

## From the History Blooms Planners' Notebooks



Jamie Bosket

I have long admired the work of the Garden Club of Virginia. My decade at George Washington's Mount Vernon allowed me to see firsthand the important preservation focus of GCV's mission. Now at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, I was fortunate to be able to meaningfully engage with your centennial celebration. This new partnership, History Blooms, seems like a wonderful culmination of these experiences. I look forward to the various sessions planned, and the stunning flower displays that will add life and beauty to the museum. I also look forward to gathering around the "garden table" Saturday evening for our History Blooms dinner to hear from Mount Vernon's head horticulturalist, Dean Norton ... a delightful full circle moment for me!

-- Jamie Bosket, President & CEO, VMHC



Design by Christin Geall

When I signed on as chairman of Artistic Design, one of my objectives was to revive Flower Arranging School because it's been a popular event for our members. History Blooms gives us the opportunity to have that school and more! I am thrilled that 26 clubs will bring arrangements, and many volunteers are helping to make special floral installations and arrangements for the lunch and dinner tables. My motto is 'Flowers Should be Fun,' which fits this event very well. Flower lovers should look for presentations from Christin Geall, Libbey Oliver, Margot Shaw and Sybil Sylvester, and Jessica Hall. Our keynote speaker, P. Allen Smith, is a gardener, horticulturalist, and host of several TV shows. I hope you will join me for this very special opportunity where we will hear from some of the best in floral and garden design!

--Cathy Lee, Chairman, Artistic Design Committee



Abra Lee

I am so excited that we booked Abra Lee to speak at History Blooms. She's a horticulturist, storyteller, and author of the forthcoming book, "Conquer The Soil: Black America and the Untold Stories of Our Country's Gardeners, Farmers, and Growers." When I called her, she told me about her research that uncovered stories of black female entrepreneurs of horticulture in the early 20th century who forged paths to economic and social freedom. Abra's work has been featured in The New York Times, NPR, Fine Gardening, and Veranda Magazine, and she's a sought-after speaker. I look forward to hearing her speak, and I hope to see you there!

--Andrea Butler, Executive Director, GCV

*History Blooms*  
AT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

  
GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

  
VM  
HC