



News Release

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Micro Rum Distillery Planned for Crown Bay, St. Thomas

The Virgin Islands Port Authority has signed an agreement that marks the beginning of the agency's plans to expand and transform the Crown Bay district into a unique attraction for locals and tourists.

VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe announced that an agreement between the Port Authority and Robert Apfel has been negotiated to refurbish Building No. 16, Subbase, an old US. Navy warehouse constructed during the World War II era. The exterior of the building will be historically restored to look exactly as it did when the Navy built it in the 1950's. The restoration will be completed in conjunction with the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources' historic preservation department and VIPA's engineering staff.

The interior of the building will be transformed into a micro rum distillery that will showcase the production of rum in the US Virgin Islands. The development will also feature a museum showcasing the history of the Subbase area and its transformation from a naval base to a cruise ship port, a gift shop and a small café. Tours will also be provided.

Dowe said that the Board and staff are excited about this new development. "The US Navy played an intricate part in the economic development of the US Virgin Islands.

(more)

VIPA's goal is to improve the aesthetics of Crown Bay, yet preserve the historical value of the district, educate the public, and provide a venue for locals and tourists to enjoy. This would be an additional attraction to the tourism product of the Virgin Islands. This venue will begin to create a revenue stream for the Port Authority and the territory from a property that has been vacant for several years.

For more information, please call VIPA's public information officer at (340) 774-1629.

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