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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIRGINIA'S 2019 COMMEMORATION, AMERICAN EVOLUTION ANNOUNCES

VIRGINIA CUSTOMS, CULTURES AND CUISINE FESTIVAL GRANT

Grants to support participation in 2019 Commemoration Finale in November

Williamsburg, VA (February 21, 2019) – In November, the [2019 Commemoration, American Evolution](#) is inviting America to “Come Home to Virginia” for the Virginia Customs, Cultures, and Cuisine Festival presented by TowneBank. The 2019 Commemoration is offering Virginia organizations and localities across the Commonwealth a chance to [apply for 2019 Commemoration Finale Grant](#) funding to support their November 2019 events. The grant is now open and the deadline to apply is March 22, 2019.

During the festival, local, regional, and statewide events will highlight the customs, cultures, and cuisine of 400 years of Virginia history to create a contemporary experience for all ages. This special, month-long capstone to the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution will foster statewide participation, tourism marketing and promotion, and public events.

The 2019 Commemoration Finale Grant program supports Virginia organizations and communities with resources to participate in the November Finale Month of the commemoration year. The grant may be used for planning, execution, and/or marketing for events taking place between November 1-30, 2019, which reflect the theme of American Evolution's Virginia Customs, Cultures and Cuisines Festival. The Finale

Grant program is being administered by the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) and the application can be found on their website at www.vatc.org/grants/2019grants/.

The Virginia Customs, Culture and Cuisine Festival is a strategic part of the larger [2019 Commemoration](#), that recognizes the 400th anniversary of [pivotal 1619 Virginia events](#) that forever changed the trajectory of Virginia and America's history. These 1619 events include the First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the recruitment of English women in significant numbers to the Virginia colony, the first official English Thanksgiving in North America and the launch of entrepreneurship and innovation in the Commonwealth.

Over the course of the commemorative year, American Evolution will host more than 20 events, programs and educational initiatives commemorating the 400th anniversary of these formative 1619 Virginia events. A full schedule of American Evolution programming, upcoming events, and educational initiatives can be found at: www.americanevolution2019.com/events/ You can also join in the conversation through social media (@Commemorate2019), the [Virginia History Trails mobile app](#), and [American Evolution Stories](#), the Commemoration's online storytelling platform.

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About the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution

The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution™, highlights events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Featured programs, events and legacy projects position Virginia as a leader in education, tourism and economic development. American Evolution™ commemorates the ongoing journey toward the key ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity. Dominion Energy is an American Evolution Founding Partner and Altria Group and TowneBank are Virginia Colony Partners.