

CTTT RVA's "The Water Dancer" Weekend



On October 25th, 2019 Richmond was uplifted with a powerful panel discussion featuring Ta-Nehisi Coates, author of The Water Dancer; Dr. Manisha Sinha, James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History and professor at The University of Connecticut; and Christy Coleman, CEO of the American Civil War Museum. The event, hosted by The American Civil War Museum and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, enabled all to explore the emancipation of 4 million enslaved African Americans after the Civil War and how the choices and events in the transition from enslavement to freedom continue to shape the lives of Americans over 150 years later.

After the panel discussion a group of friends gathered to meet, greet, and share their feelings about the earlier discussion as well as their thoughts on Ta-Nehisi Coates' new book, The Water Dancer. The Commercial Taphouse provided a great backdrop where everyone could relax and connect. Connection is a core practice that is critical to our mission. It was wonderful to see everyone taking the time to chat and get to know new brothers and sisters.



The weekend concluded with a fantastic book discussion at the beautiful American Civil War Museum. This event brought residents from across the city to discuss Ta-Nehisi Coates' extraordinary new novel, The Water Dancer. Marsha Summers, Cheryl Goode, Danita Green and all our wonderful facilitators led participants through a guided discussion that explored themes of family, slavery, religion, love and power which are still very relevant today. At the end of the discussion, Marsha provided these powerful words of wisdom...

*"As we go back into the chaos and beauty and muck of our Richmond, Virginia lives, which, like the waters of the James River flow sometimes calm and sometimes with turbulent, dangerous rapids, **tell** your stories --- **tell your stories**--- and listen -- **listen** for the powerful stories of others. Maybe, just maybe, we will find ourselves dancing on the waters, crossing to the other side **with joy**, and we will know in our deepest places that "We all family up here"."* – Marsha Summers

ASHE!

