Top Five Accomplishments

1. Building relationships within the Latino community
Through a growing partnership with Sacred Heart Center and the Jackson Foundation, we offered two bus tours in Spanish to our Latino friends and neighbors and began a collecting effort in preparation for the upcoming 2017 exhibition Nuestras Historias: Latinos in Richmond.

2. Creating a curated music series
It was a small and simple idea for the Valentine to feature local musicians along with delicious food and local beer in our garden. With funding from the Carpenter Foundation and Richmond CultureWorks, Music in the Garden was born and celebrated a huge success in its inaugural year.

3. Curating our Lower Level Gallery
The Lower Level walkway hosted two compelling exhibitions: Edith Shelton’s Richmond presented by Universal Leaf Foundation and Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service presented by Dominion.

4. Welcoming the 2015 UCI Road World Championships
As the host city of the 2015 UCI Road World Championships, we thought it was the perfect time to highlight Richmond’s long history of bicycling as a mode of travel and leisure. In Gear: Richmond Cycles opened in August just before the Championships in September. Photo: Darl Bickel/Times-Dispatch

5. Installing a new floorcloth
Curator David Voelkel partnered with decorative arts painter Nancy E. Beck to create a replica floorcloth for the 1812 Wickham House. The floorcloth gets us one step closer to completing our new interpretive plan of the historic home. The new floorcloth was generously supported by the Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation, Mrs. June H. Guthrie and Mrs. Rita Smith.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016
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IMAGES
Front Cover (Clockwise from top): This is Richmond, Virginia, Darl Bickel/Times-Dispatch; Paula Buckley, U.S. Marine Corps 1981-2001, Mark Mitchell; Fulton Hill, Richmond City, June 2014, Alyssa C. Salomon; 1812 Wickham House, Darl Bickel/Times-Dispatch
From the Director and Chairman

It seems that everywhere we look there is both excitement and apprehension around the direction of our city and our nation – from political elections to changing urban growth and development patterns to renewed conversations about race and equality to continuing transportation and housing challenges.

As we know, these are not new situations or feelings. In the Valentine's own 118-year history, we have seen a lot. In changing times, it is essential to have places like the Valentine to engage, educate and challenge us to take a fresh look at our past and find the threads that have held us together and inspired us.

Our vision is to be the “source for experiencing Richmond's history – using it to inform the present, and to shape the future.” Because of your support, the Valentine provides the strong community voice that reminds us of the fundamental values and principles that (in spite of the serious bumps along the way) ultimately guide our decisions.

Over the past year, our mission has been clearly reflected in the programming, exhibitions and collections that we've developed in our recently renovated spaces.

There's a proverb – “There is nothing new under the sun” – which reminds us that everything has some tie to the past. The stories we preserve at the Valentine confirm this adage, but also assure us that, even in the most difficult and confusing times, in this history we can find the foundations on which to build.

Best,

William J. Martin, Director
Charles N. Whitaker, Chairman of the Board

Our Mission | Our Vision | Our Guiding Principles

Our Mission
The mission of the Valentine is to engage, educate, and challenge a diverse audience by collecting, preserving, and interpreting Richmond’s history.

Our Vision
The vision of the Valentine is to be recognized as the premier source for experiencing Richmond’s history – using its past to inform the present, and to shape the future.

Our Guiding Principles
The principles that will guide the decisions of the organization include:

- Exceeding accreditation standards.
- Acting in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Being inclusive.
- Being proactive, outreaching and customer-focused.
- Acting as a good community partner.
- Being creative and embracing an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Being ethical.
- Being accountable – measuring outcomes and impacts.
- Being good stewards of entrusted resources including the organization, funds and collections.
Richmond History Makers
The Valentine has been celebrating local stars for more than a decade. Each year, we recognize and honor individuals and organizations that are improving quality of life in the greater Richmond region. In partnership with Leadership Metro Richmond and other corporate sponsors, Richmond History Makers pays tribute to everyday citizens and outstanding organizations that make significant contributions to our lives.

