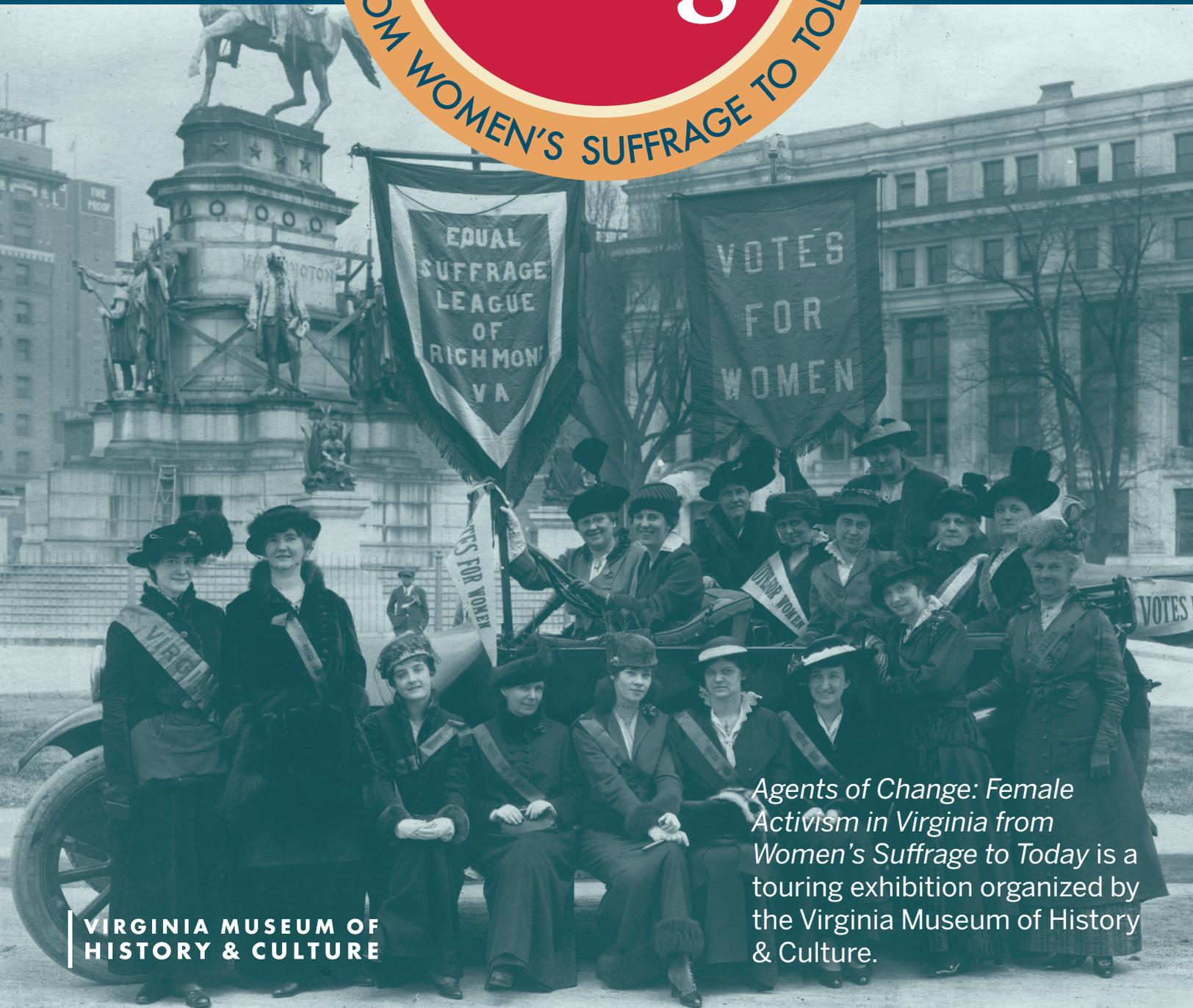


FEMALE ACTIVISM IN VIRGINIA

Agents OF Change

FROM WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TO TODAY



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE

Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today is a touring exhibition organized by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

Breaking Barriers in Wartime



Nancy Bailey Cogsdale

Nancy Bailey (later Cogsdale, 1922–2020) was among the more than 34,000 women who served in the naval reserve unit known as the WAVES, for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. Stationed in Norfolk, she worked as a coding and communications watch officer, encrypting and deciphering top-secret messages.

The contributions of the WAVES and their sisters in other service branches during World War II led President Harry Truman to integrate women into the armed forces in 1948.



WAVES uniform of Nancy Bailey (later Cogsdale), 1945

The uniform was designed by the U.S. Navy and was worn by WAVES members in various capacities. It featured a dark blue color with gold buttons and a name tag. The uniform was a symbol of the WAVES' role in the military during World War II.

WAVES recruiting poster (1945)

Recruited by the U.S. Navy, WAVES members served in various capacities, including as communications officers, clerks, and typists. They were trained in a variety of skills and were instrumental in the war effort.

VMI Class of 2001: Breaking into the Male Bastion

The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was the last public military school to admit women, and it did so only after a bitter legal battle.

The first female cadets entered in 1997 and what was described as "a lot of resentment toward women." But they endured and prevailed. **Kate Clanchy** (now Polyzoidis) of Round Hill, for example, was appointed battalion commander, making her the third highest ranking cadet in the corps.




To commemorate the centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, *Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today*, uses text and imagery to recognize a century of women's social and political activism in the Commonwealth.

The exhibition highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female change-makers, including suffragists, office holders, community organizers, educators, and social reformers.

Using a range of strategies and working for a diverse array of causes, these women brought about positive change in their communities, the Commonwealth, and the nation.

They also created new models of female empowerment and new opportunities for women—ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equal society.



Key Facts

RENTAL FEE

\$100

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

**600
SQUARE FEET**
for comfortable
viewing on all sides

FORMAT

Eight (8)
double-sided
pull-up banner units

TRANSPORTATION

The exhibitor is
responsible for
transportation costs.

The VMHC will coordinate
all transportation logistics.

SUPPORT MATERIALS

Site support
notebook, press
release with link to
publicity images

IDEAL VENUES

Libraries, schools,
community centers,
museums

AVAILABILITY

Six-week loan period,
inclusive of shipping.

SHIPPING INFO

Each banner stand
comes with a padded
carry bag.

Total: One (1) Case
39"L x 12"H x 6"D
Weight: 15 lbs

CONTACT

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Banner stand #1



Banner stand #2



Banner stand #3



Banner stand #4



Banner stand #5



Banner stand #6



Banner stand #7



Banner stand #8



This exhibition is organized by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture and is a signature project of the

Commonwealth of Virginia's Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration

Agents of Change is also made possible by
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Mr. and Mrs. G. Gilmer Minor III

