

H

© @seaplus_rlmoses -illustration Rian L. Moses

BREAK

FREE

Created By: Virginia Murphy Rian L. Moses & Contributors



www.RichmondNow.org

@RichmondNow2020

Vol. 3, December 2020



RICHMOND NOW! EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Richmond Now! was created by Rian L. Moses and Virginia Murphy to archive history for all levels of learners before it is rewritten. Our mission is that Richmond teaches Richmond. Imagine a set of activities you could give a child, friend or colleague who does not understand the unrest happening in our city, country, and world. We are an all levels publication that is honoring what Richmond, VA is doing right now!

We would like to present Richmond Now!: Volume 3, as a downloadable file gifted to all those who are able/unable to donate to **Rise For Youth** or **Richmond Now**. Our theme for this issue are patterns and timelines and connecting the past to the present. We were to visualize our cycles so we know what to break and what to mend. Photos, artwork, puzzles, and activities from Virginians were submitted to our open call. We pieced together an activity book with resources to help others understand why #BlackLivesMatter is trending in RVA.

These are the stories, feelings, thoughts, and teachings of your community members woven into *Richmond Now*!

Please share this project to any and everyone, no matter the age. Change can only happen if we educate ourselves. Don't be afraid to reflect & discuss during the process.

We would love to see you working on the Activity Book, make sure to tag us @RichmondNow2020 and use #RichmondNow2020

> Get in touch with us today! Website: **RichmondNow.org** Contact information: **RichmondNow2020@gmail.com**







DISEMVOWLED NO HARM, NO VOWEL.

How many word combinations can you create? Share with another and learn something new!

RULES

Kyle Epps

@kylemepps.labeledblack

1. Only add vowels:

a, e, i, o, u, y

THE 2. Use all letters provided

in order. GAM Ε **3. Respect the space. JUD STP** HV CT 5 BT TM CREATED BY KYLE M EPPS

RIGHNOND NOW!



was once part of the Commonwealth of Virginia over which Richmond was colors, red and blue, date to 1784 when the mayor, Robert Mitchell, added When asked why, he responded, "The blue signifies the river from which all Rian L. Moses @seaplus_rlmoses -illustration river's power is an arc of nine stars. Each represents a present state that bronze statue called "Headman" that stands on Brown's The previous flag, adopted back in 1914, was two-sided. determined Richmond's homogeneous character and contributed to the strips of red and blue ribbon when he affixed the city seal to documents. symbolizes the tens of thousands of anonymous individuals, composed ife flows, and the red is for the infernal red clay that is always under our Flag-inspired crest containing the phrase "Deo Vindice" phrase "Sic ltur Ad Astra" (Thus one goes to the stars). On the other side of the flag was a Confederate Battle On one side was a blindfolded Justice holding a sword their capital in the nation's infancy— Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and scale. Above her read "Richmond VA. Founded by The boatman is a graphical depiction of a 14-foot tall City's success, growth and progress. Surrounding this symbol of our Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The city's William Byrd, MDCCXXXVII." Below it read the Latin Island and commemorates the African American of a multiplicity of nationalities and races, who through the ages The faceless boatman, as he poles to the honor side of the flag, Richmond is situated on the James River. John M Purcell, American City Flags, Raven 9-10, 2002-2003 The current flag of Richmond, Virginia, was adopted in 1993. The city describes the symbolism in "Richmond and Its $\mathsf{Flag}^{:}$: contribution to Richmond's waterways. (God will vindicate). feet." 3 1 P



RICHMOND'S FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for states and the people, which are divided between state and local governments.

Most Americans have more daily contact with their state and local governments than with the federal government. Police departments, libraries, and schools — not to mention driver's licenses and parking tickets — usually fall under the oversight of state and local governments. Each state has its own written constitution, and these documents are often far more elaborate than their federal counterpart.

Under the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, all powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. All state governments are modeled after the federal government and consist of three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The U.S. Constitution mandates that all states uphold a "republican form" of government, although the three-branch structure is not required.

Executive Branch

In every state, the executive branch is headed by a governor who is directly elected by the people. In most states, the other leaders in the executive branch are also directly elected, including the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the secretary of state, and auditors and commissioners. States reserve the right to organize in any way, so they often vary greatly with regard to executive structure. No two state executive organizations are identical.

Legislative Branch

All 50 states have legislatures made up of elected representatives, who consider matters brought forth by the governor or introduced by its members to create legislation that becomes law. The legislature also approves a state's budget and initiates tax legislation and articles of impeachment. The latter is part of a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government that mirrors the federal system and prevents any branch from abusing its power.

