2026 GOVERNOR'S DIGITAL CONFERENCE

Speaker, Agenda & Session Guide

GOVERNOR'S DIGITAL CONFERENCE
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
BUREAU OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

October 7-9, 2026 | St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

The Westin - Frenchman's Reef

Conference at a Glance

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM FOCUS	VENUE / ROOMS	AGENDA SUMMARY
WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 7	6:30-8:30 PM	**Welcome Reception**	Terrace	Opening networking experience and conference welcome.
THURSDAY | OCTOBER 8	7:00 AM-8:30 PM	**Vision and Innovation Day**	Harbor View 1-3	Leadership, government innovation, AI, cybersecurity, keynote, debate, and reception.
FRIDAY | OCTOBER 9	7:00 AM-4:15 PM	**Action and the Future**	Harbor View 1-3	Awards, AMA, future-state sessions, data strategy, solution marketplace, and closing reflection.

Wednesday, October 7

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LOCATION
6:30-8:30 PM	**Welcome Reception**	Terrace

Thursday, October 8

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 AM-3:45 PM	**Registration**	Foyer
7:00-8:30 AM	**Continental Breakfast**	Harbor View 1
9:00-9:30 AM	**Opening Remarks**	Harbor View 1
9:30-10:30 AM	**Under the Coconut Tree: Leadership Through Transformation**	Harbor View 1
10:30-11:00 AM	**Networking Break / Sponsor Showcase**	Conference Area
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	**Government Innovation Showcase: Public Safety & Emergency Response**	Harbor View 2
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	**Government Innovation Showcase: Digital Services**	Harbor View 3

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:00-1:00 PM	**Lunch**	Harbor View 1
1:00-2:00 PM	**Keynote Speaker**	Harbor View 1
2:00-2:15 PM	**Networking Break / Sponsor Showcase**	Conference Area
2:15-3:15 PM	**Cybersecurity & Resilience Panel**	Harbor View 2
2:15-3:15 PM	**Workforce of the Future**	Harbor View 3
3:15-3:30 PM	**Networking Break**	Conference Area
3:30-4:30 PM	**The Great Debate**	Harbor View 1
6:30-8:30 PM	**Sponsor Reception**	Reception Area

Friday, October 9

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 AM-2:00 PM	**Registration**	Foyer
7:00-8:30 AM	**Continental Breakfast**	Harbor View 1
9:00-9:30 AM	**Digital Excellence Awards**	Harbor View 1
9:30-10:30 AM	**Ask Me Anything: Digital Government Unfiltered**	Harbor View 1
10:30-11:00 AM	**Networking Break / Sponsor Showcase**	Conference Area
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	**Building the Foundation for the Next Administration**	Harbor View 2
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	**Made in the Virgin Islands: Innovation Spotlights**	Harbor View 3

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:00-1:00 PM	**Lunch**	Harbor View 1
1:00-2:00 PM	**AI and You**	Harbor View 2
1:00-2:00 PM	**Real Problems Lab**	Harbor View 3
2:00-2:15 PM	**Networking Break / Sponsor Showcase**	Conference Area
2:15-3:15 PM	**Data Strategy Discussion**	Harbor View 2
2:15-3:15 PM	**Solution Marketplace: Connect Technology to Government Challenges**	Harbor View 3
3:15-3:30 PM	**Networking Break**	Conference Area
3:30-4:15 PM	**From Today to Tomorrow: Vision 2030 and Closing**	Harbor View 1

Session-by-Session Speaker Guide

THURSDAY | 9:00-9:30 AM | HARBOR VIEW 1

Opening Remarks

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Rupert Ross *Director and CIO, Bureau of Information Technology* **Albert Bryan Jr.** *Governor of the US Virgin Islands*	Welcome attendees, establish the conference purpose, and set expectations for two days focused on digital transformation, government modernization, innovation, cybersecurity, data, and citizen services.