At our 11th Annual Richmond History Makers, we honored:

- GRASP - Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.
  Creating Quality Educational Opportunities
- WRIR-LP 97.3 FM
  Demonstrating Innovative Solutions
- The Greater Richmond Age Wave
  Encouraging Regional Collaboration
- Ana Edwards, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project
  Improving Social Justice
- Darcy S. Oman, President Emerita, The Community Foundation
  Promoting Stronger Communities

(From left to right) Back Row: Darcy S. Oman, Jesse Q. Oremland, Paula Buckley, Elizabeth E. Heggie Front Row: Carol Olson, Ana Edwards, E. Ayn Welleford, MSG, PhD, AGHEF, Thelma Bland Watson, Ph.D. Photo: Darl Bickel/Times-Dispatch
The Sound of Music
On Thursdays in June, the traditional sounds of jazz, classical and gospel – along with the newer sounds of kroncong (traditional string-band music of Indonesia) and a wild one-man band – floated through the Valentine’s historic garden. Music in the Garden, a free concert series, paired performances by individuals and ensembles to bring diverse audiences together at one venue. Each concert featured local food vendors and a brewery, so the party was complete!

Open Houses: 29th Annual Court End Christmas & Time Travelers Passport Weekend
In an annual December tradition nearly three decades old, the Valentine and the 1812 Wickham House joined ten historic downtown sites to host free holiday open houses, guided tours, children’s activities, carriage rides, musical performances and special guest appearances. However, the holidays weren’t the only time the Valentine opened its doors for an admission-free weekend. In March and September, tourists and locals alike were invited to discover the area’s treasures, spanning 400 years of history and including the homes of John Marshall, Jefferson Davis, Major James Dooley and our own John Wickham, among others. Visitors who presented a Time Travelers Passport were offered complimentary admission to Agecroft Hall, The Branch House, Poe Museum, the Valentine and many others.

What people are saying...
“A 19th Century Lookback: I’ve lived in Richmond for about 20 years, but this is the first time we visited this landmark. If you love history, then this will be a good one to visit and share with friends. The Wickham House’s architecture itself is worth seeing as it is close to one of a kind ... many items [in the exhibitions] will bring back great memories for anyone familiar or who had grown up in the area.”
– TripAdvisor review, 2016
Today’s Valentine is a place to spark conversation and to absorb new perspectives while learning how our city has evolved. At the heart of this engagement is our collection and exhibitions. We take inspiration from what’s affecting and influencing Richmond today to seek out ways to document and to explore topics ranging from families to identity to the changing urban landscape. As we continue to build our collection, we are building relationships with Richmond’s communities to ensure that everyone is reflected within the Valentine’s holdings.

**In Gear: Richmond Cycles**
While the 2015 UCI Road World Championships catapulted everyone’s passion for bicycling to a new high, *In Gear: Richmond Cycles*, showed just how much of a cycling town Richmond has always been. On view in the Stettinius Galleries, *In Gear* included photographs, advertising art, bicycles (including a late-19th century “penny farthing” bike), cycling outfits and interactive features. To connect Richmond’s cycling past with its future, the exhibition featured interviews with contemporary Richmonders from many diverse neighborhoods, who shared their cycling stories in a special media wall projection.

**Edith Shelton’s Richmond**
In keeping with the Valentine’s vision to explore the topics of change and transition in our region’s history, we brought a hidden gem to the gallery walls. *Edith Shelton’s Richmond* featured street photographs from the 1940s to the 1970s capturing everyday moments, people, houses and city life in Richmond’s neighborhoods, many of which would be unrecognizable today due to road construction and redevelopment. For decades, Edith Shelton wandered around neighborhoods in transition – Jackson Ward, Carver, Shockoe Valley – armed with her camera. Her collection was donated to the Valentine in 1991.

