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Jamestown Rediscovery Awarded Grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services

JAMESTOWN, VA. (January 9, 2025) –

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the leading federal organization supporting the nation's libraries and museums. The funds will support a multi-year project to develop an outdoor and online educational program entitled *Jamestown and the Legacies of 1619*.

The program will build on Jamestown Rediscovery's work over the last several years to better understand and share Jamestown's role in the creation of America's political and legal framework and adoption of African and Indigenous slavery. It will include an outdoor, place-based exhibit on the site of Jamestown's Statehouse, an exhibit booklet containing a self-guided tour corresponding to the program themes, a virtual edition of the exhibit, and a series of lectures and interactive discussions led by scholars and experts in American history and legal studies. The Statehouse was the seat of government for the Virginia colony from 1665 until 1698 and was where laws further restricting the lives of enslaved Africans and Indigenous peoples were passed.

One of the primary goals of *Jamestown and the Legacies of 1619* is to address the need for educational experiences and materials around the complicated historical entanglements of representative government, legislation, law enforcement, and race-based slavery in Virginia, and America more broadly. What took place at Jamestown had far-reaching implications for all English colonies that followed in Virginia's wake, extending into the present moment as Americans continue to grapple with the enduring effects of race-based legislation. Partners on the project include the College of William & Mary Law School for archival research of legal documents and the Lemon Project, a consortium of scholars also at William & Mary that works to build bridges between the college, local humanities sites, and African American communities. Program managers will also engage descendant communities in the Hampton Roads community as well as K-12 educators across the country.

"In the middle decades of the 17th century, Virginia's General Assembly simultaneously upheld democratic representation and the rights of citizens while reducing the colony's population of African and Indigenous persons to property," said Dr. Jim Horn, President & CO of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation. "These contrasting legacies are still with us. Through the stories of those who had to navigate colonial Virginia's earliest legal structures, this ambitious project will allow our audiences to consider how our society became what it is today."

Jamestown staff are currently deep in primary source research and planning for this project and expect to implement new programs and install the new exhibit in late 2025.

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Available photos [can be found here](#). All images courtesy of Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (JRF) is the steward of the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. JRF is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.