

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Hundreds Attend Airbnb Disaster Preparedness Town Hall Meetings In USVI

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Last week, in collaboration with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism (D.O.T.) and the Long Term Recovery Teams of St Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, home-sharing platform Airbnb held a series of disaster preparedness town hall meetings to help empower communities in preparation of hurricane season, Airbnb has announced.

More than two hundred attendees throughout the islands benefitted from the information shared at the meetings, including checklists for how to prepare your home for a hurricane, guides on how to talk to children about hurricane preparedness, and a framework for building community resilience when disaster strikes, said the release.

“Hurricane season can be unpredictable, but our goal is to help Virgin Islanders be as prepared as possible for what may come,” stated Carlos Munoz, Airbnb campaign manager for public policy and communications in the Caribbean and Central America. “Supporting our host communities and empowering locals to prepare themselves with the vital information needed to secure their families and their homes during hurricane season is very important to us. We are grateful for the support of the USVI Department of Tourism and the Long Term Recovery Teams in making these events a success.”

According to the release, the events covered a range of issues beyond how to prepare your home for hurricane season, including key travel trends and how to maximize your earning potential as an Airbnb host. From the Long Term Recovery Teams, Imani Daniel presented in St Thomas, Ian Samuel in St John, and Delia Richardson in St Croix. The partnership is part of Airbnb’s ongoing work with local organizations to strengthen communities.

“Airbnb is a valued partner and has demonstrated a strong commitment to community building. We welcome opportunities like these to educate our community and are encouraged by the strong attendance and positive responseS throughout the islands,” stated D.O.T. Commissioner Joseph Boschulte.