

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2026

TO: MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: ELEANOR BREEN, CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

FROM: IVY WHITLATCH, COMMISSION CHAIR

SUBJECT: FY 2026 COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose of the Annual Report: This Annual Report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the Alexandria Archaeological Commission during FY 2026 (from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026). The report includes specific goals for the coming year, upcoming recruitment and leadership plans, and the commissioners' attendance.

Background: The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) was established in 1975 to guide goals and priorities to promote Alexandria Archaeology (AA), encourage volunteerism, and advise on the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria's extraordinary sites and collections.

The Commission is comprised of 15 members serving 4-year terms. The Commission includes the following representatives:

- 5 Members at-large
- 1 Citizen member from each of the three Planning Districts
- 1 Member from the Alexandria Association
- 1 Member from the business community
- 1 Member from the Visit Alexandria Board of Governors or representative of the tourism community
- 1 Member from the Alexandria Historical Society
- 1 Member from the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or an equivalent organization
- 1 Member from the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology
- 1 Member from the Historic Alexandria Foundation

Membership and Appointments during FY 2026: Ivy Whitlatch was elected as Chair, Esther White and, subsequently, Scott Vierick as Vice Chair, and John Oldfield as Secretary.

The current roster and appointment expiration or resignation dates are listed below (*indicates new member in FY2026). Resignations included Seth Tinkham and Esther White.

Chair	Ivy Whitlatch	Planning District I	December 2026
Vice Chair	Esther White	Planning District II	March 2026
Vice Chair	Scott Vierick	Alexandria Historical Society	October 2026
Secretary	John Oldfield	Member at Large	September 2026
Members	Cynthia Boren	Member at Large	April 2029
	Kim Abraham	Member at Large	February 2029
	Seth Tinkham	Historic Alexandria Foundation	December 2025
	Anita Winsor*	Historic Alexandria Foundation	December 2029
	Richard Owens	Friends of Alexandria Archaeology	April 2030
	Dylan Colligan	Area Business Community	October 2026
	Edward Pulliam	Alexandria Association	March 2027
	Vacant	Visit Alexandria	Vacant
	Raymond Eresman	Member at Large	May 2029
	Ann Greer	Member at Large	September 2029
	Vacant	Planning District II	Vacant
	Paula Whitacre	Planning District III	October 2029
	Michael Johnson	Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent	September 2026

Upcoming Recruitment Plans for FY 2027: The AAC plans to recruit a Visit Alexandria Board of Governors or representative of the tourism community position to fill the existing vacancy and work with City Council to ensure that the Planning District II position is filled. There will also be an opening for the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or equivalent vacancy that the commission will work with Michael Johnson to have filled as soon as possible.

Attendance: During FY 2026, a total of 11 regular meetings were held. The Commission did not meet during the month of August. A quorum was met for all regular meetings except June. The average attendance throughout FY 2026 was 10 Commissioners, plus staff and visitors. All of the voting members of the AAC attended at least 75 percent of the meetings.

Each year, the AAC organizes a walk-about meeting to explore relevant historical places and expand the membership's understanding of historic Alexandria. This year, the AAC visited the Freedom House Museum to see the recent renovations and review future interpretation plans.

Role of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission:

The responsibilities of the AAC include:

1) Advocate for archaeology across multiple platforms and audiences

- Through the annual budget process, as a participant in the Torpedo Factory Stakeholders Task Force, in the local newspaper, and in discussions with members of City Council and the City Manager's Office, the AAC has advocated for the need to address the anticipated Fall 2028 return of the conserved ship hull remnant discovered in 2015 at the current site of the Hotel Indigo. This is both an immediate storage need and a future exhibition need. The AAC advocated that the exhibition of the ship hull remnant be considered as part of

the request for proposals soliciting new management for the Torpedo Factory Art Center. This is the most critical issue to be addressed by the AAC.