THURSDAY | 9:30-10:30 AM | HARBOR VIEW 1

Under the Coconut Tree: Leadership Through Transformation

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Michelle Francis - Moderator *Director, Office of Health Information Technology* **Albert Bryan Jr.** *Governor of the US Virgin Islands* **Rupert Ross** *Director and CIO, Bureau of Information Technology* **Cindy Richardson** *Director, Division of Personnel* **Julio Rhymer** *Director, Office of Management and Budget* **Maurice Wells** *Assistant Commissioner, Department of Finance* **Wayne Biggs** *CEO, Economic Development Authority*	Meaningful transformation begins with leadership, but it is sustained through collaboration, resilience, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. Leaders will reflect on the Virgin Islands digital transformation journey, the obstacles encountered, progress achieved, and decisions that moved the territory forward.

THURSDAY | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 2

Government Innovation Showcase: Public Safety & Emergency Response

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
VITEMA ECC - 911 *Virgin Islands Police Department* *Lieutenant Governor's Office GIS Division* *Fire and Emergency Medical Services*	A coordinated showcase of how GIS, 911, computer-aided dispatch, vehicle location, drones, license plate recognition, and related situational-awareness capabilities can support emergency response and public safety.

THURSDAY | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 3

Government Innovation Showcase: Digital Services

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Department of Property and Procurement *Bureau of Motor Vehicles*	Move beyond presentations and experience government innovation firsthand. This showcase will highlight newer digital services, including GVI Buy and BMV modernization work, with presenters explaining the challenge addressed, the service or solution delivered, and lessons learned through implementation.

THURSDAY | 1:00-2:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 1

Featured Keynote

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Mark Arruda *Vice President, Solutions, Cloud Carib*	**Mark Arruda** is Vice President of Solutions at **Cloud Carib**, a leading provider of sovereign cloud, cybersecurity, and digital transformation services across the Caribbean and Latin America. A global technology executive with experience across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North America, and the Caribbean, he specializes in helping governments and organizations modernize operations through managed services, cloud computing, and secure digital infrastructure. Mark has worked with public- and private-sector leaders to advance digital transformation initiatives and improve service delivery through innovative technology solutions.

THURSDAY | 2:15-3:15 PM | HARBOR VIEW 2

Cybersecurity & Resilience

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Patria Kaye Charles - Moderator *Groups Communications Director, Brava* **Raymond Williams** *Executive Director, Virgin Islands Lottery* **Daryl Jaschen** *Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA)* **Jay Rollins** *Chief of Staff, Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center*	Examine real cyber incidents, the lessons they revealed, and the actions organizations can take to strengthen resilience and recovery.

THURSDAY | 2:15-3:15 PM | HARBOR VIEW 3

Workforce of the Future

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
	Explore how technology, new skills, and evolving workplaces are reshaping careers and preparing Virgin Islanders for the opportunities of tomorrow.

THURSDAY | 3:30-4:30 PM | HARBOR VIEW 1

The Great Debate

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

Ruben Camacho II – Moderator
Chief Technology Officer, Bureau of Information Technology
Richard Chang
Service Desk Lead, Bureau of Information Technology
Regina Brown
Deputy Director of Planning and Preparedness, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA)
Shomari Moorhead
Founder and Principal Consultant, CrucianPoint Consulting
Ludence Romney Jr.
Systems Analyst II, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Big questions. Competing perspectives. Your vote. Speakers will present contrasting views on a timely technology issue, attendees will vote before and after the debate, and the discussion will surface the assumptions, risks, opportunities, and tradeoffs behind consequential digital-government decisions.

FRIDAY | 9:00-9:30 AM | HARBOR VIEW 1

Digital Excellence Awards

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

Kaila Joseph – Introduction of Awardees
Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Information Technology

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Celebrate the agencies, public servants, and partners turning bold ideas into meaningful digital progress across the Virgin Islands. This session recognizes leadership, creativity, collaboration, and commitment that improve services and modernize operations.

