



Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preservation Virginia & Jamestown Rediscovery Announce New Executive Director

RICHMOND, VA (Mar 4, 2026) - Preservation Virginia and Jamestown Rediscovery have selected Dr. Todd Arrington as the new Executive Director of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation. Jamestown Rediscovery is a subsidiary of Preservation Virginia, a statewide preservation nonprofit, and is dedicated to preserving and sharing the original site of James Fort and Jamestown. Dr. Arrington is an experienced leader and historian, with more than two decades of experience in cultural heritage institutions.

“Jamestown Rediscovery is pleased to have selected Dr. Arrington for this role,” said Jim Reagan, Chairman of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Board of Trustees. “With his experience at the head of large organizations, managing capital projects, and strong leadership skills, Jamestown’s future is in good hands.”

“As our nation reflects on our 250th anniversary, Jamestown is poised to play a big role, and I’m confident Dr. Arrington will lead Jamestown Rediscovery to success,” said Tim Bentley, Chairman of the Preservation Virginia Board of Trustees.

Dr. Arrington began his cultural heritage career as an historian in Nebraska after serving in the United States Army. He was then appointed Chief of Interpretation & Education with the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, served as Acting Superintendent at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and, most recently, Director at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home. He has worked closely with tribal communities, overseen major capital projects, and leveraged comprehensive programming and exhibits to increase visitation.

Arrington is the author of *The Last Lincoln Republican: The Presidential Election of 1880*, about James Garfield’s unlikely presidency, and the co-author of the forthcoming article “Was James Garfield Really a ‘Dark Horse’ in 1880?” to be published in the *Middle West Review*. Arrington is an experienced educator, as well, having taught history and humanities courses at colleges and universities in Ohio. This role marks a return for Arrington, who was born in Norfolk and has deep family ties to both Norfolk and Richmond.

“I’m thrilled to be at Jamestown,” said Dr. Arrington. “It’s incredibly meaningful to be here during our nation’s 250th anniversary, which wouldn’t have happened without the trials and triumphs that occurred at Jamestown. Looking ahead, there are exciting and significant developments on the horizon for the Save Jamestown campaign as we work to protect the site from rising floodwaters. I’m looking forward to learning more about Jamestown’s history and to welcoming visitors to learn alongside me.”

Dr. Arrington begins his new position this week.

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About Preservation Virginia

Preservation Virginia is a private, nonprofit organization seeking to inspire and engage the public in fostering, supporting and sustaining Virginia's historic places through leadership in advocacy, education, revitalization and stewardship. The organization operates six historic sites open to the public: Bacon's Castle, the John Marshall House, Cape Henry Lighthouse, Patrick Henry's Scotchtown, Historic Jamestowne and Smith's Fort, while being the statewide voice for historic preservation issues. Learn more at www.preservationvirginia.org.

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation, under the auspices of Preservation Virginia, preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. For more information, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org.