

TIMELINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Walk It Out

Tour season is open! Stretch your legs after a long winter with one of our expertly guided walking tours all across Richmond.

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Fannie Criss Payne

We're stitching together the remarkable story of the freeborn daughter of a formerly enslaved farmer who built a successful dressmaking business that catered to Richmond's white elite.

5

The Valentine Moment Campaign

Check out our progress on prepping for renovations to our storage areas and get a sneak peek of what's to come!

8

A



the
Valentine

Court End Evolution



The Valentine is often called an “urban oasis” in the bustling Court End neighborhood. We share sidewalks with VCU folks, hospital staff and city officials. Lately, many of those sidewalks have gotten a facelift to straighten out the wrinkles, and there’s more to come in our neighborhood!

Construction at the Children’s Hospital (one block south of the Valentine) is almost done, which will clear the path on 10th Street

coming from Broad. Catty-cornered from the front entrance at 10th and Clay Streets, the now-abandoned City of Richmond building will soon be torn down to make room for the new Ronald McDonald House. That block will also house The Doorways, a non-profit organization that provides lodging and support for hospital patients and their loved ones. These projects are expected to end by 2024.

We’re excited to welcome our new neighbors and grateful to be part of this growing area! Although there’s a lot of construction going on within our walls and around us, our doors will stay open to all. Plan a visit to check out the changes, or visit our website to book a walking tour of Court End, available every first Saturday and third Sunday of the month.

Visit the Valentine

The weather is warmer, pandemic risks are lower and it’s the perfect time to plug back in to the Valentine! In addition to our many walking tours, events and programs, our galleries are always changing. If you’ve been feeling cooped up lately, we hope you’ll come spend some time with us!

The Valentine

Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Ms. Bee’s Juice Bar & Café in the Valentine Garden

Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Valentine First Freedom Center

Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Member-Exclusive Events

History Hot Spot: Beth Ahabah

July 17 | 3–3:45 p.m.

History Hot Spot: The Valentine

August 21 | 3–3:45 p.m.

History Hot Spot: Hickory Hill Slave & African American Cemetery

September 18 | 3–3:45 p.m.



Lighting Up Richmond



Thanks to a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, we’ve partnered with Reclaiming the Monument to install temporary light-based art projects at historically significant sites around the city. Our joint endeavor is called “Recontextualizing Richmond,” and our goal is to share neglected Richmond stories and deepen our community’s understanding of complex historical issues.

The first project, called “There All Along: The Hidden Black

Lives Inside the White House of the Confederacy,” was unveiled on April 22 following a panel discussion on the topic. The featured image, a painting from local artist Miguel Carter-Fisher, envisions Mary Jane Richards—also known as Mary Bowser—a U.S. spy in the American Civil War who infiltrated the executive mansion of the Confederacy. The painting will stay on display for a limited time in the Valentine’s lobby.

Mark your calendars for the next art project, which will run June 10–12 at Belle Isle.



(A) Steven Casanova (B) Projection of James Jones, by Reclaiming the Monument, 2022, for *There All Along: The Hidden Black Lives Inside the White House of the Confederacy*, American Civil War Museum (C) Projection of *Vision of Mary Jane Richards* by Miguel Carter-Fisher, by Reclaiming the Monument, 2022, for *There All Along: The Hidden Black Lives Inside the White House of the Confederacy*, American Civil War Museum (D) Projection of William A. Jackson, by Reclaiming the Monument, 2022, for *There All Along: The Hidden Black Lives Inside the White House of the Confederacy*, American Civil War Museum (E) Beth Ahabah Synagogue, post 1904–1920, Cook Collection O446, the Valentine (F) Henry Lee Valentine with friend, ca. 1905, V.61.08.12, the Valentine

Need directions on how to get more involved? Get in gear and give to the Valentine.

MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

The power and encouragement to share Richmond Stories is made possible only by the incredible loyalty and support of our generous members and donors.

Now is the time to reaffirm your confidence in the Valentine, the work we do and the promise we have made to contribute to a more informed and inspired Richmond. Make your gift today! An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We also accept gifts of stock or IRA distribution, or you can donate online by visiting thevalentine.org/give.

If you have any questions about giving, please contact LaChelle Lewis, Annual Giving & Donor Relations Manager, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 339 or membership@thevalentine.org.

See our events calendar for a listing of upcoming programming exclusively for members and friends!



