MISSION — The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall foster through its living-history museums – Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center – an awareness and understanding of the early history, settlement, and development of the United States through the convergence of American Indian, European, and African cultures and the enduring legacies bequeathed to the nation.

GOVERNING BOARD — The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Code of Virginia calls for the board to consist of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, members from the General Assembly, citizens of the Commonwealth appointed by the Governor, the president of the private affiliate Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., and individuals elected by the Board of Trustees.


FOUNDATION BUDGET — The Foundation’s operating budget in FY 2014-15 totals $15.4 million. General funds appropriated by the General Assembly comprise 48 percent of the operating budget, while non-general funds, which consist substantially of admissions revenue, account for the remaining 52 percent. An additional $37.2 million ($35.3 million in state support) was approved in the 2014-16 biennium for capital and maintenance reserve projects, including replacement of the Yorktown Victory Center. In 2013, gift shop sales generated more than $647,000 in net revenue.

VISITATION — Combined paid visitation in 2013 totaled 560,072 – 401,455 at Jamestown Settlement and 158,617 at the Yorktown Victory Center. Ticket sales to groups comprised 35%, and to individuals 65%, of total paid visitation. Approximately 75% of individual paid visitors came from out of state. Top origin states are Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland/Washington, D.C., New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Florida, California, Ohio and Texas. Visitors to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museums spent an estimated $108 million in the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown area in the 2013 calendar year. There were 1,247,249 visits to www.historyisfun.org in 2013, and at year-end 27,715 fans on the museums’ Facebook page.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS — During the 2013-14 academic year, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation programs served 286,119 students through hands-on sessions and guided tours at both museums and in outreach settings. Structured education programs at the two museums served 197,853 school participants. Outreach education programs were presented to 88,266 people, including students in 105 Virginia school districts. The Foundation also provides a variety of educational resources and curriculum materials on www.historyisfun.org to assist teachers and students.

COLLECTION — The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection is comprised of 210,361 archaeological and non-archaeological artifacts. The portion related to the Jamestown Settlement theme features 1,519 non-archaeological and 207,499 archaeological objects, including 16th- and 17th-century portraits, documents, furnishings, toys, ceremonial and decorative objects, tools and weapons. The portion related to the Yorktown Victory Center is comprised of 1,343 artifacts, including documents, paintings, engravings, military equipment, nautical objects, medical tools, clothing, personal effects and household objects. The Foundation continues to build its collection by acquiring new artifacts for exhibit at both museums to support its educational mission.
Highlights of 2013

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN MOVES FROM CONCEPT TO CONCRETE

A cornerstone for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown was unveiled April 10, with University of Virginia Professor A.E. Dick Howard and Virginia Secretary of Education Laura W. Fornash as guest speakers. Significant progress was made during the year on creating the new museum to replace the Yorktown Victory Center, which continues in daily operation.

A section of the new parking area opened in June, and the 80,000-square-foot museum building began to take shape, with structural work on the lower level finished by year end.

Specifications were finalized for fabrication of the permanent gallery exhibits, and a production company was contracted to produce gallery audio and video experiences. An architect was selected to design the new museum’s outdoor interpretive areas and amenities.

NEW MUSEUM LOGOS ADOPTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2016

Logos combining the museum names with iconic images were adopted for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and Jamestown Settlement by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors in May.

The new Yorktown museum logo is being used in early awareness promotional initiatives. Full implementation of both logos will begin in 2016, the year the transition from Yorktown Victory Center to American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will be complete.

PLANNING STARTS FOR 400TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF LANDMARK 1619 EVENTS

Following designation early in the year of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation by the Virginia General Assembly as the “official Executive Branch agency to assist the Commonwealth in establishing planning systems for commemorating in 2019 the 400th anniversary of landmark events in Virginia’s history,” Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman H. Benson Dendy III named a 2019 Commemoration Task Force, with Virginia Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr., and Virginia Delegate M. Kirkland Cox as co-chairs.

Beginning with the meeting of the first representative legislative assembly in British America, a series of key events occurred in 1619: the landing of the first recorded Africans in Virginia; recruitment by the Virginia Company of London of single women to settle in Virginia; and Company instructions for an annual “day of thanksgiving” marking arrival at Berkeley Hundred.

