

Fall 2023: VH-VA250 Grant Recommendations (Round 1)

Maximum award: \$10,000 - - Requires 1:1 match from recipient

Recommended for full funding

1. Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation

- **Program name:** *Expressions of Liberty*
- **VA250 Local Committee -** *Chesapeake*
- **Amount of award:** \$4,700.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$5,012.85
- **Number of partners:** 0

Description: Three retractable panels for use as an exhibit that will give voice to multicultural Revolutionary War era persons in Hampton Roads whose stories are often overlooked and who illustrate the social paradoxes and complexities of the definition of “Expressions of Freedom”. Special emphasis will be given to the Royal Ethiopian Regiment, as the Great Bridge battlefield has been listed in the National Park Service’s “Report to Congress on the historic preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States” (September 2007) and as a "Principal Site of Interest known to be associated with the participation of black soldiers or auxiliaries in Lord Dunmore’s Ethiopian Regiment”.

2. Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

- **Program name:** *Commemorating the 250th at Red Hill*
- **VA250 Local Committee –** *Charlotte County*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$15,103.98
- **Number of partners:** 3 – *Preservation Virginia, Robert Russa Moton Museum, Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown*

Description: Funds from the VA250 Commission will fund two distinct programs to serve the community and unite Patrick Henry’s Red Hill to the historical themes of VA250. The first project is the creation of three online exhibitions on a Google Arts and Culture platform using digital images of historic objects in the Red Hill collections.

Exhibition #1

- Title: *“Abolish this lamentable evil”*: Governor Patrick Henry’s efforts to end slavery
- Objects:
- 18th century flax hackle
- Patrick Henry’s silver caster set
- Patrick Henry’s silver saltcellars
- Historical images of the Governor’s Palace, Williamsburg
- *Official Letters of the Governors of Virginia*, 1926

Exhibition #2

- Title: *Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown*
- Objects:
- Painting of Scotchtown’s buildings
- 18th century tobacco planting peg
- Mutual assurance map of Scotchtown
- Historical images of Scotchtown

Exhibition #3

- Title: *Liberty, Death, or Slavery?*
- Objects:
- Patrick Henry’s paper cutter
- “Liberty or death” stamp, first issue, 1961
- Fragment of wood from St. John’s Church, Richmond, VA
- Program from a reenactment of Henry’s “Liberty or death” speech, 1936
- *The Orations of Demosthenes*, 1770

This project analyzes, interprets, and amplifies the life of Patrick Henry during the American Revolution through visual storytelling. From delivering his Stamp Act Resolves in 1765 to his “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech in 1775, Henry’s critical role in the Revolution is clear.

The second project is in-person programming in a special collaboration between Patrick Henry’s Red Hill and the Robert Russa Moton Museum. In partnership with the Moton Museum in Farmville, Red Hill will create and offer a public program that honors the many contributions that Virginia's Southside Black communities have made to the fight for citizenship and equity throughout the Commonwealth and the nation's history. Patrick Henry’s last home and burial site known as Red Hill is a 1000-acre historical site in Brookneal, VA. Henry was best known for his “Give me liberty or give me death” speech. Visitors to Red Hill can explore the complexities of the man who made this declaration and fought for freedom yet kept people enslaved to serve his family and the property.

3. Wilderness Road Regional Museum

- **Program name:** *Appalachian American Revolution: A Summer Experience for Southwest Virginian 4th and 5th Graders*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Wythe, Montgomery, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski, Giles*
- **Amount of award:** \$9,730.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$14,345.00
- **Number of partners:** 5 – *Wythe County VA250 Committee, Floyd Virginia Tourism, Giles County VA250 Committee, Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Regional Tourism, Pulaski County VA250 Committee*

Description: Planners will coordinate with cultural heritage sites across Southwest Virginia to build a single, place-based curriculum and artistic celebration for the region's 4th- and 5th-grade public and homeschooled students. This program would complement the goals of Virginia250 by (1) promoting visitation to historic sites, (2) promoting education about the ideals of the American Revolution and its contemporary relevance, and (3) commemorating the wide array of communities that define Virginia. Held in 2024, it will further emphasize 1774 anniversaries in the region occurring during the proposed grant period, including the Fincastle Resolutions and Dunmore's War. Through key themes reflecting the latest in Revolutionary War scholarship, our program follows diverse peoples in students' home region in the years preceding and following the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It will culminate in a region-wide art and poetry contest for 4th- and 5th-grade students and a rotating exhibit centering the themes from the program reflecting American history, their region, and in their own lives.

