

MUSEUM FIRST

FULFILLING THE DREAM AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF OUR ANCESTORS

- 1993** Unity walk that identified the sites that became the Slave Trail.
- 1994** First signs erected to honor and identify sacred site of enslaved Africans.
- 1996** Development of City Unity Commission, which became the Slave Trail Commission. The mission of the commission was to honor and expose this history to the larger community and to build a museum.
- 1999** Established a Reconciliation Triangle relationship between Richmond, Liverpool and Benin to educate our youth and share the international impact of the institution of slavery.
- 2004** Installed 17 signs along the Slave Trail that tells the story of the mechanics of this horrific institution.
- 2006** Unveiled the reconciliation Statue, 2,000 plus people were in attendance that included five African Ambassadors. Governor Tim Kaine became the first sitting Governor in the United States to offer a public apology for the injustice of the slave trade.
- 2007** An archaeological survey was done to determine that the site of Lumpkins Jail was authentic, it was determined and that was followed by a dig, for which nearly 1,000 artifacts were found and is being preserved by state agency. The Smithsonian magazine covered this event and stated that this was the most significant dig to take place in America in the last 50 years.
- 2009** The Slave Trail Commission hire Lords, a leading consultant for the preservation of history, to lead us through a process to help determine where do we go from here, they lead workshops, focus groups and a series of charettes that included youth, community activist, faith leaders, corporate leaders, historians, academic institutions and foundations. The conclusion was that Richmond should have a museum to honor this history.
- 2013** The Negro Burial Ground (reclaimed as the African Burial Ground) was purchased from VCU and given to the City by the State of Virginia. Volunteer companies removed the asphalt pavement and planted grass to bring dignity back to this site.
- 2014** \$11,000,000 was given by the state which was matched with \$8,000,000 from the City to seed the construction of a museum.
- 2017** The Smith Group was hired to lead us through a process for development of the Lumpkin Jail Site, over 500 people from every community group engaged in a series of workshops and focus groups. The overwhelming consensus was that we should build a museum.

In the spirit of the Sankofa, we need to know where we come from to move this process forward. Dr. King said, "It is always the right time to do the right thing. MUSEUM FIRST