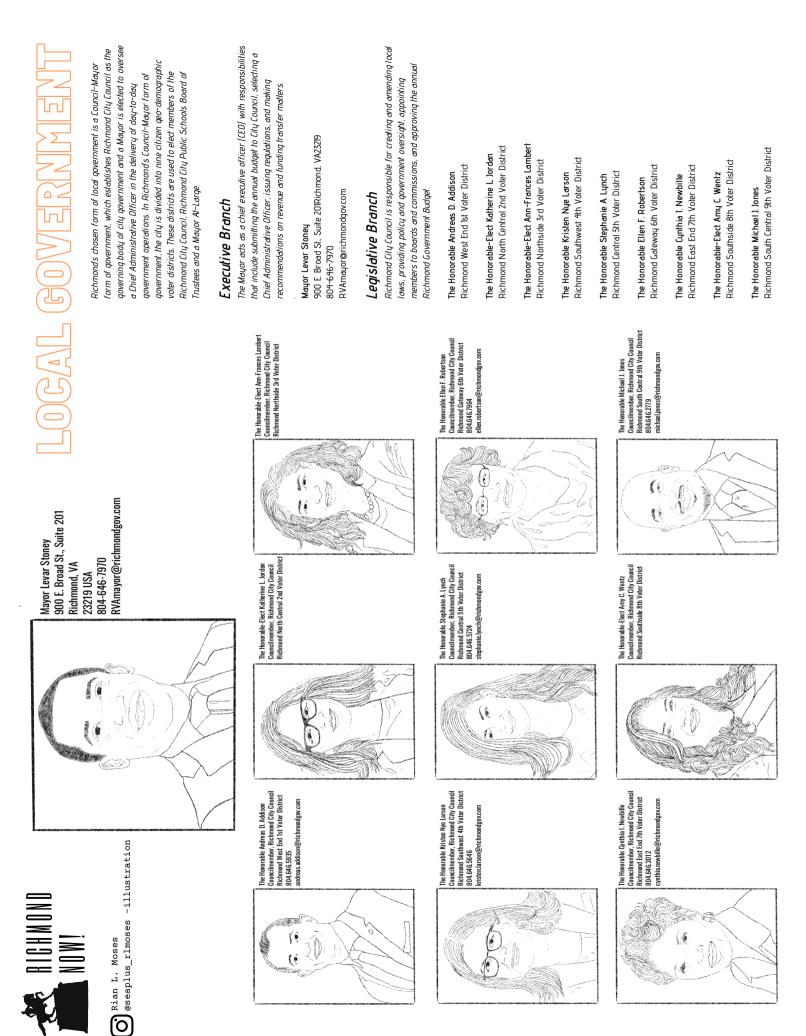
https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/state-local-government/

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government touches every aspect of your life and affects how well you and your fellow community members can thrive in society. Real change starts locally. If you aren't sure where to start with local government, here are some first steps.

- Attend (Or Virtually Attend) a City Council Meeting
- Join a Board or Commission
- Volunteer for A Local Candidate's Campaign
- Write or call your Council Members

Visit www.richmondgov.com to learn more about the city of Richmond's governing body and www.virginiageneralassembly.gov for the state of Virginia.



			setting levels for state spending raising and lowering taxes and
	Accord	According to the Constitution of Virginia, the Lieutenant Governor's official duties are to serve as President of the Sender and oreside	security reveals for succe operations, rushing and covering taxes, and voling for uphold or override upbernatorial vetoes. Here are your Virinia veto Sandras, representing nears of Richmond:
	over h	over the Senate. The Constitution of Virginia also provides that the Lieutenant Governor is first in the line of succession to Governor.	Ghazala F. Hashmi, District 10
	Virgin	Virginia Governor, Ralph Northam P.O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23218	district10@sendte.virginia.gov P. O. Box 396 Richmond, VA 23218 804–698–7510
K	804-7	804-786-2211 https://www.govern.or.virgini.agov/	Jennifer L McClellan, District 9
			di strict 09@senate. virgini a gov
1	Virgin P.O.B.	Virginia Lieutenant Governor. Justin P.O. Box 1195 Richmond, VA 23218 804-786-2078	P. 0. Box 396Richmond, VA 23218 804-698-7509
Virginia Governor, Ralph Northam	/////liginia Lieutenant Governor, Justin	lqov@llqovvirginiagov	Joseph D. Morrissey, District 16 districtif6@sendle.virginid.gov P. O. Box 396 Richmond, VA 23218 804-698-7516
			The Virginia House of Delegates is the lower chamber of the Virginia General Assembly, Alongside the Virginia State Senate, it forms the legislative branch of the Virginia state government and works alongside the governor of Virginia to create laws and establish a state budget. Here are your Delegates representing parts of Richmond:
			Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, 70th District 900 E. Main St. Richmond, Virginia 2329 804-698-1070 DelDMcQuinn@housevirginia.gov
Ghazala F. Hashmi, District 10	lan, District 9	Joseph D. Morrissey, District 16	Delegate Betsy B. Carr, 69th District 900 E. Main St.Richmond, Virginia 23219 804–698–1069 DelBCarr@house.virginia.gov
			Delegate Jeffrey M. Bourne, 71st District 900 E. Main St.Richmond, Virginia 23219 804-698-1071 DellBourne@housevirginia.gov
			Delegate Dawn M. Adams, 68th District 900 E. Main St. Richmond, Virginia 23219 804-698-1068
			O Rian L. Moses © @seaplus_rlmoses -illustration
Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, 70th District Delegate Betsy B. Carr, 69th District	Delegate Jeffrey M. Bourne, 71st District	Delegate Dawn M. Adams, 68th District	

