2019 Commemoration
Chronological List of Signature Events and Legacy Projects

2019 Commemoration, American Evolution is presenting a year-long series of signature events highlighting the Commemoration brand: We Are Virginia, We Are America; the themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity; the historical events of 1619; and ensuing 400 years of Virginia and American history. Partnering with leading Virginia institutions, the schedule of signature events will attract national and international participation.

In partnership with leading Virginia museums and organizations, 2019 Commemoration Legacy Projects range from special exhibitions, a documentary film, scholarly works, and interpretive centers that reinforce the arc of history from 1619 to today, commemoration themes, and Virginia’s role in the creation of the United States and its ongoing leadership in education, tourism and economic development.

Virginia History Trails App (Legacy Project)
PARTNERS: Library of Virginia; Virginia Humanities
TIMEFRAME: Launched May 2018
VENUE: Locations statewide
SUMMARY: A Legacy Project of the 2019 Commemoration, the Virginia History Trails App features more than 400 stories of dynamic places, people and events that highlight Virginia history from 1607 to today. Through a customized digital platform, the trail promotes history lover’s tourism while inspiring, educating, and stimulating awareness of Virginia’s role in the United States – engaging new generations to pursue deeper understanding of our shared history. Sites are the trail are encouraged to create their own events and special programs that tie into the themes of the commemoration.

TENACITY: Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia Special Exhibition (Legacy Project)
PARTNER: Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
TIMEFRAME: November 10, 2018 – January 5, 2020
VENUE: Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg, Virginia
SUMMARY: This special year-long exhibition explores captivating and little-known personal stories of the women in Jamestown and the Virginia colony, and their tenacious spirit and impact on a fledgling society. Discover the struggles that women faced in the New World and their contributions, from the arrival of the first English women in Virginia in 1608 and the Powhatan Indian women they encountered, to the arrival of the first documented African women and influx of English women in the colony in 1619. From women’s roles to women’s rights, the exhibit connects issues of the 17th century to their relevance today.
New Virginians: 1619–2019 and Beyond Special Exhibition (Legacy Project)

PARTNERS: Library of Virginia; Virginia Humanities
TIMEFRAME: December 10, 2018 – December 7, 2019
VENUE: Library of Virginia; additional Virginia locations in 2019
SUMMARY: Less than 50 years ago, only one in every 100 people living in Virginia had been born outside the United States. In 2012, the figure was one in nine. Recent estimates place the number of foreign-born Virginians at just under one million, and nearly half of these new residents are between the ages of 25 and 44. The Library of Virginia, working with Virginia Humanities, hosts an exhibition featuring video-recorded conversations with immigrants and refugees from more than 30 countries. Some came to this country seeking new opportunity, others as refugees fleeing war and hardship. Virginia’s Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni, is among the interviewees, who also include a teacher, professional photographer, former U.S. Marine and I.T Professional, doctor, missionaries, and folklorists. The New Virginians exhibition explores themes such as opportunity, family, service, faith, and gratitude and features artifacts related to the interviewees’ personal journeys. A traveling version of the exhibition (minus the artifacts) will be offered to communities and public libraries in Virginia. Localities are encouraged to add programming when hosting the exhibit. The interviews, with additional videos not shown in the exhibition, will be available for viewing on the Virginia Humanities and Library of Virginia websites.

Evolution of America: 1619 to Today Documentary (Legacy Project)

PARTNER: Cinebar Productions
TIMEFRAME: January 2019
VENUE: PBS documentary distributed nationwide
SUMMARY: “Evolution of America: 1619 to Today” is a one-hour documentary for a national audience that explores four historical events of this seemingly obscure but decisive year, and the effect that year had on the growth and development of the U.S., which still resonates today. Supported by approximately 16 minutes of narration, the majority of the show features interviews with Virginia and national leaders discussing how the 1619 events are reflected in contemporary American society. Produced in partnership with Cinebar Productions, Inc., Maryland Public Television and National Educational Telecommunications Association serve as promotional entities for national marketing and distribution.