Signature Walking Tours

Ballot Battle: Richmond Suffrage Tour

Second Thursdays, May–Sept
6–7:30 p.m.

Highlights of Hollywood Cemetery Tour

Second Sundays, May–Oct
2–3:30 p.m.

Fourth Saturdays, April–Oct
10–11:30 a.m.

Monument Avenue: Origins and Reverberations Augmented Reality Tour

First Sundays, May–Oct
2–4 p.m.

First Thursdays, May–Sept
6–8 p.m.

Shockoe Hill Cemetery Tour

Second Saturdays, Sept–Oct
10–11:30 a.m.



(A) Suffrage Rally, Virginia State Capitol, 1915, X.49.37.43, the Valentine
(B) Christina Vida (C) Liz Reilly-Brown (D, E) Steven Casanova
(F) Liz Reilly-Brown (G) Steven Casanova

Events

Want a behind-the-scenes peek at the progress of the collections move? This June and July we'll host "Hard Hat Happy Hours" for members to get an exclusive look at how we've been preparing for the construction phase of The Valentine Moment Campaign.



Hard Hat Happy Hour
June 21 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Hard Hat Happy Hour
July 19 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Book a Custom Tour

Experience the city with our dynamic Richmond history experts! Private group walking tours, step-on guides for bus tours and customized itineraries are available.

For more information, call (804) 649-0711, email tours@thevalentine.org or complete a private tour request form online at thevalentine.org/tours.



Neighborhood Walking Tours

Barton Heights: Northside Tour

First Saturdays, Sept–Oct
10–11:30 a.m.

Figures of Freedom Downtown Tour

Fourth Thursdays, April–Sept
6–7:30 p.m.

Third Saturdays, May–Oct
10–11:30 a.m.

History of Church Hill Tour

Fourth Sundays, April–Oct
2–3:30 p.m.

Murals of Jackson Ward Tour

Third Thursdays, April–Sept
6–7:30 p.m.

Second Saturdays, May–Aug
10–11:30 a.m.

Origin Stories: Court End Tour

First Saturdays, May–Aug
10–11:30 a.m.

Third Sundays, April–Oct
2–3:30 p.m.



The Oasis: A High Noon Summer Concert Series

We'll be in the Valentine Garden again this summer with musical performances by an eclectic mix of local artists! Take a break from the daily grind each Wednesday in June and July from 12–1 p.m. for lunchtime concerts in our urban oasis. Bring your own lunch or stop by Ms. Bee's, our on-site café.

All concerts are free and open to the public. After each concert, join us for a free gallery tour! *Richmond's Monumental Power Play* is a special sneak peek of new exhibition content currently in development. Afterwards, you'll have the opportunity to give feedback and impact the direction of the upcoming project.



Fannie Criss Payne

At the turn of the 20th century, Black Richmonders were not allowed to live next to or share public spaces with white Richmonders. Jim Crow laws targeted Black entrepreneurs in an effort to keep Black folks from acquiring wealth, status and power.

And yet, during this time, a Black woman named Fannie Criss Payne earned her place as the go-to fashion designer and dressmaker for Richmond's white political and social elite—the very people who worked to limit her civil rights.

Today, her incredible story endures.

Three of her dresses from the Valentine's collection are on loan to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, to be featured—fittingly—in the Richmond Room. The installation is designed by actress and director Regina King as part of The Met's upcoming exhibition, "In America: An Anthology of Fashion." The Richmond Room scene is part of 13 period rooms designed

by different directors, including Sofia Coppola, Martin Scorsese and Chloé Zhao. In an article for *Vogue* magazine, King described Ms. Criss as "a powerhouse of a woman who broke barriers in the dressmaking industry."

Ms. Criss was born circa 1867 as the free child of Adeline and Samuel, a formerly enslaved farmer in Cumberland County. Not much is known about her early years, until she married William Thornton Payne in Richmond in 1895. The 1900 census recorded her as a dressmaker living with her husband at 1012 West Leigh Street, across from what is now George W. Carver Elementary School. Remarkably, she was listed as the head of this household. Before the next census, she and her husband moved to a more prominent address: 106 East Leigh Street, two doors down from another famous Black businesswoman, Maggie L. Walker. Mrs. Payne was listed as the sole owner in a property transfer notice, which suggests she bought this house without her husband's help.