STATE GOVERNMENT

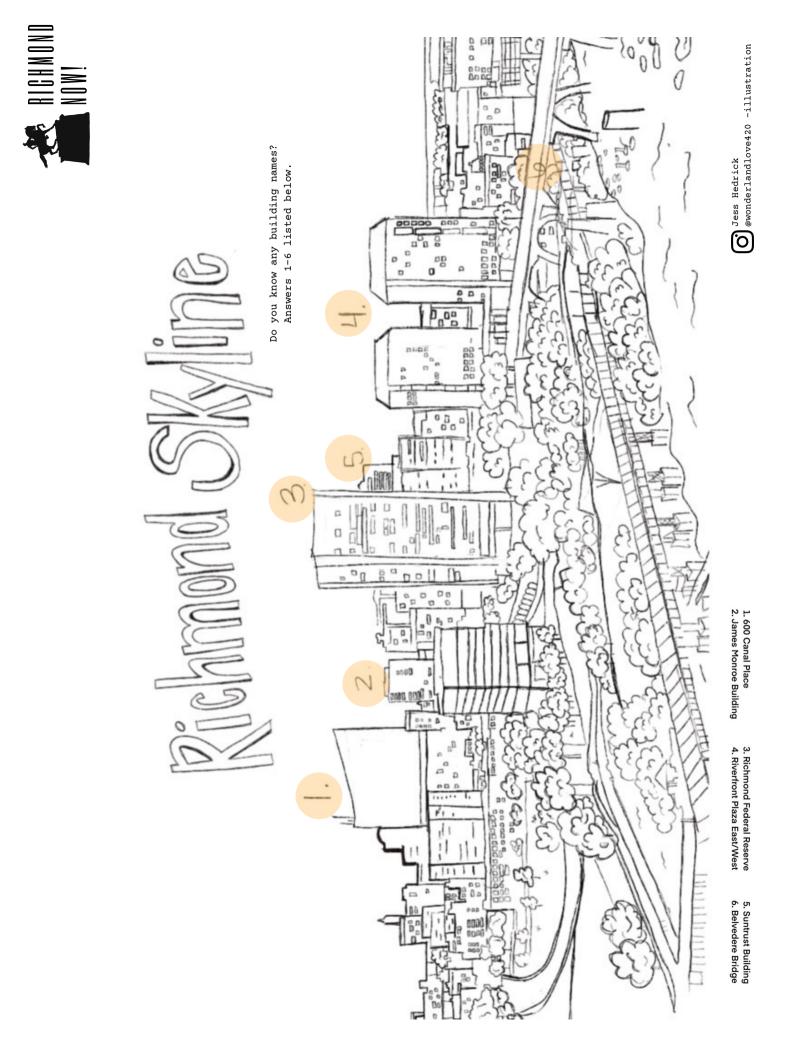
General Assembly. Legislative authority and responsibilities of the The Virginia State Senate is the upper chamber of the Virginia

manager, a governor is responsible for implementing state laws and The state governor serves as the chief executive officer. As state

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

RIGHMOND NOW!	Executive Branch The President is both the head of state and head of government of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Under Article 11 of the Constitution, the President is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress.	The vice president of the United States is the second-highest officer in the executive branch of the U.S. federal government, and is also an officer in the legislative branch, as president of the Senate.	The president-elect and vice president-elect of the United States are the candidates who have won the United States presidential election and is awaiting inauguration to become the president and vice president.	U.S. President-Elect, Joe Biden U.S. Vice President-Elect, Kamala Harris	Legislative Branch Each state elects two senators to the United States Senate for staggered 6-year terms. Senators represent the entire state. Virginiás senators are:	U.S. Senator, Tim Kaine 1231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-4024 www.kainesenate.gov/contact	U.S. Senator, Mark R. Warner 703 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510(202) 224-2023 www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Contact	The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts, each with a population of about 710,000 individuals. Each district elects a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives for a two-year term. Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen. Your Richmond (district 4) U.S. Representative (Congress) is	U.S. Representative, A. Donald McEachin 110 North Robinson St. Suite 403, Richmond VA 23220 (804) 486-1840 https://mceachin.house.gov/
			, 1.U.S. President-Elect, Joe Biden 2.11.S. Vire. President-Elect, Kanala Harris.			1. U.S. Senator, Tim Kaine	2. U.S. Senator, Mark R. Warner		O Rian L. Moses © @seaplus_rlmoses -illustration
GOVERNM									1.U.S. Representative, A. Donald McEachin
FZDZR//									



Uncovering Richmond



Written by Rian L. Moses

Richmond's first snow of the season lightly covered the ground as I prepared for my interview with Dontrese Brown, one of the creators of *Hidden In Plain Site: Richmond*, a VR exploration of distinct, but easy to overlook sites around Richmond, VA, that tells the story of the Black experience. As I watched the white, icy, specks cover my yard, it was easy to forget the grass and dirt just beneath it. Which, seemed fitting considering that Brown is trying to rediscover what has been buried just below us.

The virtual reality (VR) project, created by Brown, Dean Browell and David Waltenbaugh, begins with parking lots as a common factor. Dontrese Brown and co-creators noticed a pattern of barren lots over enslaved people's graves, auction houses, and hanging sites.

"The ones that carry the most pain and suffering are erased," stated Brown.

When he looks at how marginalized people have been held back by systemic ideals and redlining, Brown has formed the opinion that Black and Brown history is purposefully being erased and that future projects will keep revealing this pattern in history.

The viewer navigates through HIPS by first visiting locations associated with pain and suffering. The African Burial Ground, Richmond's first municipal cemetery, was designated for the burials of Black people. The grounds were also known for being the site of the city gallows where many of the members of the slave revolt of 1800 were hanged, including the organizer, 24-year old enslaved blacksmith Gabriel. This site was paved over, but through the outcry of community members, was dug up by the city and covered with only dirt and grass. The project then showcases the perseverance of the black community in historic Jackson Ward, through the growth of arts and business. Finally, ending at the Lee statue where a new generation is beginning to use their voice. Brown and his partners hope that revisiting these sites through the HIPS experience will help prepare us for a better future.

"The story of the Black American experience has not been told by the culture that needs to tell it," expressed Brown. Through collective education there is growth. Education alone won't build a better future. Brown brought up issues in the Black and Brown community that still need mending before moving forward: criminal justice reform, education reform, housing concerns, redlining, mental and physical health of the community, food deserts, and making workforce available for people reentering society from incarceration from low charges like marijuana.

Here were just a few issues listed, but before getting to these items the conversation needs to begin with an apology and accountability.

"Acknowledge what you have done," demands Brown, "You screwed us over, and we literally built this country."

Our country has spent so much time and effort erasing its painful past with parking lots and luxurious waterfront communities like Richmond's Rocketts Landing, which was the port of disembarkment for those enslaved and forced to build this country. This should be remembered as a historical part of our U.S. history.

"You wanna talk about five years of the importance from all these frickin statues going down Monument Ave," says an exasperated Brown. "When you got history of over 400 years that you don't want to give any respect to? No, that's got to change."



