



What's New in Historic Alexandria

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.-January 15th

January 15th marks the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr - a fitting day for Alexandria's MLK program. This yearly commemoration, which began in 1973, is sponsored by the City in cooperation with local religious, spiritual, civic and social organizations. With the theme of "The Fierce Urgency of Building the Beloved Community," learn about this event's history and view this year's program with a keynote address by former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder. It will also include remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson; entertainment by two-time Grammy nominated singer and songwriter Eric Robeson; music from the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church choirs; a poem by Alexandria Poet Laureate KaNikki Jakarta; and remarks by community activists and leaders. To join us for the celebration, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/119645> #HistoricALX2U.



**Vote for Virginia Association of Museums' Top Ten Endangered Artifacts 2020
Honoree the Alexandria Black History Museum's Moss Kendrix Collection
-Today**

We are delighted to announce that our year has begun with some exciting news! The Moss Kendrix Collection at the Alexandria Black History Museum has been selected for the Virginia Association of Museums' Top Ten Endangered Artifacts list. You can vote for the collection [here](#).

Vote for the Moss Kendrix Collection

One of the ten artifacts from the list will win the People's Choice Award and \$1000 toward conservation work. That's where we need your help! From January 11th through 20th people can vote daily for their favorite artifact. The artifact with the most votes will win the People's Choice Award. Please help the Alexandria Black History Museum by voting for the Moss Kendrix Collection.

Conserving Diversity

This is the ninth year of VAM's Top Ten Endangered Artifacts. The 2020 theme is "Conserving Diversity," highlighting Virginia's underrepresented communities, and we think there is no better way to celebrate diversity than with the Moss Kendrix Collection.

The Moss Kendrix Collection

This vital collection of photographs, documents and objects chart the career and passions of the man known as the Father of Black Public Relations, Moss Kendrix. Through his work, Kendrix promoted the African American consumer to American businesses, leading to the inclusion of non-stereotypical images of African Americans in national advertising. Moss Kendrix paved the way for the diversity of actors and models who today are featured in print ads and billboards, television and radio commercials

Coming Events

Citywide Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Friday, January 15, 7 pm.

Free

Virtual

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and remarks by community activists and leaders. To join us for the celebration, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/119645> #HistoricALX2U.

New Girls Scout Program

Sunday, January 17, 4-5:30 p.m.

\$100 per student

Historic Alexandria is pleased to announce a NEW Girl Scout program that expands upon our popular Cadette Media Journey program hosted by the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. Cadette Girl Scouts can still register for the Sunday Cadette Media Journey Series, a four-part program meeting via Zoom. Through the four sessions, the girls will explore media through museum collections, conduct a survey about media consumption and analyze results, and learn how to storyboard and film a media creation of their own. All sessions are guided by an experienced Museum Educator and include personalized feedback on her media creation throughout the process. By the end of the series, girls will have completed both the Cadette Media Journey and the Digital Movie Maker Badge! Historic Alexandria is a Premier Program Partner of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. Cost is \$100 per girl; space is limited to ensure room for discussion and personalized feedback.

Series dates: Sundays, January 17 and 31 and February 14 and 28 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Link to purchase: <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx>

Free Virtual Film Screening: The American LOWS

Saturday, January 23 2 -5 p.m.

Free, but registration is required [here](#)

Join us on Zoom for a screening of The American L.O.W.S. (The American Legacy of White Supremacy), a documentary created by Darnley R. Hodge, Jr. Immediately following the film screening is a panel discussion with filmmaker Darnley R. Hodge Jr. and historians from the film. The panel will be moderated by Reverend Professor Quardricos Driskell. Mr. Driskell is pastor of historic Beulah Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, an adjunct professor of Religion and Politics at the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management, and a member of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee. This film screening is sponsored by the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, a city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion.

Free Lecture: Edward Ball, Life of a Klansman: A Family

Thursday, January 28 7-9 p.m.

Free, but registration is required [here](#)

For whites, to have a Klansman in the family tree is no rare thing. Demographic estimates suggest that fifty percent of whites in the United States have at least one ancestor who belonged to the Ku Klux Klan at some point in its history. Edward Ball, a descendant of a Klansman, tells the story of his ancestor. Ball's great-great grandfather, Constant Lecorgne, had a career in white terror of notable and bloody completeness: massacres, night riding, masked marches, and street rampages. All part of a tireless effort that he and other Klansmen made to restore white power when it was threatened by the emancipation of four million enslaved African Americans. To offer a non-white view of the Ku-klux, Ball includes the voices of descendants of African Americans

who were once victimized by “our Klansman.”

Historic Alexandria receives City operational funding to support its mission; however, these resources do not cover the full scope of the department’s strategic goals and projects. Donations, special revenue, and grant funding help supplement staff, conservation work, and educational programs. [Please consider a donation today!](#)

Museums Now Closed

Due to the dramatic increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Alexandria and across the region, Historic Alexandria museums closed starting Tuesday, December 22 until further notice. Luckily, history doesn’t stop just because our doors are closed! Visit our website and follow us on social media to discover new things about your hometown. #HistoricALX2U For updates on museum closings, please visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

In compliance with safer at home under Phase 3 of Virginia Forward, the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) sites’ in-person, indoor public programs are cancelled. Please refer to the Calendar for the status of Commission and other departmental associated meetings. Due to the changing nature of the situation, we are providing updates on our website. For additional information about the City of Alexandria’s actions, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.

THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA’S HISTORY

On January 14, 1941, the federal government purchased 41 acres of land at Chinquapin Hollow along King Street for \$15,000, to develop the Chinquapin Village War Housing Project, created for the families of defense workers at the newly reactivated Torpedo Factory on Alexandria’s waterfront. Named for the Chinquapin tree, whose small husked acorns were used for centuries as a staple of the Native American diet, the community consisted of 300 family units sheltering nearly 1,500 people.

Due to its somewhat rural isolation, the complex included internal public amenities including a community hall for social activities and church services, a softball field and children’s playground. At the height of torpedo production, three shifts of workers were continually shuttled from their temporary homes to the factory three miles away by buses, 24 four hours a day, and seven days a week. Though the duplex dwellings were small and drafty, residents who came to Alexandria from many different states loved the sense of community and friendship that developed at the

site. Dismantled in the 1960s, remnants of Chinquapin Village still remain behind the Chinquapin Recreation Center.

UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

All Committee and Commission meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom during the month of January . Further updates will be posted on this site as more information becomes available.

January 11 Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

January 11 George Washington Birthday Committee

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

January 13 Historic Restoration and Preservation Committee

8-9:25 a.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

January 19 HARC

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

January 19 Alexandria Sister Cities Committee

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).