



# Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

**Media Alert FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 26, 2020**

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## **Grant Awarded to Historic Hampton neighborhood to create a documentary**

**Hampton, Virginia** - The Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens, Inc. has been awarded the Writing a New History grant from the [400 Years of African American History Commission](#).

The grant will be used to fund a short documentary entitled, “The Aberdeen 158: Built For Us, By Us.” The film chronicles how proud blue-collar, first-time Black homeowners came to Aberdeen Gardens in 1937 and created an invaluable working-class community that still stands.

“We are very excited that the important multi-generational stories of Aberdeen Gardens African American families will be told,” said Margaret Wilson, President of the Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens. “Aberdeen Gardens was built for us by us and is the only New Deal community of its kind still intact today.”

Aberdeen Gardens began as a New Deal resettlement community offered by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the early 1930s following the Great Depression. It was initiated by Hampton Institute in 1934, designed specifically for the housing of essential African American workers at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, along with local Black farmers, railyard workers, and fishermen. Out of the 55 New Deal communities proposed and constructed at the time, Aberdeen Gardens was the only Resettlement Administration community for Blacks in Virginia. The iconic neighborhood is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The [Aberdeen Gardens Historic Museum](#) building was reconstructed, restored, and repurposed in 2002 from an original neighborhood structure. Its newly

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refurbished complex is a recreation of a 1937 Aberdeen Gardens home dwelling with period furniture, artifacts, and amenities. Visitors interested in touring the museum should call 757-722-2345 for a museum tour.

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Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.