Dontrese Brown believes that our elected government, mayor and city council, need to give these sites the respect it deserves. Richmond can't be the great city it has the potential to be until we fully acknowledge our past, include the whole narrative, allow change into the conversation, and collectively come together.

He is hopeful that Hidden In Plain Site: Richmond will inspire viewers to go deeper and engage with the city more. He believes that grassroots organizations like, *The Cheats Movement*, Black women led *The Jackson Ward Collective*, Hamilton Glass, Radio B, *Dream For Purpose*, and even *Richmond Now!*, should continue to take the challenge to uplift our Black and Brown community and get them more involved.

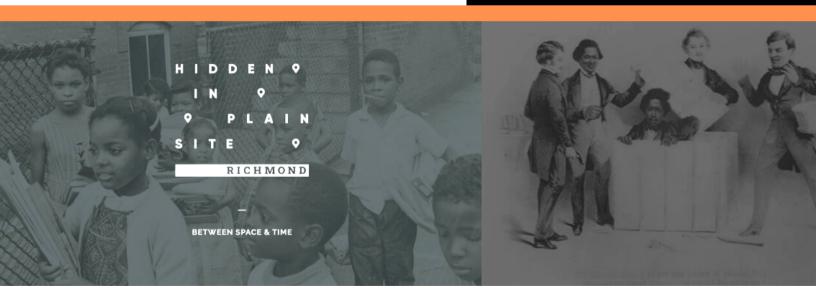
The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia has been a major partner to HIPS and will house a permanent installation of the growing VR experience. Unlike many museums in Richmond with free entrance, the Black History Museum charges admission because they do not get the financial support to be free. Brown and co-creators want to keep Hidden in Plain Site: Richmond free and accessible and are working on solutions for people to visit such an important museum and view their project. Dontrese Brown was shy to say he is an activist because others have put their lives on the line like John Lewis, Arthur Ashe, and the Virginia Union University students known as the *Richmond 34*, who participated in a nonviolent sit-in at the lunch counter of Thalhimers department store in downtown Richmond, Virginia on February 22, 1960. He would rather be known as a "Social Instigator" believing HIPS is only a piece in the narration of social activism to push people to dig deeper.

Only time will tell what impact Hidden In Plain Site: Richmond will have, but presently, we here at Richmond Now! find it a very valuable tool to break the cycle of erased information and culture.-

Visit www.hiddeninplainsite.org to select your best viewing option for this free Virtual Reality experience uncovering Richmond's past, hidden in plain sight.

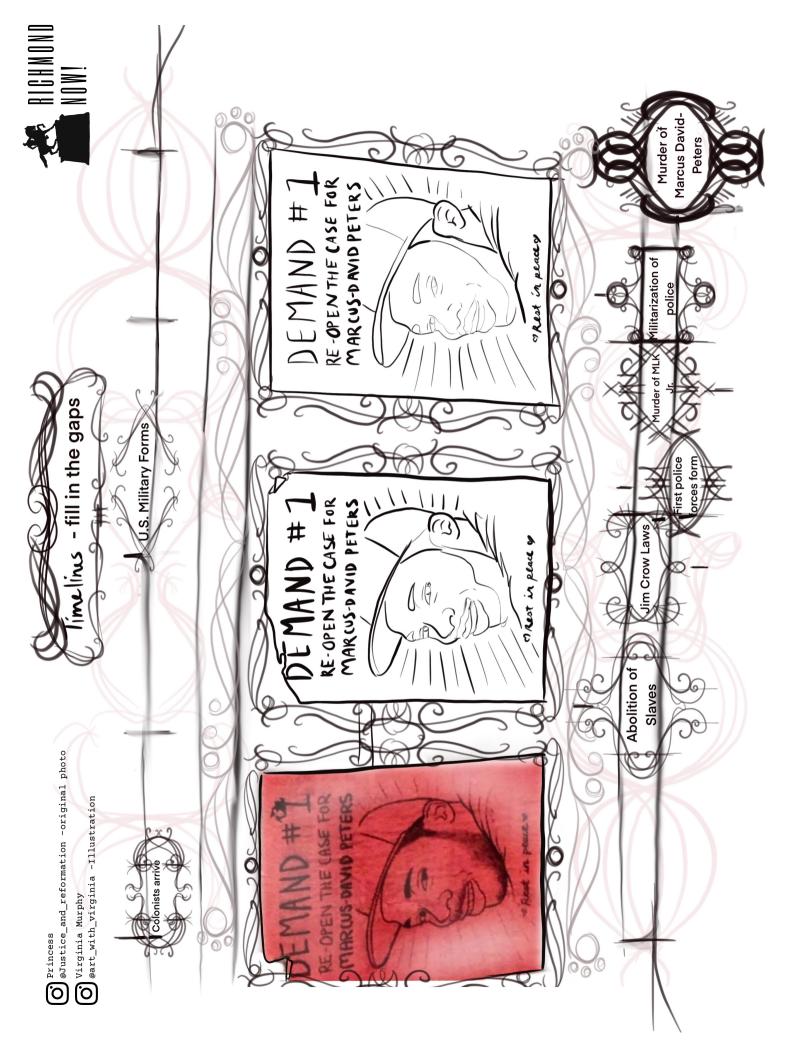
Hidden In Plain Site @hiddeninplainsiteproject

H I D D E N I N Q Q P L A I N S I T E RICHMOND











@eliturite -Lyrics Rian L. Moses @seaplus_rlmoses -illustration



Sometimes you gotta take the good with the bad and when it's uneven if I'm breathing I grab the pad and pen. I get to writing and whether or not it's lightning my spirits get lifted and the burdens they lighten. I'm citing my own observations, relaying my findings. So, every step I make, I leave a trail of words behind me. And When I look up, I know exactly how I got here, not the women, the weed, anxiety or a light-beer have placed me quite near enough to my own center. So, if my head is spinning I breathe in and remember, that every vibe I receive that it is me that's the sender, so in my house I remove my muddy shoes before I enter. It seems so simple and maybe that's why it works. Sometimes you can't believe this shit until you try it first. The way I see it, I could ride in a vibrant hearse or sit quietly acknowledging that it could be worse.

