



WILLIAM & MARY

STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

To: Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director, Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission
From: Ann Marie Stock, Presidential Liaison for Strategic Cultural Partnerships
Re: Report of Outcomes, For 2026 Conference and RevEd Teacher Summit, Fall 2022
Date: November 29, 2022

Thank you again for your generous support of the inaugural For 2026 Conference and associated RevEd Teacher Summit. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission's investment in these collaborative events helped propel them forward and ensure widespread impact. The combination of emerging academic research, best practices in public history and museum education, and K-12 teacher development satisfied the needs of a wide variety of participants who offered accolades and expressed gratitude. Per our Memorandum of Agreement for the financial support provided by VA 250, we are submitting this initial report of program outcomes.

Summary

The first installment of the *For 2026: Revolutionary Legacies* conference, co-organized by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, William & Mary, and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in October 2022, attracted a broad and diverse audience. Some 250 registrants joined from across the United States and from Europe, including 13 members of the VA 250 Commission and 13 participants from the RevEd summit who were able to attend the conference at no cost. Hosted at William & Mary's School of Education and the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, the conference included academic panels and roundtables covering topics such as the global legacy of the American Revolution, George Washington's experiences prior to the war for independence, and William & Mary's own efforts to grapple with the university's role in slavery; public history panels and walking tours focused on nation builders and founders and on African American, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ individuals and communities; and plenary sessions addressing the ongoing process of remembrance and commemoration and the through line from revolution to emancipation.

RevEd Teacher Summit

On October 27 more than 60 museum and historic site educators, teacher educators, and K-12 teachers gathered in-person and online for the *RevEd Teacher Summit for 2026*. Participants connected with colleagues from across the country to explore challenges and possibilities and take actionable strategies back to their teaching. A constant in these discussions was the centrality of the Commonwealth of Virginia: as a steward of historic sites, an interpreter of the past, and a model for engaging with individuals and communities to create a rich and nuanced understanding of our nation's history.

Ten [expert panelists](#) shared different approaches to collaborating with teachers to create transformative educational experiences. Following these presentations, participants worked together to develop

[actionable next steps](#) that they could take back to their organizations. The [presentations](#) were recorded and are now available both on YouTube and via the [RevEd website](#). The website provides additional supplemental materials from the summit, including resources from the panelists, framing slides, and a contact list of participants willing to share their information. We will continue to develop resources on the site, including edited video interviews with the panelists and attendees.

The development of this initial version of the RevEd website was important because interest in attending the event was much larger than anticipated for this first year. We quickly reached our in-person capacity, opened a virtual attendance option, and finally added a waitlist. More than 30 museum educators who were interested but could not attend will benefit from web access to the summit materials.

We solicited feedback from attendees and sought their ideas for future summits. Feedback was exceedingly positive with more than 90% of respondents indicating, via separate questions, that RevEd:

- met the goals of the summit
- was relevant for them as professionals
- met or exceeded their expectations, and
- led to actionable insights or next steps they could take back to their organizations

Respondents shared highlights from the experience:

- “I cannot state enough how grateful I am that I was able to attend this conference. It was affirming, inspiring, and motivating.”
- “I came away with affirmation that our programming is going in the right direction. I appreciated the focus on not just the content, but also the emotional support museums can provide teachers in today's fraught educational environment.”
- “I'm eager to implement some of what I heard about storytelling, leaning into ambiguity, setting teachers up for success teaching the historical inquiry process, and more with teacher workshops and curriculum development we're already doing at our institution.”
- “Excellent actionable insights gleaned that will be applied to our curriculum to further strengthen the breadth and depth of what is provided.”
- “I'm very excited to explore the projects and resources that our speakers discussed, and see how we can implement lessons from them... We also had conversations about Teacher Advisory Groups and Master Teacher Networks at my tables.”

We invited attendees to share ideas for future iterations of the summit, ways to connect and collaborate between summits, and specific needs they have as we approach 2026. Based on this feedback, we have identified the following action steps:

- Develop a steering committee that includes museum educators, K-12 teachers, and teacher educators to plan the 2023 RevEd Summit and develop an online community before the next summit
- Host monthly Zoom sessions, in partnership with Teacher InSites, to provide training on topics of interest to the members and facilitate further collaboration
- Task the steering committee to identify possible themes for professional development for both the summit and online meetings
- Establish a Google Group that will allow participants to discuss questions, share resources, and invite ongoing collaboration on projects

Conference Plenary Streaming

VA 250's support allowed for the livestreaming and recording of the For 2026 conference's two evening plenary sessions on October 28 and 29:

- The Test of Time: How We Commemorate Historical Monuments, featuring Christy Coleman (Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation), Tommy Norment (State Senate of Virginia), and Ed Ayers (University of Richmond), with Barbara Hamm Lee (Host of "Another View" on WHRO) as moderator and Ronald Hurst (Colonial Williamsburg) providing the introduction
- Juneteenth's Revolutionary Roots, featuring Annette Gordon-Reed (Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard University), with an introduction by Katherine Rowe (William & Mary) and a Q&A moderated by Mary Beth Norton (Cornell University)

Remote live viewing was available through Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo:

The Test of Time, October 28, 2022		Juneteenth's Revolutionary Roots, October 29, 2022	
Facebook Peak Live Viewers	33	Facebook Peak Live Viewers	50
YouTube Peak Live Viewers	14	YouTube Peak Live Viewers	13
Vimeo Peak Live Viewers	7	Vimeo Peak Live Viewers	4
Total Livestream Participants	54	Total Livestream Participants	67

Plenary recordings are publicly available on [Colonial Williamsburg's YouTube channel](#). As of November 28, 2022, "[The Test of Time](#)" had 248 views; "[Juneteenth's Revolutionary Roots](#)" had 225. Both recordings are linked from the William & Mary [Strategic Cultural Partnerships website](#); Professor Gordon-Reed's presentation, which was part of the Mellon Foundation-funded Slate Seminar sub-conference, is also [linked on that event page](#).

The Omohundro Institute of American History & Culture, William & Mary and Colonial Williamsburg report that they continue to receive queries about the next conference in the series.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to sharing additional information about the ongoing impact of RevEd and the For 2026 conference in future reports and/or in a meeting with the VA 250 Commission. We see a great deal of potential for expanding both the RevEd Teacher Summit and the For 2026 Conference as well as for developing new collaborative initiatives. We are eager to continue partnering with the VA 250 Commission to leverage the Commonwealth's historical, cultural, and educational resources in commemorating our nation's founding and working toward a more perfect union.

Please extend our profound gratitude to the members of the Commission for their support and partnership.

RevEd Event Photographs Courtesy of Grace Helmick, Strategic Cultural Partnerships, William & Mary





