

THE CHARLOTTE MUSEUM OF HISTORY LAUNCHES “MUSEUM AT HOME”
***Digital learning opportunities focus on helping Charlotte stay
educated, entertained and hopeful***

CHARLOTTE, N.C., April 9, 2020 – In response to COVID-19 closures and stay-at-home orders, The Charlotte Museum of History has launched a series of free digital learning opportunities to support the community, especially children and families. This comes after the museum announced on March 16 that it would temporarily close its doors in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to activities for kids, the museum has created a new virtual Lunch & Learn series for adults. Starting today, the museum will offer a short Zoom call with an expert historian every other Thursday, followed by a brief online Q&A. The first topic is “Mobilizing Morale & Spirit” and will feature Dr. Brian Madison Jones of Johnson C. Smith University and Dr. Mark Wilson of UNC Charlotte. They will share stories of how America mobilized its morale and spirit during times of crisis in the 20th century. To receive the Zoom dial-in information for this and future Lunch & Learn events, visit charlottemuseum.org/events.

“Traditionally, our museum has offered a very hands-on, in-person experience, especially with tours of Charlotte's oldest home, the 1774 Alexander Rock House, which we protect and curate. We love bringing people here and bringing the history of early Charlotte alive for them,” said Adria Focht, president and CEO of the museum. “But right now, our community needs us to be there for them in a different way. So we’ve created a host of brand-new digital offerings, including weekly Family Friday activities, Boredom Busters, Unexpected Homeschooler educational activities and virtual tours of our exhibits.



“So far, activities have included creating your own naturalist field guide, making 18-century Johnny cakes and crafting Catawba-style pottery. Each activity includes a video with one of our educational specialists to share the history behind the activity and to guide you through the work.”

The museum also is using its social media channels to provide historical context for the current pandemic.

“The response to that has been overwhelmingly positive,” Focht said. “People are looking to our history to provide solace, hope and inspiration, to know that we’ve faced tough things together in the past, and we can do it again.”

All the new digital learning opportunities are free and available on the museum’s social media channels and at charlottemuseum.org/digital.

To support this work, and the maintenance of the museum and the 1774 Rock House, donations can be made at charlottemuseum.org or by sending a check to The Charlotte Museum at 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte NC, 28215.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Alexander Rock House and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on Facebook and Twitter (@CLThistory) and Instagram (@charlottemuseumofhistory).

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