# **New & Noteworthy in 2025**

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### **Major Openings, Exhibitions, Anniversaries**

### <u>Traveling Bricks: An Exhibition Made of LEGO® Bricks</u> | Virginia Museum of History & Culture |

### October 19, 2024 - January 5, 2025

In its first continental United States appearance, Traveling Bricks—one of the largest exhibits of its kind—features more than 100 models of iconic land, air, sea, and space vehicles constructed from nearly 1 million LEGO® bricks. After viewing the exhibition, guests can get creative with thousands of LEGO® bricks to build anything they can imagine.

### **Dimensions in Testimony** | Virginia Holocaust Museum | Opening November.2024

A collection of interactive Holocaust survivor biographies developed by USC Shoah Foundation. Using the innovative tool of AI technology, this exhibit enables museum visitors to engage in conversations with pre-recorded video images of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses to genocide including Halina Zimm, a resident of Richmond.

### Towers of Tomorrow with LEGO® Bricks | Science Museum of Virginia | February 1 – August 25, 2025

Featuring 20 of the world's most innovative skyscrapers built using half a million bricks by one of only twelve LEGO®-certified professionals worldwide, this exhibition showcases the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) involved in architecture and design. Get inspired and show off your master builder skills in the interactive construction area stocked with 200,000 loose LEGO® bricks.

### **Shenandoah Mansions** | Opening February 2025

The historic Shenandoah building, dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, is getting a new lease on life as a boutique hotel in the Fan District, an 85-block neighborhood home to Virginia Commonwealth University, stunning Queen Anne-style homes, and a lively food and beverage scene.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration | Kings Dominion | March 2025

Join the party! To celebrate 50 years of fun at Kings Dominion, the amusement park will be bringing back a few familiar sights and welcoming new thrills including <u>Rapterra</u>, the world's tallest and fastest launched wing coaster.

#### Virginia Derby | Colonial Downs | March 15, 2025

The road to Churchill Downs now runs through the Richmond Region! This year marks the first time that the Virginia Derby will serve as a qualifying event for the Kentucky Derby.

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arthur Ashe's Wimbledon Win | Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia | April – December 2025

A special exhibition celebrating hometown hero Arthur Ashe's victory at Wimbledon in 1975 will open in April and will include programming. Details TBA.

### Frida: Beyond the Myth | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | April 5 - September 28, 2025

This exhibition, which includes 60 works of art in a variety of media, will delve deep into Frida Kahlo's self-portraits and imagery to reveal the specific incidents in her life that impacted her creativity and the construction of her identity.

### Cosmic Baseball by the Tri-City Chili Peppers | Colonial Heights | Season Opener May 22, 2025

After the first-ever Cosmic Baseball games went viral in 2024, the Chili Peppers are back for more glow-in-the-dark action in 2025.

### <u>Ultimate Dinosaurs</u> | Science Museum of Virginia | May 31 – September 1, 2025

Featuring 20 full specimens from locations in the Southern Hemisphere, this interactive exhibition brings dinosaurs to life with augmented reality. Don't miss this DINO-mite paleontology experience.

### **Riverfront Amphitheatre | Summer 2025**

A new live music and performance venue will open just in time for the summer concert season. The Riverfront Amphitheatre will seat 7,500 people and is estimated to host 30+ events and shows annually.

### Virginia's Missing in Action: The Search Continues | Virginia War Memorial | Opening September 19, 2025

The Virginia War Memorial will unveil its newest exhibit on National POW/MIA Recognition Day (the third Friday in September). The exhibit will be presented on behalf of the surviving family members of the more than 1,200 Virginia Veterans who are still missing in action (MIA) and on behalf of the more than 700,000 veterans who call Virginia home. The exhibit will explore the scientific process behind searching for and recovering the remains of those individuals by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

#### Fall Line Trail | In Progress

The Fall Line Trail is a 43-mile paved, multi-use trail that promises to transform the region for active transportation, connecting communities, and economic development. Named after the geographic feature on which the Richmond Region sits, the trail will traverse seven localities in a region of 1.3 million people.