- AAC members have followed, advised, and participated in multiple city history projects. Most notable in FY26 include:
 - Continued advocacy for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in City discussions on the Torpedo Factory Art Center, including the request for proposals for new management of the center.
 - Initiated recognition of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex at the national level through the National Register of Historic Places nomination process.
 - Participated in the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation process for the Waterfront Flood Mitigation by attending meetings and providing comments.
 - Continue to serve as a consulting party in the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation process for The Heritage project.
 - Continued representation on the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission and the Waterfront Commission.
 - Supported the Alexandria Historical Society in their pursuit of a grant for the Digital History Museum by writing a letter of recommendation.
 - Initiated broadening of the Visit Alexandria representation on the AAC through an ordinance change.
 - Volunteered a total of 314.5 hours in its commitment to review, advise, and advocate to Council for both recognition of the areas and stories of historical importance that exist throughout Alexandria and acknowledgement of Alexandria's many important past archaeological discoveries, as well as its potential for many important future discoveries.

2) Supporting the Archaeology Program and Museum

- The Commission received quarterly updates on the Protection Code activities being reviewed by Alexandria Archaeology. These updates keep Commission members informed and allow them to provide feedback to Alexandria Archaeology.
- Through continued partnership with FOAA, the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, the AAC strives to educate and inform residents and visitors about archaeology and history and assist in membership recruitment efforts.

3) Community recognition for contributions to archaeology

Annually the AAC, in conjunction with Alexandria Archaeology, presents the Ben Brenman Awards to those individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional involvement with city history. This award coincides with Virginia Archaeology Month – a statewide celebration of archaeology and its contributions to scientific and historical knowledge.

In October 2025, the Ben Brenman recipient was recognized for their significant contributions to the City of Alexandria and Alexandria Archaeology.

- Carr Properties received the award for their commitment to the highest quality archaeological preservation at the site of the Alexandria Canal in Old Town North. Carr Properties partnered with the Alexandria Archaeology division, the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, volunteers, and community members to share this significant find with the public. Carr worked closely with the City to relocate the excavated canal stones for future use in a park. The award highlights the excavation, preservation, and stewardship of significant aspects of Alexandria's seaport history, including a major segment of the fourth lock and third basin of the Alexandria Canal, built in 1845. Contributions like this enrich the lives of Alexandria residents and visitors with history, both today and for decades to come.

Major Initiatives during FY 2026:

1) Advocacy for the ship timbers that are currently under conservation at Texas A&M with an anticipated return date to the City of Alexandria in early Fall 2028. The AAC remains committed to working with City staff and partners to find a location to showcase Alexandria's early seaport history in a way that educates and entices residents and visitors.

As yet, the City government has made no decisions concerning the location of the ship hull and related artifacts or alternatives for storing, exhibiting, or relocating them. **This represents a significant concern of the Commission.**

2) National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. For its June 2026 meeting, AAC submitted the preliminary information form (PIF) to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources State Review Board – the first step in securing a National Register status for the cemeteries. This followed a year of outreach to and public meetings with representatives and owners of the 13 cemeteries that make up the complex and to the City Manager to ensure support for the nomination. The AAC's Cemetery Sub-committee spearheaded the effort, drafting the PIF, organizing public meetings, and photo documenting the cemetery.

FY 2027 Goals: The AAC is expected to advise on the following funding items during FY 2027.

1) The key initiative is continuing to work to find an exhibition space for the ship hull currently being conserved at Texas A&M and ensuring funding for short-term storage.

2) Additional initiatives and goals of the AAC for FY 2027 include:

- Support for storage, exhibition, conservation, and accessibility of maritime and other artifacts including collaborative efforts with other City preservation commissions.
- Support, as needed, for the full National Register Nomination for the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex.

