

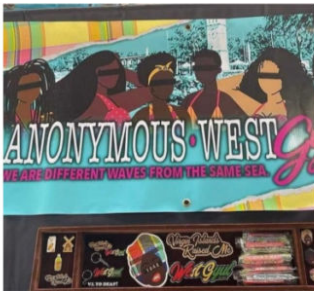
62 Women-Owned Businesses Showcase Offerings at Inaugural 'Women In Business VI and Caribbean' Event on St. Croix

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Ernice Gilbert | April 01, 2021 08:34:51 AM



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Collage of women in business at the WIBVIC event on Wed. March 31, 2021 at the Agricultural Fair Grounds on St. Croix. By WIBVIC

ST. CROIX — The Agricultural Fair Grounds in Estate Lower Love on Wednesday was transformed into a platform where some sixty-two women-owned businesses in the territory showcased their diverse offerings. From jewelry, to clothing, food and more, the choices were vast and brought to the fore women's entrepreneurial tenacity in the USVI.



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The business fair was organized by Women In Business VI & Caribbean (WIBVIC), a private Facebook group that supports and promotes female entrepreneurs in the Virgin Islands and Caribbean. The group was founded in April 2020 at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Founder Ruth King-Chaseau, when most storefront business owners had no choice but to temporarily close their operations and transition to online.

Mrs. King-Chaseau said WIBVIC has seen tremendous growth with over 2,000 women-owned businesses joining the Facebook group since its founding. These entrepreneurs are based in the U.S. Virgin Islands (around 500-strong so far), the wider Caribbean and the U.S. mainland. She said the key benchmarks of the group arose out of the need to survive the pandemic, and include the following:

- Pivoting a business from brick/mortar to digital
- Promote, marketing, and support online and offline
- Forum for discussion on current-day issues, such as health, business development, faith, and family
- Expertise training in subjects such as Funnel Builders, Sales pages, Reconstructing or creating your website, Digital Designer Training

The event on Wednesday was dubbed a mini fair by some, and included a fashion show, a dance performance by Music in Motion, and remarks from Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Positive Nelson, who said women are "super humans." Guest Speaker Sen. Genevieve Whitaker gave a woman-empowering speech. Covid-19 protocols, including mask-wearing, were in place as well.

Vendors at the event the Consortium spoke with expressed satisfaction and said they were looking forward to the next business showcase from WIBVIC, which Mrs. King-Chaseau said has a tentative date of July.

Judith Lewis Figueroa, a business owner who showcased her offerings Wednesday, praised the

effort, extolled the founder and said she looked forward to future events.

"If you own a startup, or you're someone who has been in business for decades — whether you provide a service online or offline or you're someone who likes to shop, WIBVIC is here for you," said Mrs. King-Chaseau.

The group provides two types of membership, a free tier and premium tier, which costs \$9.99 a month and includes many benefits, as seen on the group's [website](#).

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RETIREE TRUSTEES ELECTION SCHEDULE

April 21, 2021

GERS announces notice of election and nomination packets availability.

May 14, 2021

Nomination packets are due back to GERS by 3:00pm.

May 17, 2021

GERS begins the candidate vetting process reviewing nomination packets.

May 19, 2021

Candidates notified by GERS.

May 21, 2021

GERS provides YesElections with the eligible voter file data and candidate information.

June 7, 2021

Election opens. Ballots are mailed and online/telephone voting opens 9am.

July 7, 2021

Election closes at 5:00pm

July 8, 2021

YesElections provides results.

July 9, 2021

GERS announces the results.

Each candidate shall be a retiree of the system, have a minimum of five years experience and at least a Bachelor's degree in any of the following:

Investment Banking;
Economics; Finance;
Insurance; Law;
Medicine; Accounting;
Actuarial Science;
Taxation; Real Estate
Appraisal or Brokerage
and Securities Trading.

Nomination packets are now available for pick up in the GERS Building in the lobby area on St. Croix during the hours of 9am—4pm or fillable nomination packets are available for download on our website at www.usvigiers.com.