FRIDAY | 9:30-10:30 AM | HARBOR VIEW 1

Ask Me Anything: Digital Government Unfiltered

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

Michael Thurland – Moderator
Growth Manager, Quantum Technology Group, LLC
Kirk Callwood
Associate Managing Director, Economic Development
Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (VIEDA)
Eric Sonnier
Executive Director, University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (UVI RTPark)
Stephan Adams
President & Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN)
Alexandre Navarro
Head of AI, Performa

SESSION DESCRIPTION

No lengthy presentations and no predetermined talking points. Questions gathered from registrants and submitted through an interactive format will drive a candid conversation about the opportunities, challenges, and realities of digital transformation.

FRIDAY | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 2

Building the Foundation for the Next Administration

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

Jody Gunderman - Moderator
CFO Technical Counselor and Banking Industry Lead, Info-Tech Research Group
Hurchell Greenaway
Senior Program/Project Manager, Quantum Technology Group, LLC
Dr. Esther Ellis
Territorial Epidemiologist, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Explore how governance, continuity, institutional knowledge, sustained investment, policy, partnerships, and workforce capability can protect digital progress through leadership transitions and beyond January 2027.

FRIDAY | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 3

Made in the Virgin Islands: Innovation Spotlights

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

Eric Sonnier - Moderator
Executive Director, University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (UVI RTPark)
William Royall
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, PromoTix
Wayne Biggs
CEO, Economic Development Authority
Lavida Rogers, PhD
Media Director, Living Hope Cathedral
Heath George
Media Team, Living Hope Cathedral

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Discover the local entrepreneurs, startups, students, and problem-solvers building ideas with the power to move the territory forward. The session will spotlight homegrown solutions and open doors for mentorship, partnership, investment, and public-sector collaboration.

FRIDAY | 1:00-2:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 2

AI and You

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

William Shazor
Business Relationship Manager, Bureau of Information Technology
Esosa Ighodaro
Co-Founder & Managing Partner, E&L Solutions
Lisa G
Co-Founder & Chief Solutions Officer, E&L Solutions
Yudit Maria
AI Business Solution Specialist, Microsoft

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how people work, deliver services, and operate businesses. This session will connect practical use cases with the governance, security, standards, and responsible-adoption questions that should shape AI use in government and the wider Virgin Islands community.

FRIDAY | 1:00-2:00 PM | HARBOR VIEW 3

Real Problems Lab

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Horace Graham Jr. - Moderator *Assistant Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA)* *ODR* *VI Port Authority* *Judicial Branch*	Agencies will present real operational challenges affecting employees, operations, or the public. Participants will examine root causes and constraints, then develop practical solution concepts that agencies can further evaluate after the conference.

FRIDAY | 2:15-3:15 PM | HARBOR VIEW 2

Data Strategy Discussion

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
William Shazor *Business Relationship Manager, Bureau of Information Technology*	A focused discussion on the results of the data workshop and the path toward data governance, shared standards, structured decision-making, and stronger use of data across government. Existing workshop and executive decks will be curated for this breakout.

FRIDAY | 2:15-3:15 PM | HARBOR VIEW 3

Solution Marketplace: Connecting Technology to Government Challenges

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS	SESSION DESCRIPTION
Brenden Hayes *CEO, The Performa Group*	This is not a traditional vendor exhibit. Sponsors and technology partners will respond to government challenges raised in the Real Problems Lab, shifting the conversation from general product promotion toward practical outcomes, relevant approaches, and targeted agency questions.

FRIDAY | 3:30-4:15 PM | HARBOR VIEW 1

From Today to Tomorrow: Audience Reflection & Closing

SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS

William Shazor
Business Relationship Manager, Bureau of Information Technology
Rupert Ross
Director and CIO, Bureau of Information Technology

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Attendees will reflect on what they heard and send a message to their future selves about the action they will take next. A digital survey, word cloud, or Kahoot-style interaction will capture themes that can inform follow-up work and the next conference.