



American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

A new museum to replace the Yorktown Victory Center, located in Virginia's Historic Triangle, adjacent to the Yorktown Battlefield where American independence was won, is envisioned to be a nationally significant facility featuring vibrant museum galleries with immersive learning environments, interactive exhibits and period artifacts and an expanded living-history program that will trace the 13 colonies' struggle for freedom, resulting in the creation of the United States of America.

Museum History

The Yorktown Victory Center opened in 1976 as one of three Virginia visitor centers for the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the state agency that operates the Yorktown Victory Center, implemented structural and exhibit improvements in the 1990s, broadening the museum's focus to encompass the entire Revolution. Critical short-term exhibit renovations were completed in 2006. The museum currently serves a national audience and provides significant curriculum-based educational programming for students.

New Master Plan

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees in 2007 adopted a master plan to address long-term exhibit, building and operation issues. The plan replaces the existing facility, with the new building positioned on the site to allow for continued operation during construction, which started in mid-2012. Early planning was funded by state appropriations and revenue generated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Building and exhibit construction and renovations to the site, including living-history

areas, are funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Total cost of planning and construction is estimated at \$50 million. Private donations will support elements of gallery and outdoor exhibits and educational resources.

New Name

The new museum will be known as the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, a name adopted by the Board of Trustees in May 2012. The name will be implemented upon completion of the project by late 2016.

Concept Overview

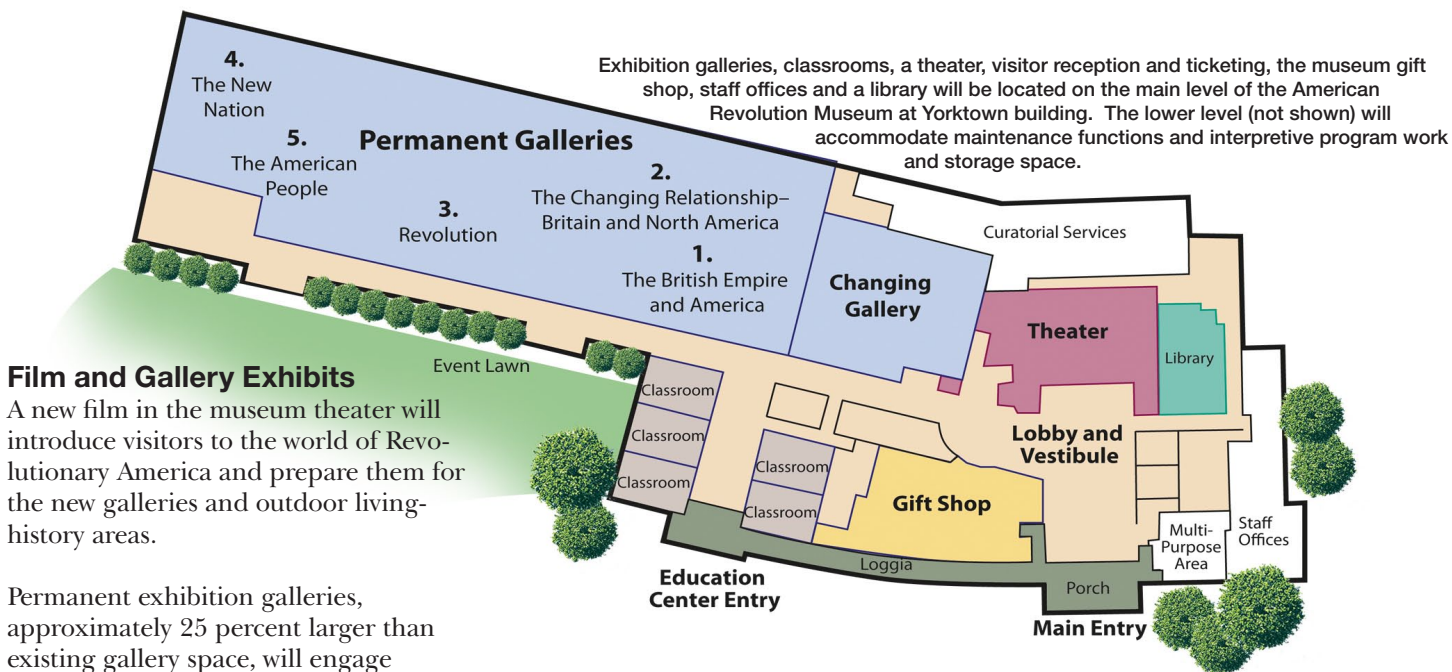
An approximately 80,000-square-foot facility will locate expanded exhibition galleries, classroom and event space, visitor services, gift shop and support functions in one building, with improved access to outdoor