- Support for the continued leadership, staffing, and professional development of Alexandria Archaeology, including education, museum upgrades, and lab facilities, to remain one of the country's leading archaeology programs.
- Continue to advocate for a sustainable budget in support of a viable archaeological program for the City and seek new funding sources to support the work of the program.
- Remain vigilant and engaged, in partnership with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology, about Backyard Archaeology activity (bottle digging) that is destroying Alexandria history one buried privy and well at a time and continue to educate members of the community about this threat to Alexandria history.
- The AAC plans to explore the possibilities of creating new ways that support Alexandria Archaeology as a model for urban community archaeology programs.
- Continued interpretation of the African American story of Alexandria through the support of initiatives like Freedom House and other sites, projects, and collaborations.
- Recruit diverse membership to the Commission to fill vacancies.

APPROVED:

Ivy Whitlatch, Chairperson

ATTACHMENTS



Alexandria Archaeological Commission *America's First Archaeological Commission*



November 2025

City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear City Council,

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission appreciates the work of the Mayor and City Council to make updates to the organization and makeup of the commissions that serve our city. Ensuring that these commissions are positioned to meet the needs of the future is crucial to both their success and the overall success of Alexandria.

Recently, we became aware that City Council is considering removing the Visit Alexandria representative from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission's roster. We respectfully ask that you not move forward. We believe that having a dedicated representative on the commission benefits both AAC and Visit Alexandria.

Heritage tourism is an important reason why people visit Alexandria, and Alexandria's rich archaeological resources, when properly marketed, can help bring more people to our city to learn about its diverse, compelling, and complicated past. Having a representative from Visit Alexandria on the commission ensures that the organization tasked with marketing our city to the broader public stays up to date on Alexandria Archaeology's new discoveries, exhibits, and programs. Likewise, AAC benefits from having someone who can speak to trends in the tourism world and changes in visitor motivations. With the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States and return of the ship hulls both approaching, having a tourism representative on AAC will help the commission ensure that these two events and their connection to Alexandria Archaeology are properly marketed. The AAC has had a space on its roster for a cultural tourism representative since its founding, and the last Visit Alexandria representative was a key part of the commission, and we continue to miss her expertise and insights.

We recognize that it has been difficult to secure a representative from Visit Alexandria and that the spot on the commission has been vacant for the past few months. AAC is committed to working with Visit Alexandria on a long-term solution to addressing this challenge and ensuring that the commission remains fully staffed.

We ask for City Council's help and support as we work to address this challenge. We would be happy to set up a time to meet with the council or the subcommittee working on commission updates to discuss this issue further.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivy E. Whitlatch".

Ivy Whitlatch
Chair, Alexandria Archaeology Commission

jeb

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-4399



Alexandria Archaeological Commission
America's First Archaeological Commission



November 2025

City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear City Council and Department of Project Implementation staff,

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission takes great interest in the ongoing discussions regarding the future of the Alexandria waterfront. As both a historic space that has yielded many incredible archaeological finds and as vibrant public space, the waterfront is a key part of our city. We understand that addressing the ongoing flooding issue as well as mitigating the rising costs of climate change are important to the waterfront's future.

As conversations continue about the waterfront's future, we urge City Council and staff on the Department of Project Implementation to consider how archaeology can play a role in both remembering our history and supporting our modern economy. The discovery of four ship hull remnants at the Hotel Indigo and Robinson Landing sites nearly a decade ago attracted international attention and interest in the Port City. One of those hulls is scheduled to return to Alexandria in 2027 and the City will need a place to put it, ideally along or near the waterfront. Likewise, there are many other compelling artifacts in the collections of Alexandria Archaeology that are not on display due to space restrictions in the Archaeology Museum.

Where's the best place for the ship hull to go? It might be an expanded space in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, it might be a space at 1 Prince Street, or it might be somewhere else. AAC is not currently taking a firm position on where the location might be, but we are advocating that the City planners and elected officials remember both Alexandria Archaeology's needs and its value to Alexandria as conversations continue on plans for the waterfront, including flood mitigation and construction of a pump station.

