

VISIT RICHMOND, VA

Throughout the 1619-2019 Anniversary Year, the Richmond Region Presents Dynamic Exhibits and Exciting Events that Inspire Engagement in the Themes of Democracy, Diversity, and Opportunity

RICHMOND – (June 20, 2019) – 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of events in Virginia which continue to define America: The First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World; The arrival of the First Recorded Africans to English North America; Recruitment of English Women in Significant Numbers; First Official English Thanksgiving in North America; and Entrepreneurial and Innovative Spirit of the Virginia Colony. These events have shaped the democratic process, cultural diversity, historical traditions, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the United States. Throughout this 400th anniversary, Virginia's AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ commemoration explores several key historical events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today.

Richmond, Virginia will host events and exhibits in that vein that inspire engagement in the themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity.

American Civil War Museum (Opened May 2019)

The mission of The American Civil War Museum is to be the preeminent center for the exploration of the American Civil War and its legacies from multiple perspectives: Union and Confederate, enslaved and free African Americans, soldiers and civilians. The American Civil War Museum recently reopened following a \$13.5 million expansion in the renovated historic Tredegar Iron Works site. The new 29,000-square-foot institution aims to provide a wider range of Civil War history while offering new and innovative ways to display items. For example, the museum has implemented clear floors for visitors to walk over artifacts including bullets, buckles and shoes from the Civil War. The museum's CEO, Christy Coleman, who also served on the Monument Avenue Commission, is recognized for striving to make museum experiences meaningful to diverse communities and being an innovative leader in the history museum field.

Monument Avenue: General Demotion/ General Devotion (Through December 1, 2019)

Richmond's Valentine Museum has recently launched an international ideas competition, *Monument Avenue: General Demotion/General Devotion*, with the goal to reimagine Monument Avenue, a five-mile historic boulevard where five giant statues of Confederate figures from Virginia stand. Planners, architects, designers, artists and individuals were invited to submit creative proposals of what to do with the Confederate statues in hope that these ideas will spark thought-provoking discussions that will help lead towards a resolution. One example includes burying the statues underground and leaving only the heads visible to eliminate the opulence of the statues and allow people to see the figures at eye-level. Another example includes replacing all the Confederate statues with light-filled sculptures and pavilions in order to create new monuments that will celebrate major milestones in the civil-rights movement. The Valentine will host these entries until December 1, 2019.

"Impeach" at the VMFA Confederate Memorial Chapel (Ongoing)

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) has installed a new sound exhibit, *"Impeach"* into the 1887 Confederate Memorial Chapel, as part of an effort to use the chapel as an extended gallery of the museum. *"Impeach"* consists of the sounds in the U.S. House of Representatives on December 19, 1998

during the debates for voting on a resolution of the impeachment against President Bill Clinton. It culminates with impassioned remarks from civil rights icon and Georgia Rep. John Lewis calling for unity. The sound work lasts for 2 minutes and 20 seconds and will be activated by the chapel attendant as people enter throughout the summer.

[Cosmologies from the Tree of Life: Art from the African American South \(June 8- November 17, 2019\)](#)

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' (VMFA) *Cosmologies from the Tree of Life: Art from the African American South* is an exhibition that showcases the VMFA's acquisitions from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, an organization with a mission to showcase works by African American artists from the South. The exhibit features artwork rooted in African aesthetic legacies, familial tradition and communal ethos. Artists featured in the exhibition include Jessie Aaron, Louisiana Bendolph, Thornton Dial, Lonnie B. Holley, Ronald Lockett, Rita Mae Pettway, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, James "Son" Thomas, Mose Tolliver, Purvis Young and others.

[Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality \(June 22-March 29, 2020\)](#)

The Virginia Museum of History and Culture presents *Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality* to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans in British North America. This exhibition will delve into the history of the African American fight for freedom, justice and recognition of humanity through over 100 evocative objects and multi-media interpretive content. The exhibition is arranged in chronological sections: The Colonial Period, American Revolution through the Civil War, Reconstruction through World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement through today.

["Voices from the Garden" Women's Monument Dedication Event \(October 14, 2019\)](#)

This monument is the first in the nation dedicated to women on state capitol grounds. The dedication ceremony at the Virginia Capitol will honor 12 historic Virginia women while celebrating 400 years of women. The monument will feature statues of Anne Burras Laydon, Cockacoeske, Mary Draper Ingles, Martha Washington, Clementina Rind, Elizabeth Keckly, Sally L. Tompkins, Maggie L. Walker, Sarah G. Jones, Laura S. Copenhaver, Virginia E. Randolph and Adèle Clark.

[Women's Achieve Summit \(October 15, 2019\)](#)

Taking place at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, this multi-faceted, interactive event will consist of interviews with women pioneers, panel discussions, storytelling from Virginia women and audience interaction. The goal of the Summit is to celebrate the achievements of women in Virginia and American history as well as examine the issues facing women today.

[Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument Dedication \(November 2019\)](#)

A dedication of 400 years of African American history, this monument on Richmond's Brown's Island will feature a 12-foot bronze statue representing newly-freed slaves and notable African American Virginians. The statue will celebrate the contributions of Mary Elizabeth Bowser, William Harvey Carney, Gabriel, Dred Scott, Nat Turner, Rosa Dixon Bowser, John Mercer Langston, John Mitchell, Jr., Lucy Simms, Wyatt Tee Walker, and other African American Virginians who have fought for freedom.

[Customs, Cultures & Cuisine Festival \(November 1-30, 2019\)](#)

The Commonwealth of Virginia invites all Americans to "Come Home to Virginia" for the Virginia Customs, Cultures, and Cuisine Festival in November 2019. Visitors and locals alike will enjoy a variety of

premier events, festivals, and special programming that draw on 400 years of Virginia's unique history and culture. In Richmond, visitors can experience:

- **Sampling the Centuries: Virginia's Food Firsts (November 2, 2019)**
This event featuring Virginia chefs creating dishes that represent each era from the 1600s to today takes place at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is part of Richmond's annual Fire, Flour and Fork event.
- **Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival (November 21 – 24, 2019)**
The Pocahontas Reframed: Storytellers Film Festival at Richmond's Byrd Theater includes Native American-affiliated classic and recently released films that have been official selections of world-renowned festivals including the Sundance Film Festival, the South by Southwest Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival.

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About Richmond Region Tourism

Richmond Region Tourism, the official destination marketing and tourism organization for the Richmond Region, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Region to meeting, convention and sports event planners, tour operators and leisure travelers. Richmond Region Tourism operates three Visitor Centers located at the Greater Richmond Convention Center downtown, the Richmond International Airport and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Hanover County, and a Mobile Visitor Center.

More than 7 million people visit the Richmond Region annually, contributing more than \$2 billion to the local economy. Tourism generates nearly 22,000 jobs in the Richmond Region. For more information, visit VisitRichmondVA.com.

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