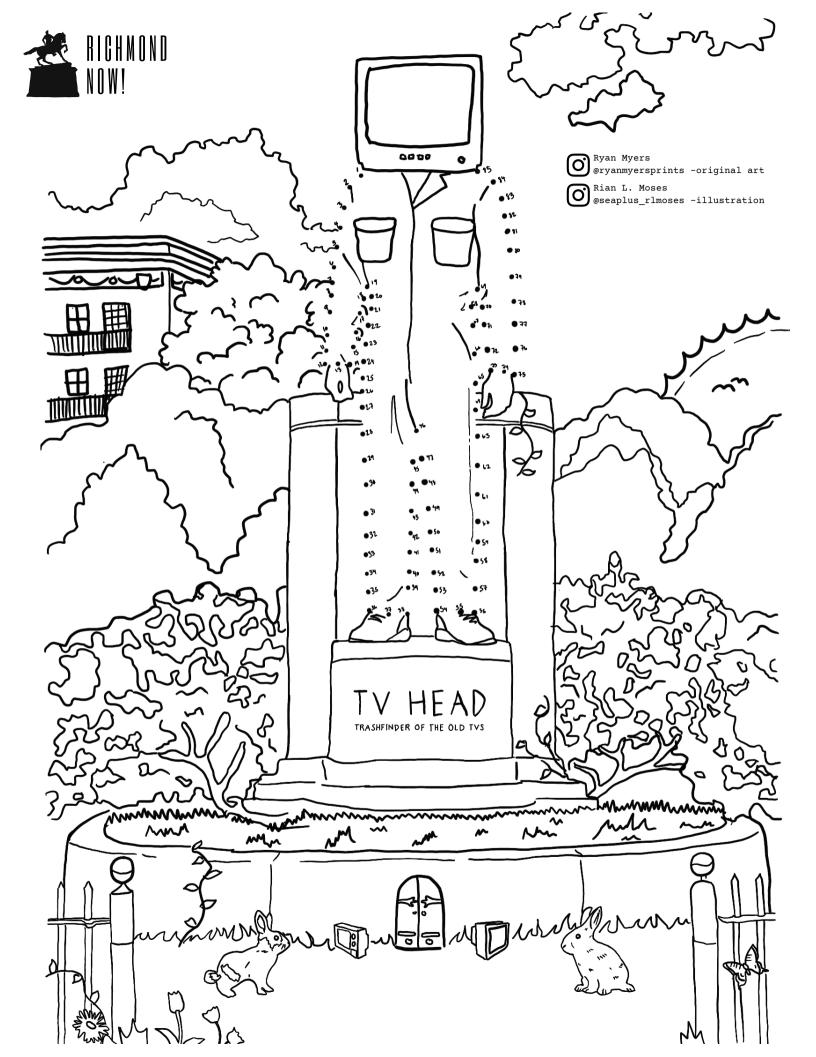
Sometimes this life be handing you some shit baby. Sometimes you gotta except how it is Sometimes I'm feeling like we're about to go crazy, But sometimes it works out fine

