolished on July 3rd, 1848.



FORT CHRISTIANVAERN, ST. CROIX

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## U.S. TERRITORIES

The islands remained under Danish rule until 1917, when the United States purchased them for \$25 million in gold in an effort to improve military positioning during critical times of World War I. St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John became the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The military and the Interior Departments managed the territory until the passage of the Organic Act in 1936. Today the Virgin Islands of the United States of America is a U.S. territory, run by an elected governor. The territory is under the jurisdiction of the president of the United States of America and residents are American citizens.

Virgin Islands History courtesy Vlnow.com. Vlnow.com is one of the best ranked and most established Virgin Islands travel websites. Visit at: Vlnow.com.



# WHAT IS THE RTPARK?

THE UVI RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK



# ABOUT THE RTPARK

[LEARN MORE](#)

## OUR MISSION

To establish the USVI as the premier business destination of choice for firms in knowledge and technology-intensive sectors. The RTPark is proud to be an instrumental part of diversifying the regional economy and growing the tech ecosystem in an area advantageously located between the mainland US and Latin America.

The University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (RTPark) is a rapidly growing economic development program specializing in technology and knowledge-based business attraction in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). It is a partnership between the private sector, the government of the US Virgin Islands and the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI). Benefits include, but are not limited to:

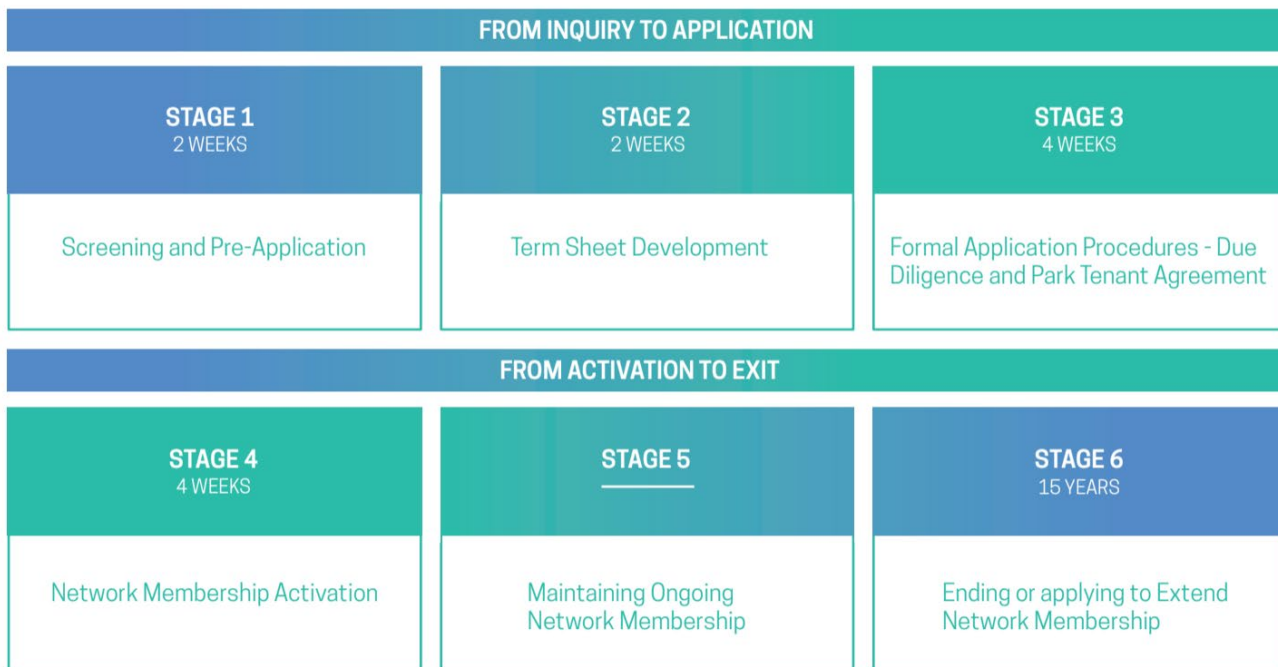
- Attractive Tax Incentives
- A Research University Partnership
- Special Programs Including our Comprehensive Entrepreneurship Program
- Living and working in America's island paradise in the Caribbean – the United States Virgin Islands