The Foundation hosted an inaugural 2019 Commemoration Planning Roundtable October 25 at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. The event was attended by more than 40 participants representing 26 organizations.

ARTIFACTS DESTINED FOR NEW YORKTOWN MUSEUM EXHIBITED AT JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT

More than 60 objects destined for exhibit at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown – among them a 19th-century statue of George Washington that once stood in the Hall of Representatives of the U.S. Congress – were on display in “Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution” at Jamestown Settlement. The special exhibition, which opened March 1 and continued through January 20, 2014, examined the lives of Revolutionary War-era descendants of people associated with 17th-century Jamestown, the first capital of colonial Virginia.

COLLECTION GROWS TO SUPPORT NEW YORKTOWN MUSEUM GALLERIES

There were 33 artifact acquisitions for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in 2013, all funded with private donations. Among the most distinctive items added to the collection were a document box embossed with the text “Stamp Act Rep’s March 18, 1766” and a Federal-period stone ferry marker carved with imagery representative of the new nation. Several fine American-made objects were acquired – a pair of Chippendale side chairs, a tall-case clock, a wood and brass circumferentor, and a silver communion beaker dated 1771.

NEW BUILDING AT JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT REPRESENTS COLONIAL GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

A building representing the colonial governor’s house opened in 2013 to visitors at Jamestown Settlement’s re-created 1610-14 fort. The 66-by-18-foot, two-and-a-half-story building is modeled after one of two “row houses” found at Historic Jamestowne, site of the original fort, and documentary sources.

Visitors can explore all four rooms on the first floor. Elaborately carved wood furniture and Turkish carpets covering tabletops reflect the high rank of the occupant.

GODSPEED TRAVERSES COASTAL VIRGINIA

Jamestown Settlement’s Godspeed undertook four outreach voyages in 2013, starting with a visit to Mathews County’s historic Williams Wharf Landing in April. The ship participated in Norfolk’s annual Harborfest maritime event in June, and hosted education programs and public tours during fall voyages to Henricus Historical Park in September, and Virginia’s Eastern Shore, with visits to Onancock and Cape Charles in October. During its visits, the Godspeed hosted a total of 1,672 students for maritime education programs and 6,399 visitors on public tours.
FROM CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY TO LECTURES TO SPECIAL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS, 2013 WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR

For the second year, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation partnered with the Williamsburg Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to host a citizenship ceremony at Jamestown Settlement for children of naturalized citizens. Forty-nine young people from countries across the globe participated in the March 9 event.

Guest scholars Patricia Samford, director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, and Lorena Walsh, author and former historian at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, spoke at Jamestown Settlement during February’s “From Africa to Virginia” theme month. The Yorktown Victory Center’s Revolutionary War lecture series featured James C. Kelly, Chief of Museum Programs for the U.S. Army Center of Military History, in September and Carolyn Weekley, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Juli Grainger Curator Emerita, in October.

Special interpretive programs in 2013 ranged from “Military Through the Ages” at Jamestown Settlement in March to “A Colonial Christmas” at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center in December.

Special programs, including lectures and exhibitions, are supported by grants and private donations.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVE BROAD AUDIENCE

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s educational offerings in 2013 included curriculum-based on-site programs for student groups and homeschool families, outreach education programs in Virginia classrooms, on-site and outreach teacher training, and online educational materials.

The sixth consecutive Summer Teacher Institute, July 7-12, immersed educators in interactive, inquiry-based methods of teaching American history.

In partnership with Virginia’s York County School Division, a series of teacher and student programs at Jamestown Settlement employed new technologies for teaching and learning. The series culminated in a virtual field trip broadcast to 500 students in 16 schools in the U.S. and Canada.

“Anna’s Adventures,” an online educational video series produced by the Foundation’s outreach education and special services staff, won an American Association for State and Local History Leadership in History Award of Merit.

A new on-site education program, “People, Plants & Animals,” reflected the integration of history and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). New family theme tours that include a craft activity were introduced for fall homeschool programs.