Heritage tourism remains a powerful economic force throughout the world and many visitors come to Alexandria to view our historic resources. By securing a site where the city's rich archaeological heritage can be put on full display, Alexandria will encourage more people to visit and linger in our historic city, supporting local businesses and the City's budget.

Moving forward we ask that Alexandria Archaeology and the Alexandria Archaeological Commission remain involved in ongoing discussions about the future of the waterfront and that the needs of the archaeological collections and the many benefits of public archaeology be considered in all key planning discussions. Doing so will help foster an economically dynamic Alexandria that remembers its past while also meeting the needs of the present and the challenges of the future.

Ivy Whitlatch
Chair, Alexandria Archaeology Commission

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Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-4399



Alexandria Archaeological Commission
America's First Archaeological Commission



November 19, 2025

Mr. James F. Parajon
City Manager
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Parajon,

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer input for the FY2027 budget. In recognition of the fiscal uncertainty and constraints, the AAC has identified the following urgent needs that warrant budget consideration.

- 1) As in previous years, first and foremost, **analysis of the immediate storage and future exhibition of the conserved remains of the ship from the Hotel Indigo site.** This is the critical issue for the Commission. It is our goal for the ship to be a key driver of economic development, visitor revenue, and central to the interpretation of the waterfront for years to come. But planning for storage needs, expense and alternatives is imminent.

We feel it is important for the City of Alexandria to be aware that storage is the only course of action for the conserved ship remains for the next few years given the lack of identification of an exhibition location. However, we would be remiss if we did not alert the City that:

- a) Once the ship has completed conservation, which is now anticipated to be Spring 2027, the next phase of the City's ship conservation contract with Texas A&M University, the conservator, is to prepare the timbers for reassembly and exhibition OR, in lieu of a display facility, be stored. Funding for storage of the timbers off-site will need to be included in the FY27 budget and future budgets until an exhibit location is determined. The cost is currently estimated to be between \$7,000 and 10,000 per year.
- b) There is space within the Torpedo Factory Art Center in the Overlook Room to display the ship hull remnant either on a temporary or permanent basis. Our request is to be involved with process of awarding Torpedo Factory Art Center new management so that this potential can be analyzed for the ship hull.

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-4399

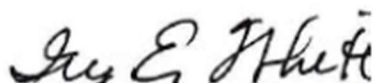
- 2) The AAC is proud to report that considerable work has been done on nominating the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the National Register of Historic Places. The first step is to complete a Virginia State Preliminary Information Form (PIF). Our goal is to have this completed for the June 2026 meeting of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Board meeting. If we are approved, the next step will be to prepare a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places to the National Park Service.

This preparation is typically made by a consultant that is hired by the City. Grant applications may be made, but there is considerable uncertainty in that area. While unlikely, the AAC would like the City to be aware, that a budget request of \$50,000 is not unreasonable to complete this process.

- 3) As stated in previous AAC budget request letters, the AAC wants to continue to advocate for the need for the city's artifact, archive, and museum collections storage – both physical and visual storage. This is not unique to Archaeology. It is critical among the commissions that support the Office of Historic Alexandria

We are grateful for your management and foresight in budgeting for the opportunities Alexandria Archaeology's work will bring to Alexandria for residents, visitors, scholars, and businesses.

Sincerely,



Ivy E. Whitlatch
Chair, Alexandria Archaeological Commission



Alexandria Archaeological Commission
America's First Archaeological Commission



January 1, 2026

Mayor Alyia Gaskins and City Council
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission wishes to express our concern about the lack of vision for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, public interactive artifact lab and division offices as outlined in the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Torpedo Factory Art Center. This concern is heightened by the anticipated 2028 return of the ship hull discovered at the Hotel Indigo site in 2016. We believe that the current RFP misses a significant opportunity to enhance the Torpedo Factory experience not just for artists and visitors, but also for the future operator of the center.

