



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the  
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting  
George Washington Birthplace National Monument  
March 17, 2016

The Fort Monroe Foundation (FMF) participated in discussions and planning activities with staff and other interested parties in preparation for an active 2016. These planning sessions provided direction for the FMF and confidence towards the continued incremental growth of the FMF. The FMF is especially excited about the continued participation in Give Local 757, hosted by the Peninsula Community Foundation, and the annual Sponsorship Reception hosted on at Fort Monroe.

### **Finances**

The FMF cash balance at the close of business on 3/11/2016 was \$101,010.84. The FMF financials through 12/31/2015 are attached.

### **Foundation Fundraising Activities**

The FMF is making plans for the annual sponsorship Reception at Fort Monroe for Thursday, April 28. We are excited to announce that the location for the event is the Commanding General's Residence and Gardens located on Fenwick Road across from Continental Park. This annual reception is the single largest annual fundraiser hosted by the FMF and provides the bulk of the resources required to host concerts, the *Fourth at the Fort* celebration, volunteer recognition events, education programs, and other activities. By hosting the event at the Commanding General's Residence, the FMF will be exploring how this residence can be used for special event activities.

Additionally, the FMF will be participating in Give Local 757 hosted by the Peninsula Community Foundation on May 3. Fort Monroe is also honored to be the site of the Peninsula Community Foundation's photograph for the marketing campaign materials. An estimated 400 people are expected to participate in the photograph.

As a result of the positive feedback from the successful *Lafayette Returns!* dinner in 2015, the FMF is planning for another re-enactment dinner in October 2016. Revenue from last year's dinner exceeded expenses and created a positive cash flow for the FMF.

Additionally, the FMF expects to continue to benefit from our growing relationship with the owners of the Bodacious Bazaar and we look for more exciting ways to collaborate in the future.

## **2015 Winter Activities**

The FMF supported the FMA in selling tickets for the 2015 Mistletoe Holiday Home Tours and the property was visited by several hundred people who enjoyed touring the five homes and other featured properties. The holiday season at Fort Monroe included the annual holiday concert performance by the Hampton Roads Philharmonic Symphony in the Post Theater followed by the tree lighting ceremony in Cannon Park. The FMF was pleased to provide the resources to host these community enriching activities.

## **2019 Commemoration and Legacy Projects**

Both the state 2019 Commission and the City of Hampton 2019 Commission continue to hold regular planning sessions regarding the commemorative activities for 2019. The FMA and the FMF stand ready to assist the 2019 Commissions with any interest in hosting African Landing Commemorative activities at Old Point Comfort.

The FMF continues to pursue the concept of renovating the Fort Monroe Post Library into the Fort Monroe Visitor Center. This project is a direct result of the efforts by the FMF to identify "Legacy Projects" associated with the potential activities surrounding the commemorative events planned for 2019. The FMF offers a vehicle to participate in fundraising activities that could lead to the implementation of a significant component of the Waterfront Park for the purpose of hosting an outdoor "2019 Commemoration Ceremony" at Old Point Comfort and assist with other projects such as the renovation of the Post Theater into a more useful multi-purpose space.

## **The Waterfront Park Project Conceptual Plans**

The FMA staff and the Waterfront Park Design Team presented the Waterfront Park concepts in two public meetings in February. The first meeting was with identified Fort Monroe stakeholders and the second was a meeting open to the general public. After the presentation, both groups were asked to submit written comments on the ideas included in the presentation. These ideas are now being summarized into a report that will allow the Waterfront Park Design Team to complete their conceptual plans for the park spaces. As stated in previous reports, the final conceptual design of the Waterfront Park will also be the basis for a capital campaign to implement this project into the landscape at Fort Monroe.

## **2016 Music by the Bay Sponsors Reception and Concert Planning**

The FMF is a strong supporter of the FMA *Music by the Bay* concert series and expects to participate in several events this year by providing the financial resources to host a full season of concerts in Continental Park and the *Fourth at the Fort* celebration.

## **Virginia Symphony Concert at Fort Monroe**

The FMF continues to meet and have discussions with the representatives of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in an effort to bring the symphony back to Fort Monroe in 2016.

## **Foundation Board Membership**

The Executive Director continues to meet with Board members and other parties interested in participating in the Fort Monroe Foundation. Although much discussion remains about potential growth in revenue for the FMF, the most recent discussions have focused on the need for increasing Board Membership in the FMF.