

Governor Northam's Time Capsule Replacement Project

“It’s time to say to the world, this is today’s Virginia, not yesterday’s. And one day, when future generations look back at this moment, they will be able to learn about the inclusive, welcoming Commonwealth that we are building together. I encourage Virginians to be part of this unique effort to tell our shared story.”

— Governor Ralph S. Northam

Vision & Scope

Just within the last year and a half, Virginians have faced a global pandemic, traversed a deep reckoning with its racial past, and seen historic legislative changes which have made Virginia a more inclusive place to live, work, and learn. We hope this capsule provides a snapshot of this moment in time—capturing the resilience and struggle of life, within a pandemic, highlighting the events and people that have moved us towards removing the Lee Statue and replacing the time capsule in its pedestal.

The creation of this new capsule is a response to the Virginia represented in the old capsule, which promoted Lost Cause mythology and only represented the stories and experiences of a small segment of society. It is also a representation of the Virginia today, one rooted in our values of inclusion, equity, and diversity. The items selected were chosen to tell the stories of courageous groups who fought for a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive society, while honestly portraying the work that still remains. This means that the capsule focuses on the story of race in Richmond, but also represents the incredible diversity of Virginia and the path forward as we address historic justice in the Commonwealth.

Artifact List

- **“Ballerina at the Lee Statue” photo** taken on June 5th, 2020, captured and submitted by Marcus Ingram
- **Expired Vial of COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine and CDC Vaccination Record Card** suggested by Craig Fifer and contributed by the Virginia Department of Health
- **National Geographic Special Issue “2020 in Pictures” with cover image of Lee Monument in Richmond, VA** suggested by Hope Wolf submitted by Connor Freche
- **“Black Lives Matter” sticker** submitted by Tangee Augustin and Abby Admete
- **Collection of Michael Paul Williams’ Pulitzer prize-winning columns on Monument Avenue** suggested by Michael Baker and contributed by Michael Paul Williams
- **“Writing a new history” Kente cloth** worn by the Commissioners of the Congressionally chartered 400 Years of African-American History Commission and Ghanaian emissaries that

participated in the 400th commemoration of 1619 at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, now part of Fort Monroe National Monument, submitted by Governor Ralph S. Northam

- **"New Virginians" booklet with portraits of 24 immigrants** whose interviews formed the core of the Library of Virginia's 2020 exhibition, submitted by the Library of Virginia
- **General Assembly Acts of Assembly from the 2020 Special Session** submitted by Senator Jennifer McClellan
- **Virginia is for Lovers "pride" pin and sticker** submitted by Virginia Tourism Commission
- **"the protagonist" poem in uncontracted Unified English Braille** written and submitted by Laura Minning
- **"Better Together" LED Board** coded by middle school girls at Patrick Henry Community College and submitted by Amanda Broome
- **VA Ratify ERA sash and ERA 2020 pins** submitted by Christine DeRosa and Julia Tanner
- **"YOU ARE NOT ALONE" pink heart print** found on Broad Street in front of the Institute of Contemporary Art on May 30, 2020 after a night of protests in Richmond, created by Studio Two Three and submitted by the Teele-Jordan Family
- **Election Officer Badge for 2020 General Election** submitted by Stephanie Hunter
- **"Monument Avenue" Hip Hop Album by Noah-O and Taylor Whitelow** suggested by DeMario Spurlock and contributed by Noah-O
- **Prayer beads left by a family member who passed away from COVID-19** submitted by Tanzing Lahdon
- **Danville Public Schools "First Lady" face mask** submitted by First Lady Pamela Northam
- **Photos of the June 4, 2020 press conference announcing the removal of the Lee Statue** taken by Jack Mayer and submitted by Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam
- **Steel railroad spike talking piece** found near African Ancestral Burial Ground in Shockoe Bottom and used to promote conversations on racial healing, submitted by Coming to the Table RVA
- **Photos and fliers from "Stop Asian Hate" protests in May 2021** submitted by Shawn Soares
- **Program and video from the dedication of Arthur Ashe Boulevard featuring a keynote from former Congressman John Lewis** submitted by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture
- **Letter describing VUUs history and commitment to the Richmond community** written and submitted by Virginia Union University's Student Government Association President Joydan Lyons Parker
- **Photo of the Virginia State Police at 14th and F Street NW in Washington** helping DC Metro Police Department patrol the city for unrest after the insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, submitted by Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam
- **Essays and poems from Arcadia Middle School students** reflecting on the experience of being a student during a pandemic submitted by the Eastern Shore Public Library

- **Senate Resolution Commending the League of Women's Voters** agreed to by the Senate on February 6, 2020 to commemorate LWV's centennial and the centennial of the 19th amendment, submitted by the 2019-2021 LWV Board of Directors
- **"Charlottesville's Robert E. Lee Monument is Coming Down, Thanks to Me and Black Women Like Me"** July 10, 2021 Teen Vogue article written and submitted by Zyahna Bryant
- **Hard copy of the Virginia Poet Laureate Luisa Igloria's work "Dear America"** presented during Governor Ralph. S. Northam's commemoration of Juneteenth in 2021 at Fort Monroe submitted by Luisa Igloria
- **Gifts from the dedication ceremony from the Mattiponi and Pamunkey nations, hand painted gourd rattle and hand crafted earrings with sturgeon scale and beading,** submitted by First Lady Pamela Northam
- **Booklet which outlines Virginia's first One Virginia Plan for Inclusive Excellence** submitted by Dr. Janice Underwood
- **"Rumors of War Wasn't a Rumor"** photo lithographic plate with oil-based ink & sealant created by Marshal Turner, Jade Gibbens, and Studio Two Three and submitted by Studio Two Three
- **Copy of the LGBTQ Richmond Walking Tour created by Blake McDonald** submitted by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- **First Presbyterian Church Session 2020 minutes** approving the formation of a Dismantling Racism - Building The Beloved Community Advisory Group, submitted by Amy Starr Redwine
- **Video of the One Commonwealth Many Virginians: Uniting in Interfaith Prayer for Healing and Unity event** submitted by the Governor Ralph S. Northam's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- **Piece of tarp from the unveiling of Kehinde Wiley's Rumors of War Statue and photos from the unveiling event,** submitted by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- **Document describing selected student submissions from the Governor's Inaugural Black History Month Historical Marker Contest** submitted by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- **"Post-Colonial Love Poem" by 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Winner Natalie Diaz** suggested by Dana Chesser and submitted by Natalie Diaz
- **New Legacy Postcard** created and submitted by Marc Cheatham and Noah Scalin.
- **List of artifacts in the previous capsule as described in a Richmond Dispatch article** dated October 26, 1887, submitted by the Library of Virginia
- **Photo collage of individuals who contributed artifacts to the new time capsule and thank you note** submitted by Tori Feyrer

This document will also be included in the time capsule to ensure that future generations understand the vision for the capsule replacement project, and to commemorate the individuals who contributed artifacts.