



Greetings to the Coimmitte,

My name is Rayhainio Boynes , artist and entrepreneur. I'm born and raised in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands and I'm writing this letter today in hopes of starting a Sister City Relationship between the City of Milwaukee and the British Virgin Islands Tourism Department. The goal is to build a bridge between these two that will allow us to learn and exchange cultures with one another. We can share best practices and new ways of becoming more eco and community friendly . The City of Milwaukee has been a home to many people of the Caribbean for some time and this a great opportunity to learn more about how vast the African Diaspora has been spread while helping each other thrive.

As an artist I have made it my mission to put an emphasis on retaining our home grown talent. I've started the Creative Corridor, which is a non-profit that focuses on connection talent to opportunities locally and internationally. Through the Creative Corridor we will have an exchange program where young people from both areas can travel back and forth and get some life changing experiences and access to a plethora of knowledge and creative resources.

We have already begun the process of fostering these experiences dating back to 2020 where we took a team of Milwaukee creatives which included , Biko Baker, Jade Charon, Stephen Philips, and Randy Dolla down to the British Virgin Islands to participate in Ray Nitti's Champion Style short Dance Film. The Milwaukee team collaborated with Kenisha Sprauve who chairs the the BVI Tourism Board, and Jeanette Scatliffe-Boynes who graciously assisted us with finding dancers, costumes, and facilitated in getting clearance for the film. The film was also a winner in The Milwaukee Film Festival.

As a member of the Bronzeville Advisory committee in 2022 I'm collaborating with the King Drive BID on this year's Art walk to infuse an Afro-Caribbean Carnival celebration where will be focusing on highlighting the many different afro caribbean cultures that reside in milwaukee and cultivating a festival in conjunction with Bronzeville week.

The British Virgin islands economy is heavily based on tourism which accounts for approximately 45% of national income, offshore banking, and its agriculture. With Milwaukee being a port city, this is a great opportunity to collaborate on expanding each other's reach. This is also an opportunity to create new jobs and training in Maritime Transport that will be facilitated by Montgomery Martin Communications. I hope this is only the beginning of an amazing relationship between the British Virgin Islands and Milwaukee, WI.

Warmly,

Rayhainio Boynes  
Executive Director - The Creative Corridor