

# TIMELINE

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

## An Online Presence Worth Sharing

Our website got an upgrade! Visit [thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org) to explore all of the new features.

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## Exploring Carytown's LGBTQ+ History

The Carytown Walking Tour has returned this year with a focus on the neighborhood's history of support for the city's LGBTQ+ community.

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## Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio

On January 25, 2024, after more than three years, the Edward Valentine Studio will reopen with a brand-new exhibition.

7



the  
**Valentine**  
125  
YEARS

# Celebrate 125 Years of the Valentine

Mark your calendar! The Valentine will celebrate 125 years of telling Richmond Stories™ with new exhibitions and several exciting events. And in April 2024 we will have a week of commemoration with a fresh take on Richmond History Makers and an evening to celebrate with Valentine members and friends at our 125th Anniversary Gala. To see a full list of anniversary activities, visit: [thevalentine.org/125th](http://thevalentine.org/125th).

To learn more about supporting the Valentine as a sponsor of our 125th Anniversary Season contact Brent Morris, Deputy Director of Communications, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 302 or [bmorris@thevalentine.org](mailto:bmorris@thevalentine.org).



## Life, Liberty & Happiness

The Valentine's newest lecture series returns for a second year to explore the evolution and contemporary relevance of America's founding philosophies. This year, we've partnered with James Madison's Montpelier to bring top scholars to give their takes on what "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" means today.



The first lecture in this year's *Life, Liberty & Happiness* season will celebrate Religious Freedom Day at

the Valentine First Freedom Center on January 16, 2024, with historian Ed Ayers. Ayers has spent four decades writing history, experimenting with digital scholarship, collaborating in public history and teaching and leading in higher education.

## Visit the Valentine & the First Freedom Center

With construction finally complete, there's more to see than ever at the Valentine! It's the perfect time to plan your visit to explore new tours, exhibitions and special events.

### The Valentine

Monday, Closed

Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (free admission)

Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### The Valentine First Freedom Center

Monday, Closed

Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



The Valentine is more than a history museum.

Discover **Richmond Stories™** here.



## An Online Presence Worth Sharing

The Valentine's website got an upgrade! Now when you visit [thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org), it's easier than ever to keep up with new exhibitions, find events that matter to you, and explore the history of the Richmond region. Want to know where to start? Explore these sections that we're particularly excited about.

**125 Favorite Objects Celebrating 125 Years of Storytelling**

Soccer ball used by La Asociación de Hispano Americanos de Richmond (AHAR) Soccer Team, 1994, V.2018.29.08

[MORE RICHMOND STORIES](#)

[NEXT >](#)

### 125 Favorite Objects Celebrating 125 Years of Storytelling

If you scroll to the bottom of our homepage, you'll find a selection of favorite objects and images from our collection that help tell the story of Richmond. From the soccer ball used by La Asociación de Hispano Americanos de Richmond to a 1996 cup from the Greek Festival, there's a surprise with every click.

Arthur Ashe Tennis, 1996, V.2018.23.146, The Valentine

1996

**ARTHUR ASHE STATUE DEDICATED ON MONUMENT AVENUE**

Professional tennis player and humanitarian Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., was born and raised in Richmond. After his death, heated debate began on where to install Richmond sculptor Paul DiPasquale's proposed statue of Ashe or if a non-Confederate statue should even be considered for Monument Avenue. Ultimately, the City Council voted to locate the statue at Monument Avenue and Rosemeath. When unveiled on Monument Avenue in July 1996, it joined the existing memorials to Confederate generals and is now the last remaining monument on the avenue. [Learn more about the Arthur Ashe monument.](#)

### Richmond Stories and Interactive Timeline

Formerly known as "Virtual Valentine," the Richmond Stories section of our website features new ways to engage with the Valentine even if you can't visit in person. The Interactive Timeline tells Richmond's story through events from the past and objects, documents and images from the Valentine's collection. You can explore entries from the mid-16th century to modern day.



### Teaching Resources

Let's partner to bring history to life for your students! Explore the tools, programs and tours that create life-long memories for thousands of students and teachers each year.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Teaching Resources

Explore more ways educators can share Richmond history with their students. The Valentine has welcomed all Richmond region students for free for over 100 years and now teachers can easily access the depth of student programs and resources from our website. From lesson plans, to collection videos, to fellowship opportunities, and all of the student field-trip options in-between, there's something perfect for your classroom.