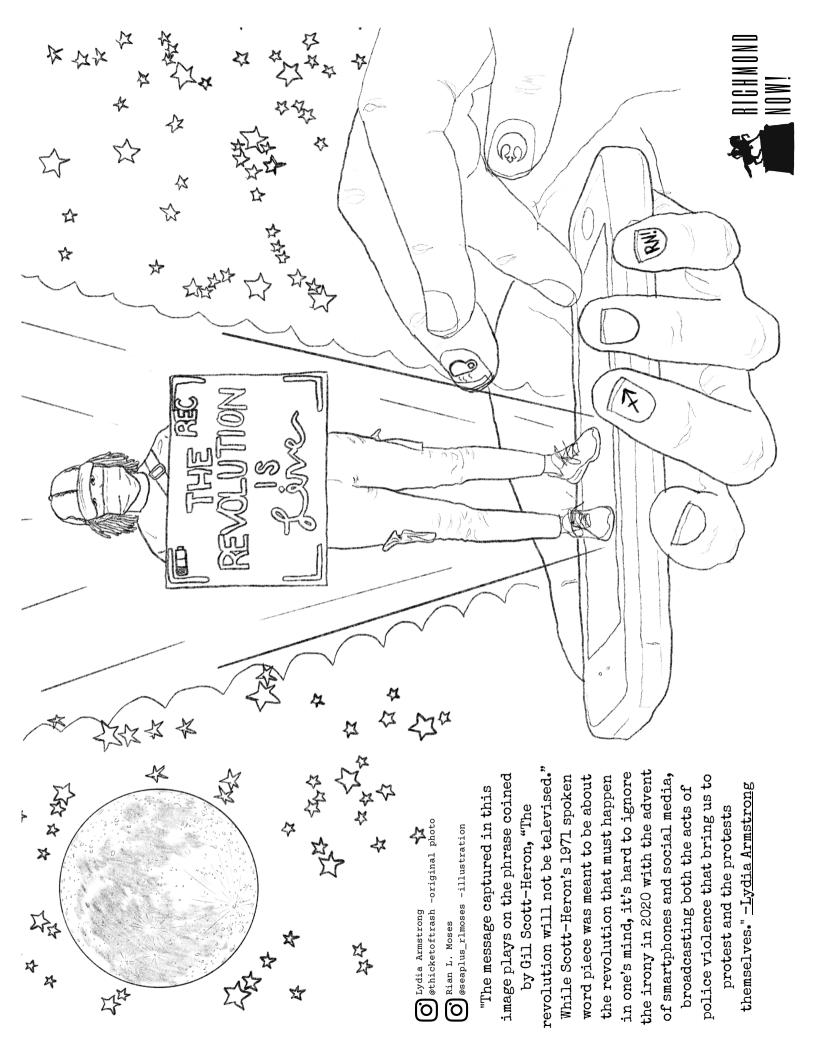


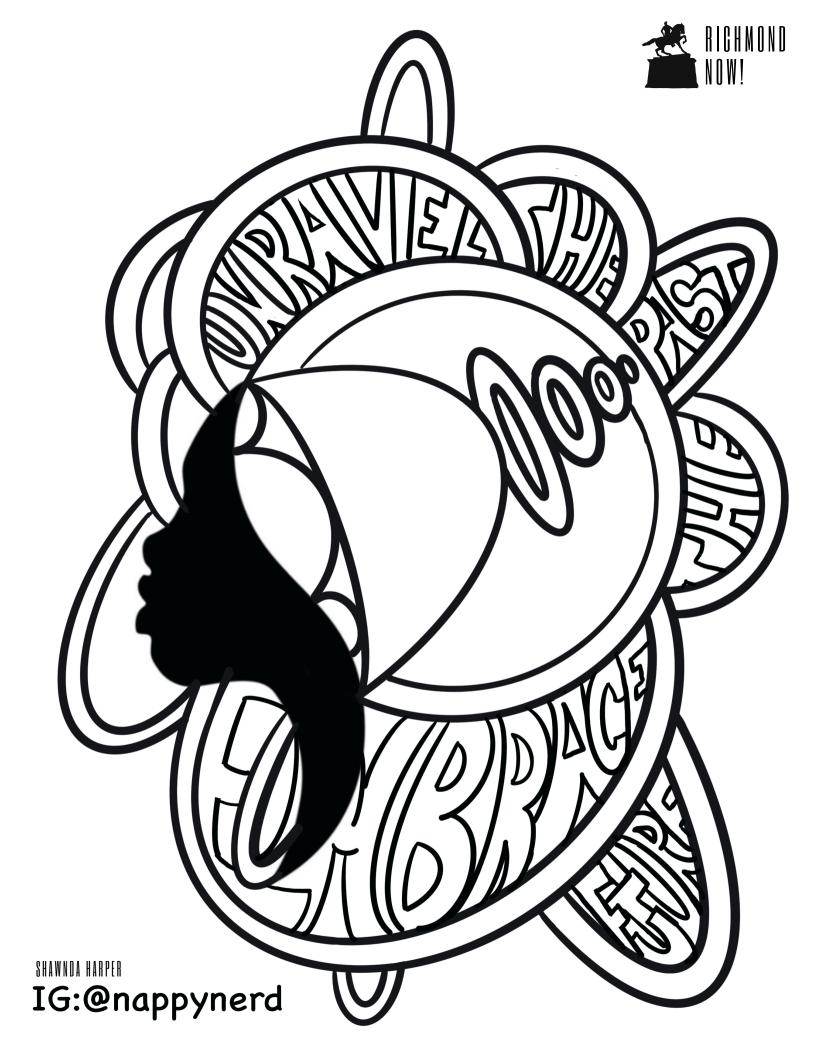


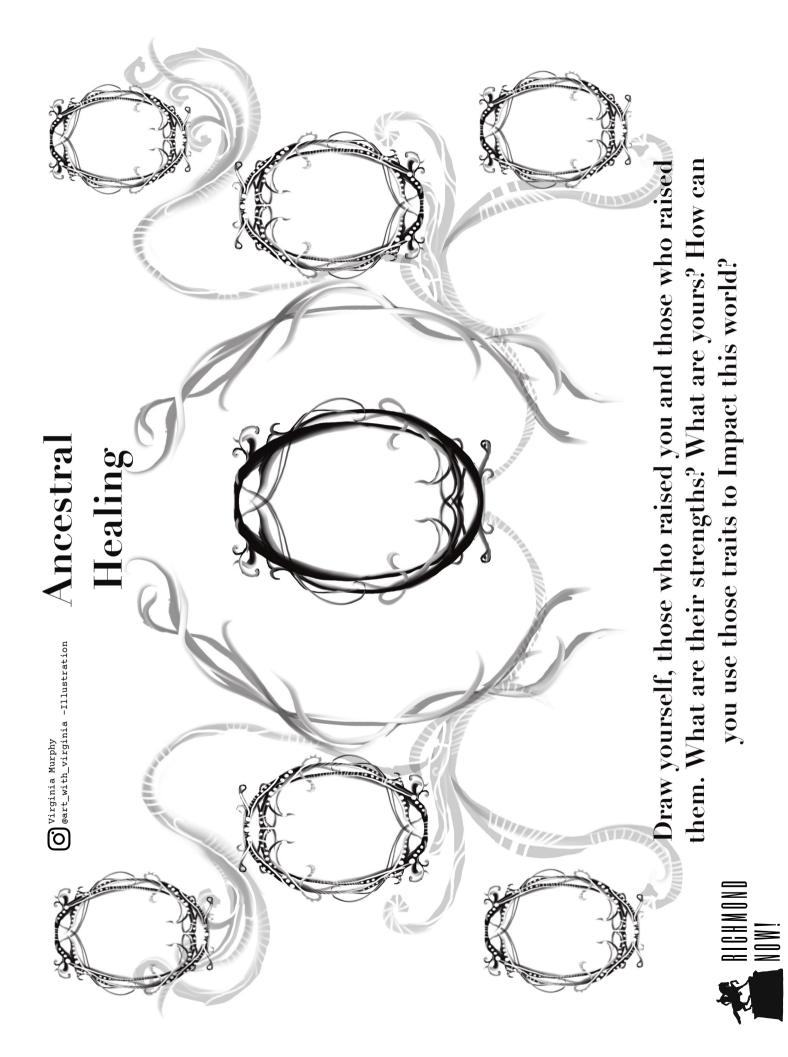
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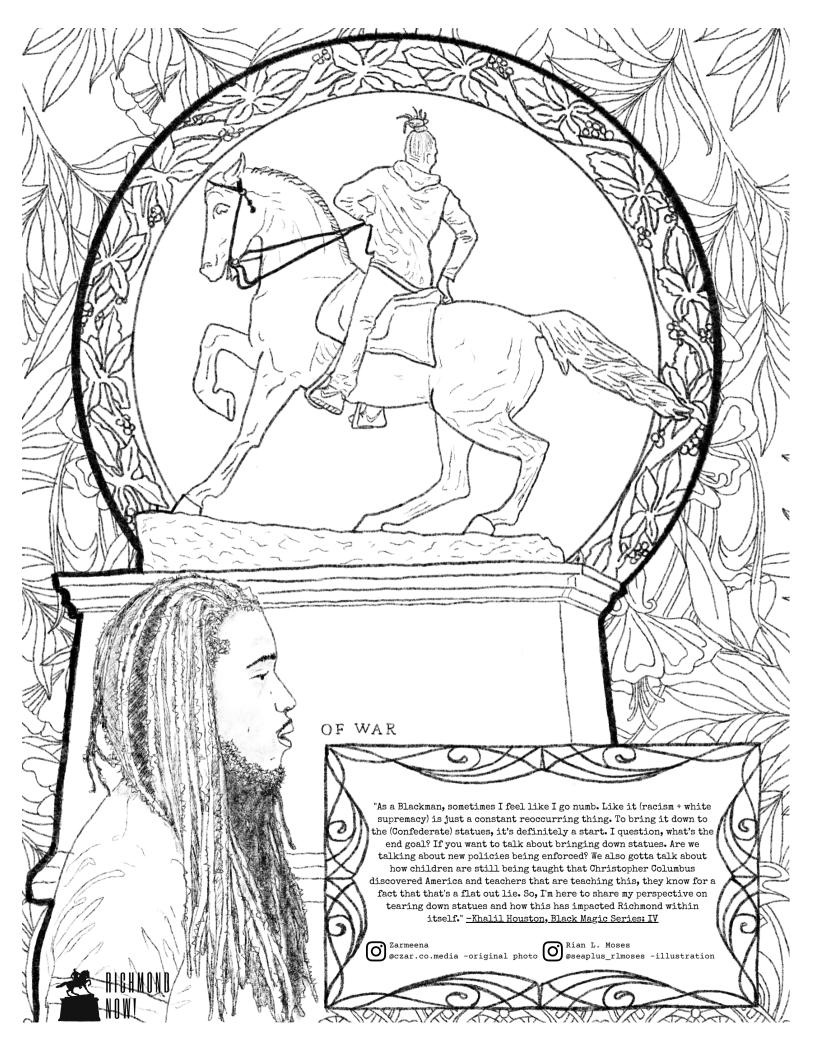
NOW!

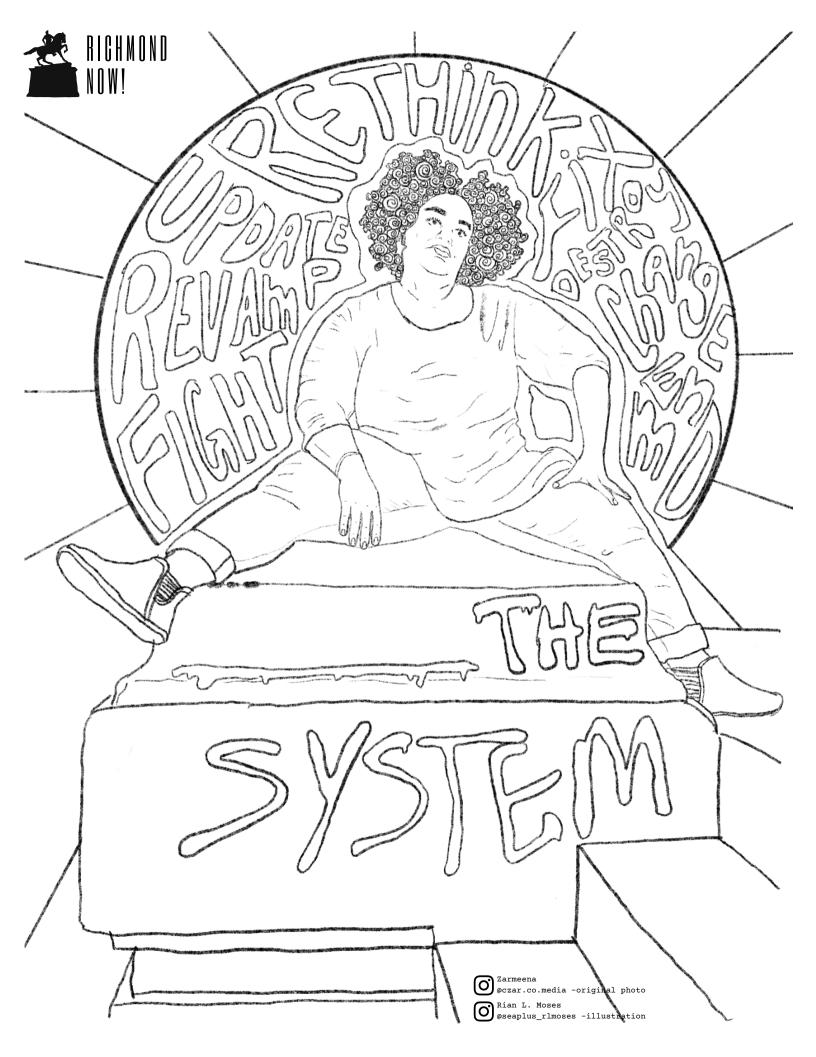












"Heat Islands" are areas of the city in which the tempratures are higher. Richmond's heat islands mirror the racist redlined neighborhood maps marked out by city planners in the 1930's. This is due to a lack of green space. Since the neighborhoods were marked as "undesirable" city planners did not include parks, trees, and gardens, relying on heat-absorbing concrete to cover the spaces. Leaving tradditionally Black neighborhoods hotter by an average of 5 degrees, up to15 degrees in the summer. These neighborhoods are feeling the effects of climate change, and it is directly affecting the health of the residents.

