Recently, a caller asked, “Is the historic preservation community aging out? Is it dominated by the same stalwart crowd of thirty years ago?”

Our response: The future is bright, and the historic preservation field is more dynamic than ever. Historic structures, cultural landscapes, neighborhoods, downtowns and archaeological sites have taken on new significance in the complex story of who we are as a community, state and nation. These places speak to the larger questions confronting our society and offer lessons in resilience. And people of all ages are engaging in conversations and debates about how these places support the future by learning from the people and events of the past.

Preservation Virginia’s revised strategic vision sets the table for our participation and leadership in the strategic thinking around the many ways that historic preservation is part of our Commonwealth’s future. Whether it is advocating for preservation tools, offering training modules, testing approaches to adapt historic places from the impacts of recurrent flooding or welcoming other perspectives at our historic sites, our work reflects a multi-generational interest in the future of historic places and historic preservation.

As you read this edition of Historic Ventures you’ll notice a theme of resilience throughout. Now historic places matter more than ever, and your support of Preservation Virginia is making a difference. Thank you and we hope to see you soon.
Making the Case for Historic Places in the General Assembly and Congress

Each year, we lend our voice to advocate for projects and programs integral to the ongoing preservation of historic places in Virginia. During the Virginia General Assembly’s most recent session, we tracked more than fifty legislative and budget items. Here are a few of those successes:

HB141/SB158 establishes a much needed fund to support Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) historic sites. We know from our work with communities across Virginia that these sites are in need of funding and support for their preservation. Administered by the Department of Historic Resources, the Fund will support a wide range of efforts including acquisition, identification, survey, rehabilitation and interpretation of sites. Meanwhile HB140 extended the date from 1900 to 1948 for the establishment of African American cemeteries. Other legislation created an outreach position at DHR focused on Virginia Tribal resources, expansion of land conservation funds and preparing for 2026 and Virginia’s American Revolution.

As this article goes to press, these bills await the Governor’s signature, and to date legislators have not yet agreed on a state budget. Included in those budget discussions is an appropriation to Preservation Virginia that would support exterior restoration projects at the John Marshall House and a fire suppression system for Historic Jamestowne’s Research Center offices.

In Congress, Preservation Virginia organized constituent visits with six Congressional offices for the annual Historic Preservation Lobby Day. Our group met with House and Senate offices to support the Historic Preservation Enhancement Act (H.R. 6589), a bipartisan bill that would permanently authorize the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). HPF supports the work of state and tribal preservation offices, as well as National Park Service grant programs including Save America’s Treasures and Civil Rights Initiatives. Currently, the HPF must be authorized every 5-7 years. Additionally, we asked for their continued support of the Historic Tax Credit Program and, specifically, the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO) (S. 2266 / H.R. 2294). And we supported the recently introduced legislation by Representative McEachin to create the African American Burial Ground Preservation Act (H.R. 6805). It would establish a program at the National Park Service to provide grant opportunities and technical assistance to local partners to research, identify, survey and preserve these historic sites.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors of this year’s Legislative Reception:
The staff at Preservation Virginia like to say that it is impossible to stick a spade in the ground at Bacon’s Castle and not discover something interesting. The same is true of the house itself: in addition to the remarkable survival of the structure, it seems that under every floorboard, behind every wall, a material trace of past occupants can be found.

Soon you too can encounter those traces in our new exhibit, They Left their Mark: The Many Lives of Bacon’s Castle, which will open at the site in late summer of this year. Featuring over 30 artifacts, many of which have never been on public display, the exhibit explores how the diverse human experience of Bacon’s Castle is revealed through the objects and architecture they left behind. After hundreds of years under the ground or tucked inside the walls, some of the objects need a little TLC before they go on view. Conservator Dr. Christopher Wilkins of Historic Jamestowne is currently treating a large section from a late 17th century iron cauldron. He is undertaking painstaking surface cleaning, a desalination bath and mending breaks.
We believe rebels loyal to Nathaniel Bacon damaged the cauldron during their three-month occupation of Bacon’s Castle in 1676. Archaeologist Nick Luccketti and his team uncovered the object during garden excavations in the 1980s. It was found in a shallow deposit that yielded at least 40 wine bottles, more than 80 lbs of animal bones, goose eggs, fragments of casement windows and ceramics with origins ranging from a few miles to a half a world away. Examples of these artifacts from this remarkable pile of post-rebellion “trash” will also be featured in the new installation.

