Visiting the Valentine

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE MUSEUM
I am going to The Valentine! When I arrive at the museum, I can choose which entrance to use.

The Clay Street entrance has a brick sidewalk and 9 steps that lead to the front door of the museum. I can hold onto the rail as I walk up the steps.

Another entrance is at the back of the building, closest to the parking lot. At this entrance, I can use steps or a ramp. I can also see some neon signs hanging outside the museum!
When I enter the museum, I will walk into the lobby and museum store. I will see shelves and tables full of things like books. I will also see someone sitting at the Visitor Services desk.

My family will purchase admission tickets at the Visitor Services desk. We can ask for a map of the museum, and we can sign up for a guided tour of the Wickham House.
In the galleries I will see many different objects like photographs, maps, paintings, clothing, and furniture. Some objects will be inside glass cases. All of the objects can tell us about Richmond's history.

Some objects will be in drawers that I can open to see what's inside. With my mind I can make up a story about what I see. It’s fun!
IN THE GALLERIES

This is how I will look at the objects:
• I will walk up to the object and stop two steps away from it.
• If I am too close, I may hear a beep, and I will take a step backwards from the object.
• I will use my eyes, but not my hands, to look at the objects.
GETTING AROUND THE MUSEUM

The museum has two levels of galleries (a first floor and ground floor), and I may move between them using an elevator or the stairs.

I can find restrooms and a water fountain on the ground floor hallway by the elevator.
My family and I can also tour the Wickham House. This is the historic home that is part of the museum. A Tour Guide will tell us stories about the people who lived in the house and I can ask questions.

Some of the rooms are dimly lit. I will see many old objects like furniture, a piano and paintings.
THE VALENTINE CELLAR

On the lower level of the museum, I can visit the Wickham House Cellar. There are trucks that I can explore, full of objects that can tell us about life in the past like candles and fabric. I can touch everything in this space.

I can also watch a 10 minute film about enslaved people who lived in Richmond many years ago. There are benches if I would like to sit.
Behind the Wickham House, I can explore the garden. The garden has a fountain and benches where I can take a break. I can enter the garden using a set of stairs from the gallery or a walkway from the parking lot.

The museum is near a hospital, so while we are in the garden, I might hear an ambulance siren driving by.

I can also visit a small building in the garden called the Edward Valentine Sculpture Studio. There are many sculptures behind glass that I can look at with my eyes.
I might need a break from walking around. If I need a break, my family and I can rest in the seating area in the museum store where we entered. The garden or the cellar are quiet places too. I can go back to the galleries when I am ready.
The Valentine museum is a place to have fun while learning. The staff member at the Visitor Services desk can help me find a children's gallery guide to look for stories in the galleries.

During my visit I can also look for Wicky, the museum's friend, a smart Rodent Historian. A toy Wicky is hidden in the galleries for me to see!
Questions about visiting the Valentine?
Call 804-649-0711 xt 301 or email info@thevalentine.org.