The Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System’s mission is to provide quality programming suitable for all ages throughout the Virgin Islands via television, radio broadcasting and online streaming. In doing so, WTJX strives to lead the community with relevant content that engages and inspires Virgin Islanders to have a deeper understanding and greater appreciation of the territory’s culture, history, politics and current events.

WTJX is a trusted and valued source throughout the Virgin Islands. As an NPR and PBS member station, we are committed to bringing more local content and community services to better educate, entertain, inform, and inspire Virgin Islanders, both locally and abroad. As we expand our programming, resources and services, we aim to keep a finger on the pulse of our community and highlight Virgin Islanders excelling in their respective fields.

In 2020, WTJX provided the following vital local services to our local community:

- Educational engagement, resources, and activities for students of the Virgin Islands and those sheltering in place
- Cultural programs and outreach initiatives that inspired our community
- Content and conversations that brought greater awareness to the public on matter that may have gone unheard due to the social restrictions in place this year.

In 2020, a year like no other, WTJX stepped up to the plate, acting and reacting to the challenges posed by the novel coronavirus and resulting global pandemic. WTJX was committed to keeping our crew and community socially distanced, safe, informed and entertained during these uncertain times, when information provides comfort. In addition to these complications, WTJX was and is, still actively dealing with recovery efforts related to the 2017 hurricanes, Irma and Maria.

Despite all of these challenges, WTJX succeeded in unveiling not one, not two, but nine new shows! We also helped various organizations take events and forums virtual, giving a platform to voices that would have otherwise gone unheard.

“I love WTJX so much and have a weak immune system and WTJX keeps me company.”

–Leah Morton, WTJX Member

“Thank YOU! We gotta keep WTJX in business. I’d dissolve without them!”

–Barbara Birt, WTJX Member
Sarah & Addie Teacher Guides and Student Workbooks

WTJX released classroom tools to supplement our existing educational series, Sarah & Addie, which debuted in November of 2019. Authored by Valrica Bryson, PhD, Sarah & Addie series director and Director of Cultural Education for the Virgin Islands Department of Education, these corresponding tools (an 89-page Teacher’s Guide and a 57-page Student Workbook) were made available to all on our website, www.wtjx.org/sarah-addie. The Common Core and Cultural Standards are outlined on the site along with information on the original author, Anton Teytaud.

“The significance of the Sarah & Addie plays to Virgin Islands’ arts and culture is unmistakable. In a time where online learning has become the norm, the launching of this site couldn’t be more appropriate.”

- Raquel Berry-Benjamin, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education

2020 AFT TEACH Conference

TEACH is an annual professional development conference for teachers and support staff held by the local American Federation of Teachers in the districts of St. Croix and St.Thomas-St. John. Due to the pandemic, this year’s conference was held virtually. Approximately 10 people from each district attended the workshops on PBS LearningMedia, which provided information on lesson plans, videos, self-paced lessons, interactive content, and collections. This allowed the exposure of local elementary through high school teachers to other educational sites such as PBS Newshour, PBSKids.org, NOVA Education, NOVA labs, and OVEE.

“I’ve been enjoying VIPBS and NPR for over 45 years. I love it!” – Peter Ross, WTJX Member
Annual Head Start Transition Conference
The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services hosted its annual Head Start Transition Conference on February 21 to help St. John parents get their children ready for kindergarten. WTJX staff engaged with those in attendance by distributing Daniel Tiger placemats, pencils and other school supplies, and by providing a virtual demonstration on the PBSKids Play and Learn tablets and by highlighting new games on PBSKids.org. This afforded low-income families with a direct link to the resources available through WTJX. Unfortunately, the three conferences scheduled for St. Thomas were cancelled due to the stay-at-home orders that went into effect in mid-March.

Crucian Christmas Festival Parades
WTJX rang in the new year with live coverage of the annual Crucian Christmas Festival Children and Adult Parades with hosts Dodson James, LaVaughn Belle, Keya Canaii, Janeisha John and George Silcott, Jr. As in years past, the parades featured colorful troupes, floats and feathers, lively music from local scratch and steel bands, calypsonians, energetic dancing and more.

“Happy New Year Dodson James Sr & the WTJX Crew watching & enjoying the Adult's Parade really nice entertainment & entries ❤️❤️❤️”
– Cheryl V. Charles

“Thank you, WTJX, for broadcasting for those who cannot make it!” – Carmen Viera

State of the Territory Address
On Monday, January 13, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. delivered his second State of the Territory Address, concerning finances, recovery efforts, and other policy matters relevant to the 33rd Legislature and the people of the Virgin Islands. WTJX's live coverage included the Governor's speech, reactions from Senators of the 33rd Legislature and the Delegate to Congress live on the Legislature's floor, before returning to a studio panel of media professionals for an in-depth analysis of the Governor's speech.
As part of WTJX’s ongoing mission to keep viewers informed and educated, we aired new episodes of The Washington Report with Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett. This season, consisted of one-on-one interviews with other political leaders and community activists on socioeconomic issues and political stories that affect the people of the Virgin Islands.