This new address served Mrs. Payne's home and business. In 1904, she was highlighted as a "Captain of Industry" in a Black-run magazine called *The Voice of the Negro*. The story's author, William Patrick Burrell, noted that the East Leigh Street home was stylishly decorated "with every home-comfort and convenience for her business." Burrell also wrote the following:

"The finest dressmaker in Richmond, regardless of color, is Mrs. Fannie Criss Payne. Her list of patrons is made up of the best white families in Richmond. So great is their confidence in her ability and taste that many leave to her the selection of their entire outfits. In the last six months she has made the trousseaus for the most popular brides."

The Valentine's archives contain a list of some of her clients—54 names of some of the most prominent white families of the early 20th century. The list includes a mix of Virginia's colonial descendants and Confederate-era elites, along with a new wave of entrepreneurial immigrants seeking opportunities in Richmond.

Mrs. Payne dressed the daughters and wives of politicians and titans of industry. One of the dresses on loan to The Met was made for Laura Roy Ellerson Massie (1873–1957), the wife of a Virginia state delegate and an expert hostess for political figures. Another dress was created for Roberta Nolting Irvine (1879–1973), the daughter of a Prussian immigrant who became a tobacco export tycoon in Richmond and went on to serve as the president of the National Bank of Virginia.

Her dresses show expert technical skills and a distinct style. She excelled at creating afternoon dresses with a blend of embellishments and practicality. Her seams often doubled as ornamentation, using pintucks, pleats and darts to construct her dresses with flair, and she offset heavily adorned bodices with lightweight skirts. The care she took with these practical details helped make her designs so coveted by Richmond women.



Want to see Fannie Criss Payne's dresses from our collection on display at The Met?

"In America: An Anthology of Fashion" is on view May 7–Sept 5, 2022

Visit [metmuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org) for more information.

(A, B, C) Afternoon dress designed by Fannie Criss Payne and worn by Ellen Clarke Wallace, photo by Michael Simon, 2019, V.44.48.06a,b the Valentine



Although Mrs. Payne relied on word of mouth rather than self-promotion, she added a twill tape signed with her married name “Payne” to the waist of many of her designs. This type of signature shows that Mrs. Payne took great pride in her work.

After divorcing Mr. Payne, she married William T. White in 1911. Mr. White was a Richmonder and an ambitious restaurant service industry professional. The couple joined the Great Migration and moved to New York City’s Upper West Side to escape the racial oppression experienced by Richmond’s Black community. As part of the Harlem Renaissance, she achieved great success in New York, as did her husband.

In a testament to her fame and success, her frequent trips back to Richmond were reported in the society pages. While in New York, her social accomplishments were also published in *The St. Luke Herald*, *The New York Age* and *The Freeman*. She died in New York in 1942.

Fannie Criss built a lucrative career in spite of laws and prejudices that sought to limit her rights and deny her rightful place in history. Her story is still being uncovered, but thanks to the word of mouth that kept her business thriving, her legacy lives on to inspire new generations.

(A) Detail of Afternoon dress designed by Fannie Criss Payne and worn by Ellen Clarke Wallace, photo by Michael Simon, 2019, fV.44.48.06a,b the Valentine (B) Wood’s Seed Co. lidded display case, T. W. Wood & Sons Retailer, late 19th Century–early 20th Century, V.2017.37.18 (C, D, E) Glavé & Holmes Architecture

You can learn more about Fannie Criss Payne and the impact of other Black designers in a recently published book, “Black Designers in American Fashion,” edited by Elizabeth Way. Kristen Stewart—the Valentine’s Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume and Textiles—contributed a chapter on Mrs. Payne after the editor attended a virtual exhibition of the Valentine’s *Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women*.

Object Spotlight

T.W. Wood & Sons was established in 1879 as a small seed store on the corner of 6th and Marshall Streets. Business blossomed, and by 1900, they advertised themselves as “The Largest Seed House in the South,” selling hundreds of varieties of flower and vegetable seeds with massive seed farms in Chesterfield, Caroline and Amelia Counties. Under a motto of “Better Seeds, Better Crops,” they operated a wildly successful mail order business, which became known for brightly illustrated catalogs and seed packets. Their Richmond retail store at 6th and Marshall Streets was quickly joined by a second branch location at 1707 East Franklin Street, business offices on 14th Street, multiple storage and seed-cleaning warehouses, a seed testing lab and a printing plant. This wooden display case was likely used to show off their wares at one of their Richmond retail establishments.

