

TIMELINE

FALL/WINTER 2019

25 Years and Counting

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* celebrates Bill Martin's 25th anniversary.

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Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic

Learn more about our upcoming exhibition on Richmond's experience with the HIV/AIDS epidemic through this behind-the-scenes interview.

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Ready for Battle

Preview the exhibition #BallotBattle, which looks at the varied perspectives that shaped Richmond's suffrage debate.

5





Editorial: William J. Martin marks 25 years of inspired leadership at the Valentine

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In an interview a couple of years ago with “Coffee with Strangers RVA,” William J. “Bill” Martin explained the origins of the Valentine, the city’s oldest museum and the only one dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond’s diverse history.

When the Valentine family sent their children abroad to study art in the late 19th century,

Martin said, “they came back with the notion that every great city had a museum in Europe.” Richmond didn’t, so the family laid the foundation for one. Since the Valentine’s opening in 1898, not only has Richmond boasted a great educational center, but for the past 25 years, it’s claimed an outstanding director.

Thursday marks the 25th anniversary of the arrival of Martin, whose innovative leadership has transformed the Valentine. Located amid the modern bustle of Virginia Commonwealth University’s medical campus in downtown Richmond, the Valentine tells the complex story of the city’s past while looking at its future. It’s a mission Martin enthusiastically embraces.

The amiable Martin doesn’t shy away from the tough questions facing Richmond’s 400-year history. Rather, he encourages conversation about why events unfolded as they did, asking

probing questions that prompt in-depth discussion to help better understand the world today. The Valentine’s impressive collection contains 1.6 million pieces of Richmond history, from photographs to textiles to ephemera.

During his tenure, Martin has expanded the Valentine’s programming, modernized its Richmond historic walking and group tours and forged partnerships across the community. For instance, he championed creating the Richmond Liberty Trail, inspired by a ChamberRVA InterCity visit to Boston and its Freedom Trail, as well as the Valentine’s provocative conversation series, “Controversy/History.”

Martin is a community advocate who makes an impact through involvement in a wide range of organizations, including the Church Hill Association, the Afrikana Independent Film Festival and TheatreLAB.

Congratulations, Bill, on your silver anniversary with the Valentine. Richmond is a better place because of your inspired leadership of this unique Richmond institution and your commitment to improving our community.

Pamela Stallsmith
Opinions Editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch

(A) The Valentine from Clay Street, Steven Casanova, the Valentine. (B) Bill Martin, the Valentine. (C) Lisa Cumbey, August 2018. Photographed by Michael Simon for the *Voices from Richmond’s Hidden Epidemic* project. (D) [Trick-Or-Treat], October 31, 1962, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Collection, the Valentine, V.62.109.78.

Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic Q&A



Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic, which opens on January 23, will feature oral histories collected by Laura Browder and Patricia Herrera with accompanying photographic portraits by Michael Simon to offer a nuanced look at Richmond's experience with the HIV/AIDS crisis through the stories of survivors, caregivers, activists and health care workers on the front lines.

Meg Hughes, Director of Collections/Chief Curator for the Valentine, asked Laura, Patricia and Michael for their thoughts about the *Voices* project:

Why focus on HIV/AIDS, and why now?

Laura/Patricia: It has been almost 40 years since the HIV and AIDS epidemic began, and while there have been many medical advances, HIV/AIDS remains as one of the world's greatest public health challenges. African Americans are by far one of the most affected communities by HIV and AIDS. They account for the greatest percentage of diagnosed cases, especially young and elderly women and gay/bisexual same-gender loving men. While Americans on the whole have a one in 99 chance of contracting HIV/AIDS in the course of their lifetimes, for black men who have sex with men, the chance is one in two. It was important for us to address this health disparity.

What can visitors expect to experience and what may surprise them?

Voices showcases a community full of energy, love, hope and optimism for the future. The immense support of community members and loved ones has been extraordinary and has saved many lives. For people who have access to health care and treatments, HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence. By taking a single pill a day, people can prevent the transmission of HIV; a single pill can enable HIV-positive people to live long, healthy lives.

Why did you choose black and white photography for this portrait series?

Michael: I wanted to strip away as much context as possible, including color. I wanted the viewer to be able to meet the photograph for the first time with the fairest visual playing field possible. I wanted all of the subjects to have the same treatment with their portraits. Color has a strong effect on our ability to judge an image.

What experience do you hope that visitors will have when viewing *Voices*?

Michael: I want viewers to see these portraits and their writings as stories and history that matter to them. I want them to remember that these people are part of their community, and that we are all connected.

Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic is on view in the Stettinius Community Galleries January 23–May 25, 2020. This program is funded in part by a grant from Virginia Humanities.

MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

Your Support is Always a Treat.

Our members and donors are the heart and soul of the Valentine, and we only succeed in our mission to engage, educate and challenge a diverse audience by collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond's history because of our faithful supporters.

Valentine members and annual fund donors receive:

- Free admission to the Valentine and the Wickham House
- Free parking while visiting
- Discounted walking and bus tours
- Free research appointments in the Archives
- 10% discount at the Carriage House Cafe and the Museum Store
- Knowing they support the only museum dedicated to the history of Richmond, Virginia
- ...And more!

In the giving spirit? Use the enclosed envelope to submit a gift by mail, or donate online at thevalentine.org/give

Have questions? Call Haley McLaren, Director of Development, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 325



EXHIBITIONS

Closing Soon!



Monument Avenue: General Demotion/ General Devotion

Closes Dec. 1, 2019

This groundbreaking exhibition features the finalists of an international design competition that invited teams of planners, architects, designers, artists and individuals to conceptually re-imagine Monument Avenue. Partnering with the Storefront for Community Design and the mOb studio at Virginia Commonwealth University, this exhibition aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about race, memory, the urban landscape and public art.



Developing Richmond: Photographs from the Cook Studio

Closes Nov. 10, 2019

When photographer George S. Cook relocated with his family to Richmond in 1880, he arrived in a city caught between the old and the new. Acquired by the Valentine in 1954, the Cook Studio's more than 10,000 negatives and prints visually document Richmond at the turn of the 20th century. Experience imagery taken by George and his son Huestis Cook of this conflicted and changing city.

On Display



Dressing Identity

Through Jan. 26, 2020

Dressing Identity is a one-of-a-kind exhibition that presents a working Costumes and Textiles Lab as well as a gallery of objects which present powerful symbols of identity. Taken together, these galleries provide a glimpse into how both the Valentine and the larger community claim, interpret and share identity through dress.



This is Richmond, Virginia

Ongoing in the Main Gallery

Explore Richmond's complex history and diverse stories through five themes: Why the fall line? Where do we live? What do we produce? Who has a voice? What do we value?



1812 Wickham House

Ongoing

A National Historic Landmark, the home allows guests to explore aspects of life in the early 19th century. The home was purchased by Mann S. Valentine II and in 1898 became the first home of the Valentine Museum.

Upcoming



#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Suffrage

Nov. 21, 2019–Sept. 7, 2020

To highlight the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, *#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Suffrage* uses modern social media platforms to profile five Richmond viewpoints and the racial and generational tensions that each exposed.



Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic

Jan. 23, 2020–May 25, 2020

Richmond's rate of HIV infection, currently ranked 19th nationally, is exacerbated by high concentrations of poverty, lack of sex education in public schools and the continuing opioid epidemic. Featuring oral histories collected by Laura Browder and Patricia Herrera with accompanying photographic portraits by Michael Simon, *Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic* offers a nuanced look at the HIV/AIDS crisis through the stories of survivors, caregivers, activists and health care workers on the front lines.

(A) *Monument Avenue: General Demotion/General Devotion* exhibition logo. (B) Flower Vendors at 6th Street Market, early-20th century, 6th and Marshall Streets, Richmond, Virginia, Cook Collection 0251b, the Valentine. (C) Insignia hat of the fraternal organization Mocha Temple #7 Ca., 1902, V.2016.63.01, Gift of Tom Ray, Photo by Jay Paul. (D) *This is Richmond, Virginia*, the Valentine. (E) The Wickham House, the Valentine. (F) Women's Suffrage Rally at the Virginia State Capitol, 1916, the Valentine Museum Collection, X.49.37.43. (G) Rodney Lofton, August 2018. Photographed by Michael Simon for the *Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic* project. (H) *Controversy/History Attendees*, the Valentine. (I) Attendees at the first Annual Religious Freedom Day Celebration, 2019, the Valentine. (J) Family during Court End Christmas, the Valentine. (K) Holiday Glitter Walking Tour, the Valentine. (L) James River Panorama, 1966, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Collection, the Valentine, V.85.37.39.

Programs and Events

Controversy/History is back this October!

This year, the Valentine's Controversy/History series is partnering with Richmond 300, the city's master planning process, to explore big questions about the kind of city we hope to become. By comparing debates of the past with contemporary data and modern issues, we'll explore how Richmond's complicated history can help us shape our shared future.

This Land is Whose Land?

Access & Equity in Land Use
Oct. 1, 2019, 6-8 p.m.

Are We There Yet?

Transportation & Parking in Richmond
Nov. 5, 2019, 6-8 p.m.

Is the Grass Greener?

Access to the City's Green Spaces
Dec. 3, 2019, 6-8 p.m.

Can We Get Down to (Black) Business?

Black-Owned Businesses in Richmond
Jan. 7, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

Who's Putting Our House in Order?

The City's Eviction & Housing Challenge
Feb. 4, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

33rd Annual Court End Christmas

Join us on December 8, 2019, at noon for the 33rd Annual Court End Christmas! This fun, family-friendly tradition includes children's activities, performances, refreshments, gift shops, music and tours across different historic locations in the neighborhood. Stay tuned for additional programming and information!

2nd Annual Religious Freedom Day Celebration

Religious Freedom Day takes place every year on January 16. In honor of this observation, the Valentine First Freedom Center is planning a special event that celebrates the anniversary of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, our shared commitment to those timeless ideals and how we can continue to build on that history. Save the date and check our website for updates!

Museum Store Sunday



On December 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., we invite you to shop with us for Museum Store Sunday! Refreshments will be provided and attendees can win special prizes. All

visitors will receive 20% off, and members will receive an extra 5% off! Museum Store Sunday is a reminder that your purchases directly support your favorite museums.



Richmond History Tours

Join us to discover Richmond's Stories with expert Valentine Guides! Custom and private tours are also offered year-round.

From Monroe Ward to Jackson Ward

Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-Noon

Historic Hotels of Monroe Ward

Oct. 6, 2-4 p.m.

Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-Noon

Stories of Trailblazing Richmond Women

Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-Noon

Oct. 20, 2-4 p.m.

Director's Tour of Blackwell*

Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-Noon

Exclusive tour for Valentine members

Halloween on Hanover Walking Tour*

Oct. 30, 6-7:30 p.m.

I Know Richmond: The Bus Tour*

Nov. 30, 1-4 p.m.

Holiday Glitter Walking Tour*

Dec. 26 & 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

*Reservations required.

Visit thevalentine.org/tours for tickets.

For details and information on other events, visit our calendar at thevalentine.org.

Events take place at the Valentine and are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.





#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Suffrage

In 1909, as the national conversation around women's suffrage intensified, some prominent Richmond women organized to support equal suffrage in Virginia. In 1912, their opposition joined the public debate. Key leaders on both sides, including Lila Meade Valentine (1865–1921) and Mary Mason Anderson Williams (1871–1945), called Richmond home.

Race was not the only minefield in this battle. The roles of women as politicians, patriots, workers, mothers and wives were all contested. While many Richmond men let the ladies have their “battle royal,” some publicly weighed in with their opposition to suffrage. The men of the Valentine family were awkwardly positioned. Henry Lee Valentine (1867–1931) joined the advisory committee for the antisuffragists and attended their public events, even as his sister-in-law, Lila Meade Valentine, was the president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia.

Both pro- and antisuffrage advocates battled tenaciously for their chosen side, using all available platforms—newspapers, broadsides, pamphlets, banners, postcards, speeches and parades—to persuade legislators and the general public. Through the lens of modern social media, *#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Suffrage* profiles five Richmonders' viewpoints, the tensions that each exposed and their areas of common cause. The exhibition captures the social nature of the suffrage debates in Richmond and shows how hard it was to win the battle's final outcome, the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Suffrage is on view November 21, 2019–September 7, 2020, on the Lower Level.

Christina Vida
Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections

But they did not operate in a vacuum. Virginia's 1902 Constitution had stripped voting rights from almost all of Richmond's African American men. Still reeling from that defeat, Richmond's African American leaders, including Maggie Lena Walker (1864–1934) and John Mitchell, Jr. (1863–1929), quietly supported the expansion of voting rights while focusing their efforts to reform education, housing discrimination, health care, banking and labor laws. Richmond's white antisuffragists stoked racist fears of “Negro rule” if women won the ballot, and white suffragists responded by claiming female suffrage would secure “white supremacy.”

Exhibition Teaser: Ain't Misbehavin'

The 1920s are remembered in America as a decade that “roared” with change, including urban expansion, equal suffrage, jazz music, fast dancing and short hemlines. In Richmond, the decade's seismic social shifts unfolded against the backdrop of a bastion of conservative values. Both the howl of youthful exuberance and the cautioning tones of tradition were heard all across the city, across racial, social and economic lines.

The Valentine's Costume and Textiles Collection is replete with examples of the straight-bodied, short-skirted silhouette that has become synonymous with the newly modern American woman. Both the opulence of eveningwear and the practical simplicity of daywear found expression in the spare new shapes. Richmond women dressed with an ease that had not been known in 100 years of fashion history.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Roaring Twenties, the Valentine presents *Ain't Misbehavin': 1920s Richmond*, an exhibition of costume, textiles, art and artifacts. Like the popular 1929 tune of the same name, *1920s Richmond* presents a playful commentary on Richmond's mixed reaction to the Roaring Twenties amid a sparkling display of 1920s fashions worn in the city.