**A Chicken in Every Plot**
Jan. 28 – Sept. 5, 2016
As the backyard chicken movement continues to grow in Richmond (mirroring the national trend), photographer Alyssa C. Salomon explored how residents are coexisting with their chickens. *A Chicken in Every Plot* captured that relationship in the Stettinius Community Galleries with 40 of Salomon’s photographs, plus additional objects from the Valentine’s collection. The photographs illustrated the variety of modern approaches to tending urban chickens – including coops in Woodland Heights, Fulton, the Far West End and even the Executive Mansion.

Top Left: In Gear: Richmond Cycles, Photo: Darl Bickel/Times-Dispatch
Top Center: Arch and 2nd Streets, Gamble’s Hill, May 1956, Edith K. Shelton Collection, V.91.42.23
Top Right: Henrico County, April 2014, Alyssa C. Salomon

“Today, I say good-bye to a close friend preparing for a year deployment to Afghanistan. This moment reminded me of our visit to [The Valentine’s] exhibition Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service. This exhibition featured photos of local veterans holding photos of their younger selves prior to their own deployment. Although I don’t know any of the featured men or women, I could relate to each of their stories.”
— Instagram post, 2016
The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion
May 6, 2016 – Jan. 29, 2017
The second annual exhibition in the Nathalie L. Klaus and Reynolds Family Galleries illuminated a number of complicated – and competing – stereotypes about Southern masculinity. Throughout history, Virginians, and Virginia itself, have balanced opposing perceptions of northern and southern, industrial and pastoral, cosmopolitan and provincial. And as shown through this collection of menswear, the character of the Virginia man is an equally complex one.

The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion showcased a variety of costumes and textiles centered on three masculine ideals. Featuring a punk rock leather jacket, Robert E. Lee’s boots, dressing robes, smoking hats, basketball jerseys, hunting attire, work attire, bespoke suits from historic moments in time and a surprise ending of a drag queen’s ensemble, The Virginia Man demonstrates that we all take no ce of what men are wearing.

Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service
May 12 – Nov. 20, 2016
Images and text were paired to share military veterans’ perspectives in the Valentine’s collaborative project with Richmond photographer Mark Mitchell. A Navy veteran, Mitchell photographed veterans who served from WWII through today and explored how their military service shaped their lives and values, as well as the successes and struggles of re-acclimating to life back home.

Acquisitions: What’s New?
In October 2015, with the addition of a replica floorcloth, the Valentine moved one step closer to recreating the Wickham house that would be recognizable to original homeowners John and Elizabeth Wickham. Original floorcloths are a rare find, as they are most always worn out. So, an existing small remnant of the Wickham floorcloth was especially valuable and provided the basis for recreating the floor covering’s “tumbling block pattern.” Local artist Nancy E. Beck was able to determine the floorcloth’s original colors, pattern and finish from the fragment. Then, she set out to prepare and paint the canvas to give the effect of oak-grained wooden blocks. On October 5, the replica floorcloth was installed in the Anteroom and Hall.

Other notable acquisitions include the massive, wooden sporting gun that hung outside the Watkins-Cottrell Company store on 14th Street; an 1880s child’s mourning dress; a photographs of actor Warren Beatty on a swing as a child in his Northside neighborhood; and an 1940s fundraising flyer from the National Association of Ministers’ Wives.

“The exhibition on men’s clothing in Virginia was outstanding and worth the admission cost itself. Where else will you get to see a vintage leisure suit, tailored by Franco Ambrogi, no less? Pieces reflect a worthy cross-section of Richmond clothing businesses over the years.”
— Facebook review, 2016

What people are saying...
The Valentine has long believed that some of the best learning experiences happen through talking, listening, playing, interacting, engaging and walking, so we’ve designed our public education programs to reach students (young and not-as-young!) in those ways. In recent years, we’ve demonstrated that commitment through our building renovations, new program development and special offerings. We’ve also shown agility in how we respond to needs, grow what’s working, and adapt what isn’t yielding results. And each year as we do this, our public programs become stronger.