In memory of the late Congressman John Lewis, WTJX shared an special episode from 2019 that featured Congresswoman Plaskett in conversation with the iconic civil rights leader.

Recovery in Focus
In April, WTJX launched Recovery in Focus, a new show produced in partnership with the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) and the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA), to keep the public informed on the state of the territory’s recovery efforts. This show was hosted by Director Adrienne Williams-Octalien of the ODR with regular appearances from Executive Director Daryl Griffith of the VIHFA.

“This interview is Classic. Certainly one for the archives.” – Monique Rogers

“A much needed information outlet.” – Kimberly Samuel

“Thank you for sharing! Awesome!” – Senator Javan E. James, 33rd Legislature, St. Croix District

“Thanks for keeping us informed, Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien” – Deanna Rogers

“Happy to finally get an update on the roofing program.” – Nata Wesselhoft
**Poli-Talks**

Frank Robinson and Sommer Sibilly-Brown returned for another season of Poli-Talks, hosting young professionals and community leaders throughout the territory in discussion of issues pertinent to the past, the present and future of the Virgin Islands. As a Facebook Live program and “BES Craft Cocktail Lounge”, Poli-Talks engaged experts in various industries and viewers in real time, who assisted in guiding the dialogue towards professional solutions. This season began in person at BES Cocktail lounge, one of St. Croix’s hippest establishments, and then continued in virtual form as the pandemic took hold in the Virgin Islands.

**Conversations with AARP VI**

Conversations with AARP VI, the brainchild of AARP Virgin Islands State Director and host, Troy de Chabert-Schuster, was devised to engage multicultural audiences in an examination of life in the territory and to empower Virgin Islanders as they advance in age. Episodes included conversations on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. In addition to airing this on WTJX's Facebook page, this program was also broadcasted on television and radio to maximize its reach.

**Able to Raise**

In anticipation of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, WTJX debuted a new program in conjunction with the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands. Host Amelia Headley Lamont highlighted topics that dealt with health & wellness, education, and the disabled community by interviewing experts from all over the world.

"Indeed, a very interesting, enjoyable, and engaging conversation, in part, on the challenges and rewards of self expression through writing and poetry and sharing, teaching, and encouraging our children to writing and self expression. I love the commitment to passing on information and knowledge. Thank you very much for sharing"

– Gerald Janey

"Important video, ladies. Thank you.” – Dorothy Hutchins
No Strings Attached

At the beginning of the year, WTJX premiered No Strings Attached, our online entertainment show, on television. In this ten-episode series, Host Naydeyeyah Thomas showcased some of the Virgin Islands’ most gifted musicians in thoughtful conversation and in intimate, acoustic performances. Some of the artists featured included Katalyss, Toby Dee, King Lion, Whadablee, Tia Mason, Sherwin Williams, Lioness, Mada Nile, A.J. Ventura, and Pupa Kelly. With no questions off-limits, Naydeyeyah was able to dive deep into the artists’ psyches, exploring how they travel the world through music, music’s ability to save lives, and what their lyrics mean to them.

“Awesome program highlighting our musicians. Congratulations WTJX! Kelly is a well educated and most talented musician.”

– Valrica Bryson, Director of Cultural Education, Virgin Islands Department of Education

“While it is normal for music to evolve over time, some sounds should be preserved and never forgotten by the masses. I strongly believe VI music has changed forever and this makes me sad sometimes. But I am so glad that this recording was done to highlight what our music was.”

– Gailee Annetta

“Great segment, my first time watching.”

– Robie Payne-Stroter

“Great interview! Keep up the great work.”

– Orlette Yum Yum Goodies-tm
In November, WTJX debuted The Bookcase, a show designed to introduce our community to some of its most inspired local authors. Each week host and VIPBS Board Member, Shawna K. Richards, highlighted one author in casual conversation at St. Croix’s local bookstore, exploring their background, inspiration, and published work within the multifaceted landscape of Caribbean literature. Genres included mystery, fantasy, science fiction, short stories, poetry and autobiographical works.

“Thank you so much I can’t wait to share with my children who were born on st.croix... I love watching your show godbless.”