### **Anniversaries of Note**

- **250**<sup>th</sup> **anniversary of Patrick Henry's address** to the Second Virginia Convention: "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hollywood Cemetery, where 2 United States presidents are buried.
- 50th anniversary of Arthur Ashe's Wimbledon win
- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Diamond, the home field for the Richmond Flying Squirrels
- 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richmond Flying Squirrels

### Arts, History, and Culture

### The Impending Crisis | American Civil War Museum | Now Open

Take a deeper look into the events, individuals, and topics that led to the division of the United States on the verge of civil war. Explore multiple perspectives and view exclusive artifacts from this period in our nation's history. Part of a multi-year series of exhibitions.

### Virtual Reality Tour | Wilton House Museum | Now Open

Experience a virtual recreation of Wilton's original property from the 1780s. Using Quest 3 VR headsets, visitors can tour the original property and outbuildings while learning about the land, buildings, and tobacco cultivation.

### **Maymont Mansion Renovations | Ongoing**

The Maymont Mansion is closed in preparation for the biggest preservation project in its history, including a fresh new red slate roof and upgraded climate control system. The Robins Nature Center, the Stone Barn Welcome Center, and the 100-acre park, including historic gardens, farm animals, and rescued Virginia wildlife, remain open for visitors.

# <u>A Prescription for Change: Black Voices Shaping Healthcare in Virginia</u> | Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia | Now – March 15, 2025

Learn about the tremendous contributions that Black healthcare workers have made to the field of medicine, improving patient outcomes for generations beyond their own, especially in predominantly Black communities where equitable access to healthcare is still a challenge.

### A Better Life for Their Children | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | Now - April 20, 2025

Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington joined forces to create schools throughout the nation for Black children who had no access to publicly funded education, ultimately building thousands of schools, shops, and teachers' homes across 15 Southern states. Learn about the Rosenwald Schools program through photographs of interiors and exteriors, schools restored and yet-to-be-restored, and portraits of people with compelling connections to these schools.

### Turning Points: Richmond in the 1890s | The Valentine | Now – February 2, 2025

This exhibition details the tensions that arose as a new generation took over Richmond's segregated economic, municipal, social, and cultural institutions thirty years after the Civil War – and how the effects of this decade can still be felt today.

# <u>American, Born Hungary: The Hungarian American Photographic Legacy</u> | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | October 5, 2024 – January 26, 2025

This exhibition of more than 170 photographs plus related ephemera will examine the works of Hungarian-born American artists and their influence on photography since the early 20th century.

# <u>A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845</u> | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | October 5, 2024 – January 26, 2025

Encounter the everyday lives and ordinary places captured in evocative photos that contemplate the region's central role in shaping American history and identity and its critical impact on the development of photography.

# <u>FANCY: Costumes, Characters and the Richmond Masque</u> | The Valentine | May 2, 2025 – January 25, 2026 This textile and costuming exhibition at The Valentine explores the many ways Richmonders have used creative clothing to disguise themselves for frivolity, celebration, and performance.

# <u>Un/Bound: Free Black Virginians, 1619-1865</u> | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | June 14, 2025 – July 6, 2026

This exhibition explores the lives of free Black Virginians from the arrival of the first captive Africans in 1619 to the abolition of slavery in 1865.

# <u>Virginia & the Vietnam War</u> | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | November 23, 2025 – July 6, 2026 On the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, now is the time to ask new questions about Virginia and the Vietnam War. This display will provide guests access to the VMHC's collected oral histories.

### **VA250**

# <u>Give Me Liberty: Placing Patrick Henry in the Fight for Freedom</u> | Patrick Henry's Scotchtown | March 1, 2025

Exhibit about Patrick Henry's role in the Revolutionary War; includes a book lecture with historian and author Dr. John Ragosta (*For the People, For the County*).

