MISSION—The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall foster through its living-history museums – Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown – 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.

PRIVATE AFFILIATE—The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., coordinates private fund development in support of Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation programs. The Foundation, Inc., is administered by a Board of Directors. In FY 2016-17 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017), fundraising efforts totaled nearly $3.6 million in support of artifact acquisition and conservation, exhibitions, educational programs and resources, and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown®. The endowment amounted to $17.5 million as of June 30, 2017. The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown Campaign for Support, which culminated July 31, 2017, surpassed its $15 million goal with $16.8 million in gifts and grants.

FOUNDATION BUDGET—The Foundation’s operating budget in FY 2017-18 totals $18 million. General funds appropriated by the General Assembly comprise 52 percent of the operating budget, while non-general funds, which consist substantially of admissions revenue, account for the remaining 48 percent. An additional $12 million was approved in the 2016-18 biennium for capital and maintenance reserve projects, including the Jamestown Settlement gallery refresh. In 2016, gift shop sales generated more than $617,000 in net revenue.

VISITATION—Combined paid visitation in 2016 totaled 567,094 – 405,017 at Jamestown Settlement and 162,077 at the Yorktown Victory Center/American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Ticket sales to groups comprised 35.2%, and to individuals 64.8%, 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. Museum visitors spent an estimated $96 million in the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown area in the 2016 calendar year. There were 1,792,429 visits to historyisfun.org in 2016 and, at year-end, 96,848 fans on the museums’ Facebook page.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES—The Foundation employs 152 full-time staff and more than 283 part-time staff, the number varying by season, in five management divisions: Museum Operations & Education; Marketing & Retail Operations; Development; Executive Office; and Administration (Facilities Management, Finance, Human Resources). A total of 1,251 volunteers provided 65,796 hours of service to all areas of the Foundation’s programs and activities in 2016.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS—During the 2016-17 academic year, Foundation programs served 290,741 students through problem-solving sessions and guided tours at both museums and in outreach settings. Structured education programs at the two museums served 204,544 school participants. Outreach education programs were presented to 86,197 people, including students in 110 Virginia school districts. The Foundation also provides a variety of educational resources and curriculum materials on historyisfun.org to support educators, homeschoolers and students.

COLLECTION—The Foundation collection is comprised of 210,379 archaeological and non-archaeological artifacts. The portion related to the Jamestown Settlement theme features 1,520 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 American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is comprised of 1,360 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.

2019 COMMEMORATION—The 2019 Commemoration, AMERICAN EVOLUTION™, highlights events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today and commemorates the ongoing journey toward the key ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity. The Foundation is the official Commonwealth of Virginia executive branch agency charged with leading the 2019 Commemoration.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
Highlights of 2016

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN GALLERIES, FILM & NEW MUSEUM NAME DEBUT

The transformation of the Yorktown Victory Center into the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown reached a crucial milestone on October 15 and 16 with the public debut of the introductory film and 22,000-square-foot exhibition galleries – and the “American Revolution Museum at Yorktown” name.

The event took place in conjunction with “Yorktown Victory Celebration” weekend events honoring the 235th anniversary of America’s decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown. More than 2,000 people turned out for a preview of the new museum and to view the introductory film, “Liberty Fever,” and explore immersive exhibition galleries, where visitors are engaged in the tumult, drama and promise of the Revolution through period artifacts and immersive environments, dioramas, interactive exhibits and short films, including “The Siege of Yorktown,” shown in an experiential theater on a 180-degree surround screen with rumbling seats, wind, smoke and the smells of gunpowder, seawater and coffee.

The Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm were completed in early 2017, and a Grand Opening Celebration from March 23 to April 4 officially launched the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENTSHIP ANNIVERSARIES: SUSAN CONSTANT TURNS 25, GODSPEED, 10

Two of Jamestown Settlement’s re-created 1607 ships celebrated milestone birthdays in 2016, with the Susan Constant turning 25 and the Godspeed, 10. The ships, sailed by staff and volunteer crew led by Maritime Program Manager Eric Speth, were specially featured during Jamestown Day on May 14.

The replica of the Susan Constant, commissioned April 26, 1991, was constructed at Jamestown Settlement by Allen Rawl, Inc. The Godspeed was constructed at Rockport Marine, Inc., in Maine, and arrived at the museum shortly before its May 22, 2006, commissioning.

The Godspeed, the Foundation’s primary outreach sailing vessel, participated in Norfolk Harborfest in early June, the African Arrival Day in Hampton in late August, the Hospice of the Northern Neck Turkey Shoot Regatta in early October, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival in early November. In 2016, maritime outreach education programs served 5,978 visitors and 606 students with special hands-on programs aboard Godspeed at ports of call. In addition, the Governor of Virginia and regional officials participated in a guest sail aboard Godspeed as part of the African Arrival Day event.

The ships also were the focal point of a September 10 “plein air” art event by the American Society of Marine Artists at Jamestown Settlement.

2019 COMMEMORATION MOVES FORWARD

The 2019 Commemoration, under the brand of AMERICAN EVOLUTION™, accomplished major milestones in 2016. The Commemoration officially launched on August 20, 2016, with African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe in Hampton. Key partnerships were established with several organizations to build awareness and develop programs. Nine signature events, nine legacy projects and a number of secondary and post-secondary education programs were established. In support of these efforts, the Commemoration launched its private fundraising program October 25, with significant contributions from Founding Partner Dominion Resources and Virginia Colony Partner Altria. Learn more at AmericanEvolution2019.com.

