



VIRGINIA'S EXECUTIVE MANSION

HOME TO VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS
SINCE 1813

THIS STATELY HOME

Dear Virginians & Visitors,

The opportunity that Glenn and I have to serve the Commonwealth as Governor and First Lady is a remarkable blessing. An extraordinary part of this honor is residing in Virginia's Executive Mansion, a stately home encompassing a vast amount of history and culture.



With over 55 Governors and their families having moved in and out of this residence, it belongs to the Commonwealth far more than any one family or person. While you observe the vibrant art around you, walk through rooms once occupied by revered Virginians, or listen to the stories of historical figures and or artifacts, we hope you will recognize yourself as an honored guest in Virginia's home now and always.

Thank you for visiting today, and we hope you leave knowing that you've further shaped the legacy of the nation's oldest purpose-built Executive Mansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn Youngkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

VIRGINIA'S HOME

Designed by Boston architect Alexander Parris in the Federal style, the Executive Mansion today sits close to the site of a modest structure that housed Virginia's governors after the capitol moved from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1780.

In 1813, Virginia's 19th Governor James Barbour moved into the newly built residence which has been occupied by Virginia's governors ever since, making the Executive Mansion the oldest continuously occupied Governor's residence in the country.

This executive residence is both a Virginia and a National Historic Landmark and has had several renovations and expansions during the 20th century.



1876



1909



1939



1963



2023

RECEIVING ROOMS

LADIES' PARLOR

For centuries, the Ladies' Parlor has been a destination of waiting, mingling, visiting and even sewing. Today, the Ladies' Parlor exists as an homage to the beauty and complexities of womanhood, showcasing antique artifacts alongside contemporary art painted by, of, or for the women of the Commonwealth.



OLD GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Long serving as the primary office, 19th century governors received nearly all of their callers in this room, likely furnished as a library. In 1906, Governor Montague moved his office to the Capitol, allowing this most important space to better serve the private needs of the Governor. Today's guests take in a table owned by Patrick Henry, a globe dating back to the 1780s and portraits of notable Governors and Virginians.



BALLROOM



Originally, the Mansion's massive ballroom was divided by large doors just beyond the entrance arch. The right boasted a dining room and the left played host to guests in a formal parlor.

Today, this centerpiece serves as the main entertaining space for receptions, dinners, musical and dance performances, annual holiday soirees and more. The Mansion's first residents encouraged legislators to make themselves at home while they were in legislative session and even today, General Assembly members frequently gather in the historic home.

WELL PLAYED

In 1926, Governor Trinkle's five-year-old son Billy set fire to the family Christmas tree with a sparkler. The fire caused severe damage to a significant portion of the first floor. The next governor, Harry Byrd, decided he wanted to replace the burned piano. When Byrd discovered that there were no funds available for the replacement, he sold the state limousine that had been provided to him and used the profit to buy the Steinway piano that is still in the ballroom today.



A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Designed by 22-year-old Richmond architect Duncan Lee, the formal dining room was added in 1906. The oval design was due to the lack of space behind the house. A fireplace once featured on the back wall was replaced with a sideboard following the 1926 fire.

Thousands of Virginians have broken bread at the mahogany dining table which seats up to 30 guests. The breakfast nook off the south end of the dining room was added in the 1930s by Governor Price who preferred to eat on the porch. Later, Governor Tuck had the porch enclosed, the space now providing an intimate dining option for governors and guests.



USS VIRGINIA SILVER SERVICE

The stunning silver service displayed throughout the Executive Mansion was given to the USS Virginia by the Commonwealth in 1906, a donation derived from tradition. After spending time on the USS Richmond and the USS Roanoke, the silver service was found to be in temporary storage in San Francisco. The Navy agreed to return the silver to Virginia in 1958, and in 2004, The Commonwealth of Virginia became the official owners of the 51-piece set, solidifying the silver service as one of the Executive Mansion's most valued heirlooms.



GILLETTE GARDEN



Constructed in 1956 and restored in 1999 by the Garden Club of Virginia, the Gillette Garden at Virginia's Executive Mansion was designed by Richmond landscape architect Charles Gillette.

Lush with English boxwood, Virginia Cedar, azalea, camellia, Crape Myrtle trees and daffodils, the Gillette Garden showcases the natural beauty of our Commonwealth.

The fountain's bronze statue of the nymph Daphne is on a long-term loan from the VMFA and was sculpted in 1933 by sculptor Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney.



GREENHOUSE

A greenhouse has been a feature of the Mansion grounds since the home's earliest days. Built in 2014, the current greenhouse provides fresh, seasonal crops that the Mansion's kitchen staff use daily.

Free tours of the Executive Mansion are available at various times throughout the year.

Please visit www.executivemansion.virginia.gov
for the most up to date information about our tour schedule.

THE ART EXPERIENCE

at the

EXECUTIVE MANSION



Scan to learn more!

Designed in collaboration with artists, museums, historians and cultural institutions throughout the Commonwealth, The Art Experience at the Executive Mansion aims to educate, excite and inspire those who visit. In this first of its kind exhibit, Virginia artists are front and center.

This dynamic exhibition features artwork and artifacts that portray the spirit of Virginia - its past, its present, its landscape, and its people.

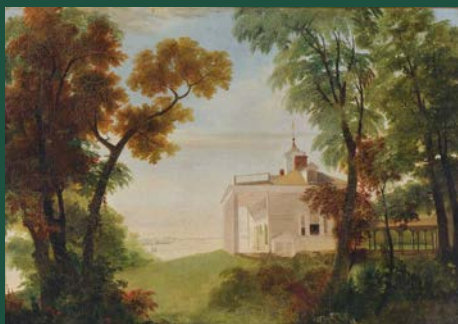
The Art Experience will evolve as additional works of art become available and as different parts of the Virginia story become the focus.

The current installment, "Do What You Love in Virginia," highlights the pastimes, places and people that are enjoyed and adored by Virginians and visitors alike.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA



SHARON LYNN CAMPBELL, b. 1964
The Upperville Gallop, 2019
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of Sharon Lynn
Campbell LLC | Rochelle, Virginia



JOHN GADSBY CHAPMAN, 1808-1889
Mt. Vernon Looking Down the River, 1836
Oil on canvas
On loan from Mount Vernon Ladies' Association |
Mount Vernon, Virginia



SALLIE AUBREY WISE, 1868-1935
Natural Bridge, 1887
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of the Library of
Virginia | Richmond, Virginia



PIERRE DAURA, 1896-1976
The Chicken House, Rockbridge Baths, ca.1962
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of Taubman Museum of Art |
Roanoke, Virginia

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

CENTRAL & SOUTHSIDE



ANDRAS BALITY, b. 1963
Little Nickel, 2023
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of the Reynolds Gallery |
Richmond, Virginia



WILLIAM CLARKE, b. 1950
All Eyes on Us, 2023
Oil on canvas
On loan from Annie Laurie Gushman |
Richmond, Virginia

HAMPTON ROADS



VINNIE BUMATAY, b. 1963
Diversity, 2015
Acrylic on canvas
On loan from the Amorosso family |
Virginia Beach, Virginia

EASTERN SHORE



CATE KAUFFMAN, b. 1959
Waiting in the Wings, 2019
Oil on linen
On loan from artist | Heathsville, Virginia

SOUTHWEST



CHARLES MCCONNELL, b. 1941
Front Porch Music, ca. 2012
Oil on canvas
On loan from artist | Coeburn, Virginia



MARGARET GREGG, b. 1940
The Walk, 2019
Fabric
Courtesy of The William
King Museum of Art |
Abingdon, Virginia