**The Sixth Annual Community Conversations**

The Valentine steered the community’s focus to the topic of sustainability in this year’s Community Conversations. By engaging Richmonders in a dialogue about the past, Community Conversations aims to shed light on how that past can positively shape our collective future. ReRVA: Revitalizing, Recycling and Reimagining Richmond pulled from our current exhibitions and got people talking about how we can grow and thrive with discussions about transportation, housing, historic preservation, urban farming, recycling and public spaces.

**Adult Programs**

In addition to an array of PreK-12 student programs, the Valentine also offered programs and curator-led tours for adults:

- **2,149** adults participated in interactive history adult outreach programs.
- **354** people attended lectures with curators.
- **538** people toured the 1812 Wickham House as part of a special group.

The Valentine developed two new adult programs this year after listening to feedback: Congregating Faith and Form and Function: RVA Architecture.

**School Programs**

More than 14,000 students participated in our school and summer programs, which are designed to support the State of Virginia’s Standards of Learning for History and Social Science, English and Visual Arts. The Valentine strives to make learning fun and to link to what kids are learning – or will learn – in the classroom. We’re especially proud when a teacher confirms that “allowing the children to look at other artifacts enhances their experience and comprehension of the past. Many, many thanks for relating so well to the students and allowing us to walk through the museum and garden!”

Specifically, this translates to:

- **9** Number of onsite and outreach elementary programs that were available to schools and day care centers in the greater Richmond area. Programs included: A Colonial Community, African Americans in Antebellum Richmond, Children in the House: Growing Up in the 1800s, Civil War Spies, Fall Line City History, Greek by Design, Hear Ye Richmond!, Powhatan Indians and Whose Hat is That? The Public Programs department offered free or reduced programs to all Richmond Public Schools and at-risk elementary schools/PreK centers thanks to instructional grants from Target, VCU Medical College, and The Community Foundation.
- **3,110** Number of participants in student-based tours.

Students from Richmond Public Schools create a craft as part of the Our Changing Community program.
Richmond History Tours
Whether by bike, foot, bus or with your canine companion, there’s a way to explore and learn about Richmond! Nearly 7,500 people participated in our popular Richmond History Tours. The classic tours (Highlights of Hollywood Cemetery Walking Tour, Along the James Bicycle Tour, City Center Walks and Original Richmond Walking Tours) were offered daily, and History Hounds explored Church Hill, Hollywood Cemetery, Bryan Park and Forest Hill.

Volunteers & Interns
The Valentine is indebted to our 36 volunteers who gave nearly 1,500 hours of service this year. We could not operate and offer the programs we do without the dedication of our volunteers. As part of our volunteer program, we sponsored a fall bus trip to visit four sites and various neighborhoods in historic Petersburg and hosted a spring appreciation event at Virginia House.

The Valentine is also thankful for another group of people: our impressive college interns. This year, 20 interns from schools far (Loyola University of Chicago, University of Missouri) and near (Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond) served approximately 2,500 hours working on a variety of projects, including event planning, exhibition research and collection cataloging.

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Financial Notes

FY 2016 Revenue $2,652,335
- General Contributions & Grants $1,806,256
- Investments $256,354
- Miscellaneous & Gift Shop $382,782
- Admissions & Rentals $206,943

FY 2016 Expenses $2,764,521
- Programs & Services $2,003,602
- Fundraising $262,016
- Management & General $498,903

Revenue
- General Contributions & Grants 68%
- Investments 14%
- Miscellaneous & Gift Shop 10%
- Admissions & Rentals 8%

Expenses
- Programs & Services 72%
- Fundraising 10%
- Management & General 18%

The financial statements were audited by the accounting firm of Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary & Sheaves, PC. To receive a copy of the audited financial statements, please contact the Finance Office at (804) 649-0711 ext. 316.

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