Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts
2013 Nomination Form and Fact Sheet
Deadline: June 30, 2013

Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts campaign raises awareness about the importance of Virginia’s history, heritage, and art and the role that items have played in the Commonwealth’s significant past. From the site of the first permanent English colony in America, and serving at the center of the Civil War, to electing the first African-American governor, Virginia is at the heart of our nation’s history.

This annual statewide program is organized by the Virginia Association of Museums to celebrate the inspiring items that are in the care of Virginia’s museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites. From letters and books to furniture and trains, these irreplaceable items are significant to local communities, the state, or the nation. The Top 10 Endangered Artifacts designation offers collecting institutions of all sizes with the opportunity to build awareness of the threats that they face in serving as stewards of our shared past.

Nominees can promote awareness of their collections and raise funds for conservation by:

- Using their participation in the program and a Top 10 designation (if awarded) to generate media attention, increase awareness, apply for conservation funding, and engage potential donors.
- Advocating for the importance of an artifact to the public by seeking votes during the online public voting competition (August 2013).

Important Notes:

- If your organization is considering submitting a nomination, carefully consider the artifact you choose. A successful nomination is one that captures the public’s interest, while those that are able to be conserved have a likelihood of attracting the attention of donors.

- Nominations will be reviewed by an independent panel of collections care professionals and conservators. The panel will determine the final Top 10 Endangered Artifacts each year. Results of the public voting will determine the “Peoples’ Choice Award” as well as factor into designation decisions of the panel.

- There is no funding directly attached to a Top 10 designation. During the 2013 program we will introduce a ‘Donate Now’ link on the online public voting web page. For nominees that provide us with a link to their online donate page, we will share this with the voting public to encourage donations for those nominees.

- Nominations are accepted from collecting institutions in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

- An institution may nominate ONE artifact or related group of artifacts (i.e., a chess set or comb / brush set)

- An artifact is defined as an artistic or historic object (or related group of objects) or document. Not eligible are historic sites, which would be directed to the Most Endangered Historic Sites program of our partner, Preservation Virginia.
✓ Please submit at least one, but no more than three, high-resolution (300 dpi) photographs depicting the object and its condition. Images will be used for evaluation of the nomination and for publicity purposes. You will be able to upload images to this form.

✓ Media contact information for the nominators of those artifacts that are designated a Top 10 or People's Choice will be distributed to the media and also will appear on the VAM website.

✓ VAM will notify honorees of the Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts campaign, as well as the People’s Choice Honorees, in early September 2013.

About Us
Virginia Association of Museums serves as the resource network for the museum community of Virginia and District of Columbia, and is the largest state museum association in the country. Comprised of over 1,000 members, it represents and supports museum professionals at all levels as well as its broad constituency. VAM provides advocacy, educational opportunities, networking, and resources for over 800 museums, historic sites, art galleries, science and nature centers, and cultural organizations. Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts is its premier outreach campaign advocating increased appreciation and awareness of the importance of Virginia’s diverse range of collecting institutions.

This program was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.
2013 Nomination Form for Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Campaign

Nominator Information
Check all that apply: Museum ___ Archive ___ Library ___ Other Collecting Institution ___
Organization Name ________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________________________________________________
Web URL: ________________________________________________
URL for donations to your institution: _____________________________________________
Facebook URL: ____________________________________ Twitter URL: ________________
*We encourage, but do not require, nominations to include a short video on YouTube about the artifact. If you have created a video to accompany your nomination, please include the URL here: __________________________

Collections contact name and title _________________________________________________
Email address ___________________________ Phone _________________________________

Media Relations contact name and title ______________________________________________
Email address ___________________________ Phone _________________________________

Artifact Information
What artifact are you nominating? ___________________________________________________
Does your organization have clear title to the artifact? Y / N Is the artifact currently on display? Y / N

Has this item’s condition been assessed? (Yes /No) If yes, please give the company name and professional title of the assessor (e.g., conservator, collections staff, volunteer): ________________________________

Physical description of artifact and general state of its condition: _______________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

Describe the significance of the artifact - why is it important to save?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

Check all that apply:
___ the artifact is actively deteriorating
___ artifact cannot be displayed due to deterioration
___ artifact is damaged; not actively deteriorating
___ organization has a plan for the artifact’s conservation
___ artifact’s conservation has been funded
___ artifact’s conservation is underway

What is the nature and imminence of the threat to the artifact? ____________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

How can this artifact be saved? ________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

If conserved, what are your plans for future use of the artifact? _________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

What (if any) measures will be taken to sustain the preservation of the artifact after it has been conserved?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Up to three high resolution images (in electronic format) of the artifact and its condition must accompany this nomination. Images may be emailed to Christina Newton at cnewton@vamuseums.org, along with this form. If you prefer to fax the form, please fax it to VAM at 804.358.3174. Provide a short, descriptive caption to accompany your photo(s), including photo credit(s).

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

☐ The information contained in this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand all application materials, including photos, videos, and other media submitted will become property of the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) and may be used in future publications, presentations, and online.

Signature of nominator: ___________________________ Date of nomination: ________________