



VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
of MUSEUMS

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Contact:
Jennifer Thomas, Executive Director
jthomas@vamuseums.org
Christina Newton, Assistant Director
cnewton@vamuseums.org
804.358.3170
www.vamuseums.org

VIRGINIA'S 2017 TOP 10 ENDANGERED ARTIFACTS ANNOUNCED

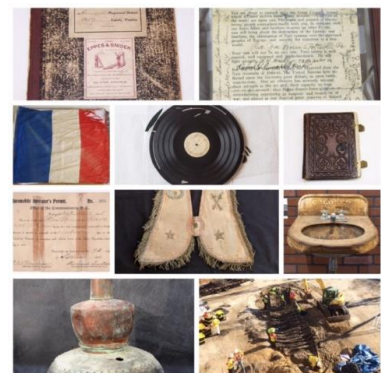
Public is Invited to Vote for Their Favorite Artifact and Help Award \$9,000 in Conservation Grants



Richmond, VA - The [Virginia Association of Museums](http://www.vamuseums.org) (VAM) is pleased to announce the **Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts for 2017** includes the following honorees: **African American Historical Society of Portsmouth** (Portsmouth, Virginia); **Birthplace of Country Music** (Bristol, Virginia); **Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation** (Blacksburg, Virginia); **Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Foundation and Museum** (Wytheville, Virginia); **Historic Sandusky Foundation** (Lynchburg, Virginia); **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** (Winchester, Virginia); **National D-Day Memorial** (Bedford, Virginia); **Office of Historic Alexandria-Alexandria Archaeology Museum** (Alexandria, Virginia); **Prince William County Historic Preservation** (Dumfries, Virginia); and **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library** (Staunton, Virginia).

Ten unique artifacts from across the state and spanning Virginia's extensive history from the 1700s to 20th century were chosen following a thorough review process by an independent selection committee of collections professionals from partner organizations Library of Virginia, Preservation Virginia, Virginia Conservation Association, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The complete list of artifacts and contact information for each honoree can be found at www.vatop10artifacts.org.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Blandford Rees Foundation, this renowned program will for the first time provide conservation awards totaling nearly \$19,000 to the honorees, which will be granted by the Selection Committee or outcome of the online public voting competition taking place January 15-24, 2018. The public is invited to help bestow \$9,000 of these conservation awards by voting for their favorite endangered artifact at www.vatop10artifacts.org. The two artifacts receiving the most votes will be recognized as the People's Choice Awards and receive \$5,000 and \$4,000 respectfully to conserve their artifacts and care for its continued preservation.



*Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts
2017 Honorees*

Says Jennifer Thomas, VAM's executive director, "We're grateful for the opportunity to take our program to the next level during our milestone 50th Anniversary year and further our mission of helping the museum community succeed. This year's selected artifacts exemplify the scope and impact of history found across the Commonwealth of Virginia. From an excavated 18th century merchant ship to a rare radio recording by Ralph and Carter Stanley, some items shed light on the resilience and grace of the human spirit, while others remind us that issues such as women's rights and voter disenfranchisement are not new. In whole, the artifacts bring history to life. And we are proud that our Top 10 Endangered Artifacts program showcases the important work that collecting institutions undertake every day to care for our collective treasures."

Those wishing to make a lasting impact on preserving Virginia's history are encouraged to vote for their favorite artifacts during the Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts online public voting competition happening January 15 and January 24 at midnight. Vote daily at www.vatop10artifacts.org.

The People's Choice Awards recipients and remaining honorees will be recognized during a special reception at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia on February 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. following Virginia Museums Advocacy Day at the General Assembly. They will additionally be acknowledged at VAM's Statewide Annual Conference on March 12, 2018 during an awards luncheon to be held at the Hilton Norfolk The Main in Norfolk, Virginia.

Background:

Over the past six years, the Virginia Association of Museums has successfully promoted awareness of collections care and the efforts of museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites across the Commonwealth of Virginia and District of Columbia to care for their cultural and historical treasures, which is an expensive and time-consuming effort. In fact, over a 150 organizations have benefited from participating and the spotlight that the program has provided has generated extensive publicity, new supporters and volunteers, and access to funding to conserve and preserve their artifacts.

Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts is a project of the Virginia Association of Museums and was originally funded through an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Connecting to Collections Statewide Implementation Grant. Due to its success, the program has been replicated in other states and recognized as one of the most successful outcomes of the Connecting to Collections grant program.

Information about past participating organizations can be found [online](#).

Images available upon request and from individual honorees.

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Physical Address:

Virginia Association of Museums
VMFA Pauley Center
301 North Shepard Street
Richmond, VA 23221

Mailing Address:

Virginia Association of Museums
3126 West Cary Street, #447
Richmond, VA 23221

The Virginia Association of Museums: a united museum community inspiring the world around us.