

Feb. 1, 2016: This version updates information about the culinary offerings developed in collaboration with Michael Twitty, which are now being served at **Chowning's Tavern** in the Historic Area and **Sweet Tea & Barley** restaurant at the Williamsburg Lodge.

# Colonial Williamsburg

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## Culinary Historian Michael Twitty Named Colonial Williamsburg's first Revolutionary in Residence

*Scholar, author, interpreter and "Afroculinaria" blogger delivers the first-ever REV Talk Feb. 11 to coincide with Black History Month programming; Twitty will also partner with Colonial Williamsburg on culinary offerings, training and programming*



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 20, 2017) – Acclaimed culinary historian, author, interpreter and “Afroculinaria” blogger Michael Twitty launches Colonial Williamsburg’s new Revolutionaries in Residence program, in which Virginia’s 18th-century capital hosts modern-day innovators to engage the nation with fresh perspectives that capture the spirit and relevance of its founding era.

As part of the Revolutionaries in Residence program, Twitty delivers Colonial Williamsburg’s inaugural REV Talk at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 11. The event, in which he shares insights and fields audience questions, coincides with Colonial Williamsburg Black History Month 2017 programs including the Films of Faith and Freedom series and original live dramatic programming like “Journey to Redemption,” all at the Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square.

During Revolutionary City visits through February, Twitty is also scheduled to provide demonstrations and training for Historic Foodways staff and historical interpreters, to engage guests, and to collaborate with Colonial Williamsburg's hospitality team on authentic new culinary offerings: Virginia barbecue mop ribs at Chowning's Tavern in the Historic Area and Chesapeake Crab gumbo at Sweet Tea & Barley Restaurant in the Williamsburg Lodge.

"Colonial Williamsburg explores the events and ideas of the 18th century that continue to define our lives and challenge us today," said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss. "With the Revolutionaries in Residence program, we engage thinkers who question convention and capture the disruptive spirit of America's founding generation. I can think of no one better suited to begin that journey than Michael Twitty, who illuminates huge aspects of our shared history that too often have been overlooked."

Twitty's work takes him throughout the country to preserve, prepare and promote African-American foodways along with the culinary traditions of Africa, the African diaspora and the American South. His past projects include a presentation with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the Southern Foodways Alliance, and as a 2016 TED fellow he delivered the TED Talk "Gastronomy and the Social Justice Reality of Food." He is the author of "The Cooking Gene: A Journey through African-American Culinary History in the Old South," scheduled for release later this year by HarperCollins.

"Colonial Williamsburg has been a part of my life for almost four decades. I hope my presence will attract a wider audience to the pleasures of lifelong learning, exploring our past and moving forward into the future with purposeful vision," Twitty said. "As we approach the incredible 400th year anniversary of African arrival in mainland British America, there needs to be a homecoming of all African Americans to this very sacred place. The Historic Triangle has incredible stories to tell and Colonial Williamsburg is at its heart and I'm excited to help illuminate those stories."

The Revolutionaries in Residence program is generously sponsored by The Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Other events to mark Black History Month include the reopening of the Historic Area's newly renovated African-American Religion exhibit on Nassau Street, programs including "A Gathering of Hair" and the ongoing exhibit "A Century of African-American Quilts" at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.

Highlights of the Films of Faith and Freedom series include Golden Globe winner "Moonlight" and Golden Globe nominee "Loving" as well as the Virginia premiere of the documentary "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 10 before its national broadcast premiere on PBS. Also in February, Colonial Williamsburg continues its partnership with the city's historic First Baptist Church at 727 Scotland St., which again calls on the community and nation to ring the congregation's restored Freedom Bell for justice, peace and healing.

Admission to Twitty's REV Talk is \$5 and seating is limited. Program schedules, tickets and additional information about all Black History Month events are available at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations including the Kimball Theatre box office, online at [colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com) by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free or by visiting Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and @colonialwmsburg on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwilliamsburg). Tickets for the Films of Faith and Freedom series are also available via [Fandango.com](http://Fandango.com). Free registration to visit First Baptist Church and ring the Freedom Bell is available at [LetFreedomRingChallenge.org](http://LetFreedomRingChallenge.org).

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***About the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation***

*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 500 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center managed by Trilogy Spa, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.*

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