

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Steel Pan Sounds and Fundraising Goals: V.I. Children's Museum to Host Night of Play on Saturday

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Yard Vibes Steel Band.

The Virgin Islands Children's Museum (VICM) is set to host a musical evening on September 30th, from 6-8 PM, featuring the harmonious tones of the steel pan, performed by the Yard Vibes Steel Band. This special event follows the VICM's FREE Community Day of Play and aims to raise funds for incorporating a steel pan into the museum's Music Exploration Exhibit.

Yard Vibes has its roots in Pan in Motion, an initiative by Ralph "Rabbi" Felix to preserve the Virgin Islands' steel pan culture. The band comprises 16 members, many of whom

previously belonged to the Rising Stars, a youth-focused group for ages 10 to 18. Chantel Hoheb, VICM Executive Director, expressed her excitement about the evening, highlighting that "The Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra will also be showcasing their talent during the Community Day of Play, providing an insight into the diverse sounds of different pans and the rich history of this Caribbean musical tradition."

One of the members of Yard Vibes, Le'roi Simmonds, who has been involved with steel pan music since 1996, has a deep connection to the Rising Stars. Having played in various bands, worked for the Rising Stars for a decade, and subsequently joined Yard Vibes, Simmonds' commitment to the art form is evident. Hoheb shared her gratitude, saying, "Thanks to Le'roi, the VICM will host live pan music for the very first time. His response to a post about a steel pan initiated a cascade of positive events. Observing the community's overwhelming support, especially for the benefit of our children, is heartwarming."

Amber McCammon, the museum's Curator and Program Director, voiced her long-standing wish to have an authentic steel pan in the museum. "We aim to provide a space where Virgin Islands children can connect with their heritage, and adding a culturally significant instrument like the steel pan moves us closer to that goal," McCammon remarked.

Tickets for the #NightOfPlay are priced at \$20 and can be procured in advance or at the event entrance. The ticket includes entry to the museum, live music, refreshments, and the chance to win raffle prizes. For reservations, interested attendees can reach out to VICM at vichildrensmuseum@gmail.com or call 340-643-0366 during operational hours. Given the limited availability, early booking is recommended.

For more details on the Day of Play and the Night of Play fundraiser, visit the VICM's official website at www.vichildrensmuseum.org/dayofplay or join the Day of Play event on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/9iB8am13r>.