Conservator Paige Schmidt is treating a pair of mid-19th-century leather shoes that were recovered from an architectural deposit in the garret. Her goal is not to make them look good as new. Rather, she is working to stabilize and clean them without erasing the physical evidence of their 150+ years of concealment beneath the floorboards.

The restoration team discovered this heavily worn footwear between the floor of the garret and the ceiling of the second floor room below. There were other objects in this space as well, including a small gourd and wooden spool. The finds spanned the 19th century, suggesting that generations of residents took advantage of the open framing inside a small, lengthy cubby created by the “knee-walls” to drop these objects into space between the floors.

We know of at least one enslaved individual, Cordelia Jones, who slept in the space behind the knee-wall as a young girl in the 1860s. Undoubtedly, it was the living space of other enslaved individuals during the long occupation history of the building. It is possible they gathered and concealed these items within that familiar, and relatively private, space.

The stories of Cordelia Jones and the 1676 rebels are just two examples of the many lives of Bacon’s Castle. We hope you will visit the new exhibition to discover more when it opens later this year.

*Bacon’s Castle Spotlight Continues*...
Discoveries Made Through Window Repairs at Bacon’s Castle

Over the winter, our restoration team was hard at work performing repairs on two window frames at Bacon’s Castle. The sashes needed painting and glazing, and there were areas on the exterior sills that we suspected were allowing water infiltration. The windows in question are located in the 1600s portion of Bacon’s Castle, so we knew that repairs would have to be done carefully – after all, we would be working with building materials from the earliest surviving dwelling in Virginia!

A project like this can produce ample new information about the building and its construction, so examination and documentation are key aspects of this type of work. Like most old buildings, Bacon’s Castle changed over time, and as we started our repairs we could clearly see some of these changes encapsulated in the window system. Our first step was to remove the sashes and then selectively remove trim that was applied to the window frames in the 1850s. Underneath this trim was an earlier generation of window frames left largely intact.

Through some investigation, we were able to understand quite a bit about what we uncovered. We noted that strips to support and separate the sliding sashes were actually carved from the window frame studs rather than applied later. This would mean that the frames were built specifically around the sliding sash window design. Taking what we already know about Bacon’s Castle, this feature gave us enough to approximately date the...
encapsulated windows. Like most Virginia buildings constructed in the 1600s, the windows at Bacon’s Castle were initially diamond-pane leaded casements. By the mid-1700s, however, Bacon’s Castle underwent a “modernization” campaign which included updating the windows with the newest wood sliding sash technology. Taken in with other changes, we now understand that the mid-1700s building campaign at Bacon’s Castle was much more extensive than we previously thought!

With the possibility of upcoming grant funding and support from you, we have an extensive preservation plan for Bacon’s Castle that we hope to implement in the next two years. In addition to window repair/restoration, we’ll be performing needed masonry repairs, especially focusing on the iconic triple-stacked chimney towers at the site. Please consider making a contribution to this work, and stay tuned for more updates on our progress!

*Bacon’s Castle Spotlight Continues...*
Buoyed by the success of the Fall Festival at Scotchtown last October, the Preservation Virginia team at Bacon’s Castle planned a new, large-scale, outdoor event in April. The Spring Village Faire brought together vendors, wineries, meaderies, living history demonstrations and, yes it’s true, armor-clad knights from the Tidewater Dogs of War.
The Spring Village Faire raised funds for ongoing preservation and education programs while introducing new audiences to the site. Considering the enthusiastic response from the community, we plan to hold the event again next year!
Supporter’s Spotlight

A Discussion with E. Renee Ingram

As we’re not a state agency, donations from individuals and organizations are critical to helping us preserve historic sites in Virginia. You are the reason why this work can happen. We asked supporter and member of our board of trustees E. Renee Ingram about her commitment to Preservation Virginia and why she’s passionate about history.

What first got you interested in history and historic places?