exhibit areas. The concept includes enhancements at the re-created Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm and provides for outdoor special event space and expanded parking capacity.

Building the New Museum

Westlake Reed Leskosky of Cleveland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., with Hopke & Associates of Williamsburg, Va., as associate architect, developed the architectural design for the project. Gallagher & Associates of Silver Spring, Md., is exhibit designer. W. M. Jordan Company, Inc., of Newport News, Va., is construction manager for the parking areas and museum building. Work on the site began in mid-2012, and a cornerstone dedication on May 10, 2013, formally launched the project.





Film and Gallery Exhibits

A new film in the museum theater will introduce visitors to the world of Revolutionary America and prepare them for the new galleries and outdoor living-history areas.

Permanent exhibition galleries, approximately 25 percent larger than existing gallery space, will engage visitors through American Revolution period artifacts, re-created immersive environments, dioramas, interactive exhibits and short films, including an experiential theater. Five major themes are identified for the permanent

exhibits. “The British Empire and America” examines the geography, demography, culture and economy of America prior to the Revolution and the political relationship with Britain. “The Changing Relationship – Britain and North America” chronicles the growing rift between the American colonies and Britain. “Revolution” traces the war from the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 to the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to victory at Yorktown in 1781 and the aftermath. “The New Nation” outlines the challenges faced by the United States in the 1780s and the creation of the Constitution as a framework for the future. “The American People” explores the emergence of an American identity following adoption of the Constitution.

A 5,000-square-foot special exhibition gallery will provide the opportunity for in-depth treatment of subjects related to permanent exhibit themes and encourage repeat visitation to the museum.

Education Center

A section of the new building will accommodate the needs of group visitors, who comprise about one-third of the Yorktown Victory Center’s annual visitation, and serve as a venue for lectures and special educational programs for the general public. A separate group entrance provides direct access to group check-in and five classrooms that will support segments of curriculum-based structured educational programming – provided for 46,524 students in the 2011-12 academic year – and other museum special programs.

Visitor Amenities

From a spacious entrance lobby, visitors will have access to a large museum gift shop, an orientation video and a refreshment area. A moveable wall separating the lobby from the museum theater, where a new introductory film will be shown, will allow the space to be adapted for education programs and after-hours functions. Additional space for receptions and meetings is located on a mezzanine overlooking the lobby.

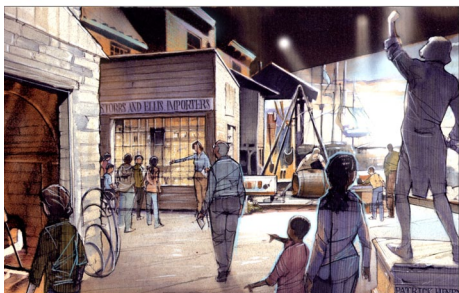


Exhibit design concepts for immersive environment and experiential theater.

Outdoor Living-History Program

Significant enhancements will occur at the Yorktown Victory Center’s recreated 18th-century farm and Continental Army encampment in conjunction with the replacement of the museum building. An outdoor shelter to assist visitors with moving from the indoor to the outdoor museum experience is planned. The time period of the farm will transition from “1780s” to “Revolutionary War” to more fully complement the new indoor galleries. Improvements include expansion of the farmhouse and construction of a building representing quarters for enslaved people. The encampment will be relocated and expanded, with additional space for firing demonstrations and military drills. Interpretive programming at both outdoor sites will be linked to gallery themes.