### Henry's Ride for Liberty | Patrick Henry's Scotchtown | March 15, 2025

Experience interactive vignettes with living historians as we examine what liberty meant to the people of the 18th century in Hanover County featuring Patrick Henry, members of Henry's family, and the enslaved individuals who lived and worked at Scotchtown. Event concludes with a dramatic re-enactment of Mr. Henry's ride off to Richmond and St. John's Church to secure his place in history.

# <u>Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Forging of a Nation</u> | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | March 22, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Gain a deep appreciation for the continental and global forces as well as the individual actions by both iconic and ordinary people that brought about a model of democratic government that would change the world.

### 250th Anniversary Historical Re-Enactments | St. John's Church | March 23, 2025

Re-enactments of the Second Virginia Convention have long been a staple attraction at St. John's Church (an active church), but there's nothing quite like being exactly where history happened on the anniversary itself.

### Henry Takes Command | Patrick Henry's Scotchtown | September 13, 2025

History comes to life once again at Scotchtown. Witness the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment under the command of Colonel Patrick Henry as they prepare to march on Williamsburg.

### **Business and Lodging**

### 9 Muses RVA | Now Open

Shop local at this new retail space in Scott's Addition that exclusively stocks products from Richmond-based artists, musicians, and creators.

### **Henrico Sports and Events Center** | Now Open

State-of-the-art, 185,000-square-foot facility features 12 basketball courts or 24 volleyball courts and an arena with stadium seating.

### Parlay at Graybo's | Now Open

The former sports card hobby shop, Graybo's, is joining forces with Parlay, a new sports bar and restaurant. Together, the two businesses offer a one-stop shop for sports fans of all ages.

### **Dinner Party** | Opening November 2024

Certified sommelier and Virginia native Annie Barrow is set to open Carytown's only wine shop. The shop's inventory will also include selections of pantry items for hosting dinner parties.

### Abi's Books and Brews | Opening late 2024

Sip local coffee and browse the collection of nearly 2,500 books – all for sale – at this new coffee shop/bookstore combo on Cary St.

### **Ballast** | Opening late 2024

This redevelopment project will bring three local businesses together under one roof: Yellow Umbrella Provisions market, Slack Tide restaurant, and a Cirrus Vodka tasting room/lounge.

### **Surf Park** | Summer 2025

While the 6-acre surf park is still under construction, a non-surfing water feature offering wakeboarding, an inflatable obstacle course, and standup paddleboarding will be open by next summer.

### **Food and Drink**

### **1870** Restaurant | Chesterfield | Now Open

The historic Jewett-Bass Hall, built in 1870, is now home to a French-inspired steakhouse owned by award-winning local chef David Dunlap.

### Beaucoup | Richmond | Now Open

A neighborhood bar serving cocktails, crispy lagers, white wine, oysters, and scratch-made, simple plates in an unpretentious environment.

### **British Embassy** | Richmond | Now Open

Authentic fish and chips and other British dishes are on the menu.

### Cookie Chris | Henrico | Now Open

19-year-old Chris Knight has opened his *second* bake shop, this time in the Short Pump neighborhood of West Henrico County, and claims to have the "world's best cookies."

### **Devil's Lettuce** | Henrico | Now Open

A playful, tongue-in-cheek vibe meets vegan comfort food and build-your-own dishes. Devil's Lettuce offers a peanut and tree nut free kitchen and has a dedicated fryer for gluten-free ingredients.

### **Estate Restaurant & Lounge** | Colonial Heights | Now Open

An upscale eatery with unique cocktails and elevated, classic dishes on the menu.

### Floris at VMFA | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | Now Open

Enjoy a rotating menu specially curated to accompany the museum's current special exhibitions.

### IL Forno Bar & Grill | Ashland | Now Open

Rooted in a rich family tradition and inspired by Giuseppe's childhood memories of his father's bustling kitchen, IL Forno offers a "taste of Italy and a world of flavor."

### Marylous | Richmond | Now Open

A new dining experience featuring elevated soul food and multiple spaces for cocktails, lounging, and more.

### Richmond Region Beer Trail & Richmond Region Mimosa Trail | Now Open

New digital trail passes make it easier than ever to check in and earn free swag while you sample some of the best brews and brunch in the Richmond Region.

