



“To promote an understanding of the complexity of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson, his influence on the world, his relevance today and for the future.”

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“Making History in the Present: A Community Curated Exhibit” *New Exhibit Set to Open July 1st*

STAUNTON, VA – The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum announced today that its newest special exhibit, “Making History in the Present: A Community Curated Exhibit” opens Thursday, July 1, 2021.

The exhibit is an outgrowth of a recent Institute of Museum and Library Services grant that the museum received in September 2020 which included funding for a project for individuals called “Build a Quarantine Museum”. All exhibit items were provided by members of the community and each details life in the Shenandoah Valley beginning in March 2020. Exhibit items include artifacts and stories on COVID-19, the Vigil for Justice following the death of George Floyd, and the August floods that struck downtown Staunton.

“The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library has always been a history museum,” said Museum Curator Andrew Phillips, “but history is not confined to artifacts of the past or sepia toned photographs. History is made every day and this past year has been especially memorable”.

The exhibit is unlike any other that the museum has done because all items were contributed by members of the community and the exhibit labels are written by the contributors. Students from area schools, nonprofit organizations, hospital patients and staff, local businesses and the Staunton Fire Department all provided content. Items range from journal entries to posters, to objects that represent the past year. The exhibit offers visitors an opportunity to reflect on their experiences since March 2020 by adding comments to a comment wall.

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum is an educational institution dedicated to the study of the life of President Wilson and times in which he lived. In addition to welcoming museum visitors from around the world, the Presidential Library produces online and in-person educational programming for people of all ages. The Museum is located at 20 N. Coalter Street, Staunton VA. For additional information, call 540-885-0897 or visit www.woodrowwilson.org.

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