Want to see the T.W. Wood & Sons display case in person? It’s currently on view in our lobby until the end of May.



Over the last few months, we have been packing and moving most of our archives and objects not on display to get ready for renovations to the storage facilities above the museum.

The move is part of The Valentine Moment Campaign, a multi-year, \$16 million effort to strengthen our understanding and presentation of Richmond’s significant history through renewed investment in the care of our assets. The campaign includes a strategic plan to review the 1.6 million objects in our collection to make sure each object tells an important Richmond story.

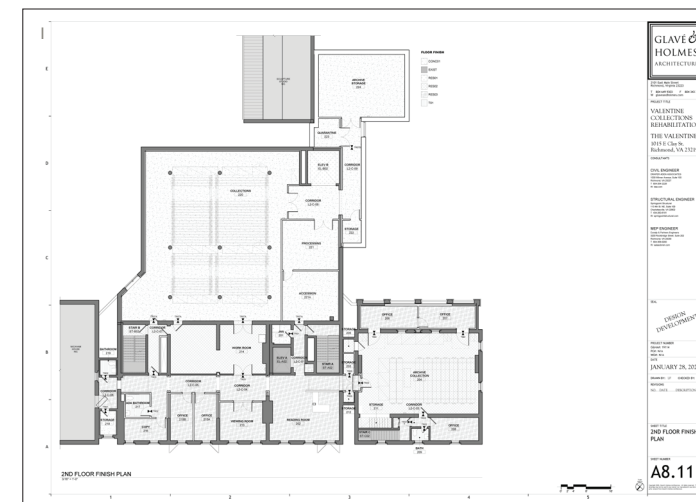




To prepare for the renovations, we've teamed up with expert museum and art handlers to carefully pack our objects and move them to an off-site facility for safekeeping. This process is running on schedule and should be completed by August. Construction will begin September 1.



Throughout construction, the Valentine will remain open! The renovations will include updated storage facilities, improved staff work spaces and a public reading room for research.



Director's Note

The Valentine Moment Campaign is more than a construction project or an audit of our collections. It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take stock of who we are and what we want to be for our community.

We've taken a bold, innovative approach to this campaign, with the goal of making sure that all Richmonders can find themselves in our collection, exhibitions and programs. With dramatically refined holdings, the Valentine will be able to actively fill collecting gaps and tell a more inclusive narrative about the past.

Other museums are watching us closely and taking notes. We hope this campaign will be a model for other institutions, in addition to better serving our beloved Richmond by being honest about our complicated history.

The Valentine Moment Campaign will be transformative for our museum, and we hope you're as excited about it as we are. We recently received a 3:1 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$408,761, which is an incredible step toward reaching our \$16 million goal! Because of this matching grant, any gift you make to the campaign will have a much greater impact. If you'd like to be part of this important work, stay tuned for our "Hard Hat Happy Hours" coming this June, or contact LaChelle Lewis, our Annual Giving & Donor Relations Manager, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 339 or membership@thevalentine.org.

Yours truly,

Bill Martin
Director, The Valentine



(A) Meg Hughes (B) Alicia Starliper (C) Sarah Whiting (D) Meredith Mason (E, F) Meg Hughes (G, H, I) Glavé & Holmes Architecture

The Valentine

1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

thevalentine.org

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Richmond History Makers Recap

In March 2020, many of us gathered for the last time pre-pandemic at the Richmond History Makers event. This March, we were able to safely reconvene to celebrate the 2022 class of History Makers with a hybrid event, joining about 100 people gathered at Virginia Union University with an online audience watching a livestream.

The 2022 Richmond History Makers inspired us and reminded us that change can start in our own backyard. Through all the trials of the last year, this incredible group of people chose to make a difference and improve lives across the Richmond region.

Thank you to all our sponsors, especially our long-time title sponsor Dominion Energy; our co-hosts and event partners the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond, Leadership Metro Richmond and Eventfull; and everyone who attended in person and virtually.



Front Cover: (A) Afternoon dress designed by Fannie Criss Payne and worn by Ellen Clarke Wallace, photo by Michael Simon, 2019, V.44.48.06a,b the Valentine

Back Cover: (A) Duane Berger, 2022, Richmond History Makers

RICHMOND STORIES™

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