### **Smoke & Barrel** | Richmond | Now Open

This cozy, intimate restaurant nestled in Richmond's Fan neighborhood features elevated American fare and creative cocktails to excite every palate.

### Stock Bistro & Bar at Txtur | Richmond | Now Open

Roanoke-based furniture company Txtur (pronounced "texture") has opened a showroom in Richmond featuring examples of their custom pieces and Stock, a Nordic restaurant and bar serving brunch, lunch, and dinner while you relax and stay a while.

### Trouvaille | Richmond | Now Open

Trouvaille ("Lucky Find" in French) serves up New American cuisine featuring hyperlocal ingredients, seasonal dishes and innovative cocktails.

### West End Tapas Bar & Restaurant | The Park RVA | Now Open

Named after the "West End" of Richmond, this tapas wine lounge, craft cocktail bar, and restaurant offers an upscale venue to relax and unwind tucked away from the busyness of this lively entertainment spot.

### Farm + Oak | Chesterfield | Coming Soon

Husband and wife duo Mike Lindsey and Kimberly Love-Lindsey have opened 13 restaurants since November 2020. Farm + Oak is a spinoff of their first restaurant, Lillie Pearl, and an additional location in Chesterfield will make their 14<sup>th</sup> eatery in the Richmond Region.

### **Slack Tide Restaurant** | Opening Late 2024

The owners of seafood market Yellow Umbrella Provisions are opening their first restaurant at the Ballast redevelopment property in the up-and-coming Scott's Addition neighborhood in Richmond.

#### Richmond Black Restaurant Experience | March 2025

Join the celebration of Black culture & cuisine with a week of specials, new and returning favorite dishes, food trucks, and more.

### 9th Anniversary Celebration | The Veil Brewing Co. | April 2025

Celebrate with award-winning brews and the largest craft beer release of the year.

#### Richmond Restaurant Week | April and October 2025

During this biannual celebration of the local culinary scene, participating restaurants create a special prix-fixe meal. Each meal purchased generates a monetary donation to Feed More, a local organization dedicated to hunger relief in Central Virginia.

### **Dine Out for Pride** | June 2025

Order a signature item at participating Richmond Region restaurants and a donation will be made to OutRVA and Diversity Richmond in honor of National Pride Month.

#### **Chesterfield Restaurant Week | TBD**

Following the success of their inaugural Restaurant Week, Chesterfield County will host their second annual event in 2025. More details to be announced.

### **Festivals, Events, and Performances**

### **Celebrate MLK** | Dominion Energy Center | January 19, 2025

The Richmond Symphony performs an annual chamber concert for all ages honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrating his inspiring message.

### Edgar Allan Poe's Birthday Bash | The Poe Museum | January 19, 2025

The "city that Poe claimed" celebrates the Master of the Macabre's birthday with live music, food, drinks, and special programming at The Poe Museum.

### A Musical Tribute to Prince with Anthony Cosby, Jr. | The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen | March 8, 2025

The electric joy and eclectic funk of Prince's music comes to the stage with vibrant, energetic and dynamic recreations of Prince's greatest hits, funkiest jams and most soulful ballads. Accompanied by his incredibly talented band, Anthony Cosby, Jr. takes you on an unforgettable musical journey like you've never experienced before.

### War in Pieces: A Festival of One-Act Plays | Virginia War Memorial | Select dates April 4-13, 2025

In partnership with Richmond's Firehouse Theatre, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation will present four one-act plays written by veterans and one spouse of a veteran. 2025 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this series.

### Ashland Train Day | Downtown Ashland | April 26, 2025

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual street festival and railroad extravaganza celebrates Ashland's love for trains with touch a truck, kid zones, a scavenger hunt, model trains, real trains, and more!

#### Riverrock | Brown's Island | May 16-18, 2025

From tunes to trail running, bikes to bouldering, SUPs to pups, fishing, craft brews, paddling on the James River, and more, there's something for everyone to rock the outdoors at this festival.

