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Crystal Blue Operations Announces Historic District Revitalization to Drive Economic Growth

With construction beginning in late 2024, Crystal Blue Operations aims to transform historic properties at 9 & 10 Curacao Gade into bustling spaces that blend culture, commerce, and community needs

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The project is located at 9 & 10 Curacao Gade in Charlotte Amalie.

Crystal Blue Operations (CBO) has announced a major revitalization project in the heart of Charlotte Amalie, aimed at restoring historic structures and creating new opportunities for both residents and tourists.

The project, located at 9 & 10 Curacao Gade in the Historic District, will see the transformation of neglected buildings into multifunctional spaces, including offices, restaurants, and cafes, along

with the addition of much-needed parking to alleviate congestion in the area.

Spanning over half an acre with 26,240 square feet of physical improvements, the project is expected to boost the economic vitality of the district.

Cristina Blackburn, CEO of Crystal Blue Operations, spoke about the significance of the project, noting its role in the broader efforts to beautify and revitalize Charlotte Amalie's Historic District. "The restoration project will make the Waterfront more attractive and accessible, enhancing the appeal of the historic district as a destination for residents and tourists, which in turn will boost the patronage of local businesses and create much-needed economic opportunities," Blackburn said.

CBO said it has assembled a skilled team for the project, partnering with John Woods of Highest Potential Design, LLC, Damian Cartwright of Buildtec, LLC, and James Benton of J. Benton Construction. Together, they have already cleared the site of vegetation and debris, addressing the damage that accumulated over decades of neglect and from hurricanes. Site demolition has been completed, and construction is set to begin in the fourth quarter of 2024, with an expected completion date in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Richard Berry, a consultant to CBO, echoed Blackburn's sentiments, highlighting the project's long-term benefits for the community. "This project aims to support the long-term economic and cultural vitality of Charlotte Amalie. By preserving and enhancing the historic charm of Curacao Gade while addressing practical community needs like parking, we expect the project to act as a catalyst for future development in the district and serve future generations of residents and visitors alike," he said.

The revitalization is part of Crystal Blue Operations' broader vision to reimagine Charlotte Amalie as a vibrant destination that blends history, culture, and natural beauty with innovation and progress. The firm, which specializes in real estate development and property management, said it is committed to working closely with local stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

For more information on the project and Crystal Blue Operations, visit their website at crystalblueusvi.com.