

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Colonial Williamsburg commemorates Black History Month with performances, exhibitions, special events and more



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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 25, 2022) – This February, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will commemorate Black History Month by featuring [programming](#) that celebrates and explores the lives of the enslaved and free Black residents of Williamsburg who comprised over 50 percent of the city’s population in the 18th century. Highlights include Saturday performances of family-friendly [Loquacious Lucy: Queen for a Day](#), guided tours of the [“I made this...” exhibition](#) at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg on Tuesdays, and [the move of the Williamsburg Bray School](#) to its permanent location in the Historic Area on Feb. 10. For a full list of programming and special events offered in February, visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/bhm.

Performances for families

[Loquacious Lucy, Queen for a Day](#) is a 30-minute, family-friendly play about a parent who instills in their young, enslaved daughter the pride of her African ancestors while also guiding her through the realities of slavery.

“While the story of Black People in Virginia is largely about their enslavement, the history of Black People is rich and full of powerful and free people, like Queen Nzinga of Ndongo (modern day Angola) who ruled in the 17th Century,” said Katrinah Lewis, artistic director of Colonial Williamsburg’s museum theater department. “This play is a celebration and an examination of the experience of Black Americans that’s at turns fun and celebratory, and honest and heartbreaking.”

Loquacious Lucy will be performed on Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 and 25 from 10:30 – 11 a.m. at the Hennage Auditorium located in the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. Art Museums admission is required.

Art Museum exhibition

[“I made this...”: The Work of Black American Artists and Artisans](#) is an exhibition of work made exclusively by Black artists from the 18th to the 20th centuries. The exhibition opened in

October 2022 and includes nearly 30 examples of paintings, furniture, textiles, decorative sculptures, quilts, ceramics, tools, metals and more, including new acquisitions, and focuses on the makers and their stories. Read the full press release on the exhibition [here](#).

“Telling the stories of these Black makers is important because it gives them the opportunity to have a voice,” said Ayinde Martin, journeyman carpenter and a member of the advisory committee for the exhibition. “There’s a personal experience for everyone to be found in this exhibition, and I think learning about the individuals who made the artifacts and the artifacts themselves will connect people.”

[Special guided tours](#) of the exhibition will be offered throughout the month on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. – noon. Free reservations are required and can be booked by visiting a ticket office or calling 888-965-7254. Art Museums admission is required.

The Williamsburg Bray School

The 18th-century building that originally housed the [Williamsburg Bray School](#) is likely the oldest extant building in the United States dedicated to the education of Black children. On Friday, Feb. 10 beginning at 8:30 a.m. the building will move from its current location on the campus of William & Mary to Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area where it will become a key component of the Foundation’s public history programming. Read the full press release on the Bray School move [here](#).

“Telling this history of the Bray School is important because it shows a level of commitment to revealing truth to the community,” said Adam Canaday, a descendant of one of the Bray School students and Colonial Williamsburg employee. “It’s also an acknowledgement of those children whose genius was never fully appreciated because their education was considered primarily a benefit to their enslavers. Those young minds were doctors, engineers, inventors and not just someone’s property for profit.”

Following the move, a public commemoration program will be held at the corner of Nassau and Francis streets at 2 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

About Black History Month

Black History Month was [formally recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976](#), three years before Colonial Williamsburg’s initial commitment to [African American interpretation](#) in 1979. For more information on Black History Month and Colonial Williamsburg’s ongoing work to interpret African American life in 18th-century Virginia, explore the resources found at the end of colonialwilliamsburg.org/bhm page.

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent

Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

– CWF –

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**Images (left to right): Five Gallon Jug, David Drake (1801-ca. 1875), Stoney Bluff Plantation, Edgefield, South Carolina, April 26, 1842, ash-glazed stoneware, Museum Purchase, The Friends of Colonial Williamsburg Collections Fund, 2021.900.24; Colonial Williamsburg historic interpreters Zakiyyah Jackson as Lucy and Horace Smith as James perform a scene from the play, "Loquacious Lucy, Queen for a Day," designed to help families talk about slavery. Photo by Wayne Reynolds, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; At the Bray School building, Steve Chabra, Colonial Williamsburg architectural preservation program supervisor, displays an archival image of the building. March 17, 2022. Photo by Brian Newson, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*