‘CLAYTON & CATESBY’ TO ‘BARTERING FOR A CONTINENT’ SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Jamestown Settlement featured two special exhibitions in 2016. The beauty and variety of Virginia plant life was showcased in “Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia,” December 5, 2015-February 28, 2016, which explored documentation of native plants by naturalist Mark Catesby and botanist John Clayton in the 18th century and the Flora of Virginia Project in the 21st century.

“Bartering for a Continent: How Anglo-Indian Trade Shaped America,” June 4-December 10, explored the importance of trade between American Indians and English colonists and featured artifacts from private and public collections, including 17th- and 18th-century firearms typical of those used in the fur trade, peace medals used in diplomatic relations, and English trade beads, tools and household items used to buy animal pelts.

The “Bartering for a Continent” theme was reflected in a range of programs, including interactive experiences that encouraged visitor participation in trading in the outdoor interpretive areas, and special programs at Jamestown Settlement, including a Historic Trades Fair June 4-5, an American Indian Powwow on October 1-2, and Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia on November 24-26, and in three public lectures in September.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS LINK TO MUSEUM THEMES

The museums’ 2016 calendar featured a mix of new and annual public special programs. African-American Imprint, featuring music and storytelling, was held at Jamestown Settlement on February 13. Jamestown Settlement’s annual Military Through the Ages in March drew thousands of visitors to interact with re-enactors depicting centuries of military history. For the fifth year, the Foundation partnered with the Williamsburg Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to host an April 9 citizenship ceremony at Jamestown Settlement for 50 children of naturalized citizens from countries.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SERVE WIDE AUDIENCE

The Foundation continued to serve its mission as the largest provider of structured education programs in the Commonwealth, including curriculum-based on-site programs for student groups and homeschool families, outreach programs in Virginia classrooms, teacher development and internship programs, and online educational materials.

With the completion of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, planning initiatives are underway to expand the reach of Foundation education programs to audiences across the nation and world, sparking a dialogue about the American Revolution and its implications on the present day through distance learning programming.

At Jamestown Settlement, student groups examined history through a mix of interdisciplinary lessons in a series of “Dig Deeper” education programs, including Crime “Seen,” Setting Sail, Home on the James, and Kindling a Spark. New programs will expand to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in September 2017.

Interns and youth volunteers played a key role in staffing educational activities for children associated with the “Bartering for a Continent” exhibition at Jamestown Settlement. Middle and high school students were introduced to interpretive methodology in the 4-H peer teacher program. Youth volunteers assisted with Broadside summer history camps for children age 4 through fifth grade and engaged museum visitors in playing period games during special events. A new history camp, The Museum’s Apprentice, was introduced in 2016, joining The School of the Musketeer camp to provide immersive learning experiences for sixth- through eighth-grade students.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
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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. Immersive gallery exhibits were added in 2017. The site encompasses a total of 46 acres, including exhibit, parking, support and open areas.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN

America’s struggle for independence, from the beginnings of colonial unrest to the formation of the new nation, is chronicled through the stories of citizens and soldiers in gallery exhibits, films and outdoor living history in re-creations of Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm.

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

Comprehensive indoor exhibits and outdoor living history capture the transformational nature and epic scale of the Revolution and its relevance today. A timeline corridor provides a visual journey from the 13 British colonies in the 1750s to 1790s. An introductory film, Liberty Fever, draws visitors into the world of Revolutionary America and sets the stage for museum experiences. Gallery exhibits feature period artifacts, immersive environments, interactive exhibits and films, including “The Siege of Yorktown,” with a 180-degree surround screen and dramatic special effects. Outdoors, visitors can witness artillery demonstrations and drill with wooden muskets at a re-created Continental Army encampment and explore – and help work – a Revolution-era farm based on a real-life 18th-century family.

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 museum opened as the Yorktown Victory Center on April 1, 1976, as one of three Bicentennial centers in Virginia. In the 1990s, the museum’s focus broadened to encompass the entire Revolutionary period. Two decades later, the museum underwent a phased transformation on the 22-acre site. Operations moved from the 1976 building to the new museum building in March 2015. The museum was renamed the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in October 2016 with the debut of permanent exhibition galleries and introductory film. New outdoor living-history areas were completed in Spring 2017. A Grand Opening Celebration, March 23-April 4, 2017, and April 1 dedication officially launched the museum.

Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily year-round, until 6 p.m. June 15-August 15; closed Christmas and New Year’s days. Admission to Jamestown Settlement is $17.00 adults and $8.00 for ages 6-12. Admission to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is $12.00 for adults and $7.00 for ages 6-12 (2018: $15.00 for adults; $7.50 for ages 6-12). A value-priced combination ticket to both museums is $23.00 for adults and $12.00 for ages 6-12 (2018: $25.50 for adults; $12.25 for ages 6-12). An annual pass to both museums is $38.00 for adults and $19.00 for ages 6-12. Children under 6 are free. Residents of James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg, including College of William and Mary students, receive complimentary admission with proof of residency. Parking is free.

For information about special events, education programs and donor opportunities, call (757) 253-4838 or toll-free (888) 593-4682, or visit historyisfun.org.