O Nico Cathcart @nicocathcart -Illustration

What is needed?

For a startmore Greenspaces. Investing in these neighborhoods by planting local trees and gardens would create more shade and the ability to combat the heat.

It also brings critical shelter for pollinators .

> RIGHMOND Now!

> > \bigcirc

Source- The Effects of Historical Housing Policies on lent Exposure to Intra-Urban Heat: A Study of 108 US Urban Areas, by Jeremy S. Hoffman, Vivek Shandas and Nicholas Pendleton

What Moves You?





" Art moves people to act." ~ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

"Thank you Julia Rendleman, @juliarendleman for capturing such a powerful moment in time, which inspired this painting. Ava Holloway, @aholloway24 & Kennedy George, @dancers_seoul for shining a light so bright and powerful it's shown around the world and back again.

Please show your support for their nonprofit Brown Ballerinas For Change, @brownballerinas4change" -Breonna Rossi

Breonna Rossi @bcrossi -Painting



Hanny/Proud

Sad/Fmnty

Love/Connection

inappy/indua	odd/ Empty	Maar Ott 6556a	

hassart?/heM



Draw or write the difference between ¥ a protest and a riot

Discuss with someone who may have a different opinion.



romp

Share your response and tag @richmondnow2020



Virginia Murphy @art_with_virginia -Illustration



Volunteer With Us

ARE YOU AN ACTIVIST WITH FREE TIME?

We are looking for help with:

- Blog Writing
- Social Media Upkeep
- Marketing
- Community Outreach
- Content Creation
- Web Design
- Design/ Print Layout
- Any and Everything; We Have A Spot For You

For more details about Richmond Now!, visit our website at www.RichmondNow.org Contact us at RichmondNow2020@gmail.com.



RICHMOND

DONATE TO RICHMOND NOW!

We are happy to offer free downloadable versions of Richmond Now! to anyone that wants to learn and become aware, but we can't help but to think about those in our community who do not have access to the internet or a printer. Please consider donating to our cause, so we can hit the streets to pass out hard copies of all our Volumes at different community events, protests, and Richmond Public Schools. Thank you for all your support!

> DONATE HERE WWW.RICHMONDNOW.ORG/DONATE



SUPPORT RICHMOND



It's not enough to simply speak out about racism and injustice. Here are some actionable ways you can learn, get involved, and make a difference, locally here in Richmond and beyond.

DONATE/VOLUNTEER/PATRON/LEARN

RISE FOR YOUTH | RISEFORYOUTH.ORG

RISE for Youth a nonpartisan campaign committed to dismantling the youth prison model by promoting the creation of community-based alternatives to youth incarceration. Our work centers the voices of impacted youth and communities and challenges racial injustice in Virginia. Youth led advocates, leaders, and organizers.

HAPPILY NATURAL | THENATURALFESTIVAL.COM

Happily Natural focuses on social change and holistic health & wellness. Since inception, it has placed a specific focus on natural haircare, cultural heritage, and naturopathic medicine. The summer festival, Happily Natural Day, is about substance over image, loving ourselves as African people, and changing our community as a result of that love.

SACRED GROUND PROJECT | SACREDGROUNDPROJECT.NET

A project of the Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality, the Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project was established on October 10, 2004 to apply historical insight to contemporary dynamics to help oppressed peoples exercise their right to self-determination. Our logo is "NEA ONNIM," an Adinkra symbol of knowledge, life-long education and the continued quest for knowledge.

MAD RVA | RICHMONDMUTUALAID.WIXSITE.COM/RESOURCES

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief Richmond, or MAD RVA, aims to create a support system in response to COVID-19 and the effects it has had on Richmonders, including supply shortage, job losses and quarantine. We operate collectively and are primarily functioning as a supply delivery for folks who cannot access medicine, food and other vital goods.

BROWN BALLERINAS FOR CHANGE | BROWNBALLERINASFORCHANGE.COM

Brown ballerinas are change makers. We are dancer-led and our purpose is to use ballet to promote activism, social justice, and to increase diversity in the arts by providing annual scholarships, a mentor network, and community programs to empower young dancers.

BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER OF VIRGINIA | BLACKHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG

The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia celebrates the rich culture and moving histories of African American people in Virginia and their contributions to our magnificent country. We endeavor to tell a more complete and inclusive story about America.



RICHMOND NOW!

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

VOL. 3: RICHMOND NOW!



Eliturite @eliturite Jess Hedrick @wonderlandlove420 Destyni Kuhns-Gray @destyyyxx Kyle Epps @kylemepps.labeledblack HearRVA @hearRVA Nico Cathcart @nicocathcart Ryan Myers @ryanmyersprints Shawnda Harper @nappynerd Princess @Justice and reformation Breonna Rossi @bcrossi Lydia Armstrong @thicketoftrash Christopher Risch @topher.risch Zarmeena @czar.co.media Acie Brown @acietheartist Hidden In Plain Site: Richmond @hiddeninplainsiteproject Rian L. Moses @seaplus rlmoses



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