




V.I. Children's Museum Helps Youth Explore Earth Science at Home

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December 10, 2020

Home Community Organizations V.I. Children's Museum Helps Youth Explore Earth Science at Home



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Press release

December 9, 2020

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“Explore, Play and Discover,” is the motto of the Virgin Islands Children’s Museum. Play has been found to help both children and adults reduce stress and learn. Social distancing has been a challenge for the V.I. Children’s Museum and even more so for children and parents stuck at home without the ability to play and learn in social settings.

When the directors at the museum came up with the idea of providing At Home Discovery Kits for children in low-income households, the museum was still closed and could not provide an in-person learning experience for families, so they decided to expand their influence.



Virgin Islands Children's Museum volunteers
(Submitted photo)

At Home Discovery Kits were born with the help of community partners such as NISE Net (National Informal STEM Education Network), USVI Storm Strong, V.I. Council on the Arts, VI-EPSCoR (V.I. Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), V.I. Marine Advisory Service and Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. These partners and many others have made the discovery kits a reality by providing supplies, activity booklets and funding, among other things.

The V.I. Children's Museum's first round of discovery kits that focused on the Natural History of the V.I. was created for early learners, toddlers to 5th-grade-aged children. One hundred of those kits were distributed. The second kit was curated for 6th through 12th graders, focused on water sciences and contained child-friendly water testing kits, as well as the other arts and science activities. Those kits were distributed between all three islands and reached 200 children.



Kids at Longpath Community Center with their At Home Discovery Kits. (Submitted photo)


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Carbon monoxide poisoning is entirely preventable. Know the facts and protect your family. Install a CO detector and run your portable generator outside, at least 20 feet (about six meters) from your home's windows and doors.



Carbon Monoxide's Danger

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The third round of kits, most of which have already been distributed, has an earth science theme and helps children learn about geology and watersheds using a fun paper mountain project. Since the museum was closed, CFVI allowed them to redirect their Free Field Trip Program funds towards creating 950 At Home Discovery Kits.

“There are still a few kits available for children in the community,” said Amber McCammon, VICM programs director. The museum’s partner organizations continue to actively distribute kits to those in their networks and each child that visits the Virgin Islands Children’s Museum will receive a discovery kit while supplies last. Families can schedule a visit to the museum for private 90-minute sessions for up to 20 guests by clicking <https://bit.ly/3n1yzWo>.

The earth science themed discovery kits were distributed to these community organizations: Boys and Girls Club of St. Thomas and St. John, Catholic Charities (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix), Family Resource Center, Island Therapy Solutions, Junior Firefighters, Kids Connect V.I., Longpath Community Center, Moravian School, Nana Baby Home, Nanu’s Nursery, New Vibes Youth Soccer, the Salvation Army, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Youth Committee, St. Croix Environmental Association, UVI Learning Lab and the V.I. Nurse Family Partnership (Department of Health), in addition to individual households that pre-registered to receive kits.



Mishika Buxani making paper mountains based on instructions from her discovery kit. (Submitted photo)

“It was our aim to provide a hopeful outlet for students who must stay at home; however, our At Home Discovery Kits also provides me with hope when I see so many community organizations working together for the benefit of our youth. It’s very encouraging and something I hope to see more of in the future,” said VICM Executive Director Chantel Hoheb.

The At Home Discovery Kits are a group effort where the VICM staff and volunteers pitch in to organize, pack and distribute the kits within the community. The museum aims to distribute 350 climate science-themed kits in January. Interested households can register for kits by visiting the website. If you would like to support the museum’s Discovery Kit

program, visit the GlobalGiving project to donate.



A child working with an At Home Discovery Kit.
(Submitted photo)



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A vertical banner advertisement for Viya. The top section has a light blue background with the 'Viya' logo in orange. Below the logo, the text 'NEW BUNDLES!' is written in orange. In the center, there is a photograph of a diverse family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) smiling. The bottom section of the banner has an orange background. Overlaid on this is a large orange circle with a green border containing the text 'Save up to \$600 per year'. At the very bottom, a green rounded rectangle contains the text 'SIGN UP NOW' in white.



A vertical banner with a blue gradient background. At the top, several white, hand-drawn style Christmas ornaments of various sizes are hanging from thin lines. In the center, the text '90 YEARS' is displayed in white, with '90' being significantly larger than 'YEARS'. Below this, the 'Boolechand's' logo is shown in white, featuring a stylized 'B' followed by the word 'BOOLECHAND'S'. Further down, the words 'Holiday' and 'Gift Guide' are prominently displayed in yellow, with 'Gift Guide' in a much larger font. Below 'Gift Guide', the text 'Starting at \$49' is written in white inside a white-outlined rounded rectangle. At the bottom, a solid yellow rounded rectangle contains the text 'View gift ideas' in black.

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Press release - January 12, 2021

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Press release - January 11, 2021

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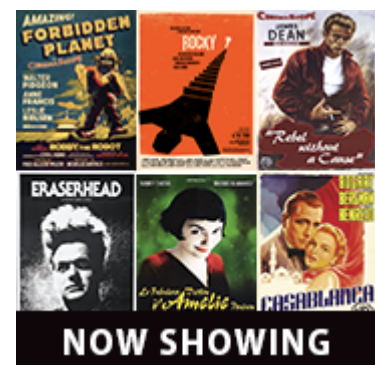
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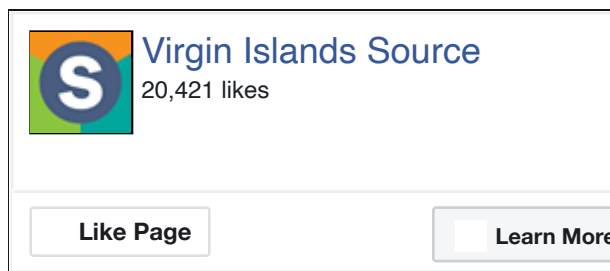
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