Scan this code to visit the new website on your phone.

# History Makers

Since 2005, the Richmond History Makers program has honored everyday individuals and organizations that are making significant contributions to the Greater Richmond Region at that moment in time. Our next Richmond History Makers will be part of a week of events in April 2024 that will celebrate the Valentine's 125th Anniversary. We will honor individuals, organizations and events that have had the greatest impact on our region.

The nomination process will begin on December 1, 2023, so please visit [thevalentine.org/125th](http://thevalentine.org/125th) then to nominate your choice for Richmond History Makers. We hope you will also join us on April 11, 2024, to experience a fresh and fun take on the event itself.



# Controversy/History

The 2023–2024 series of *Controversy/History* celebrates 11 years of community conversations with a look at the future!

What can history tell us about our future? Given that our present is profoundly influenced by the past, how can we purposefully shape the world of tomorrow?

In January of 2024, the Valentine will open a new exhibition, **Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the “Lost Cause” American Myth**, which explores the myth of the Lost Cause through the lens of power. In this season of *Controversy/History* we’re examining the future of these big themes—education, violence, politics, religion and media—and considering how we can rethink the power structures that still shape our community today. Join us as we imagine a fresh future grounded in truth and community, serving the greater good.

Sponsored by Altria, Bank of America and Wells Fargo. In partnership with *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and Virginia Video Network.



## Upcoming Dates:

December 12, 2023  
6–7:30 p.m.  
Beyond Politics: Voicing Our Ideas

January 9, 2024  
6–7:30 p.m.  
Faith & Beyond: Finding Our Moral Compass

February 13, 2024  
6–7:30 p.m.  
Beyond the Information Age: Supporting Truth-Based Media



# Winter Wander

Sunday, December 10, 2023  
12-4 p.m.

Celebrate the winter holidays with the Valentine and the Richmond Night Market on our picturesque block of East Clay Street! This year's Winter Wander will feature a diverse array of vendors, plus live entertainment, refreshments, crafts, tours and family fun!

Tour the historic Court End neighborhood and then hop on a shuttle to visit nearby cultural sites for open houses and even more activities!

Learn more by visiting [thevalentine.org/events](http://thevalentine.org/events)



## Holiday Shopping at the Valentine

Check everyone off your holiday shopping list this season at the Valentine! Featuring local handmade goods, a curated book selection and our popular Valentine's Meat Juice Bloody Mary Mix, the Valentine store is a one-stop shop.

Check out some of our favorites:



Valentine's Meat Juice  
Bloody Mary Mix



Well Told Richmond Map  
Glassware



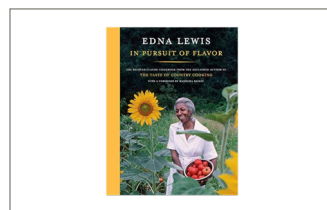
Morris & Norris  
Dish Towels



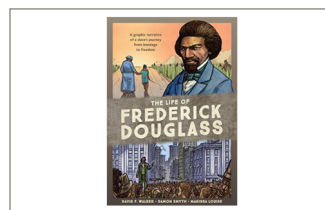
The Wild Wander Enamel  
Pins



Tulip & Bear Candles



"In Pursuit of Flavor"  
Cookbook by Edna Lewis



"The Life of Frederick  
Douglass" Graphic Novel



Plus so much more!

(A) Attendees in conversation at Controversy/History, 2018, Steven Casanova. (B) Bill Martin introduction at Controversy/History, 2018, Steven Casanova. (C) Richmond Night Market. (D) Fox Elementary School choir at Winter Wander, 2019, Steven Casanova.

# The Valentine Teacher Fellowship



Since 2020, the Valentine's Education Department has focused on deepening our relationships with educators in the Richmond region through professional development opportunities. We provide free teacher workshops each summer that are designed to address teachers' interest in professional growth and

share new material and resources for classroom use. In 2023, we launched the Valentine Teacher Fellowship. In this paid summer appointment, teachers work with Valentine staff to develop new student programs and resources based on the museum's collection and current exhibitions.