# JOIN THE RTPARK

[LEARN MORE](#)

## JOINING THE RTPARK

The RTPark program membership application process is designed to be completed within a three-month timeframe. Once the Park Tenant Agreement has been approved, clients work with RTPark HQ to activate membership. Clients must comply with all RTPark requirements for the term outlined in the agreement, including an annual management fee, annual UVI partnership commitments, and provision of compliance documents, to maintain active membership.





# **RTPARK PROGRAMS**

# RTPARK PROGRAMS



ACCELERATE VI is a structured three-month accelerator program designed to help early-stage companies grow and scale their business from the U.S. Virgin Islands.



VISTA+ is an online database that connects tech talent within the Virgin Islands diaspora with opportunities to work in the Territory. The program's goal is to build capacity for the growing tech hub in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



A 26-acre mixed-use economic development project focused on addressing economic diversity, housing, and educational needs in the St. Croix community with innovative additions to our infrastructure. The project will be an integral component of an expansion dedicated to agricultural research and technology.



Our coworking space is located in downtown Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI, and is available to those working in tech as well as any local entrepreneur searching for flexible, affordable workspace.



The Fund will support business growth, job creation and incentive complementary economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands by making loans to businesses that are eligible and receive approval from the Fund's loan committee based upon a completed loan application and underwriting analysis.



***The RTPark has instituted targeted and highly intelligent business development programs designed for future growth and dynamism.***



# **STAFF & ORGANIZATION**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

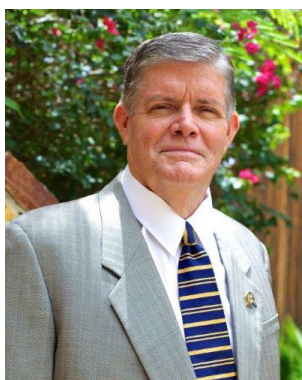
The Board of Directors of the RTPark program is charged with responsibility for the overall management of the RTPark program and has the exclusive right to negotiate with all prospective clients as to the terms of their agreements with the RTPark program.



**Mr. Edward Thomas**  
Chairman of the Board



**Dr. David Hall**  
President of the University  
of the Virgin Islands



**Judge Henry Smock**  
Chair of the UVI Board of  
Trustees



**Ian Tomlinson**  
President/CEO of OMNI  
Systems

“

*We thank the board  
for their support  
for the comprehensive economic and  
community development model  
we’re pursuing.*

”



**Peter Chapman**  
Executive Director  
and CEO



**Aminah Saleem**  
Chief-of-Staff



**Eric Sonnier**  
Director of Business  
Attraction and  
Entrepreneurship



**John Harrison**  
Director of Finance  
and Administration



**Siobhan Cioppa**  
Sr. Manager of Bus.  
Development Ops



**Sydney Paul**  
Sr. Manager of  
Bus. Intelligence  
and Marketing



**Naisha Monelle-Joseph**  
Operations  
Manager



**Alfonso Rodriguez Jr.**  
Entrepreneurship  
Associate



**Rex Cazaubon III**  
IT Intern



**Matt Beadle**  
Sr. Manager  
for Business  
Attraction and  
Strategic Planning



**Kedisha Charles**  
Administrative  
Specialist



**Shanice Wilson**  
Administrative  
Specialist



**Tohera Durand**  
Sustainable Dev.  
Associate



**Abigail Joseph**  
Marketing Intern

# RTPARK STAFF

## RTPARK STAFF

We are proud to have the very capable and dedicated staff at the RTPark, who have diligently executed their duties and made it possible for the organization to operate at the high caliber it has.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The USVI Research and Technology Park Receives Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council



In October 2020, the UVI RTPark received the International Economic Development Council's Economic Development Organization (EDO) of the Year award. The honor was presented at an awards ceremony during the IEDC Annual Conference, which gathers over 1,400 economic development professionals from around the country.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders.