4. Northern Neck Tourism Commission

- **Program name:** *Northern Neck 250 Speaker Series 2024: The Power of Place* **VA250 Local Committees** – *Northern Neck Regional Committee*
- **Amount of award:** \$9,625.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$13,505.00
- **Number of partners:** 5 – *University of Mary Washington, Historic Christ Church, Rice's Hotel/Hughletts Tavern, Rappahannock Community College, George Washington Birthplace National Monument*

Description: With passage of a resolution from all five counties, the NNK250 Coalition is a regional effort, creating a Signature Speaker Series as one of several special events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Running February to June each year from 2024 through 2027, the Series will be held in a different Northern Neck county each month. Themes will vary by year and are aimed at connecting audiences with the Northern Neck's unique history, diverse people, and

compelling stories. Themes have been developed for all 4 years of the NNC250 commemoration to provide common points of inspiration for all NNC250 programming and activities:

- **2024:** Power of Place
- **2025:** We the People
- **2026:** American Experiment
- **2027:** Preservation & Commemoration

The 2024 theme is Power of Place: The Northern Neck is a powerfully historic place, home to sites and stories essential to our American story. The 250th commemoration is an opportunity to reexamine our ideas about these sites and stories in the context of both the natural and built environment.

5. Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation

- **Program name:** *Prince William County and the American Revolution exhibit design VA250 Local Committees – Prince William County*
- **Amount of award:** \$4,950.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$4,950.00
- **Number of partners:** 3 – *Prince William County Historical Commission, Historic Dumfries Virginia, Col. William Grayson Chapter of the Virginia Society*

Description: Williams Ordinary is in historic Dumfries, Virginia along the trace of historic King's Highway, now known as Route 1. Originally thought to be constructed in the 1760s, historians now know that the building was constructed circa 1785. A large commercial building, it served as an ordinary tavern, which was a combination of a hotel and restaurant. To entice travelers to stop and to showcase the owner's wealth, the front of the building is made just of the short end of bricks. Known as an all-header façade, it is one of only a handful of examples in North America. The building is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.

In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, PWC has determined that the permanent exhibit will be about the County's Revolutionary War experience. In the past year PWC has created the Revolutionary War History Trail that connects visitors with the famed campaigns and lesser-known sites of the Revolutionary War by exploring 12 sites within the Prince William & Manassas area. Currently there is no one site that interprets the entire Revolutionary War experience within the county. The Williams Ordinary exhibit is designed to remedy this. New local land uses and developments in the immediate Dumfries area are projected to increase visitation to the area. This reason, combined with Dumfries' historic role as political center in colonial Prince William County, makes the permanent exhibit at Williams Ordinary a natural fit.

PWC has worked with Quatrefoil, an exhibit design firm based in Maryland, to provide an estimate of designing a permanent exhibit in the approximate 300 square foot gallery space. The design includes up to ten graphic panels, one artifact label, dimensional elevations, graphic production schedule and specification, one design review/approval step, and a final graphic design and reader proofs.

6. Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum

- **Program name:** *"General Cleveland" and the 1775 Loudoun Tenant Revolt*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Loudoun County*
- **Amount of award:** \$3,950.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$4,000.00
- **Number of partners:** 1 – *Loudoun County Historic Records Division*

Description: The Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum and Loudoun County Historic Records Division will use the funds to present an exhibition about the lives of Loudoun's revolutionary tenant farmers. The exhibition will feature 18th century farming tools and equipment, and government records related to the 1775 Loudoun tenant revolt. Visitors will learn about the often-difficult life of poor farmers in the 18th century and how they fit into the narrative of the Revolution. Though not enslaved, they found themselves living uncomfortable between freedom and servitude. The ideals of the Revolution shed light on this paradox and led the farmers to assert collective power against the perceived economic tyranny of Virginia's wealthy elites.

The installation will reuse a semi-permanent 12'x12' exhibition structure, so the cost of this project consists primarily of mounting and displaying artifacts and historic documents, and printing and mounting text panels to the exhibit structure. Further costs support printing the exhibit text on scrolling panels that can travel throughout the county free of charge.

7. Towne of Wytheville Department of Museums

- **Program name:** *The Revolutionary Roots of Southwest Virginia*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Pulaski County*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$10,000.00
- **Number of partners:** 1 – *Wythe County Historical Society*

Description:

An exhibit to present the ways in which this region played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. The Fincastle Resolution of 1775 echoed the same sentiment as the declaration of Independence; both striving for political liberties. Local leaders such as William Campbell and Walter Crockett and their Virginian Overmountain men defeated British officer Patrick Ferguson and his Tory forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. This exhibit will focus on the events that took place locally and the locals whose actions had an impact globally.

- Educational programs
 - In service programs at the schools and on-site field trips to the homestead museum site focusing on students in Wythe, Pulaski, and Smyth counties.
- Events
 - Reenactment of the Fincastle Resolution
 - Revolutionary war, Overmountain men reenacting camp life as part of our educational programs for students and the public.

