

PRESS RELEASE  
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Lizzie Oglesby, Manager of Public Relations and Marketing  
[loglesby@VirginiaHistory.org](mailto:loglesby@VirginiaHistory.org) 804.342.9665

## Virginia Museum of History & Culture Announces Two New Virginia Historical Society Trustees

Richmond, VA—The Virginia Historical Society, which owns and operates the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC), welcomes two new members to their Board of Trustees: Dr. Makola M. Abdullah of Petersburg and Victor K. Branch of Chesterfield County. A private nonprofit organization, the VMHC is home to nine million artifacts and serves as the state history museum and research library. The VMHC is committed to connecting people to America’s past through the unparalleled story of Virginia. The governing board is made up of thirty volunteer trustees from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Trustees serve a six-year term.

“President Abdullah and Mr. Branch are wonderful and important additions to an already impressive group,” said Jamie Bosket, President & CEO. “They will no doubt bring their remarkable experience and knowledge to bear as we chart a new path toward greater vibrancy and sustainability for this historic organization.”



In 2016, Dr. Makola M. Abdullah began his tenure as the 14<sup>th</sup> President of Virginia State University. An academic administrator and internationally renowned educator, Dr. Abdullah is a native of Chicago. He is the youngest African American to receive a Ph.D. in engineering. He earned his doctorate and master’s degrees from Northwestern University and his undergraduate degree from Howard University. Under President Abdullah’s leadership, Virginia State University has experienced some significant achievements such as recognition by ESSENCE magazine as one of the nation’s top 20 “Best Colleges for African Americans”, establishment of partnerships with local school systems where VSU students tutor students in mathematics and reading to encourage student success at each school, and opened the Academic Center of Excellence as a one-stop hub for first-year students to receive career and academic advising and tutorial services. In 2017, Dr. Abdullah was named the HBCU Male President of the Year by HBCU Digest and in June of 2018, the University was named the Best HBCU of the Year. He serves as a Board of Trustee member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is the vice chair for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors. Last year, he was inducted into the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Alumni Hall of Fame.



Dinwiddie County native and College of William & Mary alumnus Victor K. Branch is a leader dedicated to higher education and philanthropic initiatives. Serving as Senior Vice President of Bank of America, he is the Market President for the Richmond Region. With a career spanning over 34 years, he oversees the bank’s corporate affairs initiatives in Richmond to include all philanthropic and brand promotion strategies to ensure the bank is delivering on its corporate social responsibility commitments in the region. He currently serves on the following community boards: Housing Opportunities Make Equal (HOME); Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges; Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce; Venture Richmond; Chair of the Board of the Virginia Gateway Economic Development Alliance and Richmond Metropolitan YMCA. He also serves on the GoVA Region 4 Workforce Development Initiative. The Governor recently appointed Mr. Branch to serve on the board of visitors for the College of William & Mary.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society — a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call (804) 358-4901, visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org), or connect with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture on Facebook and Twitter.

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### Virginia Historical Society

428 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

PO Box 7311  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

804.340.1800  
[VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org)