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# Culture Department Launches Workshops for International Museum Day

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The Department of Culture is conducting a series of workshops aimed at strengthening museum practices across the Territory in observation of International Museum Day 2025.

The sessions will bring together museum professionals and stakeholders to develop the tools and strategies needed to ensure the continued relevance and sustainability of the Virgin Islands' cultural institutions.

The Virgin Islands joined the global community in commemorating International Museum Day 2025 on May 18 under the theme, "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities", which explores how museums can adapt and thrive amidst social, technological, and environmental change.

Director of Culture Dr. Katherine Smith said, "International Museum Day offers an opportunity to reflect on the essential role museums play in society, not only as spaces for learning and preservation, but as active participants in the conversations that shape our communities."

Dr. Smith added, "These workshops will help ensure that museums in the Virgin Islands are well-positioned to respond to change, while safeguarding our rich

cultural heritage for generations to come.”

The workshops are covering a range of key topics including writing mission statements, developing collections policies, and the proper care of artefacts. Sessions will be hosted in partnership with various institutions, each contributing to a deeper understanding of best practices in museum development and heritage preservation.

In addition, the Department of Culture will lead focused efforts on improving disaster preparedness within the museum sector as it recognises the growing risks posed by natural and environmental hazards.

A specialised workshop will be held between June 2 and June 13, to guide museums and heritage organisations in creating and updating disaster plans tailored to their collections. The sessions will provide practical resources and expert insight to help protect the Territory’s cultural assets in times of crisis.

The Department of Culture is also inviting members of the public who may have interest in these topics to call 468-4374 or 468-9912.

The Department of Culture is committed to preserving, promoting, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands. Through education, research, exhibitions, and community engagement, the Department supports the development of cultural institutions and initiatives that strengthen national identity and foster a deeper appreciation of the Territory’s history, traditions, and creative expressions.