



# Yorktown Victory Center Replacement Project Highlights

The new Yorktown Victory Center, located adjacent to the Yorktown Battlefield where American independence was won, is envisioned to be a nationally recognized facility featuring state-of-the-art 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, which resulted in the creation of the United States of America.

## Museum History

The current facility 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. In 2008 the Virginia

General Assembly authorized funding for environmental studies and architectural and exhibit design services. Construction costs for the building and renovations to the site and living-history areas are estimated to total \$46 million. The General Assembly has approved Virginia Public Building Authority bond funding for the project in the 2010-12 biennium. Private donations are sought to support gallery exhibits, outdoor exhibits, and educational resources.

## Concept Overview

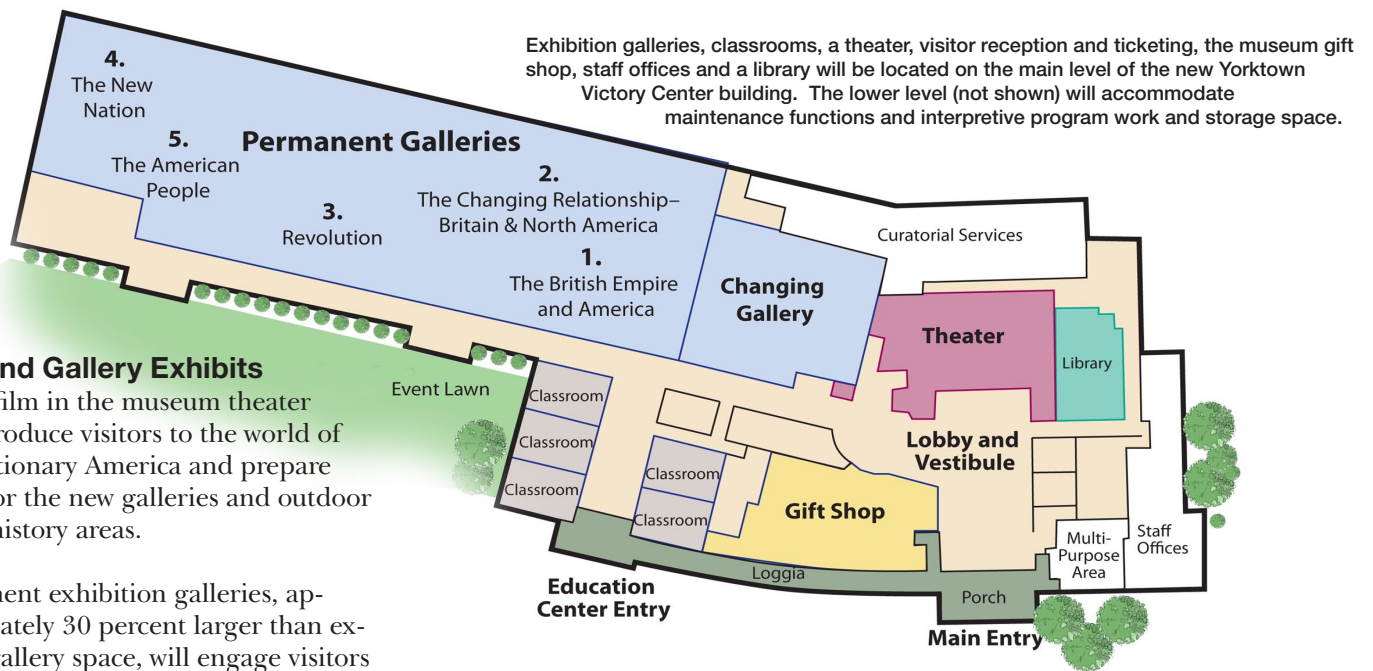
An approximately 80,000-square-foot facility will locate expanded exhibition galleries, classroom and event space, visitor services,

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.

## Planning Under Way

Westlake Reed Leskosky of Cleveland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., with Hopke & Associates of Williamsburg as associate architect, has developed the architectural design for the site. Gallagher & Associates of Bethesda, Md., has completed permanent gallery exhibit schematic design work.





## 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 30 percent larger than existing gallery space, will engage visitors through American Revolution period artifacts, re-created immersive environments, dioramas, interactive exhibits, video presentations and an experiential theater. Five major themes are identified for the permanent exhibits.

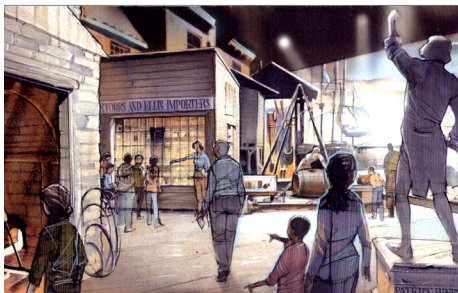


Exhibit design concepts for immersive environment and experiential theater.

“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 50,760 students in the 2009-10 academic year – and other museum special programs.

## Visitor Amenities

From a spacious entrance lobby, visitors will have access to a large museum 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.

## Outdoor Living-History Program

Significant enhancements will occur at the Yorktown Victory Center’s re-created 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.

