



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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**Library of Virginia and HOME Collaborate to Offer *Mapping RVA:*
*Where You Live Makes All the Difference***

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For Immediate Release

Through August 23, 2014, the Library of Virginia will host *Mapping RVA: Where You Live Makes All the Difference*, a traveling exhibition. The multimedia exhibition of nine maps created by Brian Koziol, director of research and consulting services at Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME), uses geographic information systems to show the unique history of the Richmond metropolitan area. The maps examine the connection between public policy and economic development in the Richmond region through a fair housing lens. Also on display will be historic maps from the Library's collections that highlight the evolution of the city's neighborhoods and the role that policy makers have played in shaping neighborhood demographics.

Where you live makes all the difference, but that difference has a history. The current circumstances of Richmond's neighborhoods have roots in state and federal policies that have had lasting effects on concentrations of poverty and growth, lending patterns, homeownership, and educational outcomes for children. Neighborhoods that received a D grade in the 1950s now have a high concentration of federal housing subsidies and high levels of poverty. Children in these same neighborhoods score lower on SOL tests than their peers in neighborhoods with low poverty rates. During the foreclosure crisis, these neighborhoods featured high rates of default.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Library of Virginia will host a discussion, ***Mapping Inequality in Richmond***, on **June 10** featuring John Moeser, senior fellow at the University of Richmond's Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, and Brian Koziol, from HOME. Dr. Gregg Kimball, director of public services and outreach at the Library of Virginia, will moderate the discussion. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions following the talk and will then be invited to join the panelists on a guided tour through the exhibition. This free event, which runs from 5:30 until 7:30 PM, is open to the public. There is free parking for this program in the Library's underground deck, which is accessible from either Eighth or Ninth streets.

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HOME is Virginia's only nonprofit fair housing enforcement agency with the mission of ensuring

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equal access to housing for all people. In addition to enforcing and advocating for the best policies for all Virginians, the organization works to educate its neighbors. HOME is excited to partner with the Library of Virginia to share this perspective on Richmond's past and present, and invites the public to discuss how we can all work together to improve Richmond's future.

The Library of Virginia is the official archives of the commonwealth and the state library. It holds the most comprehensive collection of material about Virginia's history, government, and culture and is one of the world's leading map repositories.

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