



VIRGINIA  
ASSOCIATION  
of MUSEUMS

## Advocacy News 2019

While advocacy is a year-round task, we always gear up for the General Assembly to convene in January each year. Stay tuned for updates on their work throughout the session this year, and in the meantime, check out our advocacy resources on our website for more information about how you can advocate for your museum!

### VAM Advocacy Resources

#### Session Update

The 2019 legislative session has officially begun. There are a few items museums should keep an eye on.

#### Budget Amendments

This is a short session, which means this is year two of the two year budget cycle. However, the Governor's budget can add or change budget numbers for year two of the cycle. This year, here are a few of those amendments to watch:

- The University of Virginia budget line includes an increase in funding for Virginia Humanities, from \$1,576,467 to \$1,776,467. (page 220)
- Several museums are proposed to get small bumps in funding for year two, including VMFA, Frontier Culture Museum, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.
- In the Central appropriations section of the budget, several of our state agency museums are included. The proposal allows them to use bond proceeds for specific projects. For example, Gunston Hall would be given funds to upgrade their fire suppression and security. (page 544)

#### Other Bills of Interest

HB2662 is a bill that would require high school graduation requirements to include both a work experience (an internship or service-based learning experience, for example) and a capstone project related to this experience.

HB2699 would update the Virginia Humanities task force established to assist in its work regarding the history of formerly enslaved African Americans in Virginia; the bill would add VTC and Virginia Outdoors Foundation, as well as three other appointees, to the task force.

[Review the budget bill](#)



#### Virginia Museum Advocacy Day

Save the date now to join us for Virginia Museum Advocacy Day on February 7th. We have a full day planned complete with training, visiting legislators, and an evening reception honoring our Top Ten Endangered Artifacts winners!

[Register Now!](#)



[Review all proposed legislation](#)

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## Want to take your advocacy efforts to the next level?

Think about joining VAM at the American Alliance of Museums' Museum Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Museum leaders from across the country will come together in Washington on February 25 and 26 to advocate for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NEA, NEH, and more. [Find out more.](#)

