

The Christiansted Revitalization Planning Task Force USVI 2026 Civic Leadership Advocacy Initiative

NETWORK BUILDING PLAN

The Task Force is not a party, a PAC, or a lobbying firm. It is a node-and-swarm operation: the Christiansted Planning Task Force holds the policy backbone while workshop facilitators, civic captains, Youth Ambassadors, faith leaders, and union stewards each operate autonomously under a shared banner. No single point of failure. Every node that activates multiplies reach without requiring permission from the center.

The first citizen who attends a Fix It Forward workshop is a network of one. When they bring a neighbor, value doubles and then some. When a pastor brings a congregation, a union steward brings members, a coach brings parents — the network crosses thresholds that make candidacy on the reform platform politically necessary. Each Candidate Commitment Card signed increases the value of every previously signed card. The advocacy network becomes self-reinforcing once it reaches critical mass.

The Task Force's policy documents — the TEA Act, the Municipal Corporations Act, the Fix It Forward workshop materials — should be freely and aggressively distributed. Every PDF shared, every op-ed reprinted, every workshop handout photocopied increases the reform agenda's value and reach. Hoarding policy expertise inside a small committee kills the network. Publishing it everywhere builds it. The goal is for the WAPA reform framework and the Municipal Government case to become the common vocabulary of every civic conversation in the Territory before Election Day.

Workshop attendance must be free, frictionless, and come to where people already are. No registration forms. No membership dues. No application to join the Task Force network. The Candidate Commitment Card costs nothing to sign. The voter guide costs nothing to read. WhatsApp groups, Facebook posts, and radio call-ins are free distribution channels that reach more USVI voters than paid media. Make every point of entry to the reform network cost exactly nothing — and watch the nodes multiply.

The Task Force must invest in the network before asking it to deliver votes. This means: producing quality workshop materials, training facilitators well, supporting local civic captains with resources and recognition, connecting network nodes to each other (not just to the Task Force center), and publicly celebrating every ally organization

that joins. **The reform advocacy network is the product.** Candidate endorsements, voter turnout, and legislative wins are the harvest — but only after the web has been fed.

When Fix It Forward workshops succeed in Christiansted, the model and materials should immediately be handed to Frederiksted, Charlotte Amalie, and Cruz Bay to run independently — not managed from Christiansted. When a civic captain emerges in a neighborhood, make them the hub, not the branch. **The Task Force's greatest success will be when the advocacy network operates without the Task Force needing to direct it — when the Municipal Government and WAPA reform frameworks become self-advocating ideas owned by the communities themselves.** The demonstration model for Christiansted was always designed to replicate. Let go of it.

The USVI's three-island geography has historically been used as a reason why unified civic action is impossible. The Task Force network refutes this directly. **A workshop on St. Croix, a civic captain on St. Thomas, and a Youth Ambassador on St. John are nodes in the same network** — connected by WhatsApp, shared documentation, and a common reform platform. The Candidate Commitment Card signed by a St. Thomas Senate candidate is as relevant to Christiansted voters as

one signed next door. Build the network across water, not despite it.

The cynics in every public meeting are not enemies of the network — they are its stress test. A civic advocacy network that can only function when everyone agrees is fragile. Design Fix It Forward to work in contested rooms, to absorb skepticism without collapsing, and to update its arguments as conditions change. The WAPA reform model should be open to amendment as financing conditions, legislative responses, and community feedback evolve. The Municipal Government replication provisions are built-in adaptability. **The network's job is not to win every argument but to keep the conversation moving toward structural change.**

The Task Force's most important technologies are: the Candidate Commitment Card (a relationship between voter expectation and candidate accountability), the workshop sign-in sheet (a relationship between the Task Force and each attendee), the Civic Captain program (a relationship between the network and each neighborhood), and the Youth Ambassador track (a relationship between generations). **Facebook groups, WhatsApp broadcast lists, and local radio call-in shows are the fiber connecting the nodes. The policy documents are the content; the relationships are the infrastructure.**

The Task Force is not trying to make WAPA more efficient — it is replacing WAPA's structural model with a cooperative one. It is not trying to make the territorial government more responsive — it is creating a new layer of local government that didn't exist before. **Both reforms are opportunity plays, not efficiency plays.**

The same logic applies to the advocacy network itself: don't ask how to run a better letter-writing campaign to existing power holders. Ask what the network makes possible — a civic accountability infrastructure that makes reform the price of electability. That is a fundamentally new opportunity the network creates.

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