More than 40 college students served internships in all departments of the Foundation. Middle and high school students were introduced to interpretive methodology in the 4-H peer teacher program. Youth volunteers assisted with “Broadside” summer history programs for children age 4 through fifth grade and engaged museum visitors in playing period games during homeschool sessions and special events.
Museum Notes

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT
A museum of 17th-century colonial Virginia, Jamestown Settlement chronicles the history of America’s first permanent English colony, founded in Virginia in 1607, from its beginnings in the Old World through the first century of its existence, and explores the Powhatan Indian, English and west central African cultures that converged there.

LOCATION
Between State Route 31 and the Colonial Parkway; adjacent to Colonial National Historical Park, which encompasses Historic Jamestowne, and six miles from Williamsburg. (GPS address: 2110 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185)

EXHIBIT AREAS
The museum consists of two elements: an indoor theater and gallery exhibits, and an outdoor living-history program. An introductory film, 1607: A Nation Takes Root, is shown at regular intervals daily in the Robins Foundation Theater. Gallery exhibits chronicle the nation’s 17th-century beginnings in Virginia in the context of its Powhatan Indian, English and west central African cultures. Exhibits set the stage for the founding of Jamestown in 1607 and examine the evolution of the Virginia colony during the 17th century and its legacies. Outdoors are a re-created Powhatan Indian village depicting the culture of Virginia’s original inhabitants, replicas of the three ships – Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery – that transported 104 men and boys from England to Jamestown in 1607, and a palisaded fort representing the colonists’ first home.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
The Jamestown colony was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, whose stockholders hoped to make a profit on the venture. The settlement faced great difficulties, but managed to endure and was made economically viable through the cultivation of tobacco as a cash crop. Jamestown served as the capital of Virginia until 1699, when the seat of government moved to Williamsburg.

MUSEUM HISTORY
Jamestown Settlement opened April 1, 1957, as Jamestown Festival Park, marking the 350th anniversary of Jamestown’s founding. The name changed to Jamestown Settlement in 1990. Expansive exhibition galleries, an introductory film and revitalized living-history areas debuted in time for Jamestown’s 400th anniversary in 2007. Jamestown Settlement museum was rededicated on April 24, 2007. The site encompasses a total of 46 acres, including exhibit, parking, support and open areas.

YORKTOWN VICTORY CENTER
A museum of the American Revolution, the Yorktown Victory Center chronicles America’s struggle for independence from the beginnings of colonial unrest to the formation of the new nation. Thematic exhibits and living-history programs relate the experiences of ordinary men and women who lived during the Revolutionary era.

LOCATION
On Route 1020 in Yorktown; adjacent to Colonial National Historical Park, which encompasses Yorktown Battlefield, and 12 miles from Williamsburg. (GPS address: 200 Water Street, Yorktown, VA 23690)

EXHIBIT AREAS
The museum consists of exhibition galleries and outdoor living history in re-created historical settings. Indoor exhibition galleries provide insight to the events that led to the conflict between the American colonies and Britain, the war’s impact on ordinary men and women, the convergence of forces at Yorktown in 1781, the creation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and the contribution of many cultures to the nation. An 18-minute film, A Time of Revolution, is shown every 30 minutes in the Richard S. Reynolds Theater. In an outdoor re-created Continental Army encampment, historical interpreters describe and depict the daily life of American soldiers during the last year of the war. A re-created 1780s farm that includes a dwelling, kitchen, tobacco barn, gardens and crops shows how many Americans lived during the Revolution.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Yorktown was the site of the climactic battle of the American Revolution. In early Fall 1781, Washington and Rochambeau had the British army trapped along the shores of the York River. The allied armies had all of the land routes blocked. The French navy blockaded escape by sea. Cornwallis had no option but to surrender to the combined forces.

MUSEUM HISTORY
The Yorktown Victory Center opened April 1, 1976, as one of three Bicentennial centers in Virginia. In the 1990s, the museum’s focus broadened to encompass entire Revolutionary period. Two decades later, the museum is undergoing a transformation with an imposing new building, expanded gallery exhibits, and enhanced outdoor interpretive programming and will be renamed American Revolution Museum at Yorktown when the project is complete in late 2016. The museum continues in daily operation throughout construction, which is occurring in phases and includes a move from existing visitor entrance and gallery buildings to the new facility in early 2015.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, P.O. Box 1607, Williamsburg, VA 23187