Growing up in Massachusetts, I was always surrounded by historical sites. My hometown of Holbrook was first settled in 1634 and incorporated in 1640, as part of the newly formed Town of Braintree. There are many historical buildings and cemeteries in Holbrook and some were on the street that I resided. My hometown’s noted Union Cemetery interred members of the famous Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, US Civil War Colored Troops. Being less than 20 miles from Boston, my birthplace, my family and I spent quite a bit of time visiting many of these historical sites, including the African Meeting House and the Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial in Boston.

Do you have a favorite historic site that you’ve visited?

I have to say that my favorite historic site is my family’s own historic Stanton Family Cemetery in Buckingham County, Virginia. This cemetery, dating back to the 1850s was once endangered by the Virginia State Highway infrastructure project to widen and hard surface the roadway adjacent to the cemetery. Through the collaborative efforts of the highway department and preservation consultants we were able to make the case to realign the highway so as it would not disinter the grave sites and preserve the cemetery. The Stanton Family Cemetery was ultimately placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic Places. It is believed to be the first privately held Free African American Cemetery to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Why is it important to see historic places preserved and interpreted for future generations?

As a result of the preservation efforts of our family cemetery, I established the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation in 1994. For the past 28 years, AAHPF has been engaged as an advocacy and resource organization for individuals, community groups, educational institutions and government entities to assist in their efforts in preserving historic sites. Our website includes African American historic sites and landmarks as well as case studies on Ground Penetration Radar Survey, dendrochronology and archaeology as interpretations of historic sites. Visit www.aahpfdn.org to learn more!

Why did you decide to support Preservation Virginia in these efforts?

The efforts of the oldest statewide preservation organization in the country is of great significance to me and the AAHPF’s efforts. PV has incredible educational programs which offers field trips, conferences, workshops and webinars. PV’s advocacy work with Virginia’s Legislation is of great importance that include support for sites of importance to African American history such as Fort Monroe, the Rosenwald Schools, Historical African American Cemeteries, Slavery and Freedom Heritage Sites and the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund, just to name a few.
Their collaborative efforts with numerous minority groups have been very strong and continues to grow through legislative efforts. Personally, I am the first generation in my immediately family, born outside of Virginia in over 230 years and I want to ensure the preservation of the cemeteries in the communities that my ancestors are interred.

**What do you hope to see accomplished through your support and Preservation Virginia’s work?**

During the pandemic, AAHPF developed a mobile app and complementary website, African American Sites, which includes more than 1,700 sites throughout the country, including 254 sites in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The mobile app provides the historic significance of these sites along with those that are endangered, from the Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places List and are in need of financial support and preservation expertise.

AAHPF’s immediate goal is to launch a capital campaign grant program for 2022 called the Endangered African American Sites Fund. These grants will be provided to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations, funding projects that restore endangered African American historic properties and foster economic development of these sites within their communities into the future. Sites that are listed on Preservation Virginia’s Most Endangered List may be eligible to receive these matching funds.

We are also in support of the PV apprenticeship program to engage specialty trades to become involved with the preservation efforts throughout Virginia.

*E. Renee Ingram is the President and Founder of the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc. You can download the latest version of the African American Sites free mobile app that Renee and her team created through the Apple App Store or Apps on Google Play. Our sincere thanks to Renee and our supporters for making Preservation Virginia’s work possible!*
To preserve unique historic sites, we need to work together to raise awareness and garner public support. Each May –Preservation Month– our list of threatened historic places across the Commonwealth encourages individuals, organizations, and local and state government to advocate for and find solutions for their preservation.

The Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places program has a track record of success. This past year, previously listed sites including Rassawek, historic capital of the Monacan Indian Nation, River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, and the Warm Springs Bathhouses, the oldest spa site in the United States, were saved from insensitive development and neglect. Since the program began, more than 50% of sites listed have been saved, 10% were lost, and the remaining 40% are still being monitored.

Threats to historic sites in Virginia persist. Partnerships are needed on local, state, and federal levels to find adaptive, collaborative solutions for preserving places for the benefit of Virginia communities.
To preserve unique historic sites, we need to work together to raise awareness and garner public support. Each May—Preservation Month—our list of threatened historic places across the Commonwealth encourages individuals, organizations, and local and state government to advocate for and find solutions for their preservation.

The Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places program has a track record of success. This past year, previously listed sites including Rassawek, historic capital of the Monacan Indian Nation, River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, and the Warm Springs Bathhouses, the oldest spa site in the United States, were saved from insensitive development and neglect. Since the program began, more than 50% of sites listed have been saved, 10% were lost, and the remaining 40% are still being monitored.

Threats to historic sites in Virginia persist. Partnerships are needed on local, state, and federal levels to find adaptive, collaborative solutions for preserving places for the benefit of Virginia communities.

Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places for 2022 includes, in no particular order:

⭐ Slave Dwellings:

Ivy Cliff Slave Dwelling (background photo), Bedford County, and Parker Sydnor Cabin, (right) Mecklenburg County

Extant dwellings of enslaved people are rare. Time, weather, and deferred maintenance make these structures especially vulnerable. The owners of many of these buildings, such as at Ivy Cliff, need resources and support to preserve these important structures. The Parker Sydnor Cabin was home to a literate tombstone and headstone carver born into slavery. While a local preservation organization currently owns the cabin, it remains in considerable need of support and preservation.

⭐ Preston-Crockett House, Smyth County

Built on the “Wilderness Road” in the 1840s, the Preston-Crockett House is facing possible demolition for a planned truck stop. Its high visibility on Interstate 81 could make it a regional tourism destination and its preservation could add value to any new developments in the area.
Dunnington Mansion, Farmville

Completed in the late 19th century, this Romanesque Revival style mansion with ornate woodwork has sat vacant for over twenty years and is in need of new owners with resources to preserve the mansion and its associated history.

Havelock School, Warsaw

The Havelock School is a two-room schoolhouse established for the education of African American children in Richmond County. The building has stood unused for many years, and in order to preserve its legacy, immediate repairs are needed.

William Fox Elementary School, Richmond

A three-alarm fire caused significant damage to this beloved 110-year-old public school in Richmond. The Richmond School Board has pledged to renovate the school rather than demolish and rebuild it, and the community has rallied to maintain the public's support for its full renovation.
Local county governments passed separate rezoning actions to allow for construction of mega data center complexes, which would irreparably alter the adjacent historic landscapes associated with these battlefields, local farmland, and the areas’ rural character. Locating data centers within technology corridors and away from culturally sensitive areas would convey how local governments value and support the preservation of their irreplaceable historic resources.
Green Valley Pharmacy, Arlington

Green Valley Pharmacy was the longest-operating African American pharmacy in Arlington, and likely the first African American-owned pharmacy in the area. The pharmacy has been challenged with redevelopment modifications to portions of the building that could not meet standards of today. Maintaining the building’s historic fabric and its links to the pharmacy’s important role in the community continues to be crucial.

Dr. Leonard Muse, or “Doc Muse” as customers fondly refer to him, opened the Green Valley Pharmacy in September 1952.

Saint Paul’s Chapel Rosenwald School, Brunswick County

Saint Paul’s Chapel School is a one-teacher Rosenwald School built in 1920 for African American students in Brunswick County. The building has stood unused for years and its ownership remains unclear. In order to preserve its history and the history of the surrounding community, immediate repairs are needed.

This year’s list reflects the resilience of the Commonwealth’s many historic places that have persisted through generations of support from their communities. The dedication of organizations, local governments and individuals currently working to preserve these places reflects the very nature of the historic preservation movement - the ability to adapt to challenges and retain relevance in an ever changing world.

As Elizabeth S. Kostelny, CEO, said, “Inclusion on the Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list can have a profound influence on bringing organizations and individuals together to forward solutions and solve threats. This year is no exception.” Your support is critical to saving these and many other endangered sites throughout the Commonwealth. Visit our website to read more about each location, and please make a gift to Preservation Virginia so we can continue this work.
Green Valley Pharmacy, Arlington

Green Valley Pharmacy was the longest-operating African American pharmacy in Arlington, and likely the first African American-owned pharmacy in the area. The pharmacy has been challenged with redevelopment modifications to portions of the building that could not meet standards of today. Maintaining the building’s historic fabric and its links to the pharmacy’s important role in the community continues to be crucial.

Dr. Leonard Muse, or “Doc Muse” as customers fondly refer to him, opened the Green Valley Pharmacy in September 1952.

Saint Paul’s Chapel School is a one-teacher Rosenwald School built in 1920 for African American students in Brunswick County. The building has stood unused for years and its ownership remains unclear. In order to preserve its history and the history of the surrounding community, immediate repairs are needed.

