
Virginia 250 Exhibition Proposal

January 6, 2023

OVERVIEW

The Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC) and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (JYF) propose to develop in partnership the signature exhibition for the Commonwealth of Virginia's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The exhibit will incorporate the key theme and four supporting elements identified and approved by the VA250 Commission. Specifically, the proposed exhibition acknowledges that Virginia's history is America's story: complex, promising, and a multicultural story that in the Revolutionary era was Native American, European, African and American, and is now so much richer for its continuing diversity.

Focusing on Revolutionary events in 1775 and 1776, this signature exhibition and its companion programming will embrace the rich history and narrative breadth of the era, and mark the origins of a revolutionary, world-changing new nation. It will survey the events that preceded and followed it and the people who contributed to its formation, with particularly focus on essential Virginia contributors like Washington, Jefferson, Henry, and others. Using the most compelling exhibition techniques coupled with art, artifacts and documents drawn from both museums' collections, the exhibition will inspire a deep appreciation of the continental and global forces, and individual actions by iconic and ordinary people that brought about the model of democratic government that would be duplicated the world over.

GOALS

1. **Primary Exhibition:** Together in partnership, JYF and VMHC will conceive, design, produce, and install a major exhibition of approximately 5,000 square feet to be on display at the VMHC from approximately March 2025 through January 2026, and then on display at JYF from approximately April 2026 through January 2027.
2. **Panel Exhibition:** Together in partnership, JYF and VMHC will conceive, design, and produce a traveling panel version of the aforementioned exhibition that will be deployed for display across the state (and beyond as desired) from approximately March 2025 through December 2027.
3. **Develop supporting tours, programs and/or educational materials** to ensure the exhibition is as accessible to as many Virginians as possible.

SPECIFICATIONS

As stated above, the exhibition will have at its core, the primary theme and its supporting pillars of concepts. These are:

1. Virginia is a powerfully historical place, home to sites and stories essential to our American story.
2. The Revolutionary challenge continues.
3. Here in Virginia, the American Revolution was a war, and more than a war.
4. We can tell our history to reflect the fullest American story.

ESTIMATED COSTS

*These estimated costs are for preliminary planning purposes only

1. Exhibit Budget:
 - a. Exhibit Direct Expenses (design, fabrication, loans, permissions & rights, travel, etc. (not including JYF & VMHC staff support) = \$1,400,000
 - b.. Exhibit Funding:
 1. Virginia 250th Commission Requested Support = \$900,000
 2. JYF contribution (via Exhibit rental from VMHC) = \$250,000
 3. VMHC contribution = \$250,000
 2. Panel Exhibit Budget:
 - i. Panel Exhibit Expenses (design, fabrication, travel, etc.) = \$100,000
 - ii. Panel Exhibit Funding:
 1. Virginia 250th Commission Requested Support = \$100,000
 3. Other Expenses Outside of MOA:
 - i. Marketing & promotion by JYF & VMHC = approximately \$250,000
 - ii. Programming by JYF & VMHC = approximately \$250,000
1. JYF & VMHC to fundraise to cover these additional costs as well as their contributions to the Exhibit Direct Expenses (approximately \$1,000,000 in total/\$500,000 for each institution).

MILESTONES

January 2023

Secure official vote and sponsorship of the VA250th Commission to support the effort at requested levels.

January 2023

Issue RFP for exhibition design partner and formalize working relationship between VMHC and JYF.

March 2023

Develop initial exhibition outline with preliminary list of possible events, people, artifacts, documents and images to be covered. Present to VA250th.

September 2023

VMHC and JYF each have secured at least \$125,000 of required funding from private sources to ensure planning and concepts for the exhibition.

October 2023

Exhibition conceptual renderings prepared

July 2024

All funds from VMHC and JYF have been secured from private sources.