

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Rotary Club West To Host 'Regener8:340' Conference, Geared Towards Millennials, On Dec. 3

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ST. CROIX -- St. Croix Rotary Club West, in a news release issued Sunday, invited Virgin Islands and Caribbean millennials to attend its Regener8:340 Conference on Saturday, December 3, at the Club's headquarters in LaGrange, Frederiksted. According to Rotary West president-elect and conference organizer, Shelli Brin-Olive, the conference will be "the most innovative business networking event of the Centennial."

The agenda will involve 18 to 34-year-olds in thought provoking conversation as they move beyond sustainability and the status quo to influence greater economic and infrastructure growth in the territory and the region, according to the release. "The next 100 years begins with us," said Brin-Olive, explaining the impetus for the event.

Rotary West President Carlye Branker says the club's members are solidly behind the initiative and have long been on the forefront of community development and youth empowerment.

"This conference will showcase our young people. We want them to share knowledge and to develop the drive to fully manage an emerging society that is becoming very different and more demanding," he said. "It's the perfect preamble to the Virgin Islands Centennial 2017 activities which will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the transfer from the Danish West Indies to the United States Virgin Islands," said Branker.

According to Brin-Olive, millennials who are generally recognized as being born between 1982 and the early 2000s, will participate in forums discussing climate change, island economies of the 21st century, environmental sustainability, regenerative power of art for communities, sustainability policies, and more. Invited guest speakers include Dr. Rosario Rivera, an economics professor at the University of Puerto Rico and a senior economist with extensive experience in economic analysis and research; Dr. Roy A. Watlington, retired University of the Virgin Islands physics professor and currently a consultant researcher in physical oceanography; Nicolas C. Drayton, Assistant Director of the Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR) at the University of the Virgin Islands; and Dr. Natalie F. Williams, an expert in rehabilitative counseling and abuse prevention for children and adults with disabilities.

Next Saturday's conference opens with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. with the opening session scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The sessions wrap up at 4:30 p.m. with an awards ceremony and an after party for conferees. Interested persons can pre-register at www.regener8340.com. Admission for millennials is \$34, general admission is \$45 and Rotarians pay \$40.50.