The Great Charter and the General Assembly: Founding a Legacy in 1619 Special Exhibition (Legacy Project)

PARTNERS: Virginia Capitol Foundation; Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
TIMEFRAME: January 25 – December 31, 2019
VENUE: Virginia State Capitol Visitor Center
SUMMARY: The Great Charter and the General Assembly is an exhibition produced in two forms, including a wall panel exhibit to be mounted in the Virginia State Capitol Visitor Center and a set of pull-up banners for statewide distribution to partners. The content highlights the historical origins of the Virginia General Assembly in the Great Charter of
1618, which abolished martial law, allowed property to shift to private ownership, and authorized the governor to summon a General Assembly to act on legislation. The exhibition includes the legacy of representative government, which became the model adopted for the establishment of the government of the United States.

**Faith Journeys in the Black Experience 1619-2019 (Legacy Project)**

**PARTNERS:** Virginia Council of Churches; Virginia Union University  
**TIMEFRAME:** March 19 - 21, 2019  
**VENUE:** Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** The Virginia Council of Churches and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University will convene a scholarly conference on the religious context of Virginia 1619, its impact on people of color, and the evolution of a religious and culturally diverse United States in the 21st century. Scholars from throughout the United States will present papers, which will be edited and published by the University of Virginia Press. Students and the general public will be invited to attend the event. A public event is being planned to highlight the influence and importance of music on the Black experience.

**The American Evolution Innovators Cup at Tom Tom Founders Festival (Signature Event)**

**PARTNER:** Tom Tom Foundation; University of Virginia Galant Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
**TIMEFRAME:** April 11 - 13, 2019  
**VENUE:** Charlottesville, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** The American Evolution Innovators Cup will showcase Virginia’s academic excellence through a unique competition to amplify the intellectual property and social enterprise capacity of students from across the Commonwealth. The American Evolution Innovators Cup celebrates innovation, technology, leadership and diversity of the future generation of ideas. Finalists representing their college or university present their business cases before a panel of industry experts as judges for a cash prize.

**Historic Jamestowne: Democracy and Diversity New Exhibitions (Legacy Project)**

**PARTNERS:** Jamestown Rediscovery - Preservation Virginia; Colonial National Historical Park-National Park Service  
**TIMEFRAME:** New Exhibits Open April 15, 2019  
**VENUE:** Historic Jamestowne, Williamsburg, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** In April 2019, on Jamestown Island, Jamestown Rediscovery will open new exhibits and will launch public programs telling the significant stories of 1619. Within the Memorial Church, archaeologists have recently delineated the outline of the ‘quire’ and chancel of the timber-framed church, the very spot where democracy began in English North America. The exhibit, which will replicate the floorplan of the 1617 church, will explore the events and legacies of the first General Assembly, presided over by Governor Sir George Yeardley in July and August of 1619. New exhibits in The Voorhees Archaearium Archaeology Museum will challenge long-held
perceptions of democracy, diversity, and race in early English America. They will explore difficult themes such as the ‘othering’ and exploitation of Africans, Virginia Indians, and indentured servants; the genesis of an English system of race-based slavery; and the establishment of a plantation society reliant on tobacco. “Fort to Port” will examine Jamestown’s evolution in twelve years from a small triangular fort to a major port in the Atlantic Seaboard. “A Foundation for Success” will build on decades of excavation in and around James Fort and will detail the architectural chronology from the first structures to substantial brick buildings. These exhibits and programs will complement discoveries made on Jamestown Island whereby visitors can walk in the footsteps of the early settlers who built James Fort, sit where the first representative government met, stand where Pocahontas married John Rolfe, and experience the moment of discovery where Angela – one of the first enslaved Africans in Virginia – lived.

**Virginia International Tattoo (Signature Event)**

**PARTNER:** Virginia Arts Festival  
**TIMEFRAME:** April 25-28, 2019  
**VENUE:** Norfolk, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** Mounting a mighty spectacle that changes every year, the Virginia International Tattoo summons more than 1,000 performers including fife and drum corps, bagpipers, military bands, precision drill teams, and performing ensembles ranging from step dancers to motorcycle stunt drivers. In 2019, the extraordinary cast of performers from around the world will include Switzerland’s Central Army Band, the Army Band of France, the OzScot Australia Highland Dancers, and pipe and drum corps from the United Kingdom and Canada. These amazing artists will join in celebration of this year’s Virginia International Tattoo theme: Celebrating Women in Service to the Nation, honoring generations of women who have served in battle and on the home front.