During summer 2023, our inaugural Valentine Teacher Fellows, Meaghan Rhymer of River City Middle School and Dre'mon Miller of Richmond Technical Institute, spent six weeks with the Valentine developing cross-curricular student programs that integrate literacy instruction. The Teacher Fellows investigated primary sources in our archives and uncovered new Richmond stories that are now available as teacher and student resources. Ms. Rhymer developed lesson plans for middle school students related to our current *Sign Spotting* exhibition. Mr. Miller created an interactive outreach program that explores the legacy of Arthur Ashe and African American tennis players and can be sent to local sports programs. The fellows' hard work will engage students throughout Richmond with local history while helping to remedy pandemic-related literacy loss.

## Exploring Carytown's LGBTQ+ History



The Valentine's Richmond History Tour Program is committed to sharing the rich stories of our residents and neighborhoods as much as we explore the city's more well-known landmarks. And because the city is always changing, our walking tours require an ongoing process of review, research and updating.

This year, Valentine Tour Guide Angela Lehman worked to revise and relaunch our History of Carytown Walking Tour after a hiatus of several years. A commercial district sometimes called the "mile of style," Richmond's Carytown neighborhood is also noted for its support of the city's LGBTQ community from the 1970s to the present. The History of Carytown Walking Tour weaves together stories of the district's retail evolution with personal narratives from members of the LGBTQ community.

Lehman's tour is built upon the research and lived experience of former Valentine Guide and author Beth Marschak. While working together, Lehman asked what Marschak hopes people will take away from the tour experience. Marschak answered that she wants people today to understand the pervasive effects of legal discrimination against LGBTQ people. One outcome of that discrimination is that the community's histories have often been silenced or erased, thus documentary evidence of LGBTQ stories can be difficult to trace. Fortunately for Richmond, there are people like Marschak who are committed to collecting stories, photos and papers of the gay and lesbian community and donating them to our libraries and museums.

For one tour stop, Lehman spent hours searching archival collections for more information about what is considered to be Richmond's first same-sex marriage. The 1978 ceremony was called a "celebration of union," and though it was conducted by an Episcopalian priest on a church lawn, it was not considered civilly or religiously legal, which may account for the dearth of historical records. Lehman finally made a breakthrough when she discovered a slip of paper in the archives with notes from a 1988 phone conversation with someone who helped with the wedding. Both Lehman's search and the wedding story itself can illuminate what it means to have one's history stifled by discrimination. In reflecting on leading these tours for our visitors, Lehman noted, "My hope is that the tour is one small way of bringing Richmond's LGBTQ history out of the closet."



# It's Even Better on the Inside

When you arrive at the Valentine today and park in our newly repaved parking lot, you'll immediately notice some big changes to our building. In August, our dedicated construction crew from Kjellstrom & Lee laid the final brick and dismantled scaffolding to unveil a seamless addition that adds nearly 3,000 square feet of collection storage space.

In late September, we reinstalled a selection of our neon signs to the building façade. Once again, when you visit after nightfall, you'll be enveloped in the glow of Richmond's commercial history, a luminous testament to the city's vibrant past.



(A) Teacher Fellows Dre'mon Miller and Meaghan Rhymer, 2023. (B) Monet and Nandi Alexander-Hinton in Carytown, 2016, Michael Simon, V.2017.04.14 (C) Carytown Walking Tour, 2023, Duane Berger Photography. (D) Third floor Costume & Textiles storage with Nichol Gabor, Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume & Textiles, 2023. (E) Bill Martin speaks before the final steel beam of construction is installed, 2023. (F) Exterior of the Valentine with newly reinstalled signs from the collection, 2023.

But even better than our updated exterior is what's on the inside! Along with the new addition, nearly 14,000 square feet of collection space have been renovated and now boast new storage units, state-of-the-art environmental control, and dedicated workspaces for cataloging and preparing objects for storage and exhibition. Preserving our collection has never been more sophisticated.

In early 2024 the Valentine will open up new public research spaces on the second floor, including a reading room and an object viewing room for collection research.