#### Juneteenth

<u>Elegba Folklore Society</u> offers the longest-running Juneteenth celebration in Virginia.

<u>Henrico County</u> will host its 5<sup>th</sup> annual festival in Dorey Park on June 21; the event drew a crowd of more than 17,000 in 2024.

#### Hill of Heroes Flag Display | Virginia War Memorial | June 27-July 10, 2025

Every year during the weeks surrounding Independence Day, volunteers and supporters of the Virginia War Memorial help install 12,000 flags on the hill of the Memorial Grounds, alongside the Shrine of Memory, to honor and remember the nearly 12,000 Virginians killed in service to the country from World War II through the present day.

### Hanover Tomato Festival | Pole Green Park | July 11-12, 2025

For over 46 years, freshly harvested and locally grown Hanover tomatoes have stolen the spotlight at this Richmond Region summer staple. Come see for yourself why Hanover tomatoes are the locals' favorite.

### Carytown Watermelon Festival presented by Publix | Cary Street | August 2025

With 80 musicians, over 100 exhibitors, one of the largest kids' areas of any festival on the East Coast and all of the great Carytown style, the Carytown Watermelon Festival has become the largest one-day festival in the state of Virginia.

### Virginia Pridefest | Bon Secours Training Center | September 2025

Celebrate Virginia Pride Month at the largest Pride festival in the Commonwealth.

### Run Richmond 16.19 | September 2025

Created by two-time Oscar nominee Djimon Hounsou (*Amistad, Blood Diamond*), Run Richmond 16.19 is more than just another active event. It's a unique opportunity to experience Black history in the only American portion of the Slavery Reconciliation Triangle.

### **2nd Street Festival** | Jackson Ward | October 2025

The 2nd Street Festival will return this fall, celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the rich culture of the historic Jackson Ward neighborhood—once dubbed "the Harlem of the South"—in Downtown Richmond, VA.

### Richmond Folk Festival | Brown's Island | October 10-12, 2025

The festival has become one of Virginia's largest, drawing fans each year to downtown Richmond's riverfront to celebrate the roots, richness, and variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling, and food.

### Spooky Lights Tours | Discover Richmond Tours | Mid-October through Halloween 2025

Richmond's famed Tacky Lights aren't the only tour-worthy holiday décor. Take a trip through some of the most spook-tacular neighborhoods just in time for Halloween.

#### Garden Glow presented by Kroger | Maymont | Mid-October through mid-November 2025

Maymont's picturesque gardens are transformed into wildly colorful, glowing works of art that light up the night!

### The Commonwealth of Virginia's Veterans Day Ceremony | Virginia War Memorial | November 11, 2025

Honor those who have served and who are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces at this annual event featuring guest speakers, patriotic music and recognition of the winners of the Virginia War Memorial's Veterans Day Student Essay Contest.

### The Visual Arts Center's Craft + Design Show | Late November 2025

Craft + Design is held in the historic Main Street Station's train shed and draws more than 10,000 people to shop the work of over 160 artists from all over the country.

### Light Up the Tracks | Downtown Ashland | November 22, 2025

With the help of Dominion Energy as presenting sponsor, Downtown Ashland hosts a FREE mile-long holiday light display and six weeks of special events.

### 48th Annual Model Railroad Show | Science Museum of Virginia | November 28-30, 2025

Train lovers of all ages will enjoy exploring elaborate displays featuring scaled locomotives riding through intricate landscapes and miniature cities created by private hobbyists from across the state. In addition, the Science Museum is loaded with train-themed hands-on activities and live demos.

### **Dominion Energy GardenFest of Lights** | Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden | November 2025 – January 2026

The #1 Botanical Garden Holiday Lights Display (USA Today 10Best) is a favorite RVA tradition featuring more than a million lights, botanical decorations, model trains, hot chocolate and s'mores (for purchase).

### 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Colonial Heights Christmas Parade | Colonial Heights | December 2025

The only nighttime Christmas parade in the Richmond Region is a longstanding tradition and features a new theme each year.

