

Media Alert
June 17, 2020

Emily Lucier, Manager of PR & Marketing
elucier@VirginiaHistory.org, 804.342.9665

**Virginia Museum of History & Culture To Welcome Visitors Back to the Museum
*Guests to Enjoy New and Safe Museum Experience***

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) is excited to announce it is reopening its galleries to the public on July 1. Prior to that, from June 27 to June 30, it will open for members.

“We are thrilled to welcome guests back to their state history museum – in a new and safe way,” said VMHC President and CEO Jamie Bosket. “We have established a series of new protocols, which are informed by health officials and thoughtfully aligned with our neighboring museums. We’ve also made a number of changes to the museum experience – all designed to provide safe and responsible public access.”

All guests will be asked to pre-register for admission to the museum online at VirginiaHistory.org/tickets. Transactions will be credit card only to allow for contactless payment, and tickets will be offered at a discounted rate. Overall access to the museum will be limited and guest arrival and exit counts will be tracked to avoid inappropriate crowding.

Upon arrival, a new guest tour map will be provided directing guests along a single, one-way route through the museum. The new path will ensure guests have access to all galleries, including two brand new exhibitions, *Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women’s Suffrage to Today* and *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*. Newly installed floor decals throughout the designated tour route will also serve as reminders to adhere to physical distancing while on tour.

As directed by Governor Ralph Northam, all guests and staff will be required to wear a face covering/mask when inside the museum.

VMHC will continue its enhanced cleaning practices for all areas of the museum, especially heavily trafficked areas. Touch-free hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout the museum.

The VMHC Library will be open to researchers by appointment only beginning July 1. Special procedures will be in place to reduce physical contact with archival materials.

There will be limited access to the onsite gift shop, and guests are encouraged to purchase gift items online. Onsite, a sample display of select retail items will be viewable from behind stanchions in the lobby. Guest Services staff will retrieve and handle items for purchase. Contactless payments by credit or debit cards will be required.

These procedures will be continually reviewed based upon evolving guidance from the state. Museum staff members look forward to being able to welcome guests back in person after perhaps the longest closure in the organization’s nearly two-century history, but also remain dedicated producing the best-in-class distance learning opportunities through its VirginiaHistory.org/AtHome portal.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society — a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit VirginiaHistory.org, or connect on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

###