



UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON MUSEUMS
224 Washington Street, Falmouth, VA 22405

Gari Melchers Home and Studio * James Monroe Museum * Papers of James Monroe

MEMORANDUM

TO: Media Contacts
FROM: Scott Harris, Executive Director
DATE: November 19, 2020
RE: University of Mary Washington Museums Temporary Closing

Gari Melchers Home and Studio and the James Monroe Museum will close to the public beginning Monday, November 23, 2020, and remain closed until Monday, January 4, 2021. This corresponds to the time period during which most University of Mary Washington facilities will be closed or operating with limited public access.

The Stafford County Tourist Information Center, administered by Gari Melchers Home and Studio, will also be closed to the public during this period. For information on Stafford County attractions, please visit <https://www.tourstaffordva.com/>.

The temporary closing is a precautionary measure taken in response to actual and potential increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Virginia and nationally, especially during the forthcoming holidays. Prior to January 4, University Museums leadership, in conjunction with the UMW administration, will decide whether remaining closed beyond January 4 is warranted. Such decisions will be closely aligned with the general public health situation, including any applicable local, state, or federal directives.

University of Mary Washington Museums offer a wide array of online educational resources, which may be accessed at the following sites:

Gari Melchers Home and Studio “Learn” page: <https://www.garimelchers.org/education/learn/>.

James Monroe Museum “Hands-On History” page: <https://jamesmonroemuseum.umw.edu/about-james-monroe/hands-on-history/>.

Papers of James Monroe “COVID-19 Resources” page: <https://academics.umw.edu/jamesmonroepapers/covid-19-resources/>.

The University of Mary Washington Museums, comprising Gari Melchers Home and Studio, the James Monroe Museum, and the Papers of James Monroe, support and enhance the educational mission of the University. In accordance with their respective missions, the component sites and programs of UMW Museums collect, preserve, and interpret artistic, cultural, and historic resources; promote scholarship and the diffusion of knowledge; provide experiential learning opportunities for UMW students; and support economic development through heritage tourism.