



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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**Steampunk Exhibit and Event at the Hampton History Museum
Coincide with the 20th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival on
June 1 & 2, 2019**

Steampunk: Visions of Futures Past
Exposition of Marvels: Saturday, June 1, 10 am-5 pm & and Sunday, June 2, 1-5 pm,
Free
“Geared-Up Gala” Evening Celebration: Saturday, June 1, 6-9 pm, \$10—on sale now!

Hampton, VA--Imagination and artistry conspire to present artifacts of alternative history in the 7th Annual “Steampunk: Visions of Futures Past” Exposition of Marvels and “Geared-Up Gala” evening celebration at the Hampton History Museum during the 20th Annual Blackbeard Pirate Festival weekend June 1 & 2, 2019.

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**Steampunk Exhibit and Event at the Hampton History Museum
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Join Hatton Cross Steampunk and featured presenters such as A Steampunked Life to experience the work of artists and craftspeople whose attire, weaponry, gadgets, contraptions and conveyances conjure up a time when airships were commonplace and steam power ruled the world.

Steampunk is a sub-genre of science fiction that focuses on a romanticized notion of futurism, typically taking place either during the Victorian era (1851-1901) or maintaining similar fashion and aesthetic of the era but set in an alternate time, place, or even world. Machinery abounds and one's imagination is fueled by fantastic steam engines and limitless possibilities.

More activities have been added to this year's event to put visitors in a Steampunk frame of mind. Attendees can literally "put themselves in the picture" in a Steampunk Selfie Station complete with retro sci-fi backgrounds, costume items and props. Children (and adults) can get into the creative mode of the event by making Steampunk props with arts and crafts supplies provided and coloring pages created especially for the event by Conquest Comics.

The weekend is organized by Michael Parodi of Hatton Cross Steampunk. Admission to the museum and exhibit is free and open to the public on Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 2, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets to the celebration on Saturday, June 1, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Advance purchase is recommended by calling 757/727-6824.

Exposition of Marvels

Throughout the weekend, be dazzled by the work of a variety of Steampunk artists

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highlighted by the inventions and vehicles of Steampunk artisan Michael Parodi of Hatton Cross Steampunk from Gloucester, VA. A Steampunked Life from Surry, VA, will be purveying their original artwork, steampunk weapons, hats, accessories and other retro-futurist accouterments. Steampunk mixed-media art, jewelry and accessories can be admired and purchased from artist Sinead Sanderson of Original Sin Art. Lamps, metal art, hats and jewelry will be offered for sale from artist Doug West. Also featured will be several authors from Virginia-based HCS Publishing, as well as Conquest Comics.

Attendees can partake in the thrills and spills of Splendid Teapot Racing at 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Musician Katie Teardrop will perform at 2:30 pm on Sunday. On both days, Michael Parodi will be offering "Steampunk 101," to orient the uninitiated on Steampunk.

"Geared-Up Gala" Evening Celebration

On Saturday, June 1, 6-9 pm, celebrate this fantastical exposition with the "Geared-Up Gala" featuring the "Grunge Grass" music of Tornado Bait in a musical twist on Grimm's Fairy Tales. Join the band for a presentation of Mississippi's Grimm Un-fairy Tales narrating the epic stories of scorned lovers, neighbors and the world around us. Gather about this band featuring a unique line up of friends and special guest for a night to remember. Grab an instrument from the "Trunk of Funk," play a limber jack and draw a happy face on a brown paper bag. Mosquito Cabaret make music that knows no borders; with a melting pot of sonic qualities consisting of equal parts folk, punk, klezmer, humppa, rembetika, and so much more! Prepare to be mesmerized by the fabulous steampunk-themed dance performance Wicked Hips (USA). This is not a seated event.

Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the museum's educational programs.

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Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. Call the museum gift shop at 757/727-6824.

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757/727-1102.

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.

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