This year’s list reflects the resilience of the Commonwealth’s many historic places that have persisted through generations of support from their communities. The dedication of organizations, local governments and individuals currently working to preserve these places reflects the very nature of the historic preservation movement - the ability to adapt to challenges and retain relevance in an ever-changing world.

As Elizabeth S. Kostelny, CEO, said, “Inclusion on the Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list can have a profound influence on bringing organizations and individuals together to forward solutions and solve threats. This year is no exception.” Your support is critical to saving these and many other endangered sites throughout the Commonwealth. Visit our website to read more about each location, and please make a gift to Preservation Virginia so we can continue this work.

Grand Order of Odd Fellows Lodge/African American School, Northumberland County

While the original uses and history are currently unclear, this two-story, framed building served as Tranquility Lodge No. 4218 for the African American Grand Order of the Odd Fellows in Reedville. Research on the building’s ownership and its history, including possible ties to the African American Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay, are underway, but the building is currently in desperate need of stabilization, repairs, and preservation.

Historic Jamestowne

On The National Stage. Recognizing the significant threats posed from the impact of climate change, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Historic Jamestowne to the 2022 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

1. Ivy Cliff Slave Dwelling
2. Parker Sydnor Cabin
3. Preston Crockett House
4. Dunnington Mansion
5. Havelock School
6. Fox Elementary School
7. Threatened Battlefields
8. Green Valley Pharmacy
9. St. Paul’s Chapel
10. Odd Fellows Lodge
11. Historic Jamestowne
The Preservation Academy Sees Success in its First Year

A partnership between Preservation Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the newly-launched Preservation Academy is a series of virtual workshops on the fundamentals of historic preservation. The 2022 Academy consisted of four, 90-minute workshops held in March and April on understanding historic districts, how to nominate properties to state and national historic registers, researching historic sites and utilizing preservation consultants. Recordings of the workshops serve as the foundation for a library of preservation training videos, which are now available to the public online through Preservation Virginia and DHR's websites.

Over 200 people attended the webinars, including architectural review board members, local government staff, historical society members, owners of historic properties and community leaders. Next year's topics are currently being determined, but possible topics include how to use historic rehabilitation tax credits, how to record historic cemeteries, applying for highway markers and identifying grants and other funds for preservation projects.

Capturing the Imagination of the Nation: The Old Dawn School

The Old Dawn School, a one-room, wood-framed school built for African American students in Caroline County, was nominated to last year’s Virginia’s Most Endangered Historic Places list by Kimberly Morris. Kimberly, who is from Richmond, has deep roots in Caroline County. Her father, Isiah Morris, attended the Old Dawn School. Morris remembers visiting Caroline County with her relatives as a child, and the sense of familiarity and belonging she always had to the community. Over the years, her historical and genealogical research led her to rediscover the Old Dawn School, a place her father had talked about fondly.

While built in a similar fashion to a Rosenwald School, the Old Dawn School does not appear to have received funding from the Rosenwald program. While more research is needed on the Old Dawn School, it is likely that it was built by members of the local community. It was one of several African American schools that existed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in southern Caroline County. Old Dawn’s decorative elements, including wide, boxed overhangs, exceptionally large windows, interior molding and a hipped roof, reveals that it was built with abundant skill and care.

The school and Morris’s quest to preserve it caught the media’s attention earlier this year, including a segment on CBS 6 Richmond, an article in the Washington Post and a story on ABC World News Tonight with David Muir. The school was also featured in Richmond Magazine.

