



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 16, 2024**

**1008-24**

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## **Virgin Islands Department of Education Invites Students to Honor David Hamilton Jackson's Legacy through Creative Submissions**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education's Division of Cultural Education invites educators, schools, and organizations across the territory to join in the annual celebration of David Hamilton Jackson and his contributions to workers' rights, free speech, and social justice. The David Hamilton Jackson and All Ah We Project will take place from November 2 – 16, 2024, at the Cane Roots Art Gallery in Christiansted. This exhibition provides students with a platform to creatively address historical and current issues related to fairness, equity, and workers' rights.

Born in 1884 on St. Croix, Jackson was a pivotal figure in Virgin Islands history. He co-founded the St. Croix Labor Union in 1913 and established The Herald newspaper in 1915, the first free press for people of color in the territory. Through his work, Jackson championed labor rights and stood firmly against colonial powers. His enduring legacy continues to inspire movements for justice and equality today, making this project a timely educational tool that connects the past to the present.

Educators can easily integrate this project into their curricula by utilizing a range of resources and guiding students in thoughtful discussions and creative work that reflect Jackson's contributions to social justice.

Access Resources Here: (<https://goopenusvi.vide.vi/courseware/lesson/689/overview>)

How to Get Involved: Educators are encouraged to inspire students to submit creative works in the following formats:

- Written Works: Essays, poems, or short stories addressing themes of equity and justice.
- Visual Arts: Cartoons, paintings, or digital artwork that explore workers' rights and freedom of speech.
- Vocational Projects: Craft projects symbolizing equity and social justice.
- Music: Songs, including rap, R&B, or Caribbean cariso, that speak to the ongoing struggle for equity.

Submission Guidelines: All student submissions are due by October 25, 2024, and can be emailed to [stephanie.cbrown@vide.vi](mailto:stephanie.cbrown@vide.vi). Educators may also contact the Department to arrange school pickups.

Exhibition: All submissions will be showcased at the Cane Roots Art Gallery from November 2–16, giving students an opportunity to publicly share their work while celebrating the life and legacy of David Hamilton Jackson.

We encourage all educators and community organizations to participate in this meaningful project, allowing students to engage creatively in the ongoing fight for equity. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of David Hamilton Jackson continues to inspire generations to come.

For additional information, please contact: Director Stephanie C. Brown via email at [stephanie.cbrown@vide.vi](mailto:stephanie.cbrown@vide.vi) or at 340-773-1095 ext. 7032

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