



Strong Men & Women in Virginia History 2026

A Traveling Exhibition from the Library of Virginia

In partnership with Dominion Energy, the Library of Virginia announces the availability of *Strong Men & Women in Virginia History 2026*, an annual project that honors African Americans for their contributions to the Commonwealth and the nation.

Honorees for 2026 are

- Sharon Y. Bowen, Chesapeake, Corporate Attorney
- William Hughes Dillard, Arlington County, United States Army Officer
- Sheary Ann Darcus Johnson, Harrisonburg, Civil Rights Pioneer
- Florence Neal Cooper Smith, Richmond, Public health Advocate

The exhibition is available free of charge for a loan period of six weeks, including of delivery and installation date.

Strong Men & Women is comprised of three freestanding pull-up banner units (similar to this image). Text and images are visible on both sides, requiring that the exhibition be in an open area of approximately 75 sq. ft. The exhibition requires minimal security but must be installed inside the venue and away from food or drink



The Library of Virginia will contact venues approximately one week before the beginning/end of the loan period to arrange delivery/pick-up. LVA staff will deliver and install/de-install but venues are asked to provide one person to help.

Host venues will inspect the exhibition daily and report any damage immediately to the Library of Virginia. If the exhibition is damaged, the host venue *where the damage occurred*

will be invoiced by the Library of Virginia for the cost of replacing the damaged banner or stand.

Host venues are encouraged to develop programs related to Black history or a complementary display honoring African Americans. An enhanced website with educational materials to accompany the exhibition is available on the Library of Virginia's website, <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/services/education/smw>.

Posts to social media advertising the exhibition and related programs are encouraged and will be harvested by the Library of Virginia's Marketing and Communications team. And we welcome any other statistics offered by venues.

If you wish to book this exhibition, please contact the Education & Outreach team at education@lva.virginia.gov.