– Ricky Torres
WTJX Presents A Virtual Quelbe Concert

WTJX recorded Crucian cultural icon, Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knight, in a live, virtual performance at the Dorsch Center on St. Croix, engaging viewers from Florida, New York, Maryland, Ohio, Texas, California and beyond with over 27K views.

“Keep Quelbe Music Alive. Cultural music for all to enjoy, Foot tapping to the beat. Thank you, Stanley and The Ten Sleepless Nights for preserving Quelbe Music.”

– Laurene Robles

Emancipation Day Goes Virtual!

In lieu of our typical in-person celebration of Emancipation Day, WTJX partnered with AARP VI, the Virgin Islands Port Authority, the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, Community Music, Inc. and Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights to provide the community with two, high-impact virtual events. The first, Emancipation Day Jazz Celebration, featured trumpet legend Eddie Russell backed by his exemplary Quelbe Jazz band. This concert was punctuated by moving performances from Ras Iyame the Dub Poet, who recounted the tale of emancipation in the territory. The second event, TSK Celebrate 172 Years of Emancipation, was hosted by Charmaine C. Caines, mistress of ceremonies, and featured Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights and Cariso goddess, Cedelle Petersen.

“Great production!” – Holland L. Redfield, Former Senator

“This is a wonderful celebration of our Emancipation! Kudos to the performers and WTJX.” – Angel Dawson Jr.

“Ah listening! I wanted to come home so bad, but Rona kept me here.” – Louella Smith-Rabsatt

“How great is this? 🎷 🎷” – Tiffany Liddie

“This should be put on a CD as part of USVI history for the students. He was terrific!” – Joanne Saunders

“Keep VI History Alive! Thank you. “ – Laurene Robles
Democratic Primary Election

WTJX's live coverage of the 2020 Democratic Primary Election was hosted by brothers Neville & Dodson James. In addition to their real time analysis of data coming in, the James brothers shared their professional insights on the primary election process, their personal experiences and predictions. This broadcast, which also included interviews with Election System officials as well as the Democratic candidates themselves, was streamed live on WTJX's Facebook page to encourage audience participation.

Decision 2020 General Election Night

On election night WTJX aired a live broadcast of the local midterm election. Helmed by a studio panel of knowledgeable and notable members from both districts, this coverage was complete with a comprehensive analysis and an insightful discussions on the candidates and the tasks ahead for those who are elected.

The Welcome Mat

In the fall, WTJX debuted its newest talk show, The Welcome Mat, which, as its name implies, was crafted as a safe, judgement-free zone for a younger generation to discuss the issues most important to them. Hosted the dynamic duo of Lekia Gumbs and Andre Douglas, The Welcome Mat addressed issues including racial injustice, parenting styles, the challenges of COVID-19, and the importance of setting boundaries in relationships.

“This is my first time watching this program. Really good program.” – Loretta McCray
Since its inception in 1991, *Graffiti Street* has served as the one and only teen talk show in the Virgin Islands. The premise of the show is simple: two parallel casts – one on St. Croix and one in the St. Thomas-St. John district – take turns coordinating an interactive half-hour show that allows them to voice their opinions on topics of interest. In the process, cast members have become investigative journalists responsible for thoroughly researching each subject and orchestrating a meaningful debate. Over the years, these students have put every significant local and national event, election, movement and social issue under the microscope, fostering further discussion within their community and leaving an undeniable legacy in the territory.

“Awesome show, great points! I hope the community listen to these young adults and consider their solutions.”

- Shēna Grown Riches

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood for All!”

Before we found ourselves in the throws of a global pandemic, WTJX joined forces with AARP VI’s movies for grownups to bring the oscar-winning film, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, to the people of the Virgin Islands. With two showings at Caribbean Cinemas, one on St. Thomas and one of St. Croix, we were able to share the timeless story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, as depicted through the relationship between journalist Tom Junrod and PBS-icon, Fred Rodgers.

“Awesome show, great points! I hope the community listen to these young adults and consider their solutions.”

- Shēna Grown Riches

“The Future! Brilliant V.I. Youth ” – Alexis Chantel Miller

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood for All!*
2020 Virtual Benefits Forum

WTJX assisted the Division of Personnel in broadening the reach of their 2020 Virtual Benefit Forums for government employees and retirees by televising this information session for the public.

The Future of Caneel Bay: A Panel Discussion

As we approached the end of retained use agreement on the property currently occupied by Caneel Bay Resort and the controversy continued to mount as to what should be done with this land and who should be making these decisions, WTJX organized a televised discussion to give voice to the St. John community. With a diverse panel, including Senator-At-Large Steven Payne Sr., Attorney Dave DiGiacomo, Community Activist Lorelei Monsanto and Todd Sampsell, President of the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park, to name a few, WTJX lay the foundation for open discussion on this critical issue, a conversation that we hope to continue in the year ahead.