Thirty-five award categories honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of economic and community developers from around the world, following a nomination process held earlier this year. IEDC received over 500 submissions from four countries. The RTPark was the Gold Award recipient for EDO of the Year with a population size of 25,000 - 200,000.



# **BUSINESS ATTRACTION**

ST. THOMAS • ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN

## BUSINESS ATTRACTION

The RTPark has instituted a targeted and highly intelligent business development program designed for future growth and dynamism. This effort has identified under-explored sectors in areas where needs are plentiful and potential for disruption is great. Promising target clusters include, but are not limited to: Financial Technology, Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Energy Research and System Development, as well as Agriculture Research and Technology.



**FINANCIAL  
TECHNOLOGY**



**HEALTH, MEDICINE  
& LIFE SCIENCE**



**ENERGY RESEARCH  
& SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**



**AGRICULTURE RESEARCH  
& TECHNOLOGY**

**TO DATE, WE HAVE 78  
COMPANIES IN THE RTPARK**

**OVER 75% OF THOSE COMPANIES WERE  
ACTIVATED BETWEEN 2018-2021!**

## BUSINESS ATTRACTION

The majority of our clients are located in the St. Thomas/St. John District.



**STT-STJ DISTRICT = 55 (STJ= 4)**



**STX DISTRICT = 18**

**“As we continue to recover from the 2017 hurricanes, and now the impacts of this pandemic, the success of this year’s business attraction efforts is proof that the U.S. Virgin Islands have something great to offer the tech community, even during these difficult times.”**

**- Chairman, Edward Thomas**





# CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The unprecedented level of support for the university by the RTPark is something we're extremely proud of because UVI is a significant source of the talent that we hope will fuel the growth of our tech sector.

**\$2\***  
**MILLION** IN UVI  
**CONTRIBUTIONS**

The current structure of the RTPark client agreements allow for each RTPark company to have partnerships with the University of the Virgin Islands in two distinct ways: a) annual scholarships and b) specific programmatic commitments determined through discussions with the President of the University OR a contribution towards the UVI Innovation Fund. UVI Innovation Fund contributions are used to support University projects identified through the Strategic Plan.

\*UVI Research and Technology Park Corporation's Fiscal Year ends September 30.





# ACCELERATE VI PROGRAM

GOALS & HIGHLIGHTS

## GOALS

The AVI program seeks to diversify the Virgin Islands' economy by helping to create more tech startups and to populate the existing technology industry with local talent. By offering mentorship opportunities, access to a physical coworking space, and guidance from a dedicated and knowledgeable leadership team, the RTPark expresses its deepest commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs. We will continue the program cycle of Pre-AVI in the spring and AVI in the fall.

21

There are 14 graduates of the Accelerate VI Program (7 from 2019 and 7 from 2020)

100%

As of December 2021, 100% of AVI graduates are still operating their businesses

\$3.5M

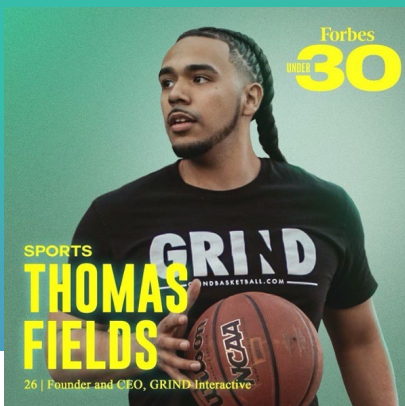
AVI startups have raised \$3.5M in capital

\$1M

AVI startups have increased their revenue by \$1M in the last 2 years.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The AVI program launched in 2019 with seven startups. The 2021 cohort added seven more companies into the fold. As of December 2021, all 21 companies are still operating. Six startups have raised capital, totaling roughly \$3.5M (August 2021), though many of the startups are still in pre-revenue phases. Overall AVI companies have a combined revenue growth of \$1M since 2019.



