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August 27, 2020

VMFA and Chase Announce Partnership to Expand and Diversify Arts Access

Chase Underwrites Museum Programs for Youth, Public and Members

Richmond, Virginia — The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and Chase today announced their new partnership to expand access to the arts over the next year through innovative and inclusive community programs, digital educational resources and virtual events.

“VMFA is committed to providing greater accessibility to the arts, and Chase’s generous support strengthens our efforts,” said Alex Nyerges, VMFA’s Director and CEO. “As a result of the pandemic, VMFA is developing innovative, free and safe virtual programs and events, reaching more people through these exciting offerings.”

Chase is underwriting several of VMFA’s education programs and engagement initiatives including annual African American Read-In events; RVA Community Makers local art collaboration; [Girls For A Change](#) special youth workshops, internships and Black Girls Showcase at VMFA; and VMFA’s Teens Out Loud initiative featuring performance and visual arts workshops for youth participants of [Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond](#). Chase’s partnership also provides 3,000 #VMFAatHome art supply kits to help school-age children in [Richmond Public Schools](#), [Peter Paul](#) and Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond further their creativity and also supports the museum’s Evans Distance Learning program where museum educators engage students in grades 3 through 12 and college online via video conferencing direct from VMFA’s galleries.

“Chase is opening new branch locations in the Richmond area, and our partnership with VMFA exemplifies our efforts to build strong local community relationships and demonstrates the value Chase places on providing access to educational, artistic and cultural opportunities,” said Danny Lee, Chase’s Market Director for Banking in Richmond.

Despite the pandemic, VMFA continues to offer lively events, albeit virtually, as Chase is also sponsoring several free public programs and special members-only events and is the Title Sponsor for one of VMFA’s newest, most popular event series, Fridays After 5. VMFA’s weekly Fridays After 5 programs including First Friday Performances, Dance After Work, Summer Breeze and A Taste of Art are hosted on the museum’s social media pages and feature live or pre-recorded performances by musicians and lessons by dance instructors streamed from their studios. Online programs and events for VMFA members including Cocktails with a Curator; Circle Lectures; Curator’s Choice art talks; and Fellows Programs with VMFA curators, thought leaders and museum-field experts are held via digital platforms like Zoom or pre-recorded video.

“Access to the arts and to educational opportunities is crucial for building and sustaining vibrant, diverse and inclusive communities,” said Nyerges. “VMFA is charged with enriching the lives of all through art and Chase’s support reflects their commitment to the greater Richmond community.”

Visit www.VMFA.museum for more information about upcoming programs and events.

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 50,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan and African art. In May 2010 VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its history.

About Chase

JPMorgan Chase & Co. (NYSE: JPM) is a leading global financial services firm with assets of \$3.2 trillion and operations worldwide. The Firm is a leader in investment banking, financial services for consumers and small businesses, commercial banking, financial transaction processing, and asset management. A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, JPMorgan Chase & Co. serves millions of customers in the United States and many of the world's most prominent corporate, institutional and government clients under its J.P. Morgan and Chase brands. Information about JPMorgan Chase & Co. is available at www.jpmorganchase.com.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804.340.1400 or visit www.VMFA.museum.

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