While construction may be complete, there is still time to contribute to the Valentine Moment Campaign! This campaign is critical to fulfilling our mission, and your support is needed. To join the campaign or learn more about our progress, contact LaChelle M. Lewis, PhD, Director of Development, at [llewis@thevalentine.org](mailto:llewis@thevalentine.org) or (804) 649-0711 ext. 339.

# Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the “Lost Cause” American Myth

Christina Keyser Vida, Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections



A

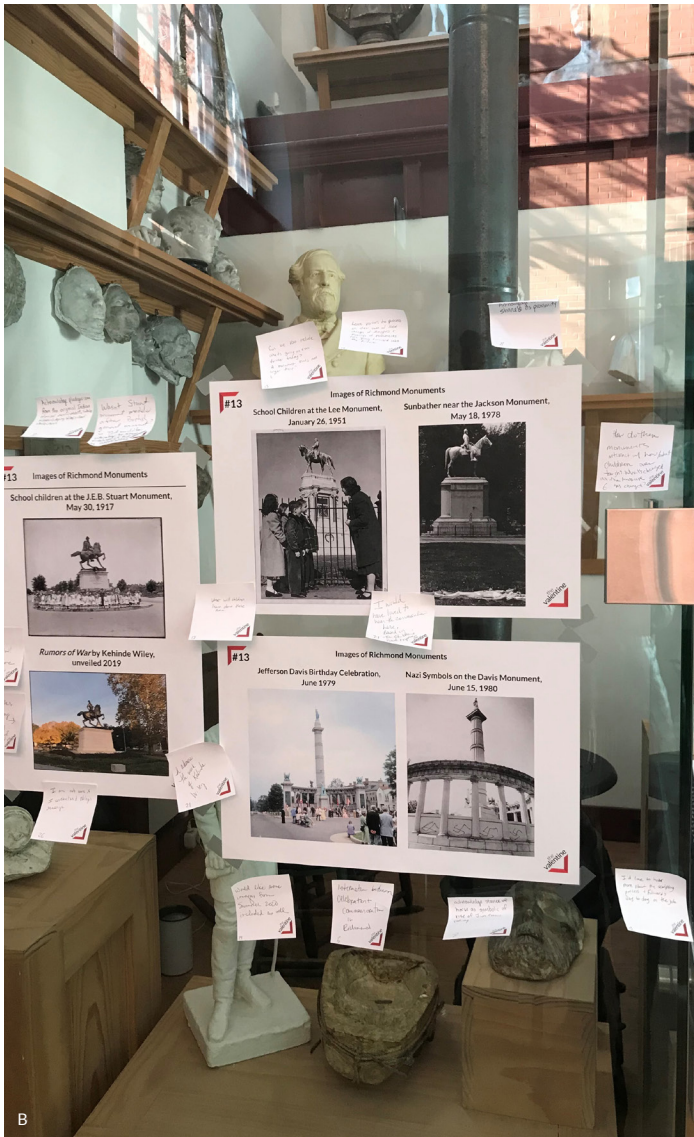
You might wonder why it's taken us more than three years to reopen the Edward Valentine studio. It's only 600 square feet. How tough can it be to pick a mix of sculptures, objects and pictures and put them on view? For some exhibits, that process is straightforward. But for this installation, the process has been as important as the final product. Opening January 25, 2024, *Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the “Lost Cause” American Myth* will use Edward Valentine's sculpture as a lens to examine how different types of power influence the way we perceive truths and lies in American history.

Edward Valentine, the Valentine Museum's first president, was a sculptor and key figure in the development of the Lost Cause mythology that permeated the nation in the century after the Civil War. Located on our museum campus since 1936, Valentine's studio most recently housed an exhibition on the sculptor and his artistic work. In 2020, while Richmond's Confederate monuments were coming down, the museum undertook an ambitious plan to reinterpret the sculpture studio to better serve the Richmond community by providing a more honest examination of Valentine's

work and the museum's complicated history. Through a significant public engagement process over the course of three years, we determined that the exhibition needed to go beyond Valentine's own works to explore the larger story of the Lost Cause myth, a national campaign that shaped public memory of the Civil War and had an outsized influence on the region's sociopolitical landscape.