**Dance Theatre of Harlem World Premiere - 2019 Commissioned Ballet (Signature Event)**

**PARTNER:** Virginia Arts Festival  
**TIMEFRAME:** May 3-5, 2019  
**VENUE:** Chrysler Hall, Norfolk, Virginia  
**TIMEFRAME:** May 29, 2019  
**VENUE:** Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.  
**TIMEFRAME:** September 14, 2019  
**VENUE:** Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** Virginia Arts Festival, in partnership with American Evolution, has commissioned a new ballet from Dance Theater of Harlem, which will receive its world premiere May 3-5, 2019 at Chrysler Hall in Norfolk, VA. Themes of the 2019 Commemoration, the arrival of the first women and the first Africans in Virginia, will be reflected in the new work. The new ballet will express in abstract the fortitude of the human spirit, celebrating the unvanquished spark within that must prevail. The choreographer is Claudia Schreier, an award-winning young choreographer who has drawn attention—and commissions for
new work—from American Ballet Theatre, the Vail Dance Festival, and more. The piece, created for 12 dancers and performed in three parts, is set to a new score composed by Jessie Montgomery, whose music has been hailed as “wildly colorful and exploding with life.” (The Washington Post).

**Global Pathfinder Summit (Signature Event)**

**PARTNERS:** The Presidential Precinct  
**TIMEFRAME:** May 20 – 24, 2019  
**VENUE:** Charlottesville, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** The original settlers of Jamestown were by and large young pioneers who changed the world. The Commemoration will convene a diverse group of young political, governmental, and civic leaders from across the globe to the “Presidential Precinct” (the restored homes of United States Presidents Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, all near Charlottesville), and the grounds of the University of Virginia (UVA). Hosted by emerging leaders from Virginia, participants will reflect on the challenges of leadership, civic engagement, and governance in both 21st-century democracies and states aspiring to democracy. They will also participate in keynote sessions during the Presidential Ideas Festival: Democracy in Dialogue event hosted by UVA’s Miller Center.

**Presidential Ideas Festival: Democracy in Dialogue (Signature Event)**

**PARTNER:** University of Virginia’s Miller Center  
**TIMEFRAME:** May 21-23, 2019  
**VENUE:** University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** University of Virginia’s Miller Center will convene political leaders, top scholars and students – future leaders and influencers – for a three-day event in and around Charlottesville for working sessions organized around specific aspects of the presidency. Each session will be grounded in one of the three streams of the Presidency at a Crossroads agenda: The Presidency and the Constitution, the Presidency and Policymaking, and the Presidency and the People. Each day will be anchored by at least two plenary panels featuring Cabinet-level former administration officials. The remaining events will be focused breakout sessions organized around a problem or set of questions facing an aspect of the presidency. The sessions will be organized as “laboratories” through which participants with different points of view will deconstruct the issues and emerge with proposed solutions. As the world’s preeminent organization for the study of the U.S. Presidency, the Miller Center is uniquely positioned to facilitate these Presidential Laboratories to create a space where understanding past challenges will drive the creation of the solutions for the future.
Cosmologies from the Tree of Life: Art from the African American South Special Exhibition (Legacy Project)
PARTNER: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
TIMEFRAME: June 8 – November 17, 2019
VENUE: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: Timed to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia in 1619, this special exhibition celebrates the extraordinary contributions that African American artists have made to art and culture since that time. The exhibition will include paintings, sculptures, installations, drawings and quilts from the VMFA’s permanent collection and will feature recent acquisitions of works by contemporary African American artists from the Southern U.S. The cultural origins of these artworks can be traced back to the African Diaspora, slavery, and the Jim Crow era of institutionalized racism. Working with little or no formal training, and often employing cast-off objects and unconventional materials, artists created visually compelling works that address some of the most profound and persistent issues in American society, including race, class, gender, and religion. This exhibit will reflect the Commonwealth’s and nation’s historical diversity and complexity, cornerstones of the 2019 Commemoration.

Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality Special Exhibition (Legacy Project)
PARTNER: Virginia Museum of History and Culture
TIMEFRAME: June 19, 2019 – March 1, 2020
VENUE: Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: The Virginia Museum of History & Culture exhibition explores the African American experience from the arrival of the first Africans in English North America in 1619 to the present day. Throughout these four centuries, black people have played a pivotal role in defining America’s national identity, as well as American economic, political, and cultural life. This exhibition charts the advances and setbacks, triumphs and trials of African Americans in the long struggle for full equality and against persistent discrimination through the stories of individual Virginians whose determination and actions helped move American society closer to our ideal of universal equality. Historical objects, archival images and video, and interactive features, along with a slate of educational programs, encourage diverse audiences to engage with this richly complex history. The VHS is planning to produce a low-security pull-up exhibition based on the content of the gallery show that can travel to libraries, community centers, small museums, and other venues. The goal is to have this ready by June 2020 when the exhibition opens in Richmond.
**400th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of the First Representative Legislative Assembly (Signature Event)**

**PARTNERS:** Virginia General Assembly; Jamestown Rediscovery; Colonial National Historical Park; Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation  
**TIMEFRAME:** July 30, 2019  
**VENUE:** Jamestown Island and Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** American Evolution commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first representative assembly in the western hemisphere, which was held in Jamestown’s church in the summer of 1619. Members of the Virginia General Assembly, Congress and state legislatures nationwide convene for this special commemorative event. In addition to ceremonies, public programs will take place at both Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement.

**International Forum on the Future of Representative Democracy (Signature Event)**

**PARTNER:** William & Mary  
**TIMEFRAME:** July 31-August 1, 2019  
**VENUE:** Williamsburg, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** The first general assembly composed of men from each of Virginia’s eleven major settlements met for the first time at Jamestown from July 30-August 4, 1619, planting the seed of democracy in America. The Commemoration brings together representatives from democracies around the world, including the British Parliament, members of U.S. Congress and representatives from state legislatures nationwide. The International Forum highlights the historic impact of democracy on our nation and its impact on the world.

**African Arrival: Visitor & Education Center Dedication (Signature Event)**

**PARTNERS:** Fort Monroe Authority; National Park Service; City of Hampton; Hampton 2019 Commission  
**TIMEFRAME:** August 23 – 25, 2019  
**VENUE:** Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** To commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in English North America, the 2019 Commemoration showcases the dedication ceremony with hosts Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) and the National Park Service (NPS). This project involves the renovation of the former Coast Artillery School Library at Fort Monroe and the addition of two wings. The galleries will tell the profound stories of Captain John Smith, the arrival of the first enslaved Africans and the culmination of 242 years of slavery as the first contrabands came to Fort Monroe to receive their emancipation. Additional activities at Fort Monroe during the weekend will include a remembrance ceremony, historical tours, cultural demonstrations, and a concert.
1619: Making of America Summit (Signature Event)
PARTNER: Norfolk State University
TIMEFRAME: September 25-28, 2019
VENUE: Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia
SUMMARY: Highlighting the commemoration themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity, this cross-cultural event will explore the 400-year journey of the three founding cultures: Native, African and English peoples, and their contributions and influence that shaped the building of America. Scholars, thought leaders, artists, film makers, and students will participate in key-note addresses, interactive conversations, and panel discussions both live and online.

“Voices from the Garden” Women’s Monument Dedication (Legacy Project)
PARTNERS: Virginia Women’s Monument Commission; Virginia Capitol Foundation
TIMEFRAME: October 14, 2019
VENUE: Capitol Square, Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: The first monument in the nation dedicated to women on state capitol grounds will be in Virginia. The dedication ceremony recognizes the full range of women’s achievements by honoring 12 historic Virginia women enshrined by the monument. The dedication ceremony will be held on Columbus Day and is open to the public.

Women’s Achieve Summit (Signature Event)
PARTNER: Senator Warner’s Annual Conference
TIMEFRAME: October 14 - 15, 2019
VENUE: Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: The summit is a multi-faceted, interactive event to honor women 400 years ago, today and in the future. Topics include Women’s Legacy in America and A Vision of the Future of Women in America. Participants will engage (attending and online) in conversations regarding the role of women in all aspects of society, business and community, and the power of women’s involvement and sensibilities.

