



**Virginia Women's Monument Unveiling Newly Completed Granite  
Plaza  
and Revealing Names on Wall of Honor  
*Fundraising campaign enters final phase for remaining eight  
statues***

Richmond, VA (Oct. 30, 2018) – The Virginia Capitol Foundation announced that the granite plaza foundation for [Voices from the Garden: The Virginia Women's Monument](#) is completed and soon will be open for viewing by the public. In addition, the 230 Virginia women whose names are inscribed on the monument's glass Wall of Honor were revealed\*.

Announcements were made at a special event at the monument's location on Capitol Square. Attendees included elected officials, members of the Women's Monument Commission, corporate executives, major donors and other key stakeholders.

The Virginia Women's Monument is the nation's first monument designed to celebrate the remarkable women who made significant, but often unrecognized, contributions and accomplishments in a variety of fields and endeavors over the 400-year history of Virginia.

According to Virginia Masonry Restoration, the contractor for this phase of the project, the monument's foundation combines a granite plaza with tiered granite benches in gray tones that are in keeping with similar stone combinations around the Capitol. Nearly 72 tons of granite comprise the plaza and the largest stone, which is part of the tiered bench seating, weighs over 18,000 pounds.

The granite wall of the upper bench tier features an inspiring quote by Mary Johnston, a well-known Virginia author in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

*"It did not come up in a night, the Woman Movement, and it is in no danger of perishing from view. It is here to stay and grow...It is indestructible, it is moving on with an ever-increasing depth and velocity, and it is going to revolutionize the world." Mary Johnston, 1912*

Installation of the curved glass Wall of Honor is underway and portions of the Wall were on display at the event. The Wall of Honor is inscribed with the names of 230 women who demonstrated notable achievement, made a significant contribution or set an important example within their chosen field of endeavor, their region, or at the state or national level. The list is intended to represent the many inspiring Virginia women who made contributions

or achievements during their lifetimes. A large amount of blank space will be available for the names of more outstanding women to be added to the Wall of Honor in the future. Fundraising is ongoing for bronze statues of exceptional women that will be installed on the plaza prior to the monument's dedication ceremony planned for the fall of 2019. To date, \$3 million has been raised and less than \$800,000 remains to be raised by February 2019 in order to meet production schedules.

The four statues of Native American chieftain Cockacoeske, Jamestown settler Anne Burras Laydon, educator Virginia E. Randolph and suffragist/artist Adèle Clark have been fully funded and will be sculpted by StudioEIS, the Brooklyn-based sculpture and design studio that created the vision for the monument. The eight statues that still need funding include: Martha Washington, Mary Draper Ingles, Clementina Rind, Elizabeth Keckly, Sally L. Tompkins, Maggie L. Walker, Sarah G. Jones and Laura S. Copenhaver.

"This beautiful plaza is exactly what we envisioned as a stately and elegant backdrop for the Virginia Women's Monument. Also, we are very excited to finally share the names on the Wall of Honor with the public," said Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate and a member of the Women's Monument Commission. "As our fundraising campaign enters the homestretch, it won't be long before a dozen life-sized sculptures of historic Virginia women find their place on the plaza and engage visitors in a truly unique experience."

For more information or to make a contribution to the Virginia Women's Monument, visit [www.virginiacapitol.gov](http://www.virginiacapitol.gov). Contributions can be designated for a particular statue by making a note in the Additional Comments box.

\*Wall of Honor names are posted [here](#).

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### **About the Virginia Capitol Foundation**

The Virginia Capitol Foundation is the independent, non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt organization supporting the ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the Virginia Capitol, Capitol Square and Executive Mansion. The VCF manages fundraising for the Virginia Women's Monument on behalf of the Virginia Women's Monument Commission. For more information about the Virginia Women's Monument, visit [www.virginiacapitol.gov](http://www.virginiacapitol.gov).