Wendy Joseph and Monica Coghlan with Studio Joseph in New York City brought their expertise in spatial design, media, object display and community engagement together with the research and writing of external co-curators Josh Epperson and Kate Sunderlin. Liz Reilly-Brown, E. Claiborne Robins, Jr. Director of Education and Engagement, and Christina Vida, Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections, and other key Valentine staff worked closely to structure public engagements beginning in 2020 that included an external committee, two regional surveys, multiple focus groups, numerous public programs and small-group tours, which all contributed significantly to the final plan for the reinterpreted studio space. Collections Project Manager/Registrar Rachel Asbury Cole oversaw the packing, crating and transport of hundreds of





Valentine's sculptures to offsite storage in 2022. To ensure that the building itself (one of the museum's largest objects) is preserved, Director of Operations and Capitol Projects Sarah Whiting worked with contractors to reconfigure the studio's mechanical, electrical and fire suppression systems, improve access to the space, refinish all the surfaces and uphold Secretary of the Interior preservation standards.

Although it has taken us three and a half years to bring to fruition, we hope that *Sculpting History* will meet the needs of our community by creating a space for education and reflection. Thoughtful design that employs sculpture, architecture, multimedia and primary sources will investigate the complex history of the monuments from their Jim Crow-era conception to the grassroots movements that paved the way for their removal. While many Lost Cause monuments have been removed across the nation since 2020, this exhibition will help visitors look beyond the sculptures to the social and historic power structures that continue to shape our communities while thinking critically about our future.

(A) "Sculpting History" rendering by Studio Joseph, 2023. (B) Voices & Values feedback in the studio, 2021. (C) Edward Valentine Studio, 2021, Steven Casanova. (D) Power Play tour in TIRVA, 2023. (E) Empty studio before construction, 2023.

# An Unfinished Museum: 125 Years of the Valentine

June 20, 2023–September 2, 2024

In 1930, acting Director Laura Bragg expressed her dismay at plans to delay the reopening of the 30-year-old Valentine Museum following a major reorganization and expansion. She wrote to then-president Granville Valentine, “A finished museum is a dead one,” and urged that the museum open as planned that October.

*An Unfinished Museum: 125 Years of the Valentine* explores through photography the evolving role of the Valentine Museum to address the changing needs of the Richmond community. From general museum to one focused on the region’s history, the Valentine has never been content to be static. See how the Valentine’s collections, exhibitions and programs have grown and changed over the decades while remaining committed to the museum’s physical presence in downtown Richmond.



# Sign Spotting: Richmond’s Signage

May 25, 2023–May 31, 2024

When is the last time you slowed down and looked at all the signs around you? Do you think about who put them up? And why? Whether lit from within, glitzy with gold or hoisted up high, signs communicate. Signs are also location-specific, providing information within a defined space.

*Sign Spotting* takes visitors on a fascinating journey through Richmond’s history of signage. From vintage neon signs to public facility signs from the Jim Crow era to local advocacy signs, this exhibition explores how iconic Richmond signage has been used to inform, advertise and persuade.

The Valentine has partnered with Virginia Voice to bring visitors an audio description tour of *Sign Spotting*. Audio description is a tool for people who are blind or have low vision and provides access to the visual aspects of this exhibition through verbal narration. This tour can be accessed online at [thevalentine.org/explore/Richmond-stories/audio-guide](https://thevalentine.org/explore/Richmond-stories/audio-guide)

Virginia Voice is a nonprofit organization with the mission of connecting individuals with blindness and vision impairment to news, information, arts and culture through technology and the human voice. Learn more about Virginia Voice at [virginiavoice.org](https://virginiavoice.org)



