

MEDIA ALERT  
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## Virginia Museum of History & Culture Celebrates 4th of July with Citizenship Ceremony



Richmond, VA — In celebration of the 243rd anniversary of American independence, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) will host an Independence Day Celebration on July 4, 2019, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This full day of patriotic festivities will include a large-scale citizenship naturalization ceremony, a community concert, family friendly activities and more.

The naturalization ceremony, held in partnership with U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), is the highlight of the Independence Day celebration.

“I can think of no better way to mark this important national holiday than by welcoming new citizens this wonderful country,” said president and CEO Jamie O. Bosket.

Twice annually in the Spring and Fall, the VMHC offers U.S. Citizenship Preparation classes for free. Attendees meet for seven weeks, and get a unique education in history and civics, as all the classes are tied into the Museum’s galleries and collection of manuscripts. This year’s naturalization ceremony will include a recent graduate of the class, Mr. Manuel Torres.

“This program gave me the materials I needed to study and learn, and it really helped me to be more confident in the interview part of the test,” said Mr. Torres. “They gave me great tools for the best learning, and I’m really looking forward to taking the Oath there on July 4<sup>th</sup>.”

The Museum will offer its citizenship class again this coming September. Please visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org) to register.

### 10:30 AM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY – FREE

- 100 candidates for citizenship from nearly 50 countries will take the Oath of Allegiance on the front terrace of the museum
- Ceremony will be officiated by the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Congressman A. Donald McEachin will participate

### ALL DAY FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

- Try the Arthur Ashe '68 Virtual Reality Experience
- Scavenger hunt in the museum galleries
- Sign the “Declaration of Independence”
- Play games from the past & make red, white & blue crafts
- Can you pass the citizenship test? Take our quiz & find out
- Concessions will be on sale inside the VMHC and outside the south entrance

*Activities in the galleries are included with suggested admission to the museum.*

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS ON DISPLAY

- *Determined: The 400-year Struggle for Black Equality*
- *Oh, Shenandoah: Landscapes of Diversity*
- *John Marshall: Hidden Hero of National Union*
- *The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Advocates & Allies*

### TOURS

- 30-minute highlight tours will be offered and are included with suggested admission to the museum.

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 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org), or connect on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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