

A S W A D

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE WORLDWIDE AFRICAN DIASPORA

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REMEMBRANCE RENAISSANCE REVOLUTION

THE MEANING OF FREEDOM IN THE AFRICAN WORLD OVER TIME AND SPACE

NOVEMBER 5 - 9, 2019 WILLIAM & MARY

In 2019, the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) brings the world to William & Mary! From November 5-9, 2019, William & Mary (W&M) will host ASWAD's Tenth Biennial Conference in remembrance of the first enslaved Africans who landed at Point Comfort (present day Hampton, Virginia) four hundred years ago in August 1619.

"The conference program promises to be truly unprecedented in ASWAD's history, in both size & scope. We will be welcoming hundreds of renowned scholars from around the globe & we will enjoy a variety of special presentations, including a roundtable featuring our organizational founders." states ASWAD President, Dr. Leslie M. Alexander, Associate Professor of History at the University of Oregon. The scholarship, cultural events & excursions reflect the conference theme of Remembrance, Renaissance, and Revolution reflecting the black experience from antiquity to the present. The world's leading scholars of the African Diaspora & a range of activists & artists will be featured at ASWAD. Community events to honor the global impact of slavery & explore the meaning of freedom in the African world over time and space will be featured throughout the conference.

Keynotes for the ASWAD 2019 Conference will include internationally renowned scholars Dr. Claudrena Harold of the University of Virginia & Dr. Shani Roper, Museum Curator at The University of the West Indies, Mona. Distinguished Writer in Residence at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, Bestselling Author & MacArthur Fellow Ta-Nehisi Coates will also be a Keynote at ASWAD 2019. Legendary Actor & Filmmaker Tim Reid will host ASWAD's Inaugural African Diaspora Film Festival & Colonial Williamsburg will offer African-American themed tours & reenactments. William & Mary's Commonwealth Auditorium will feature a Choreopoem, *Dance of the Orcas*, (DOTO) written by Omiyemi Artisia Green, W&M Associate Professor of Theatre & Africana Studies & choreographed by Ann Mazzocca Bellecci featuring music arranged & performed by Alagbara. DOTO is a production of Omiwerx, funded by a 2019 Plumeri Award & ASWAD. There will also be excursions to local historical sites, including Hampton's Fort Monroe National Monument with a Welcome by National Park Service Superintendent, Terry E. Brown. In Richmond, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) exhibit "Determined" highlights black self-determination, as does ASWAD's plenary session, "Africa for the Africans" about Marcus Garvey, UNIA & the contemporary meaning of African self-determination, led by Garvey scholars and African Diplomats. Richmond's Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) will host performances by W&M Professor of Dance, Leah Glenn of the Leah Glenn Dance Theater with guest Artists Chloe Abel, Janine Beckles, Christopher Page Sanders with costume and set designs by Steve A. Prince, Artist in Residence at W&M's Muscarelle Museum of Art. ASWAD's founders will also lead a Special Roundtable celebrating ASWAD's 20th anniversary. In honor of the Ancestors of the African Diaspora, The Sankofa Projects will conduct Remembrance ceremonies throughout the conference.

"William & Mary is thrilled to host the biennial ASWAD conference during this important year. A conference of this scope creates new opportunity for energetic collaboration & sustained reflection, building at W&M on the fruits of the decade-long Lemon Project." stated W&M President Katherine Rowe, PhD. American Evolution will host a special evening program at Jamestown Yorktown Settlement, and William & Mary's Reves Center for International Studies, the Muscarelle Museum of Art and the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture will host special receptions for conference participants & Keynotes. *"Williamsburg is the right place and 2019 is the right time for this historic event since the year 2019 marks the 400th year of the origins of slavery in what became the United States."*, said Dr. Robert Trent Vinson, Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Professor History & Africana Studies at W&M and the ASWAD 2019 Conference Leader. ASWAD 2019 is sponsored in part by William & Mary & is a signature event of American Evolution.



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