If the absence of vision for the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and interactive lab with the pending return of the ship hull reflects the intent of the current RFP—which proposes at least a five-year management contract with the new operator—the Commission respectfully makes two requests.

1. **Inclusion of Museum Expansion:** Should a timely decision be reached to house the ship hull and artifacts within the Torpedo Factory in preparation for their return from conservation in 2028, we ask what specific language should be added to the RFP to allow for a meaningful expansion of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and lab to showcase the ship hull and artifacts about Alexandria's waterfront history. Additionally, we request that a comprehensive museum feasibility and financial analysis be conducted to support the creation of a state-of-the-art museum.
2. **Exploring Alternative Locations:** If the decision is that the Torpedo Factory cannot accommodate the ship hull as written within the scope of this RFP, we request discussions on alternative locations within the City that could be considered, in collaboration with city staff, for the exhibition of the ship hull and related artifacts within a reasonable timeframe. It is important to note that the initial request for a museum feasibility study was made in 2019, granted in 2022, but subsequently removed from the budget in 2024.

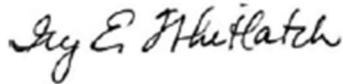
The Commission also notes with concern the exclusion of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum from the current RFP's Scope of Work regarding collaboration with the new operator on branding and promotion. While Section D, item 4 ("Unique Attributes"), of the RFP considers the Archaeology Museum as a "collaborative partnership," the Technical Proposal, item 5 ("Marketing Plan"), does not

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-6399

include the museum. As one of the most visited museums in the city's system, this omission represents a missed opportunity for any new management entity to expand the visitor base at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

It is my understanding that the archaeology division did not have input into the development of the RFP, nor did they receive advance notice that it would be presented to City Council on January 13, 2026. As this is the Commission's first opportunity to comment to Council, and with the second reading scheduled in a few days, there is limited time to address these concerns in detail. Please feel free to contact me at ivyeliz@comcast.net or my cell phone, 703-517-2547, at your convenience so that we may start the conversation. I have also registered to speak at the public hearing on January 24, 2026, via Zoom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivy E. Whitlatch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ivy Whitlatch
Chair, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

jeb

A critical waterfront question

Sydney Kodama - February 11, 2025



(Graphic/Jessica Kim)



To the editor:

The [Out of the Attic](#) column in the Jan. 8 issue of the Alexandria Times described the decade-long conservation process at Texas A&M University for the 18th century ship hull first discovered at the Hotel Indigo site in 2015. The members of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission hope this article reminds us all about this incredible discovery and what a game changer it could be for the City of Alexandria.

Current plans are for the Alexandria ship timbers to complete their conservation journey and make their return trip to the Port City in the spring of 2028. While those of us on the Commission appreciate the look back – as us preservationists are wont to do – it is now time to actively look forward.

History, especially maritime and colonial, synonymous with Alexandria. It is key to the charm of Alexandria which we proudly display in our multiple museums and events.

The return prompts the Commission to ask a critical question: Does the city want to put these treasures in a big warehouse out of sight to be stored for who knows how long, or does the city want to showcase these timbers and tell the fascinating story of Alexandria's waterfront?

The Commission believes the answer should be a state-of-the-art archaeological maritime museum on the waterfront. A space that exhibits our ship hull and artifacts from this excavation is a tremendous cultural and economic opportunity the city should not miss.

<https://alextimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/a-critical-waterfront-question/>

While the Alexandria Archaeological Commission recognizes that the city is faced with multiple financial challenges, we strongly believe it is time for archaeology to be engaging in relevant dialogue with the many civic organizations, city planning and groups that are now shaping what the waterfront will be in the future.

Alexandria's waterfront should showcase the discoveries from the excavation that captured the city's and the nation's attention a decade ago. For those of us who have been around since the beginning of this discovery, the rally cry was "Save our Futtocks" – futtocks is the maritime term for the curved timbers of a wooden ship hull just like the ones excavated from the Alexandria waterfront and is pretty memorable if you think about it.