Ain't Misbehavin': 1920s Richmond will be on view in the Nathalie L. Klaus and Reynolds Family Galleries in Spring 2020.

Kristen E. Stewart
Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume and Textiles



Support our Mission at the Museum Store!



The Valentine's Museum Store is proud to offer a wide range of unique products inspired by the city of Richmond and its culture. With many items made by local makers and businesses or reflective of the museum's values and mission, our goal is to enhance your museum visit with a shopping experience that allows you to take Richmond Stories home with you. Find a variety of fun and functional gifts, accessories, books and kids' crafts! All proceeds from the Museum Store support the exhibitions and programs of the Valentine.

Some of our best-selling items include locally produced raw goat's milk soap, refillable fountain pens and Richmond stemless wine glasses. And always check out what's new in the shop! You can now find Miss Priss tea sampler tins, handmade cork-leather bags, beautiful beeswax tapers and more is on the way.

All year long, members receive 10% off in the Museum Store and at the Valentine First Freedom Center. As a member, you can also use your member exclusive shopping spree, featuring 20% off on any single day, November 29 through December 31. Our Visitor Service Associates are happy to answer questions and provide gift ideas. We also offer complimentary gift wrapping on all purchases.

Brianna Landes
Valentine Museum Store Manager

2020 Richmond History Makers & Community Update



The Valentine and the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond are excited to partner for the 15th Anniversary of the Richmond History Makers & Community Update to recognize our region's trailblazers.

On March 10, 2020, at Virginia Union University, we will be highlighting the work of six honorees and providing an update on the progress we continue to make as a region. But before we celebrate, we need your nominations.

Now through October 25, you can submit your very own nomination for a history maker!

We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating with you and our honorees at Virginia Union next year!

Eric Steigleder
Director of Public Relations and Marketing



1898 Society

The 1898 Society Welcomes Christina Vida, the new Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections, to the Valentine Team!

Please join us on November 7, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. for the 1898 Society's Lunch and Lecture Series, featuring Christina. Meet our newest curator and learn about her ongoing research on the role of women in the Wickham House.

New information continues to help us enrich the visitor experience in our historic home, allowing us to tell more diverse and inclusive stories. This event is not to be missed!

RSVP by Sunday, November 3 to skim@thevalentine.org.

The 1898 Society recognizes individuals whose charitable gift planning ensures a bright future for the Valentine.

If you have included the Valentine in your estate planning or if you would like to learn more, please contact Sarah Kim, Deputy Director, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 302 or skim@thevalentine.org.

A) Lila Meade Valentine, 1915, Gift of Mrs. Ralph T. Catterall, V.61.203. (B) Dress Detail, Gift of Miss Elise Wilmer, Worn by Miss Elise Francis Wilmer (1898-1967) to her 1926 debutante ball, V.35.12. (C) Museum Store, the Valentine. (D) 2019 Honorees, Steven Casanova, the Valentine. (E) Christina Vida in the Edward Valentine Sculpture Studio, Elaine Odell, the Valentine.

The Valentine

1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

thevalentine.org

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Meet Wicky!

During one of your recent visits to the Valentine or while scrolling through our social media, have you encountered Wicky, the Wickham House Rat? If not, here's a little backstory on our resident rodent historian, typed out by some very small paws:

"It all started back when I was a young, enterprising historian, constructing my nest behind the walls of the 1812 Wickham House with whatever I could find, including bits of wallpaper. Being a particularly erudite rat, I could tell the wallpaper in the McClurg Bedchamber was important, so like any good historic preservationist, I kept my scrap safe in my nest until it was discovered years later. From the small fragment I rescued, the museum staff was able to replicate the original wallpaper and finish the work I started decades ago. My top-secret preservation project had finally paid off! After helping to preserve the history of the 1812 Wickham House, the museum staff decided I had more than earned a permanent home here at the Valentine. So, here I am— the oldest rat in Richmond at the oldest museum in Richmond."

If you're lucky, you might just spot Wicky hiding out in the museum and win a prize. You can also follow all of Wicky's adventures on [Twitter.com/WickytheRat](https://twitter.com/WickytheRat).



Front Cover: (A) Women's Suffrage Rally at the Virginia State Capitol, 1916, the Valentine Museum Collection, X.49.37.43. (B) Rodney Lofton, August 2018. Photographed by Michael Simon for the Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic project. (C) Court End Christmas Student Performance, the Valentine. (D) Valentine Director Bill Martin, the Valentine.
Back Cover: (A) Wicky, the Wickham House Rat, the Valentine.

RICHMOND STORIES™

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[@TheValentineRVA](https://twitter.com/TheValentineRVA)