



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Join the Library of Virginia for a Nov. 17 discussion on the book *What the Eyes Can't See: Ralph Northam, Black Resolve, and a Racial Reckoning in Virginia***

*Discussion will feature author and former reporter Margaret Edds and Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Michael Paul Williams*

(RICHMOND, VIRGINIA) The Library of Virginia will host a conversation featuring author and former reporter Margaret Edds and Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Michael Paul Williams on Thursday, Nov. 17 discussing Edds's new book, *What the Eyes Can't See: Ralph Northam, Black Resolve, and a Racial Reckoning in Virginia*. A book signing will follow the discussion. The event, free and open to the public, will be held at 6 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. To register, visit <https://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/9690411>.

*What the Eyes Can't See* offers a behind-the-scenes look at why Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's career did not end with his “blackface scandal” and how it made him a better governor—and a better citizen. In the book, Edds draws on unprecedented access to the governor, his aides and members of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, whose initial anger evolved into determination to mine good from an ugly episode. She provides a revealing examination of race in the nation, how racism might be addressed and reckoned with, and how we all may find a measure of redemption in listening to one another.

The author of six books, Edds spent 34 years immersed in Virginia politics and government, first as a statehouse reporter and then as an editorial writer for the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*. A focus on racial justice has threaded her career, including book-length studies involving the nation's first popularly elected black governor, the results of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a criminal justice system that sometimes crucifies innocents and the legacy bequeathed by civil rights icons Spotswood Robinson and Oliver Hill.

Williams, 2021's Pulitzer Prize for Commentary winner, has worked at the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* since 1981 and became the newspaper's first Black columnist in 1992. His honors include a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University, several Virginia Press Association awards, the Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Williams's Pulitzer Prize recognized his “penetrating and historically insightful columns that guided Richmond, a former capital of the Confederacy, through the painful and complicated process of dismantling the city's monuments to white supremacy.” He was honored by the Library of Virginia in 2021 for his distinguished contributions to journalism in Virginia.

For more information on the discussion, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at [elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3536.

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## **ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in more than 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov).