

THE COLIN G. & NANCY N. CAMPBELL ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER

> *Colonial Williamsburg is the birthplace of historical archaeology.*



“The Campbell Archaeology Center will be a world-class facility that befits Colonial Williamsburg’s archaeological collection. It will provide new access for guests and scholars alike to some of the artifacts that have shaped our understanding of Williamsburg. This facility allows us to show guests a side of archaeology research that most people don’t see – the process of discovery inside the lab.”

The Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center



of 18th-century Williamsburg. However, only 40% of an archaeological project takes place in the field; 60% of the work occurs in the lab. The research conducted there helps ensure that the restored sites and interpretation programs are as accurate and authentic as possible.

Thanks to a gift from the late Forrest E. Mars Jr., the Foundation established plans for the Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center, honoring the two people who provided extraordinary leadership for many years. The Center will be constructed across from the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg where it will serve as a hub for the Foundation's archaeological endeavors.

The facility will be open seven days a week and will include a public archaeology lab and classroom space where guests will be invited to learn more about archaeology and participate in hands-on experiences. In addition to lab space, the center will include exhibitions showcasing the history of archaeology past and present, including the dozens of Black excavators who conducted some of the earliest archaeological work in the Historic Area, building a foundation for the work of Ivor Noël Hume, who served as the Foundation's chief archaeologist and director of the archaeology program for several decades.

Additional funding is needed to finish construction of the building by 2025 before the anniversaries of America and the Foundation in 2026. An endowment will be established for building maintenance and the Foundation's archaeology staff who will play an instrumental role in bringing the building and its collections to life for our guests and our community.

*Modern
archaeology is
publicly engaged
archaeology.*

Despite 90 years of excavations helping to amass one of the world's largest collections of 17th-through-early-19th-century artifacts from colonial America, archaeologists have examined only 15-20% of the Historic Area's more than 300 acres. A much larger, more modern and more accessible space is needed to process, study, display and store the Foundation's collection of 60 million artifacts, which grows every day as exploration continues.

The Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center will allow Colonial Williamsburg to exponentially expand its archaeological operations and advance as a leader in this field of research. It will also provide a space where the public can participate in the process of archaeological exploration and historical discovery. Further philanthropic investment is needed to construct the building and create an operating endowment.

The first excavation in the Historic Area took place at the site of the Capitol in 1928, exposing the foundations of this iconic and important building. Hundreds of additional excavations have helped inform our understanding

Above: A rendering of the interior of the new Archaeology Center shows how the building's design will encourage more interaction with visitors.

Below: The Archaeology Center will be named for former Board Chair and Colonial Williamsburg President & CEO Colin Campbell and his wife, Chair Emerita for the National Historic Trust Preservation Nancy Campbell.

