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17 Historic Sites in USVI Receive Recovery Grants Totaling \$1.9 Million

With \$547,581.75 allocated, Government House in Kongens Gade, St. Thomas, stands out as the largest beneficiary among the 17 recipients

Community Center / **Published On December 28, 2023 07:02 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 28, 2023**

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Government House in Kongens Gade, St. Thomas

The V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources has announced the first round of historic recovery awards totaling \$1.9 million.

These grants, funded by the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service's Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, are aimed at restoring National Register Historic Sites in the territory that were damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

The V.I. State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO) has identified several key sites to receive these grants. The list of recipients includes:

1. Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church - \$200,000 for roof and exterior repairs.
2. Emmaus Moravian Manse, Coral Bay - \$200,000 for roof repairs.
3. Lord God of Sabaoth Episcopal Church - \$200,000 for exterior repairs.
4. Zora's of St. Thomas, Inc., Norre Gade 34 - \$200,000 for roof and exterior repairs.
5. Catherineberg 8D LLC, Catherineberg 8D - \$165,500 for exterior repairs.
6. Mango Works, LLC, Wimmelskafts Gade 13 - \$117,000 for roof and exterior repairs.
7. The Nature Conservancy, Estate Little Princess - \$90,200.70 for roof and exterior repair.
8. St. Thomas Historical Trust for Hassel Island Dock - \$48,123 and Garrison House - \$17,640 in repairs.
9. Meeting the Needs of Our Community (MTOC) - \$40,560 for roof and exterior repairs.
10. Frederick D. Dorsch Cultural Activities Center - \$51,416.07 for exterior repairs.
11. ATELIERS 6, LLC, Snegle Gade 6 - \$24,023.77 for roof and exterior repairs.
12. MJB Caribbean Ventures, Inc. Dronningens Gade 25 - \$29,385.10 for roof and exterior repairs.
13. R. M. Brady, Snegle Gade 2B & 3 - \$24,110.20 for roof and exterior repairs.
14. A. Canton, Norre Gade 12A - \$3,860 for historic wall and fence rebuilding.
15. Memorial Moravian Church - \$7,579 for belfry roof repairs.
16. Government House, Kongens Gade 21-22 - \$547,581.75 for exterior and interior repairs.

VISHPO expressed its gratitude to the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, V.I. Economic Development Authority's Enterprise Zone Commission, Office of Disaster Recovery, and the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands for their assistance with the Historic Recovery Program. CFVI has also provided a grant to help senior citizens receive technical assistance with their applications.

DPNR Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol highlighted the collaborative effort in this initiative, stating, "DPNR remains committed to working with the community, non-profit organizations, and agencies to restore and preserve our historic towns, sites, and cultural resources." The announcement of the second round of grant recipients is expected by mid-February 2024.