In 2021, Thomas Fields, a member of AVI's 2019 cohort, was featured on the popular business reality show "Shark Tank," and recognized as a Forbes '30 under 30' honoree in Sports.

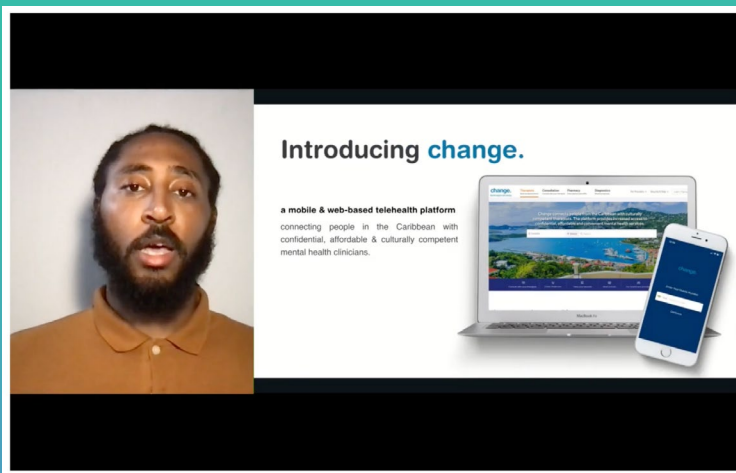
Fields' startup, "GRIND", helps athletes improve their game by using the company's portable basketball shooting machine and supporting app.

## ACCELERATE VI

Accelerate VI brought online several resources for Virgin Islands startups to support the growth of their companies in these critical stages.

## PRE-ACCELERATE VI

The Accelerate VI Pre-Accelerator program is a mentorship-driven training ground for early-stage startup founders to put their business in order, scale their concept, and prepare for a full-time accelerator.



### Change (2021 Pre-AVI Member)

*A mobile and web-based telehealth platform connecting people in the Caribbean with confidential, affordable & culturally competent mental health clinicians.*

## ACCELERATE VI COWORKING SPACE

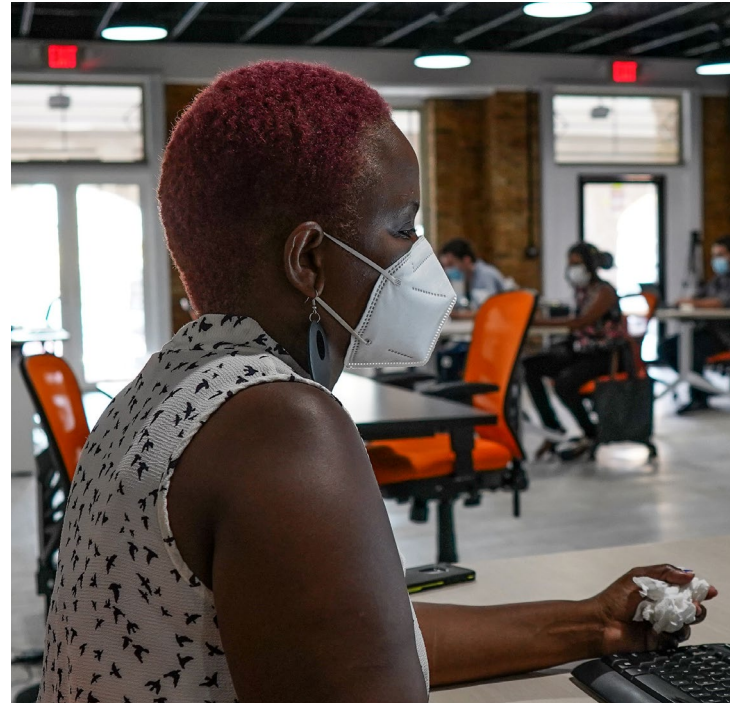
Our coworking space (AVICS) is located in downtown Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI and is available to not only those working in tech, but any local entrepreneur searching for flexible, affordable workspace to be productive,

collaborate, network, and grow their business. St. Thomas startups can use our space at Seat Caribbean in downtown Charlotte Amalie.



The RTPark provides coworking space for RTPark clients and prospective clients through desks, an open floor plan, and shared conference room space. Coworking in an RTPark office helps clients connect to a community of like-minded entrepreneurs, mentors, and investors. The ecosystem provides clients with the support needed to scale a company from the USVI.

AVICS operates Mon. to Fri. from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Users have access to dedicated desks, hot desks, a xerox machine, conference rooms, phone booths, lockers, and mailboxes. The capacity of the coworking space in the common areas during COVID is 10 people. As the territory opens post-COVID, the capacity will be 15.



As part of a basic membership, members can use the hot desks, have key card, access the WIFI, and reserve the conference room (3 hours per reservation, 4 times per month), and reserve the phone booths (2 hours per reservation). As part of a dedicated desk membership, members are assigned a dedicated desk, have key card, access the WIFI, reserve the conference room (3 hours per reservation, 8 times per month), reserve the phone booths (2 hours per reservation), and can use a file cabinet. Non members can still access AVICS resources, including workspaces, conference rooms, and phone booth for a variety of preset fees.

## ACCELERATE VI AWARDED \$50,000 SBA GRANT TO SUPPORT BUILDING TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE USVI



Accelerate VI (AVI), a program designed by the UVI RTPark to help early-stage tech companies grow and scale their business from the U.S. Virgin Islands, was among 84 winners across the United States—including 48 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia—who support innovation, inclusivity, and equity within the entrepreneurship ecosystems of their respective communities. Each winner was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support entrepreneurs developing STEM-related innovations. This is the first time the U.S. Virgin Islands has been selected as a winner in this competition.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ACCELERATE VI COHORTS | 2019-2021