We now think it is time to rally around "Show our Futtocks" and figure out the best location on the waterfront to proudly display our ship hull for Alexandria residents and visitors.

-Ivy Whitlatch, chair, Alexandria Archaeological Commission



Alexandria Archaeological Commission
America's First Archaeological Commission



February 19, 2026

Mayor and City Council
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The sub-committee on Commissions recommended that the seat on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) that has been held by the Alexandria Convention and Visitor Bureau Board of Directors (Visit Alexandria representation) be dropped from the Commission roster.

The AAC would like to suggest an alternative approach. In 2022, City Council approved an ordinance change for a seat on the Commission that had been unfilled for an extended period of time. That change reflected the broadening of an area of representation without losing the original intent – from a member of the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage to “a member of the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage or an equivalent organization.” The AAC was then able to fill that seat almost immediately.

The AAC recommends Council consider the same approach for the vacancy from Visit Alexandria Board of Governors (current version of the Alexandria Convention and Visitor Bureau); therefore, the proposed ordinance would change the requirement that one member of the Archaeology Commission come from the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors to “one member from the Visit Alexandria Board of Governors or a representative of the tourism community.”

Given the importance and significance of heritage tourism to the City of Alexandria, the AAC anticipates that this change in the ordinance will broaden the pool of potential volunteers who may serve and result in promptly filling the seat so that the Commission will be able to advise the Council on this crucial sector.

Sincerely,

Ivy E. Whitlatch
Chair

jeb

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-4399



Alexandria Archaeological Commission
America's First Archaeological Commission



March 20, 2026

City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear City Council,

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) thanks you for adding language to the Torpedo Factory Art Center RFP noting the Torpedo Factory's potential to serve as the future home for the ship hull found at the Hotel Indigo site. With the hull returning to Alexandria in two years, your decision represents an investment in the future. It ensures that potential managers and operators understand the many opportunities and some challenges posed by the hull as they prepare their bids.

We realize that there is still more work to be done. When the City of Alexandria reviews the proposals, we hope that the ability of interested firms to work with the City on the ship hull's future is given appropriate weight during the selection process. For now, the Torpedo Factory remains the strongest contender for the ship's future home. An applicant who is unable to properly plan for the ship hull puts its future public display at risk.

During Council's discussion about the RFP on January 24, several Members of City Council expressed the desire that City staff create a group to begin the process of figuring out the logistics for displaying the ship hull once it returns to the Port City. The AAC strongly supports the creation of such an advisory group. In addition to representatives of Alexandria Archaeology, we believe this group should also include City staff with expertise in finance, facilities, communications, and marketing. We also recommend that a representative of the AAC and the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association be a part of this group.

With the budget process ongoing, we strongly recommend that Council allocate funding to support efforts by staff to study the logistics of placing the hull on display. Investing in this process now will pay off later when it's time to move the hull into place.

It has been over ten years since the ship hull was safely removed from the Hotel Indigo site in preparation for conservation. The enthusiasm among Alexandrians about its discovery was incredible to witness, and the ship hull's discovery brought national attention to the Port City. Having the hull on display on our waterfront will renew the excitement that so many Alexandrians felt back in 2015 and 2016. The Torpedo Factory is a natural home for the hull. Archeology has been present in the building since it opened to the public in 1974, and today the Alexandria Archeology Museum is the most-visited site in the Office of Historic Alexandria system. We believe the hull will help drive traffic to wherever it is displayed, benefiting other nearby businesses and organizations. The AAC looks forward to working with City Council and City staff on ensuring smooth sailing for the ship hull's final voyage home.

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3217
Phone: 703/746-4399

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ivy E. Whitlatch". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Ivy E. Whitlatch
Chair, Alexandria Archaeological Commission