“Yes! Thank you, WTJX, for organizing this panel. And many thanks to the panelists for your advocacy.”

– Hadiya Sewer, PhD, Co-Founder & President, St. JanCo: The St. John Heritage Collective
A Virtual Christmas Celebration

Once again, WTJX worked with the Crucian Cultural Group, the Christiansted Community Alliance, the Virgin Islands Division of Festivals, and Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights to televise seasonal events in the 2020 Christmas Festival. Unlike years past, these events that actively preserve local traditions would have likely gone unseen without our documentation and streaming services. Events like Ah Glow in the Park tree lighting ceremony, All Saints: A Virtual Celebration, and G-Clef Music Academy Presents: VI Christmas Music.

WTJX was a proud organizer of one of the few in-person events permitted during the pandemic, the long-standing Christmas Foreday Serenade with Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights. The Virgin Islands Police Department and WTJX made sure that this musical procession was in compliance with the Department of Health’s guidelines, by forbidding the usual stops and exchange of food and beverage. With this extra time, we were able to spread Christmas cheer even further into the St. Croix community by expanding our route to include more neighborhoods over the two-day event.

“G-Clef Music Academy appreciates WTJX’s management and staff for supporting our request to showcase our talented students on Christmas Day, 2020. We THANK YOU for making sure that every area was addressed to ensure that the special production was air-worthy. All of the students and parents are very grateful for the opportunity. Thank you for believing in us to deliver community programming.”

- James H. Gumbs, Jr., Director, G-Clef Music Academy

“Thanks so much for doing the virtual concert. Love you guys.” - Gloria Ovesen Kelsey
1. Staying Strong and Sane while Stuck at Home

In an effort to keep Virgin Islanders happy and healthy during the Governor’s first stay-at-home orders, WTJX produced a slew of new programs to encourage individuals of all ages to foster the connection between mind and body within the confines of their own homes. These programs, which featured some of the territory’s top trainers, were produced in conjunction with the Division of Personnel, the Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Source and Breathe Yoga, St. Thomas. **Workout at Home with WTJX, African Fitness Dance Sessions, Breathe Yoga for Kids and Easy-to-Make Vegan Dishes**, which were made available on television, online and on demand via the PBS App and WTJX’s website, received great praise from the Virgin Islands community.

“I appreciate the change in the programming at WTJX in response to COVID-19. They’ve added the fitness series & teachers giving instructions (an upgrade of “the teacher is in”) etc. I for the 1st time purchased a membership.”

– Attorney Sheena Cornwall

2. VIEDA’s Vision 2040 Virtual Town Hall Meeting

On Monday, November 23, WTJX assisted the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (VIDEA) in broadcasting a virtual town hall on their newest initiative, Vision 2040. Vision 2040 is an interactive, participatory process, designed to produce a long-term economic strategy and action plan that positions the Virgin Islands as a vibrant, desirable place to live, work and visit, and as a prosperous business location that is competitive based on its abilities to develop, retain, and attract a skilled workforce. The purpose of this meeting was to collect community input on economic opportunities, challenges, and ideas for sustainable development that will generate prosperity for all. WTJX aired this public forum on television and streamed online on our website and Facebook page, fielding questions from the community and broadening the reach of this virtual event across both districts and abroad.
Across the country saw challenges during the 2020 election cycle; the Virgin Islands had its share of challenges as well. WTJX stepped up to the plate to help support the Election System of the Virgin Islands and the territory’s voters who were extremely concerned about exposure to COVID-19.

Traditionally, the casting of the lots is where the candidates or their surrogates blindly pull a number to be assigned on the ballot. This is done simultaneously in both the districts of St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John. The staff at the Election System’s offices wanted to reduce exposure so they asked WTJX to livestream the casting of the lots. We did this for both the Primary and General Elections. The staff of the Election System pulled the numbers while candidates and the community viewed in real time. We were able to do this smoothly in both districts in one program.

While campaigning was muted for both fundraising and retail politicking, WTJX continued its partnership with the League of Women Voters to bring the Meet the Candidates series with the candidates for the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

The 2020 election cycle had an important question on the ballot: “Are you in favor of the Legislature enacting legislation to convene a constitutional convention to adapt the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, 68 Stat. 497, or portions of it as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands?” To assist in educating voters on the nuances of this ballot poll, we partnered again with the League of Women Voters and aired a two-hour special entitled The Referendum: A Constitution for the USVI hosted by Dr. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar, LWVVI President. Senator Myron D. Jackson, who authored the Referendum Bill and Senator Alicia V. Barnes, the Bill’s co-sponsor participated. Other participants included Sele Adeyemi, Dr. Lois Habtes, Dr. Carlyle Corbin, Professor Gerard Emanuel, Dr. Malik Sekou, and Dr. Hadiya Sewer.