2019



2020



2021





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# VISTA+ #VIASSETS

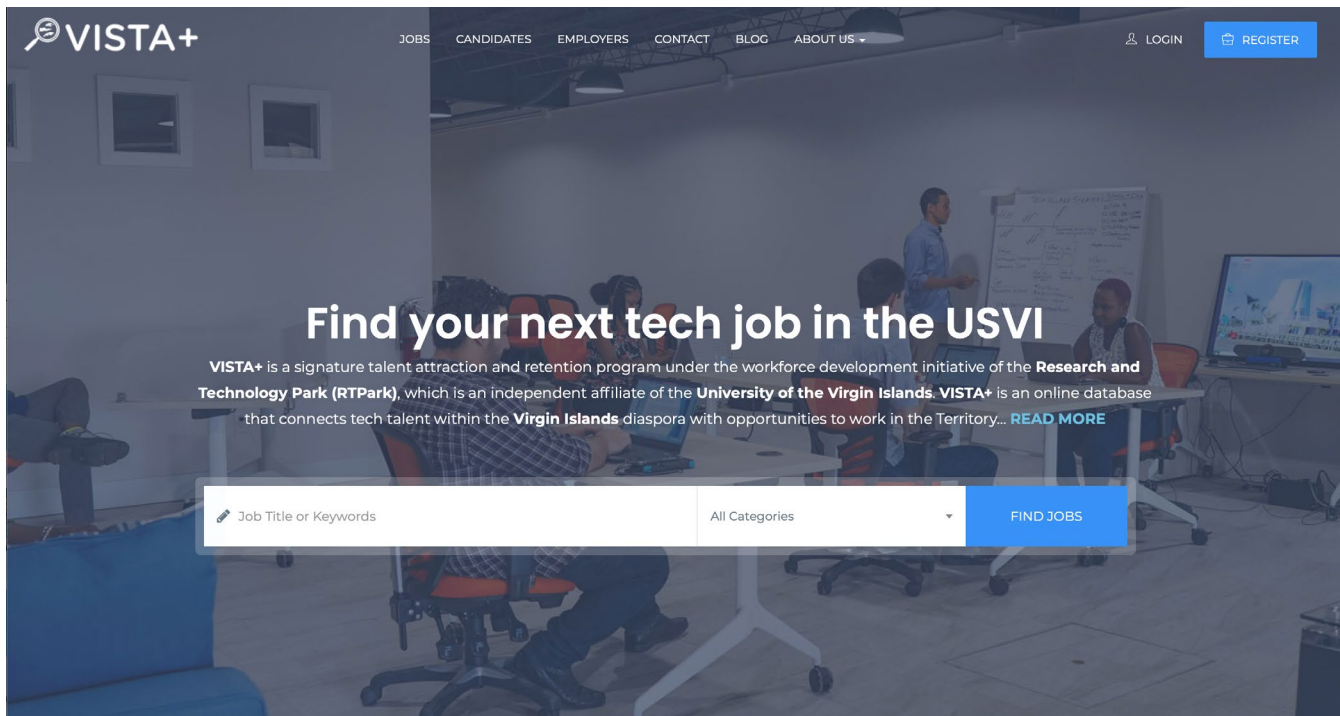
BUILDING A NETWORK WITHIN OUR ECOSYSTEM



## VIRGIN ISLANDS STEM TALENT ARCHIVE (VISTA+)

VISTA+ is a signature talent attraction and retention program that supports the workforce development initiatives of the RTPark. As an online database that connects tech talent within the Virgin Islands diaspora with opportunities to work in the Territory, the program's goal is to build capacity for the growing tech hub in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).

VISTA+ hosts a job search platform that allows USVI companies looking for tech or STEM talent to post current job vacancies and connect with Virgin Islanders around the world who seek local jobs in the same fields.





# TECH VILLAGE

A MIXED-USE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## ABOUT TECH VILLAGE

A 27-acre mixed-use economic development project focused on addressing economic diversity, housing, and educational needs in the St. Croix community with innovative additions to our infrastructure. This site was conveyed to the RTPark in November 2021 and is anticipated to be rezoned in early 2022. The project, which is expected to break ground in the first half of 2022, will be an integral component of an expansion to agricultural research and technology.

**\$50M**  
INVESTMENT  
FOR ST. CROIX



**125**  
CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

## AN ARRAY OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Clean Energy Infrastructure

Increase in Housing

Increase in Office Space

Increase in business attraction

UVI Hospitality Program Investment

Increase in Hotel Rooms

Improved Parking

Environmentally Sustainable Design

## INNOVATIVE FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Based on the RTPark's legislative mandate within the Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Chapter 34, § 480, the organization was created to not only spur economic development through the business attraction and development of tech and knowledge-based companies within the U.S. Virgin Islands but also foster the growth and retention of sustainable development/agriculture firms as well. We believe that investing in our agriculture industry is an impactful way of diversifying our economy and making it more resilient to the myriad of threats we all know too well from health and economic crises to natural disasters and climate change.

**TECH VILLAGE APPROACHES  
ALL PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT, AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION...**



**...IN A THOUGHTFUL  
AND STRATEGIC WAY.**



# 64 WEST

THE RTPARK HEADQUARTERS

## STATE OF THE ART CONFERENCE ROOM

The RTPark's large conference room on the second floor of our 64 West building located on the UVI St. Croix campus is a state-of-the-art video conferencing center that can host 40 - 50 people. The conference, which will be available to rent for the public, is perfect for today's hybrid video conferencing meetings and summits.



## AN ARRAY OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Two 98" Flat-Panel Monitors
- Robust Controlled Audio
- Built in Zoom Functionality
- Break-Out Presentation Huddle Room

# \$5M

## INVESTMENT



Soft Landing Office Space  
Three Conference Rooms



## HYBRID

## EVENTS



## 2021 EVENTS

The RTPark hosted several events by community partners and would like to thank them for their collaboration.

