

Press Release  
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## **Virginia Museum of History & Culture exhibition *Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today* Opening this Sunday, March 8**

Richmond, VA — The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) is proud to announce that its exhibition honoring the centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, *Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today* will be opening to the public this Sunday, March 8 at 10:00am.

"The VMHC has been very proud to be the primary planning body for the state's commemoration honoring the centennial of American women's right to vote," said Jamie Bosket, President and CEO of the VMHC. "This milestone marked the single largest expansion of the U.S. electorate in American history, and *Agents of Change* is a signature exhibit in Virginia's commemoration of this pivotal event."

Organized in conjunction with the statewide Women's Suffrage Centennial, this exhibition celebrates a century of female activism in Virginia through the stories of a selection of change-makers who have brought about positive change in their communities, the Commonwealth and the nation. *Agents of Change* features artifacts from the museum's vast collections, new acquisitions made through a major collecting initiative, and rarely seen loans from private individuals, as well as interactive elements. It is intended to honor them as models of female empowerment and new opportunities for women.

"The ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 marked the culmination of a concerted fight for women's suffrage and heralded a new age of female participation in American civic life," said Dr. Karen Sherry, Museum Collections Curator. "The inspiring stories featured in this exhibition underscore the importance of civic engagement in a democracy, as well as the power of individuals to create a more equitable and just society."

Along with the exhibition, a newly created photo will also be on display; a re-creation of an iconic photo of suffragists from 1915 featuring modern day female activists from Virginia. The photo of "Today's Agents of Change" features a diverse group of women who represent a broad range of female activism and accomplishments. The photograph will be displayed at the VMHC during 2020 and reproduced in a limited-edition print series.

In addition, the VMHC is inviting all visitors to honor a woman in their life with a mimosa flower tribute gift. All who make a gift of \$50 to the museum will be given a paper mimosa to dedicate to a woman who has impacted their life, and the VMHC will be filling the entrance of the museum with these tributes. The mimosa has long been associated with International Women's Day and the Suffrage movement. These mimosa flower tributes will remain on display through the run of this exhibition.

The exhibition will be on display at the VMHC from March 8 through September 27, 2020. Visit [VirginiaHistory.org/2020](http://VirginiaHistory.org/2020) to learn more about other events happening throughout the Commonwealth commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of women's right to vote.

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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### **Virginia Museum of History & Culture**

Owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society

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