With significant attention garnered from all over Virginia and the nation, donations of time and treasure have been offered to help with the preservation of Old Dawn School. While plans for what’s next for the site are still in the works, Morris is currently preparing a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Kimberly’s persistence and all of the recent support will continue to raise awareness of the school so it can be successfully preserved and put back in use for the community.
Hello, I’m Spencer Siebeck, one of the two-person Restoration Team for Preservation Virginia, and I wanted to take a little time to talk about our faithful old work truck, Rocinante! Senior Craftsman Mike and I have been driving this truck ever since it was donated to us many years ago. We decided our truck should have a name, and chose “Rocinante” after Don Quixote’s horse. It roughly translates to “old nag”, and while that may seem a touch unkind, our 300,000+ mile work truck has proven to be quite the workhorse for our crew, and has earned her namesake! We’ve driven our old Chevy all over the state of Virginia and hauled thousands of pounds of lumber, sand, bricks, stones- you name it. She’s just big enough to fit Mike, myself, a back seat of tool boxes and cordless tools, a job box of restoration supplies in the bed and our faithful dog Cody in the space between our seats (or charming the public sitting on my lap and hanging out of the window). By now the truck has seen better days. Her radio shorted out and her ladder rack is giving up after many years of hard use. Truth be told, our staff is concerned that Rosie might like to give up altogether after all other years of hard labor. Now our team is going to double in size, with a new recruit starting in June, and another soon to follow. We are in desperate need of another work truck to transport our new crew, and old “Rosie” is looking to retire soon as well. Our crew operates optimally with at least two trucks, so we can divide our workforce between maintaining our many historic sites, and heading out to work on “fee for service” projects for the public. A good work truck is essential to the day-to-day operation of our crew and maintenance of our sites. We need vehicles with good towing capacity to move our equipment and trailers, reliability to travel around the entire state of Virginia and plenty of space for the bevy of tools that our crew needs to accomplish a range of diverse restoration projects. Rocinante was all of these things for many years, but our crew has greater needs than she can handle now. If you’d like to help our restoration crew out, and to help get Cody the pup his new “sweet ride,” please consider donating to Preservation Virginia! And if you have any leads on trucks that could be donated, please let us know! Thank you so much and see you on the road.

Spencer Siebeck,
Restoration Apprentice
Spanish Language Tours and Audio Tours Offered at Preservation Virginia Sites

An Interview with Leonina Arismendi

Earlier this year, we enlisted the aid of Spanish language translator Leonina Arismendi to develop Spanish language tours for our historic sites. Our Spanish-speaking guests now have the opportunity to read along on guided tours and by this summer, will be able to listen to our audio tours in Spanish. Jennifer Hurst-Wender, director of museum operations and education, recently sat down with Leonina to discuss this important work.

Why do you think it is important that tours of historic places are available in Spanish?

Language accessibility is not just a passion or a job to me but a way to see that a more equitable world happens in our lifetime! Reportedly, there are more than 820,000 Spanish speakers in Virginia, more than that if you take into account the undocumented population which usually is underreported. Access to Virginia’s beautiful sights, history and education is a key to making this experience more welcoming to everyone.

Were you excited to take on this translation project?

Absolutely! I am a history nerd first of all, so anytime I can lend my own skills, like decolonized analysis or in this case, language access so that Spanish speakers can also enjoy history is really exciting. When I was a child, living in Fredericksburg, I would have to interpret for my family anytime we went on historic downtown outings. I am thrilled that with this work, more immigrant kids will be able to dig deep into their own experience at our sites without working through a role of interpretation (which is hard work even as an adult!). I love the idea that our work is going to make so many new family visits to our sights a beautiful, relaxing and informative experience.

How did you first connect with Preservation Virginia?

I had the honor of an invitation to present a Salon series about the Alien and Seditious Acts at the John Marshall House in Richmond. We had a lovely tour of the house and facilitated a rich community conversation using an analytical lens focused on the history of immigration up to that point in America. It must’ve been four years ago, but it is without a doubt one of my favorite experiences facilitating a conversation. I was so excited to be invited back by Preservation Virginia to once again work on an amazing project like this one!

Any takeaways from that experience that you would like to share?

I am a firm believer that a sober, informed, well-rounded understanding of history and historical narratives are absolutely necessary for us to move into a more equitable future. A lot of times, especially in Virginia, we run into the issue of romanticization, whitewashing or perpetuating harmful narratives that erase or even excuse the suffering that Indigenous People (both to the Americas as well as Africa) endured and continue enduring. It is only through the accurate portrayal
of historic events, bringing in the expertise of people experiencing those harms to this day and having these conversations about the past and the future in the present that we can become more clear about who we want to be as a Nation. This type of discourse is really something I cherish and work towards.

What other steps can Preservation Virginia take to make our historic sites more accessible?