- Governor's Millennial Council
- VI Department of Health
- University of the Virgin Islands
- Microsoft
- Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology
- Congresswoman Stacy Plaskett



# CATALYST FUND

A \$5M INVESTMENT FOR THE TERRITORY

## ABOUT THE CATALYST FUND

The Catalyst Fund, a UVI Research and Technology Park initiative, will serve as a much-needed source of patient, flexible financing for business ventures and real estate (re)development projects that enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem, or otherwise, help make the USVI a more attractive destination for high-impact economic development projects. A keen focus will be placed on providing financing to businesses—both existing local enterprises and new-to-market firms—with the potential to create jobs for Virgin Islanders.

The Fund is intended to be used in combination with other sources of financing/funding and will serve as a bridge between the amount the borrower can obtain in the private market and the amount needed to support a project or business. For example, a borrower may be able to obtain only 60 to 80 percent of project financing from conventional sources and thus requires another lender to fill the gap...this is where the Catalyst Fund comes into play.

# \$5M INVEST MENT

*Initial investment through Act  
#8464 with an additional pledge  
of \$30 Million from CDBG-DR.*



## NATIONAL CONTEXT

Many U.S. Jurisdictions administer loan programs via public, quasi-public or non-profit economic development organizations. In fact, more than 1,000 jurisdictions also utilize federal funds, such as CDBG and Section 108 capital (which is a form of CDBG), to establish sizable loan pools that serve as self-perpetuating, self-replenishing resources for entrepreneurship and catalytic economic development projects. Provided that these loans have been judiciously underwritten and secured with guarantees and/or hard collateral, economic development organizations could, over time, amass healthy loan portfolios that generate substantial sums of money for worthy projects over an extended period of time. Some cities such as Denver, Colorado, made the decision to “capitalize” a revolving fund with public dollars in the early 1980s, and this portfolio has a present value exceeding \$55 million.



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# THE FUTURE OF THE RTPARK

A LOOK FORWARD

## THE FUTURE OF THE RTPARK

Over the past two years, the RTPark has continued to re-conceptualize and evolve its model so that the organization can become a driver of transformational change for Virgin Islanders.

We are proud to witness the direct impacts that our programs and initiatives are having within the community, whether it be nurturing the innovative ideas of local entrepreneurs, creating opportunities for catalytic job growth, retaining local talent in the territory or diversifying our economy through sustainable development and business attraction.

In the upcoming year, we are excited to continue progress

on several critical initiatives that will support our business attraction and economic development efforts.

- Completing the rezoning of the Tech Village property
- Breaking ground for the construction of Tech Village in the first half of 2022
- Hosting our second Business Attraction Summit in May 2022
- Graduating the 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Accelerate VI
- Graduating the second cohort of the Pre-Accelerator Program
- Deploying Catalyst Fund dollars to high impact business ventures and real estate development projects
- Working with policymakers to leverage incoming federal funding for economic development and resiliency



We continue to move along the right path as we attempt to harness the Territory's assets for their maximum economic benefit. By continuing to apply best practices-oriented strategies, visionary thinking, a sense of urgency, and a commitment to collaboration, we can have a favorable long-term impact on the USVI entrepreneurial ecosystem... and the community on the whole.

We want to thank the 34th Legislature and the current administration in advance for efforts that you may undertake as policymakers to address those services and

public policy gaps that could enhance and strengthen our appeal to private sector investors. They include, but are not limited to:

- K-12 education (especially STEM);
- Land use planning;
- Transportation and transit;
- Healthcare;
- Workforce housing;
- Neighborhood vitality; and
- Public safety



# THANK YOU!

The Research and Technology Park of the University of the Virgin Islands extends our sincere thanks to all summit participants who traveled from near and far to attend this very special inaugural event—the first of its kind to address technology and knowledge-based economic development and business attraction in the Territory. Your participation validates what we know and strongly believe: that the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) is prepared and poised to become a competitive and innovative tech hub in our region and beyond.

We also take this time to acknowledge and express our gratitude to our sponsors, advertisers, venues, vendors, volunteers and staff for their collaboration and hard work to make this event a success! We are excited to continue the conversation about the amazing opportunities that the USVI has to offer the tech community. See you next year!