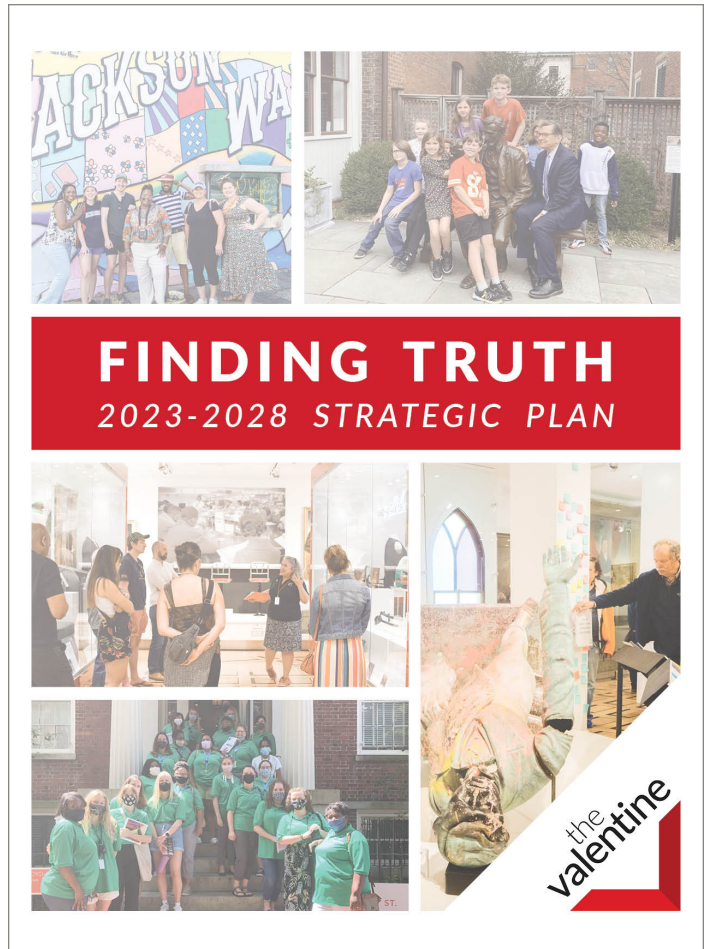
# 2023–2028 Strategic Plan

The Valentine's new strategic plan is complete! *Finding Truth* is our most comprehensive plan to date and focuses on broadening our stories, connecting with more audiences and strengthening conversations. View the full plan online at [thevalentine.org/organization/strategic-plan](https://thevalentine.org/organization/strategic-plan)



Scan this code to view Finding Truth

(A) Tapestry Room (now Wickham House Dining Room), 1898, X.50.30.194, The Valentine Collection. (B) An Unfinished Museum exhibition, 2023. (C) Neon Sign from Robin Inn, 1970s and 2020, 2023, V.2022.39.03, Gift of Carol Loupassi. (D) Armenian dance, 8/23/1975, Carl Lynn, Richmond Newspapers, Inc., V.85.37.3221.



## Dance into a year of evolution and celebrations with the Valentine!

### MEMBERSHIP & ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

It is an exciting time to be telling Richmond's Stories, and it is because of our members and donors that the Valentine is able to do that while simultaneously celebrating a milestone birthday.

A Valentine membership ensures you are the first to know about new exhibitions and upcoming events that celebrate this Valentine moment. Celebrate with us by renewing your support today! An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. We also accept gifts of stock, IRA distributions or you can donate online at [thevalentine.org/give](https://thevalentine.org/give).

If you have any questions about giving, please contact Kayla Smith, Annual Giving & Donor Relations Manager, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 325 or [membership@thevalentine.org](mailto:membership@thevalentine.org).

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



# The Valentine

1015 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

[thevalentine.org](http://thevalentine.org)

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U.S. Postage  
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## 125th Anniversary Celebrations

Mark your calendar for a week of exciting events in honor of the Valentine's 125th anniversary!

*Wednesday, April 10, 2024*

### Turning Point: Richmond in the 1890s

Exhibition Opening for  
Members

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

### Richmond History Makers

Honoring individuals,  
organizations and moments  
from the last 125 years.

*Nominations open  
December 1, 2023*

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

### 125th Anniversary Gala

A Celebration of Richmond  
Stories

*Saturday, April 13, 2024*

### Free Admission Day

Front Cover: (A) Tour in TIRVA, 2023. (B) Minds  
in Motion Ambassadors, Winter Wander, 2023  
(C) Richmond Public Schools tour in the Wickham  
House, 2023.

**RICHMOND STORIES™**

**Connect with us on social media!**  
**@TheValentineRVA**