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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 COMMEMORATION, AMERICAN EVOLUTION ANNOUNCES GRANT WINNERS FOR THE VIRGINIA'S CUSTOMS, CULTURES AND CUISINE FESTIVAL

Williamsburg, Va. (May 8, 2019) – The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution has awarded nineteen 2019 Commemoration Finale Grants to organizations throughout Virginia to plan events during November for [Virginia's Customs, Cultures and Cuisine Festival](#). The grants are being administered by the [Virginia Tourism Corporation](#).

“We are delighted to work with all the American Evolution Finale Grant winners to promote the Customs, Cultures and Cuisine Festival statewide events,” Kathy Spangler, Executive Director of American Evolution, said. “We are inviting all Americans to come home to Virginia this November to experience these events and much more.”

The month-long Virginia Customs, Cultures and Cuisine Festival, presented by TowneBank, will be filled with local, regional and statewide events honoring early Virginia history with cultures and styles that have shaped America over 400 years. This special capstone to the American Evolution will foster statewide participation, tourism, marketing and promotion, and public events to create a contemporary experience for all ages.

The grant winners include:

- **Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce** - A Journey Home: 400 Years of Cultures, Customs & Cuisine
- **Ashland Main Street Association** - Ashland Train Day
- **Center for Community Engagement and Career Competitiveness at Averett University** - Dan River Region Soul Food Festival
- **Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation** - Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) School Day, Bonfire, and Corn Harvest Powwow
- **Culturefix** - Wonderful Williamsburg Weekend
- **Effingham Manor and Winery** - Virginia's Heritage Historical Wine and Food Festival

- **Fredericksburg Area Museum** - Evening with an Expert: Farming While Black (with author Leah Penniman)
- **GreenSpring International Academy of Music** - GreenSpring presents "The History of Music in Virginia"
- **Henricus Historical Park** - Friendship, Trade, and Feast Weekend
- **Magnolias at the Mill** - Celebrating History with the Winter Ice Garden Gala
- **The Menokin Foundation** - Menokin Illuminated
- **Petersburg Area Regional Tourism** - Oysters, Barbecue... Battersea
- **Petersburg Preservation Task Force, LLC** - Petersburg and the Evolution of Democracy
- **Radford Visitor's Center** - New River Trail Days: A Festival of Traditions, Faces and Tavern Fare
- **Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial** - Bluegrass, Barbecue, and Brew
- **The Reedville Fishermen's Museum** - Reedville Fishermen's Museum Oyster Roast: 400 Years of Tradition
- **Three Rivers 2019 Commemoration Regional Commission** - RESILIENCE: Three Rivers Cultural Festival
- **The Virginia Legends Walk Foundation** - *1619: When Destinies Collide*
- **The Wayne C. Henderson School of Appalachian Arts** - Celebrating the Guitar Along the Crooked Road

For more information about the Virginia Customs, Culture and Cuisine Festival and a complete listing of events, please visit <https://www.americanevolution2019.com/events>.

The Virginia Customs, Culture and Cuisine Festival is an initiative of the [2019 Commemoration](#), which 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 African in 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 entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of the Virginia colony.

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About the 2019 Commemoration

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.