On election night, not only did we provide live coverage as we noted on page 9, we also livestreamed the actual counting of the ballots from both districts. After election night, we livestreamed the counting of absentee ballots for three days.

WTJX also included sample ballots for the Primary and General elections in its Programming Guide magazine, the Take Twelve along with these ballots, we included pictures of each candidate so that voters would be able to visually identify the candidates for office. Photos of candidates are not included on ballots.

WTJX’s involvement in the 2020 election cycle added a level of transparency and educational value to the voting process.

“Thanks again for yesterday, we have received lots of positive feedback - progressing with technology.”

-Caroline F. Fawkes, CERA, Supervisor of Elections
eTeacher Network

To provide students with increased remote-learning options, independent of reliable internet access, WTJX partnered with the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) to launch the eTeacher Network for students, grade preK through 12. The program, which began on April 13 and ran through June 4, consisted of a carefully curated compilation of programming from WTJX, PBS, and PBS member stations: KCS and WHRO, providing lessons in Math, English Language Arts, local History, and more. Some of the territory's top teachers were also featured on this network as they provided pre-recorded instruction on various academic topics. Some of these programs included:

- Career Exploration - Culinary Arts with Kerish Robles
- English Language Arts - Comprehension and Writing with Ms. Morrell
- English Language Arts - Compare and Contrast the Varieties of English Dialect with Mrs. Knowles
- Health and Fitness - Benefits of Being Physically Fit with Ms. Hodge
- Health and Fitness - Low Impact Workout with Tamasha Bolden
- Science - Forensic Science W/ Michaelrose Ravaliere
- VI History Month programming, which included notable highlights from the WTJX archives: The Governor Series, Proudly We Serve, Conversations with Living Treasures, The Centennial Commission Lectures, A Playing Ring: Journey into Quadrille, Jamsie: King of Scratch, and Dream: Road to the Kentucky.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

For the first time in the history of the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the graduation ceremonies for the territory’s four public high schools, as well as three parochial schools, went virtual. To offset the disappoint for the Class of 2020 – students who had not only had their final semester up-ended by the novel coronavirus, but had also weather two Cat 5 hurricanes and the aftermath in their high school career — and promote social distancing protocols, WTJX volunteered to televised these ceremonies. Schools featured in these virtual graduation ceremonies included the St. Croix Complex High School, the St. Croix Central High School, the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, the Charlotte Amalie High School, All Saints Cathedral School, Free Will Baptist School and the Virgin Islands Montessori School and Peter Gruber International Academy.

“This has been such a difficult period for our students and we’re pleased to support our graduates in this small way.”

-Tanya-Marie Singh, CEO, VIPBS
Reach in the Community:

To further the reach of these educational initiatives, WTJX posted weekly schedules each Monday on our Facebook page in an effort to fill some of the gaping holes left in the 2020 school year by the COVID-19 pandemic. In these posts, we identified curriculum-related programming and target age groups to supplement existing virtual education provided by VIDE and other schools in the territory. VIDE also distributed this information to all of its teachers in the territory on a weekly basis.

Partnerships:

This initiative was made possible by partnerships with other PBS members stations and the Virgin Islands Department of Education.
This year, WTJX was able to identify and react to the challenges posed by the novel coronavirus, resulting pandemic and historic hurricane season. We became a lifeline for a large part of our community that was house-bound and schooling from home.

- We take pride in the fact that we were able to stream over 430 programs and virtual events, and implement a strict pandemic policy with practices that kept our two offices and transmitter site free of COVID-19. Not one member of our team was infected by the coronavirus.

- We were also able to assist the Kennedy Center in their #ArtsAcrossAmerica series by recording our beloved Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights and the Ay Ay Cultural Dancers. This performance was the first to spotlight a group from the U.S. territories and we were honored to play a part in this historic production.

- In addition to simulcasting Governor Bryan's weekly COVID-19 press conferences, WTJX-FM 93.1 launched Analyze This, our first local talk show, which became instrumental in dispersing safety information and data as it became available from the Department of Health. As we entered the historic 2020 hurricane season, WTJX-FM took the lead in keeping the community abreast to meteorological developments from the National Weather Service's San Juan office and safety protocols from VITEMA, FEMA, and the Department of Human Services.