Virginia Customs, Cultures and Cuisine Festival – Presented by TowneBank
PARTNER: Multiple
TIMEFRAME: November 1-30, 2019
VENUE: Multiple
SUMMARY: Throughout November 2019, local, regional and statewide events will draw upon the customs, cultures and cuisine of 400 years of Virginia history, to create a contemporary experience for all ages. This special month-long statewide festival will serve as a momentous capstone to the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution. A full schedule of events is being developed with multiple statewide partners and will be available on AmericanEvolution.com. A booklet of events and statewide itineraries will be available for distribution in June 2019. In conjunction, partners may join with the Share the Spirit of Thanksgiving campaign to promote November as a time to give
thanks, come together across cultures and customs, and support local food banks or hunger relief organizations so that all Virginians are included in Thanksgiving in 2019.

**Premier Events**

**Sampling the Centuries: Virginia’s Food Firsts (Signature Event)**

**PARTNERS:** Richmond’s Fire, Flour and Fork  
**TIMEFRAME:** November 1-30, 2019  
**VENUE:** Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
**SUMMARY:** An event featuring Virginia chefs creating dishes that represent each era from the 1600’s to today – and beyond into the future. In addition, the event will showcase farmers, brewers, wine and cider makers, distillers, and others involved in the food industry, and experimental firsts at Virginia State University and elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

**Virginia Thanksgiving Festival (Legacy Project)**

**PARTNER:** Virginia Thanksgiving Festival  
**TIMEFRAME:** November 3, 2019  
**VENUE:** Berkeley Plantation, Charles City County, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** Upon safe arrival at Berkeley Hundred on December 4, 1619, a group of English settlers held a ceremony of Thanksgiving, which was to be observed annually and perpetually. The Virginia Thanksgiving Festival event showcases cultural performances and a re-enactment of the first official English Thanksgiving in North America.

**10th Annual Biennial Association for the Study of the Worldwide Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference (Legacy Project)**

**PARTNERS:** Association for the Study of the Worldwide Diaspora (ASWAD); William & Mary  
**TIMEFRAME:** November 5-9, 2019  
**VENUE:** William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia  
**SUMMARY:** The 10th Biennial ASWAD conference brings together 1,000 researchers, activists, and artists to promote scholarship with a particular focus on the impact of the events of 1619 on today’s society. A range of educational institutions will contribute to the scholarly exchange of ideas, including the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Jamestown: Rediscovery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Norfolk State University, and Hampton University. To engage attendees in critical discussions of the events of 1619 with the local communities, the conference will host public programs on William & Mary’s campus. In addition, conference attendees will visit prominent historic sites such as Fort Monroe, sites of the Underground Railroad, and Hampton
University. The conference will conclude with a tour of Richmond’s historic Jackson Ward, followed by viewings of 1619 exhibits at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and Virginia Commonwealth University’s Institute of Contemporary Art.

**Fanfare to the Military & Democracy**
PARTNER: Virginia Arts Festival
TIMEFRAME: November 9, 2019
VENUE: Sandler Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia
SUMMARY: Full details TBD

**Pocahontas Reframed: Storytellers Film Festival**
PARTNER: Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival
TIMEFRAME: November 21 – 24, 2019
VENUE: Byrd Theater, Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: The Pocahontas Reframed: Storytellers Film Festival stems from a passion and desire for indigenous languages, cultures, and societies to thrive. The Festival strives to bring together artists, authors, filmmakers, and actors eager to share, teach, and explain their creativity and history. The Festival 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.

**Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument Dedication**
PARTNER: Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
TIMEFRAME: Mid-November 2019
VENUE: Brown’s Island, Richmond, Virginia
SUMMARY: Dedicated to the contributions of African American Virginians in the fight for freedom, the monument will feature a 12-foot bronze statue representing newly freed slaves and will highlight notable African American Virginians through time. The statue will commemorate 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 African American Virginians who have fought for freedom.