



Historic Preservation Month



Photo: Adedayo Dayo Kosoko

Freedom House Museum Reopens May 27

The City of Alexandria is pleased to announce that the Freedom House Museum (1315 Duke St.) will reopen on Friday, May 27, with three new exhibitions showcasing Alexandria's Black history and the Black experience in America. A grand opening event is scheduled for Monday, June 20, when the Juneteenth holiday will be observed. Details on this grand opening event will be announced in the coming weeks.

The museum will be open to the public Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child ages 5–12, and free for City of Alexandria residents. Due to high demand and limited capacity, it is highly recommended that guests [reserve tickets in advance online](#).

The National Historic Landmark is what remains of a large complex dedicated to trafficking thousands of Black men, women and children between 1828 and 1861. The museum honors the

lives and experiences of the enslaved and free Black people who lived in—and were trafficked through—Alexandria. This museum seeks to reframe white supremacist history and provide visitors opportunities to learn, reflect and advocate for change.

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum Celebrates its Designation as a National Historic Landmark

May 20
10 a.m.
105-107 S. Fairfax St.
Free

As part of National Preservation Month, come out on May 20 at 10 a.m. to celebrate the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum being selected as a National Historic Landmark. Remarks will be made by Mayor Justin Wilson, representatives from Historic Alexandria, and the National Park Service. The event will conclude with the plaque unveiling.

Announced on January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the Interior designated 21 new and two updated National Historic Landmarks. These 23 historic sites illustrate important aspects of American history and represent a diverse array of historic periods, cultural groups, property types, and archeological sites from across the nation. The Apothecary Museum was nominated for its contributions to fields of business and science, within the theme of developing the American economy. As noted in the nomination, “The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop is nationally significant in the history of pharmacy in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly the evolution of drug stores and the changing role of pharmacists.”

The City of Alexandria has been a leader in the field of historic preservation, from the creation of the country’s third oldest historic district in 1946 to the start of Alexandria Archaeology in 1961.

For more information on other Preservation Month events, please check [here](#).

Coming Events

Murray-Dick-Fawcett House Talks

May 21 and 28
10 a.m.
Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, 517 Prince St.
Free

To celebrate the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House’s 250th anniversary, Historic Alexandria is offering the public a unique opportunity to talk with former City Architect Al Cox about the house on Saturday mornings. The talks will be on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at 517 Prince Street.

- **May 21:** Historic Window Restoration
- **May 28:** Identifying & Replicating Historic Moldings & Trim

Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria

May 21 and 28
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

\$25, Tickets available [here](#).

Since the 1960s, the City of Alexandria has seen older buildings and spaces being restored, preserved, and reused in different ways. In honor of National Historic Preservation Month, explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and adapted for future generations to enjoy. At three stops, the Lee-Fendall House, Carlyle House, and the Athenaeum, you will be able to enter spaces that are usually closed to the public.

Tours begin at the Lee-Fendall House at 10:00 AM every Saturday in May. This tour includes walking over many city blocks, stairs, and access to confined spaces. Tours are limited to 10 people. Please dress appropriately for the terrain and weather. For more information, please call 703.548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

Sips and Secrets: A Speak Easy Night

May 21 and 28

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

7 – 10 p.m.

Tickets available [here](#).

Join Lee-Fendall House in the garden for its annual 1920s-themed fundraiser in support of preservation projects!

Historic Garden Tour

May 27

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

10 a.m.

\$10, Tickets available [here](#).

Discover the history of the Lee-Fendall garden from its eighteenth-century beginnings to the present. Learn how the use and appearance of the garden has changed over time and see recent efforts to restore the garden and create an educational space and urban wildlife habitat.

Advance ticket purchase is required as the tour is limited to 12 participants. For more information, please call 703.548.1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour

May 28

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

9 a.m.

\$15, Tickets available [here](#).

This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation.

The tour is limited to 12 participants and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Walking tours take place rain or shine so please wear appropriate shoes and clothing. For more information, please call 703.548.1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

Historic Alexandria receives City operational funding to support its mission; however, these resources do not cover the full scope of the department's strategic goals and projects. Donations, special revenue, and grant funding help supplement staff, conservation work, and educational programs. [Please consider a donation today!](#)

Historic Alexandria Museum Hours

Currently, the following City Museums are open to the public:

Alexandria Archaeology Museum

Wednesdays–Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays–Tuesdays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum

Wednesdays–Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays & Mondays, 1 - 5 p.m.

Friendship Firehouse Museum (June 11)

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fort Ward Museum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to discover new things about your hometown. For more information, please visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 situation, we are providing updates on our website. For additional information about the City of Alexandria’s actions, visit

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.

THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA’S HISTORY

On May 21, 1947, the Virginia Theatre located at 601 First Street was dedicated with a special ceremony. The program included official remarks, playing of the National Anthem, and the feature film “Carnival in Costa Rica.” With 1,200 seats, it was the largest theater in Alexandria at the time.

UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

May 16, Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Meeting

*Sister Cities Committee Room 1101, City Hall
7-9 p.m*

May 16, George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee Meeting
*George Washington Masonic Memorial
7-8 p.m*

May 16, Public Records Commission Meeting
*Archives and Records Center
7:30-9:30 p.m*

May 17, HARC Meeting
*Lloyd House
7-9 p.m*

May 18, Alexandria Archaeological Commission Meeting
*Lloyd House
7-9 p.m*

VIRTUAL: May 23 ACRP Pilgrimage Committee Meeting
*Registration link [here](#).
7-9 p.m*

May 24, ACRP Steering Committee Meeting
*Lloyd House
4-5 p.m*

May 26, ACRP Soil and Marker Committee Meeting
*Freedom House Museum
7-9 p.m*