



NEW VIRGINIANS: 1619–2019 AND BEYOND

A Traveling Exhibition from the Library of Virginia

Content: Recent estimates place the number of foreign-born Virginians at just under one million, and nearly half of these new residents are between the ages of 25 and 44. What will this mean, and what does it already mean, for public education, electoral politics, local economies, and a social fabric that has long been held together by a sense of shared history? The composite portrait of Virginia is becoming more complex and challenges an older, simpler understanding of what it means to be a Virginian. The challenge and opportunity is to reconsider what kind of place Virginia is and what kind of place it should be, or can be. Whether our roots in the state go back ten thousand years, ten generations, or ten weeks, we must create the map together.

New Virginians explores the historical and continuous journey toward the ideals of America and intends to foster an honest and serious discussion about diversity and the challenges of blended cultures. Produced jointly by the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities with support from American Evolution, *New Virginians* highlights the changing demographics of the commonwealth on the eve of the 2020 federal census through a series of edited interviews with first-generation immigrants and refugees who arrived in Virginia post-1976. Conducted by Virginia Humanities, the interviews focus on the circumstances that led these men and women (and children or families as appropriate) to leave their homes; their arrival in Virginia; challenges and obstacles they faced or overcame; identity and assimilation; language and culture; what it means to these immigrants and refugees to be an American (and a Virginian); and their hopes/concerns about the future. Common themes that run through the interviews are family, service, opportunity, and faith.

Interviewees represent the widest possible range of personal background, experience, age, and countries of origin—from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The complete interviews will be made available through the Library's YouTube channel, accessible through LVA's education website, www.edu.lva.virginia.gov, and through Virginia Humanities.



Exhibition Details: The exhibition is available for a six-week (6) loan period, inclusive of shipping. *New Virginians* is comprised of six (6) free-standing pull-up banner units and one (1) electronic interactive (tablet and kiosk) for watching and hearing the interviews. Text and images are on both sides of each banner unit. The interviews are accessible through the touch-screen tablet. The exhibition is best viewed in an open space approximately 120 sq. ft. The exhibition requires minimal security but must be installed inside the venue and away from food or drink. Library of Virginia staff will deliver, install, and de-install the exhibition with one person from the venue.



Installation at Powhatan County Public Library

Supplemental: The Library of Virginia will provide a site support notebook with promotional materials and evaluations. Further, the Library will work with the host venue to develop programs related to the exhibition and encourages the host venue to develop complementary displays.

Contact: Barbara C. Batson, Exhibitions Coordinator, The Library of Virginia, Barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov, 804-692-3518.

Exhibition Fact Sheet

Contents	Six (6) double-sided pull-up banner units and one (1) electronic interactive component (tablet and kiosk)
Loan period	Six (6) weeks, inclusive of shipping dates
Supplemental	Site support notebook with promotional resources
Rental Fee	Free
Space	120 square feet optimal
Shipping	LVA staff will deliver and install
Contact	Barbara C. Batson, barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov , 804-692-3518
Tour begins	April 2019

