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UVI Music Program Receives \$30K Boost from Thriving Charity Advocates

Funding to elevate recording capabilities, strengthening music education in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Education / **Published On December 13, 2023 07:28 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 13, 2023**

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From left to right: Kristine Galgay, Lauryl Knowles, Marjorie Rawls Roberts, Dr. Kimarie Engerman, Dion Parson and Dr. Camille McKayle pose for photo. By. UVI

The University of the Virgin Islands has received a significant boost for its music program, thanks to a generous donation from Thriving Charity Advocates (TCA).

A \$30,000 gift from TCA, a notable fundraising organization in St. Thomas, will enhance UVI's music studio's recording capabilities, the university said. Renowned jazz musician and UVI's chair of the Communication and Performing Arts Department, Dion Parson, expressed gratitude for

TCA's consistent support, which has propelled the program's development, particularly the recording studio. This contribution marks a significant milestone in UVI's journey to expand its recording facilities by Spring 2024.

“Through their generous donation, we are much further along and are now able to have small recording sessions in our music building. We hope to be able to expand our recording capabilities by the end of Spring 2024,” he said.

UVI's music program, led by Parson, offers various degrees and certificates aimed at preparing students for careers in music education and performance, along with skills in audio engineering and music business entrepreneurship.

TCA's contribution underscores its commitment to fostering musical talent and education in the region. This support extends beyond UVI, as TCA has also contributed to Partners for Strings Inc., an organization offering free after-school orchestra programs for children on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Lauryl Knowles, director of Operations and Compliance at TCA, highlighted the organization's passion for making music accessible to youth. TCA's involvement in the music entertainment industry has enabled it to bridge connections between artists, tours, live events, and nonprofit organizations. "We are deeply impressed with the quality of UVI's music program, its visionary approach, and the positive impact it is having on the entire St. Thomas community," she said.

The check presentation took place on December 7 at UVI's Music Building, where TCA representatives, including Knowles, Kristine Galgay, and Marjorie Roberts, were introduced to the planned upgrades and met with the faculty, including new member Dr. Austin Oting Har.

For more information about UVI's Music Program, visit www.uvi.edu.