



The Valentine Collection Philosophy

As the Valentine begins to consider a re-assessment of its existing collection, expected growth and available resources, the following factors, which reflect both current conditions and future aspirations, must be considered:

The Valentine's Mission

To engage, educate and challenge a diverse audience by collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond's history.

Connection to Community

- Institutional and accessibility biases have resulted in over-documentation of certain historic periods and community narratives in the existing collection.
- Gaps currently exist in the collection that prevent the museum from fully reflecting the region's history.
- The Valentine's collection must relate exclusively to the history of the Richmond region, defined as Richmond, Ashland, Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan.¹
- The Valentine is transparent in its collecting processes and communications. The museum respects the historic public trust demonstrated through past collecting decisions and honors that trust in its processes and communications.

Sustainability

- The Valentine must be able to fund the fixed costs associated with operating a new storage/research facility and/or the costs of updating current facility as systems degrade over time.
- The museum must have sufficient long-term resources for curatorial and collection staff and to manage and care for the collection.
- The storage conditions are designed to both preserve objects against the normal passage of time and to protect them in case of disaster.
- The collection storage facility is environmentally sustainable and efficient.
- There are existing object types that require storage conditions beyond the museum's resources.
- Storage design must provide safe access that protects both objects and people.

Connection to Museums

- The Valentine is committed to being a leader in fostering conversations with regional organizations on collecting goals and strategies.
- There are parts of the collection that would be better served in terms of care and relevance by being transferred to other institutions.
- The Valentine ensures that it is always following AAM Accreditation Standards by acting legally and ethically as relates to its collecting, preservation and refinement activities.

Interpretation and Research

- Objects must have value for interpretation (exhibitions, programs and digital projects) and research relating to the Richmond region.
- The collection should grow and be refined with past, current and future audiences in mind.

¹ Richmond Regional Planning District and ChamberRVA (2019).

