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## MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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### **January 18 VUU Event to Benefit Emancipation and Freedom Monument**

**Richmond, VA** - The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission will host a fundraiser at Virginia Union University on Saturday, January 18, 2020, to raise funds for the Emancipation and Freedom Monument. The monument, dedicated to the contributions of African American Virginians in the fight for freedom, is scheduled for completion on Brown's Island in 2020.

The event will feature a screening of Parts I and IV of the HBCU Storyteller Project's four-part documentary series *400 Years Later... 'free-ish*. The films follow 15 HBCU students exploring race relations in Virginia, past and present, 400 years after the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in Virginia in 1619, and working to promote racial healing today.

The HBCU Storytellers Project, a partnership between the Nate Parker Foundation, Inc. and the Kellogg Foundation, has engaged students from Hampton University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Norfolk State University, in learning the art of filmmaking and exploring the use of film in promoting racial healing and reconciliation.

The January 18 program begins with a 1:00 p.m. reception for sponsors in the Perkins Living and Learning Center at Virginia Union University, followed by a screening at 2:00 p.m. of the HBCU Storyteller Project's documentary in the Chapel at Virginia Union University. The screening will be followed by a discussion, featuring student filmmakers and members of the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, including the Commission's chair, Senator Jennifer L. McClellan.

Sponsor tickets, which include attendance at the 1:00 p.m. sponsors reception and the film screening and discussion, are available beginning at \$500 (two tickets); Bronze Sponsor tickets are available for \$1,000 (five tickets); Silver Sponsor tickets are available for \$2,500 (ten tickets); and Gold Sponsor tickets are available for \$5,000 (15 tickets).

Individual tickets to the screening and discussion only are available for \$25 per person. Students may attend the screening and discussion free. Information on purchasing tickets is available on the Commission's website, [mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov](http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov), or by contacting Lily Jones at (804) 698-1888 or [ljones@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:ljones@dls.virginia.gov).

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, a statutory and bipartisan agency of the Virginia General Assembly, was created in 1992 by the General Assembly to honor the legacy of Dr. King through educational, historical and cultural programs, public policy analysis, and public discourse on contemporary issues.

The Emancipation and Freedom Monument, designed by Thomas Jay Warren of Oregon, will be completed in 2020 on Brown's Island in Richmond and will feature a 12-foot bronze statue representing newly freed slaves and highlighting ten notable African American Virginians who have made significant contributions to the emancipation and freedom of formerly enslaved persons or descendants. More information on the monument is available at [mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/lincoln/monument.html](http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/lincoln/monument.html).