### **Sports and Active Events**

### A-10 Women's Basketball Championship | Henrico Sports & Events Center | March 5-9, 2025

It's March Madness in the Richmond Region! The A-10 Conference Championship for women's basketball will be held at the Henrico Sports & Events Center for the second year in a row.

### River City Half Marathon | March 8, 2025

Witness the first signs of spring in the Richmond Region along a picturesque course that starts and finishes on the University of Richmond's equally beautiful campus.

### Richmond Flying Squirrels 15th Season and The Diamond's 40th Anniversary | Opening Day April 4, 2025

RVA's hometown Minor League team is celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> season and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their home field, The Diamond.

### National Wheelchair Basketball Association National Championship | Henrico Sports & Events Center | April 3-6, 2025 (Junior) and April 10-13, 2025 (Adult)

The National Wheelchair Basketball National Championship returns to the Richmond Region. In total, 100 teams and over 1,100 wheelchair basketball players will compete for a coveted national title during the junior and adult events.

### Ukrops Monument Avenue 10k presented by Kroger | April 12, 2025

This RVA spring tradition features a Dress Up and Run contest and 10k Spirit Contest, where even the bystanders can win prizes for pumping up the crowd and runners.

### Run and Ride | Kings Dominion | May 31 – June 1, 2025

Come for the run, stay for the fun! Watch the sunrise over roller coasters, run alongside park rides and activities, high-five Snoopy, earn a medal and enjoy some fabulous swag.

### Racing Season | Colonial Downs | July 2025 – early September 2025

Thoroughbred racing returns to New Kent County's Colonial Downs for the 2025 season. Colonial Downs features two courses: the Secretariat Turf Course is the widest grass racing surface in North America, and the oval-shaped dirt track is the second largest in the country.

### NASCAR Cup Series Race | Richmond Raceway | August 15-16, 2025

Night racing returns to Richmond Raceway with a full weekend of events culminating in the NASCAR Cup Series race.

### Run Richmond 16.19 | September 2025

Experience 400+ years of Black History on this unique 16.19 km course through some of Richmond's most historic neighborhoods and sites.

#### Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon | November 16, 2025

Run through Richmond (and qualify for the Boston Marathon) as crowds cheer you on to the finish line at "America's Friendliest Marathon."

### CarMax Tacky Light Run | December 11, 2025

Don your favorite holiday sweater and discover the Richmond Region's famed "Tacky Lights" on foot in this 6k course.

### 2026 and Beyond

<u>CarMax Park</u>: The new home of the Richmond Flying Squirrels is underway! CarMax Park will offer a massively upgraded fan experience. New amenities include a beer garden, kids' play area, lawn and picnic terraces, and an art walk; the new ballpark will also offer improved accessibility for guests with disabilities.

Expected completion: April 2026

<u>Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden</u>: Updates to the garden include an expansion of the conservatory, which will feature the popular Butterflies Live exhibit on a permanent basis.

**Expected completion:** Summer 2026

<u>Buc-ee's</u>: New Kent County will be home to the Commonwealth of Virginia's second Buc-ee's location following the completion of construction on the nearest interchange, part of the Interstate 64 widening project.

**Expected completion: 2027** 

LEGO Group: The first United States manufacturing facility is under construction in Chesterfield County.

**Expected completion: 2027** 

<u>Children's Museum of Richmond, Downtown Location</u>: The museum is set to undergo a complete renovation. Details forthcoming.

**Expected completion: 2028** 

<u>Richmond Surf</u>: The world's largest surf park is under construction. A non-surfing water feature offering wakeboarding, an inflatable obstacle course, and standup paddleboarding is set to open by Summer 2025.

**Expected completion: 2030** 

<u>Trail of the Enslaved</u>: The City of Richmond plans to commission a 12-foot-tall bronze sculpture on the banks of the James River to mark the spot where enslaved people arrived. The name of the trail (formerly known as the Richmond Slave Trail) is also being updated.

**Expected completion: TBD**