So far, I have had nothing but positive experiences with Preservation Virginia. I love that you are thinking of language accessibility for tours and materials and hopefully social media as well, since summer is coming and we want to let folks know of this amazing opportunity to visit. I would love to see Preservation Virginia take an active role in providing educational opportunities for people that are working toward their citizenship tests. I know that there are a lot of history questions within that test and I imagine that would be an amazing opportunity to serve our community through education!

What projects are you currently working on?

I am so excited about the work I have been doing lately- it touches all of the areas of my life that I love! I am honored to be a part of Farmers Footprint Circle of Creatives, where I am working on a year-long series that covers the historical analysis of the intersections of the immigration system and the agricultural industry. I will be traveling to ten states across the U.S. and covering every part of the agricultural industry. My goal is to put a face behind our plates, tell their stories and call us all to action to protect those who provide us with our daily bread.

How can our readers support your efforts?

Thanks for asking! If you are interested in reading on the history of Farmworkers in America, part one of my series for Farmers Footprint is out. It is accessible to read in English and Spanish and has a nifty chart that fellow history nerds might love! Visit farmersfootprint.us to read more.

“Our sincere appreciation to Leonina for helping establish Spanish language tours at our sites, and come visit soon to experience them for yourself!”

“...I love the idea that our work is going to make so many new family visits to our sights a beautiful, relaxing and informative experience.”
On The Road With Preservation Virginia

JOIN US, with your membership & donations
The Many Ways to Show Your Support

Membership and Annual Fund donations make up a significant portion of our annual operating budget. We could not continue to preserve historic places throughout Virginia without your support, and we appreciate every gift that you make.

Preservation Virginia membership gets you free admission to Bacon’s Castle, Cape Henry Lighthouse, Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown, the John Marshall House and Smith’s Fort, as well as discounted admission to Historic Jamestowne. But best of all, your support directly underwrites preservation projects, archaeological surveys and advocacy for history in all levels of government.

If you are at least 70½ years old, you can donate up to $100,000 directly from your IRA each year to public charities such as Preservation Virginia — without treating the distribution as taxable income on your federal tax return. Please consult with your tax advisor.

Don’t forget birthdays and anniversaries! Giving a memorial or tribute gift is a meaningful way to honor a friend, colleague or loved one. These donations preserve the memory of an individual’s life or special occasion, and help sustain Virginia history for future generations. Remember any donation to Preservation Virginia can be made in honor of, or in memory of, someone dear to you.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support— it’s absolutely critical and we appreciate it.

1. Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown
   Hanover County

2. John Marshall House
   Richmond

3. Historic Jamestowne
   James City County

4. Smith’s Fort
   Surry County

5. Bacon’s Castle
   Surry County

6. Cape Henry Lighthouse
   Virginia Beach
Calendar of Events
Visit www.preservationvirginia.org for more information and to register.

Homeschool Days
Take your homeschool groups on the road this summer to five Preservation Virginia sites! Discounted admission and special programs are offered to homeschool groups on select days. Visit our website for dates and details.

Preservation Virginia’s Day of Giving
Wednesday, June 29th
Double your donation! Help us meet our fundraising goal before the end of the budget year during the Day of Giving. Contributions made on June 29th are doubled by generous supporters- make a gift and make twice the impact!

Historic River Festival at Cousiac Manor
Saturday, August 6th
9960 Old Sweet Hall Ferry Rd, Lanexa, VA 23089
Proceeds from this event benefit Preservation Virginia! The day’s festivities include artisans, crafters, a farmer’s market, local wines and brews, a food truck court, a children’s activity area and an education station featuring local non-profit organizations. Come out and show your support for PV!

Preservation Awards Ceremony
Friday, September 23rd—6 p.m.
Help celebrate the incredible work of preservationists throughout Virginia at our annual Awards Ceremony dinner. This special program will highlight unique projects and bring together individuals and organizations working to preserve historic sites in the Commonwealth. Proceeds from the Awards Ceremony support projects and programs at Preservation Virginia.

Fall Festival at Scotchtown
Saturday, October 1st
16120 Chiswell Ln, Beaverdam, VA 23015
Living history demonstrations, live music, vendors, food trucks and craft breweries galore at Scotchtown for our 2nd Annual Fall Festival. This event was a big hit last year- don’t miss it!

Preservation Virginia
204 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23220-5012
804-648-1889
www.preservationvirginia.org