

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Historic Richmond Town Debuts Pandemic Time Capsule Initiative

Staten Island, New York: Beginning in June 2020, Historic Richmond Town is inviting all Staten Islanders to participate in **The Time Capsule Project**, a special initiative that allows people to create their own time capsules made up of items that represent their individual or family experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. These time capsules will then be permanently preserved in the archives of Historic Richmond Town. Historic Richmond Town will provide all supplies, as well as suggestions for items to include. The curatorial department at Historic Richmond Town will work to collect and catalogue the capsules with the end goal of preserving personal and unique experiences during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

“For nearly 100 years, Historic Richmond Town is proud to be collecting the personal effects, wedding dresses, local business signs, toys, letters and much more from everyday Staten Islanders,” says Historic Richmond Town’s **Executive Director and CEO, Jessica Phillips**. “Adding things from this historic time of pandemic will allow future generations to better understand what was endured and how we came out stronger...maybe even help prevent it from happening again.”

This project will provide people with the unique opportunity to become curators of their own pandemic experience. Each capsule comes with instructions, ideas for what to include as well as a preservation kit complete with special marking pen and an inventory sheet to record the contents of the time capsule. The completed time capsules will remain sealed for ten years, and will then be opened and displayed in a special public exhibition, at which all participants will be guests of honor at the opening. All time capsules will also become part of the museum’s permanent collection.

“Our photo, artifact, and archival collections tell the story of life on Staten Island over hundreds of years and right up to the present,” says Historic Richmond Town **Chief Curator, Maxine Friedman**. “Collecting and preserving materials compiled by the people of Staten Island during the current pandemic will diversify our collection and give a personal touch to the story of Staten Island history for years to come.”

Each time capsule project is priced at \$100 per capsule. For additional information, please visit <https://www.historicrichmondtown.org/time-capsule-project> or contact timecapsule@historicrichmondtown.org.

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About Historic Richmond Town:

Historic Richmond Town is dedicated to creating opportunities for the public to explore the diversity of the American experience, especially that of Staten Island and its neighboring communities from the colonial period to the present. Historic Richmond Town preserves and maintains 40 historic structures over 112 acres of preserved parkland across four unique sites on Staten Island. The main site is a living history village featuring the Historical Museum that showcases the vast collection through engaging exhibitions. Historic Richmond Town offers public tours, membership, lectures, workshops, over a dozen special events and a variety of educational programs. A visit to Historic Richmond Town is an immersive step into history.

Historic Richmond Town
441 Clark Avenue
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historicrichmondtown.org

Historic Richmond Town is a non-profit educational cultural institution. Programs and events help raise funds to support the mission. Historic Richmond Town is operated by the Staten Island Historical Society, a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation instituted and incorporated in 1856.

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