Packets must be received by mail or emailed to GERSElections@usvigiers.com by May 14, 2021

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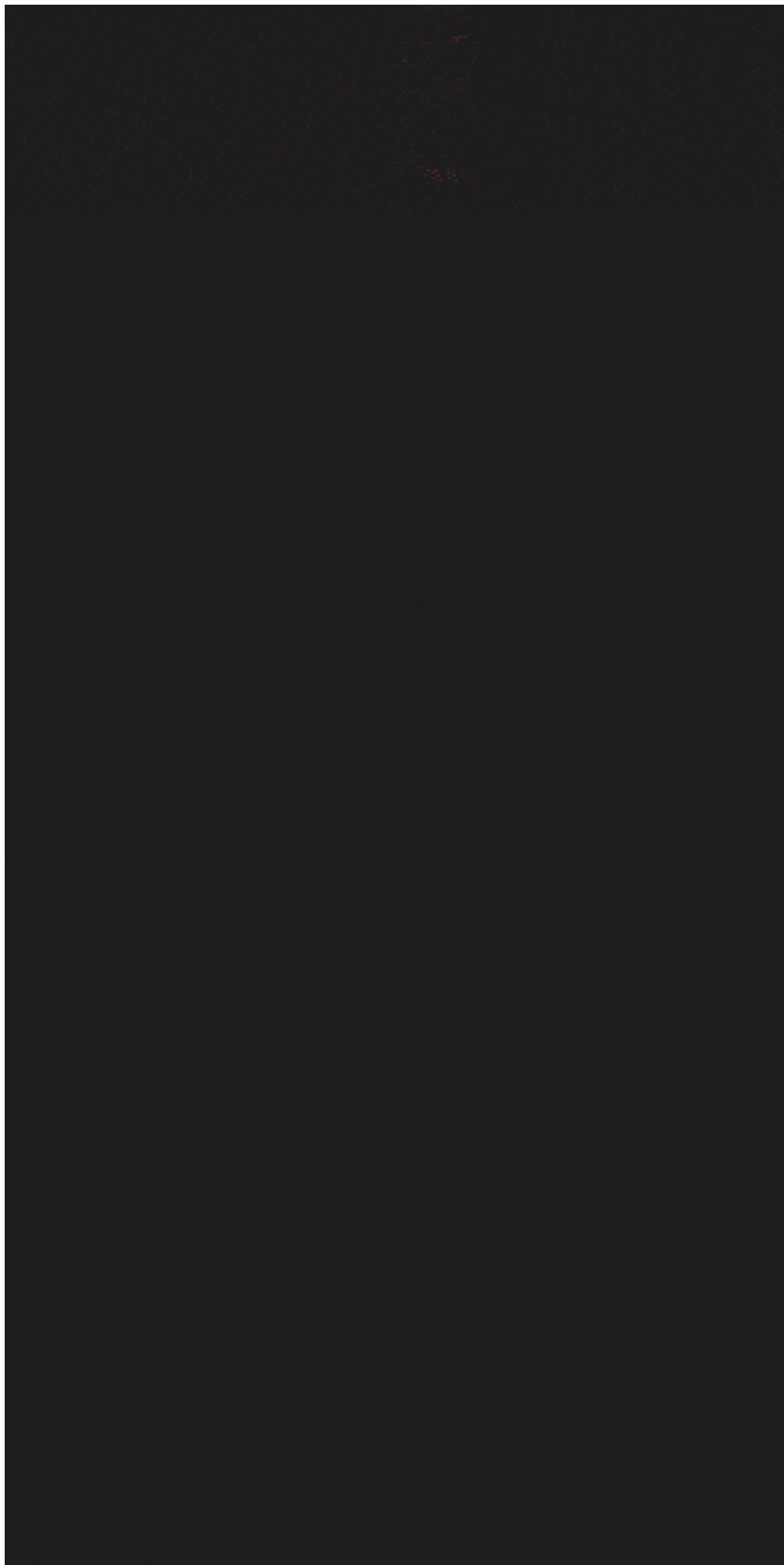
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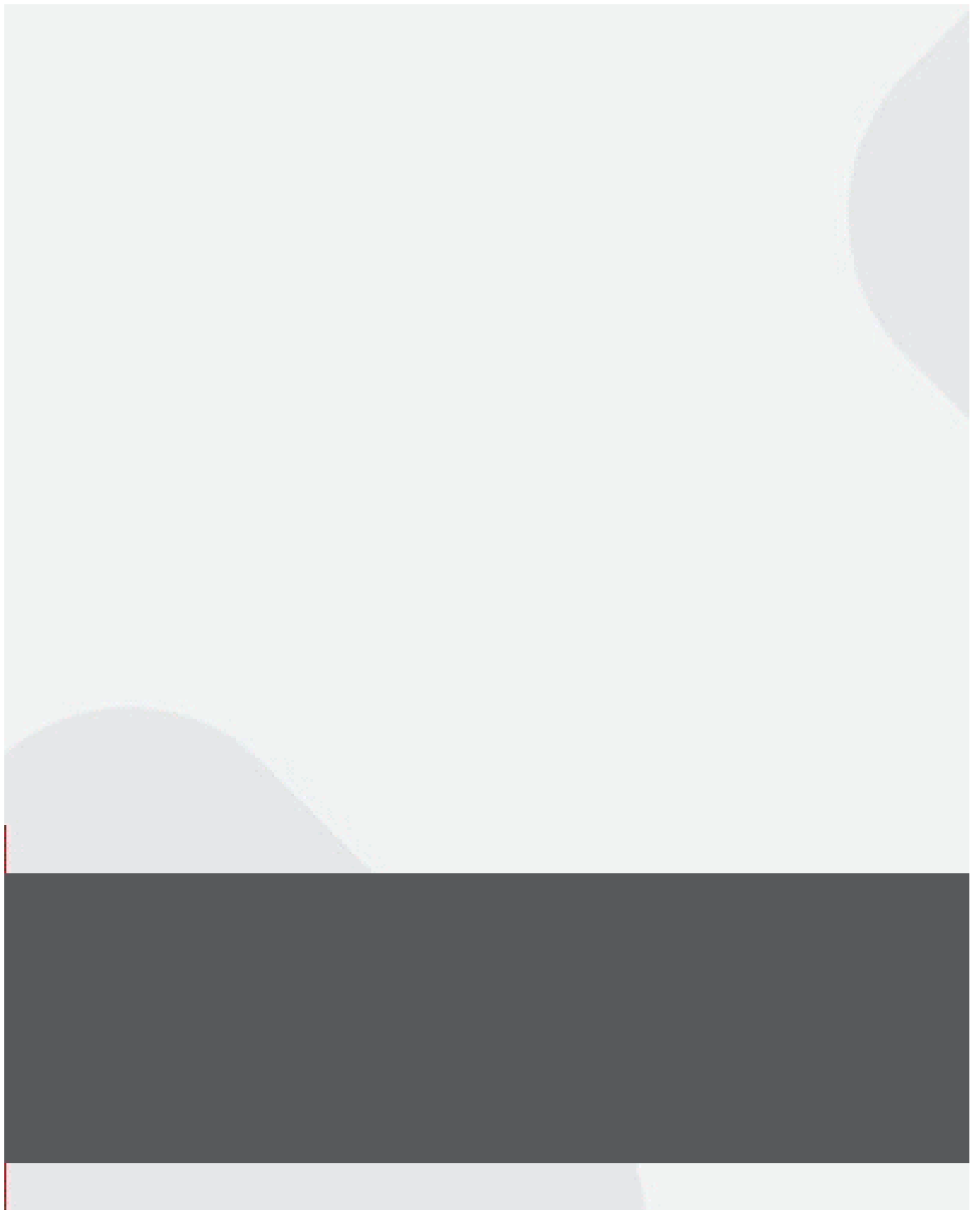
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