

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation P.O. Box 1776 Williamsburg, Va. 23187-1776 www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

New Membership Program Offers Value and Supports the Growing Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg

Individual and family memberships offer value and benefits and support the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum







"Dude," tobacconist figure ca. 1880, museum purchase, Winthrop Rockefeller, part of the exhibition "Sidewalks to Rooftops: Outdoor Folk Art" at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum; rendering of the South Nassau Street entrance to the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg; "Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I", artist unidentified, 1590-1600, gift of Preston Davie, part of the exhibition "British Masterworks: Ninety Years of Collecting at Colonial Williamsburg," opening Feb. 15 at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 5, 2019) –Colonial Williamsburg offers a new opportunity to enjoy and support its world-class art museums, the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, with annual individual and family memberships that provide guest benefits and advance both institutions' exhibition and interpretation of America's shared history.

The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, which showcases the best in British and American fine and decorative arts from 1670-1840, and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, home to the nation's premier collection of American folk art, remain open during their donor-funded, \$41.7-million expansion, which broke ground in 2017 and is scheduled for completion this year. Once completed, the expansion will add 65,000 square feet with a 22-percent increase in exhibition space as well as a new visitor-friendly entrance on Nassau Street.

"The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg offer a range of engaging, rotating exhibitions as well as tours and hands-on craft programs plus performance, interpretive and discussion events

365 days a year," said Ronald L. Hurst, Colonial Williamsburg's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for museums, preservation, and historic resources. "This new program offers Art Museums members enormous value while also providing an opportunity to support our core educational mission."

Membership in the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg provides:

- Unlimited admission to the Art Museums and the Rockefellers' Bassett Hall for a year from date of purchase
- 25 percent off Art Museums Single-day tickets for friends and family
- 10 percent off purchases at the Museum Cafe and Museum Store
- Four exclusive members-only events per year
- Discounts on select Hennage Auditorium programs
- Quarterly member e-newsletters
- Complimentary parking in the Art Museums and Visitor Center lots and use of Colonial Williamsburg's shuttle service

Exhibition highlights at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum include "British Masterworks: Ninety Years of Collecting at Colonial Williamsburg," opening Feb. 15; "Upholstery CSI: Uncovering the Evidence," recently featured on CBS "Sunday Morning;" "Artists on the Move: Portraits for a New Nation;" and "To Arm Against an Enemy: Weapons of the Revolutionary War."

At the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, guests and members can enjoy "America's Folk Art," "Folk Art Under Foot," an exhibition of hooked and sewn rugs, and "Navajo Weavings: Tradition and Trade," as well as popular ongoing exhibitions "Down on the Farm" and "Sidewalks to Rooftops: Outdoor Folk Art."

In addition to special musical, interpretive and discussion programs at the Hennage Auditorium, regular Art Museums tours and programs include "Decorative Arts Highlights," "Introduction to Folk Art," "Fashion Fanatics" and "By George!" focusing on items associated with or owned by the first president.

Individual memberships are \$50 and \$20 for minors ages 6-17 through May 31. Starting June 1 prices increase to \$60 and \$25 for minors ages 6-17. Family memberships are \$125 for two adults and two minors, and \$10 for each additional minor.

Colonial Williamsburg ticket and pass products still provide regular admission to the Art Museums, which are open along with the Museum Store 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday until March 13, when both are open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Museum Café grab-and-go is open 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The Rockefeller's Bassett Hall is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The Art Museums are currently accessible via a temporary entrance facing West Court Street between S. Henry and S. Nassau streets. The Rockefellers' Bassett Hall is located at 522 Francis Street East.

For additional information or to purchase an Art Museums membership, visit Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations or <u>colonialwilliamsburg.org/joinart</u> or call 855-296-6627.

Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on <u>Facebook</u> and @colonialwmsburg on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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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 45 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.