8. George Mason University

- **Program name:** *Worlds Turned Upside Down Podcast*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Fairfax County*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$10,000.00
- **Number of partners:** 0

Description:

Funding will assist in production of seasons one and two of *Worlds Turned Upside Down*, a narrative documentary podcast series about the history of the American Revolution. Hosted and written by Dr. Jim Ambuske, the series draws on contributions from an international cast of leading experts to explore the conflict through the lives of British Americans, Indigenous nations, enslaved Africans and African Americans, Europeans, and other peoples who experienced it as a transatlantic crisis and imperial civil war. We know the story of the Thirteen Colonies; now it is time for audiences to learn the rest.

As we prepare to observe the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, the podcast *Worlds Turned Upside Down* strives to meet the public's demand for histories of the American Revolution while challenging their assumptions about it. The Revolution may have given birth to a new nation, but for the people who lived through it, the revolutionary era upended their lives in ways they could never have imagined. The series forgets that we know how the story ends and explores contingent moments to show how the crisis that engulfed the Atlantic world in the late eighteenth century inspired people to question their loyalties, challenge authority, seek freedom, and resist revolutionary change.

9. The Virginia Quilt Museum

- **Program name:** *Stitching Together History: 250 Quilts Commemorating the Commonwealth of Virginia*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Harrisonburg*
- **Amount of award:** \$9,948.85
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$21,202.00
- **Number of partners:** 0

Description: *Stitching Together History: 250 Quilts Commemorating the Commonwealth of Virginia.* The final outputs of this project will be an exhibition and book, both in 2026, featuring 250 quilts that tell the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia through four themes. Quilts will be based around adaptations of four of the themes put forth by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for the 250th to create a cohesive and inclusive project. Those four themes are: Unfinished Revolutions, We the People, Power of Place, and Virginia Experiments. Quilters from across the United States will be invited to submit an entry to the project, quilts will be selected by an advisory committee based on both content and technical skill level. Along with the exhibition and book, VQM will offer programming around both the creation of the quilts and the exhibition starting in the fall of 2023 and lasting through 2026. Programming will be both virtual and in person across the state. Additionally, this project will include an artist-in-residence during the run of the exhibition to create a final quilt encapsulating all four themes to act as a capstone for the project.

The significance of this project comes from asking the public to think critically about the history of Virginia, how it relates to the themes of the project, and to create art that represents a part of that history. Together the 250 quilts selected for the exhibition and book will tell an inclusive story of the Commonwealth of Virginia that reflects how the challenges of the American Revolution and the promises of the Declaration of Independence have influenced Virginia throughout history.

10. Youth Virginia Regiment

- **Program name:** *Lafayette 2024: Return to Portsmouth*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Portsmouth*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$12,100.00
- **Number of partners:** 5, *American Friends of Lafayette, Fort Nelson DAR, Portsmouth Masonic Lodges, Elizabeth River Garden Club, History Alive*

Description: The event is a weeklong celebration of all that Lafayette meant to America and to its revolutionary idea of Freedom for All. The Portsmouth VA250 committee serves a predominately African American population. Lafayette, and in

particular his relationship with James Fayette, could serve a pivotal role in getting ALL our citizens excited about VA250 and its goal of using our nation's 250th anniversary to celebrate A Revolution of Ideas. *Lafayette 2024: Return to Portsmouth* programs and events planned for Oct. 19-25, 2024, seek to educate our citizenry and especially the emerging generation about the Revolutionary War, with the stories of enslaved and free blacks intact, as well as the contributions of other groups often underrepresented in the telling of our shared history.

A WEEK OF PROGRAMMING: *Lafayette Day* on Oct. 19, will include Lafayette-themed programs and activities at the library, museums, and Olde Towne Portsmouth Farmers Market. Museum programming will continue throughout the week. On Oct. 22, our city will celebrate Lafayette's arrival in Norfolk with Bonfires on the Bay, a re-creation of the 42 bonfires Portsmouth lit to welcome "The Nation's Guest". *Lafayette Day on Oct. 19* will include Lafayette-themed programs and activities at the library, museums, and Olde Towne Portsmouth Farmers Market. Museum programming will continue throughout the week. On Oct. 22, our city will celebrate Lafayette's arrival to Norfolk with Bonfires on the Bay, a re-creation of the 42 bonfires Portsmouth lit to welcome "The Nation's Guest". Programming will also include a week in school classrooms and a week of hands-on learning through living history. The event will culminate with a reenactment of Lafayette's arrival in Portsmouth. VA250 funds are requested to produce period uniforms.

11. Saint John's Church Foundation

- **Program name:** *Liberty or Death Reenactment*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Richmond*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$22,500.00
- **Number of partners:** 1, *Virginia American Revolution 250th Commission*

Description: Nine professional actors in 1700's costumes bring to life the debates that occurred at Historic St. John's Church on March 23, 1775, culminating in Patrick Henry's immortal "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech. Patrick Henry's words of liberty or death became a rallying cry, and they are invoked around the world even today.

