



Fort Monroe Foundation Report for the  
Fort Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bay Breeze Community Center  
August 18, 2016

The focus of the Fort Monroe Foundation (FMF) since the last Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) Board of Trustees meeting has been to support the FMA programs and events and to meet with new FMF Board members for orientation and strategy development. To that end, financial support has been provided for the *Music by the Bay Summer Concert Series*, as well as the annual *Fourth at the Fort* program. Additionally, meetings between the Executive Director and the new FMF board members has created new energy and direction for the Fort Monroe Foundation.

Planning is underway for future programs this fall and early winter, as well a fall meeting of the Board.

### **Finances**

The FMF cash balance at the close of business on August 10, 2016 was \$110,355.27. The FMF financials through June 30, 2016 are attached.

### **Foundation Board Membership**

The Executive Director has met with the two newest members of the FMF and agreement was reached to interview two potential candidates with foundation development experience. These candidates and one of the new board members visited Fort Monroe to participate in a detailed presentation of Fort Monroe and discuss the potential of the FMF. The meeting confirmed that much of the groundwork has been successfully laid over the last five years and that programs and projects, such as the visitor center and the Waterfront Park, are creating the opportunity for more significant philanthropic support. Based upon follow up correspondence, the FMF expects to receive a proposal that identifies opportunities to assist the FMF in Board development and philanthropic giving.

## **Waterfront Park Project Conceptual Plans**

The FMA staff and the Waterfront Park Design Team have completed the review of the public comments and the final conceptual plan is now ready for presentation to the FMA Board of Trustees. This final conceptual plan is a colorful representation of ideas coming together to identify the potential for the waterfront properties on Fort Monroe. Working with the FMA staff, NPS representatives, and significant comments from public participation, the Waterfront Park is a cornerstone in the opportunity to enhance the public park spaces at Fort Monroe. The FMF is excited to bring this portion of the design process to completion and looks forward to pursuing the opportunities this conceptual plan presents for fundraising and philanthropic investments in Fort Monroe.

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

The FMF continues to use the *Music by the Bay Summer Concert Series* as an opportunity for FMF sponsors to enjoy a reception in the Executive Director's home prior to concerts. In addition to creating an incentive that encourages sponsorships to the FMF, the receptions provide an opportunity to present the unique homes at Fort Monroe to a diverse audience. Attendees often ask for information about the history of Fort Monroe, as well as opportunities for both residential and commercial leasing.

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

The FMF is pleased to report that the Virginia Symphony Orchestra (VSO) will return to Fort Monroe at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at the Paradise Ocean Club. The FMF and the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau, along with significant in-kind contributions from the Paradise Ocean Club, have allowed this event to return to Fort Monroe and the City of Hampton. Details are still being worked out but the hope is that this site will become an annual event for the Virginia Symphony.

## **2019 Commemoration and Legacy Projects**

The Fort Monroe Visitor Center project continues to advance as the selection of the project architect is imminent. Once again, this project is a direct result of the FMF efforts on the Waterfront Park and, while the FMA will be paying for the renovation and construction of the Visitor Center, it is anticipated that the FMF will be largely responsible for the exhibits and displays that will be installed in the visitor center.

The FMF remains excited about other Legacy Projects, such as Commemoration Park, the Post Theater renovations, and a potential commemorative art project at Fort Monroe. These opportunities have all been presented to the new FMF members and will be further discussed in the next meeting of the FMF Board.

### **Foundation Fundraising Activities**

The FMF is proud to announce the production of the second annual historic interpretation dinner, *An Evening with the Madisons*, on October 15, 2016. What was once an aspirational goal of the FMF to host an annual event is now becoming a reality. Expectations are high that the fundraising dinner in the Chamberlin will once again host a sellout crowd and produce a positive revenue event for the FMF.

As the summer draws to a close, the FMF Executive Director is looking forward to additional events this fall that present fundraising opportunities at Fort Monroe. The annual Ghost Walks, as well as traditional holiday events, provide unique opportunities for sponsorships. These items, as well as more significant fundraising projects, will all be discussed at the next Board Meeting scheduled for September 1, 2016.