The 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's speech will occur on March 23, 2025. The nation's eyes will be on St. John's when our organization delivers a series of reenactments commemorating the anniversary.

Funding for this request will be used to outfit our cast with new costumes, including wigs and shoes. Many of our actors' costumes are more than 15 years old. Funds would ensure that our cast not only has new costumes for the 250th anniversary but following the big day as we continue to attract new audiences who want to learn about the important historic events that happened at Historic St. John's Church, the oldest church in the City of Richmond and a National Historic Landmark.

12. The French and Indian War Foundation

- **Program name:** *From Surveyor to Patriot: The Story of George Washington & Fort Loudoun*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – Winchester
- **Amount of award:** \$8,448.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$9,404.00
- **Number of partners:** 2, *Clarke County Historical Association, Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society*

Description: Because Washington spent so much time in Winchester early in his career, historians over the years have researched his experiences and written books to share the history. We have some research available on the FIWF website; Mount Vernon has some research on their website; and the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society has some on theirs, too, since they manage the George Washington's Office Museum

However, none of this research is centralized in an online location for audiences to read, explore, and understand. Because of this deficiency, the only people who are finding and using this research are largely historians and other researchers. This project wants to change this limited access by combining existing research along with historical documents and images and building an online exhibit that shares this small but mighty story with the general public.

The increasing popularity of the digital humanities field has underscored the need for an online exhibit that shares the story of George Washington in Winchester, the construction of Fort Loudoun, the French & Indian War in the Shenandoah Valley, and how all these things tied into the American Revolution. It is a quintessential story of cause and effect and teaches the importance of understanding the greater historical context. The American Revolution was not a single event, and there was not just one thing that motivated the colonists to fight. History is complicated, but by using digital tools, we are able to make history a little less complicated by breaking down events and weaving in primary sources that allow for end users to interact and engage with a story. The online exhibit will share the stories from the soldiers and prisoners so that audiences can connect with the fort's link to the Revolutionary War personally.

13. Fairfield Foundation

- **Program name:** *George Washington Drank Here: A Revolutionary Tavern in King William County*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – King William
- **Amount of award:** \$5,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$5,000.00
- **Number of partners:** 4, *King William County VA250 Committee, King William County Historical Society, Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, King William County Historic and Architectural Review Board*

Description: Funds are requested to research and report on the dynamic and diverse Revolutionary War-era artifact assemblage associated with Quarles' Tavern at King William County Courthouse. The tavern served as a way station for travelers commuting to and from Williamsburg, including George Washington, while also operating as the county's de facto meeting place for every sector of King William society. Content will be used to enhance interpretation and visitor materials at the King William County Museum for the nation's anniversary and will be available for anticipated interpretive signage, presentations to community groups, and web-based exhibits supported by the King William County Historical Society and King William County.

14. Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center

- **Program name:** *Lafayette's World: Revolutionary Ideals and the Limits of Freedom*
- **VA250 Local Committees** – *Fredericksburg*
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000.00
- **Amount of match from recipient:** \$41,300.00
- **Number of partners:** 5, *Germanna Community College, University of Mary Washington, James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, Fredericksburg Lafayette Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Central Rappahannock Heritage Center*

Description: To launch the city of Fredericksburg's larger commemoration of the 250 years since the official founding of the United States of America, the Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM) will offer *Lafayette's World: Revolutionary Ideals and the Limits of Freedom*. Conceived to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's Grand Tour of the United States, FAM will present *Lafayette's World* on the third floor in historic Council Chambers. The exhibit will commemorate Lafayette's visit to Fredericksburg in November 1824, utilizing the famed Frenchmen to expand on larger themes of revolution, slavery, and abolition. Visitors will leave the exhibition with some understanding of Lafayette's role in the Revolutionary War, diverse participation in the war effort, Lafayette's Grand Tour of the US, including his visit to Fredericksburg, and those left out of early conceptions of American democracy. FAM humbly requests \$10,000 from Virginia Humanities VA 250th to fund the exhibit design, branding, and graphic design of the physical and digital exhibits.

Funding Summary

Grant Cycle	Local Committee Recipients	Award Amount	Matching Funds
Round 1: Fall 2023 (13 recipients)	Chesapeake, Charlotte, Wythe, Floyd/Giles/Montgomery/Pulaski, Northern Neck regional, Prince William, Loudoun, Pulaski, Fairfax County, Harrisonburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Winchester, King William, Fredericksburg	\$ 116,351	\$142,522.83
	CUMULATIVE GRANT FUNDING	\$ 116,351	\$ 142,522.83
	Remaining balance after awards	\$ 0	