



The Conversation Grows: Third Statue to be Added at Riverwalk Landing

October 11, 2017

Since 2005, visitors to Yorktown's Riverwalk Landing have been privy to an important meeting held between the statues of General Washington and Admiral de Grasse. The installation is about to become a bit more interesting with the addition of a third statue, that of the Marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman who served the Continental Army at the side of George Washington. The statue will be unveiled on Wednesday, October 18, at 11 a.m. and is the creation of artist Cyd Player, whose Washington and de Grasse statues are popular with visitors and residents. Standing as part of the meeting, Lafayette joins Washington and de Grasse into a conversational triangle, and adds another dimension to the grouping.



"I'd love to be a fly on the wall in this conversation," said Chuck Schwam of the American Friends of Lafayette, the historical and patriotic society dedicated to the memory of the Marquis de Lafayette. The group is responsible for donating and raising funds for the addition of the third statue. "Of course, they certainly have to be discussing the Siege of Yorktown, but what aspect of the pivotal battle? It's up to each of us to ponder the content of the discussion."

The statue required 10 months to complete and was funded by monies raised by the American Friends of Lafayette, the Celebrate Yorktown Committee of the Yorktown Foundation, and the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. Three individuals serve as models for the statue: Yorktown's David Bowditch, Mark Schneider, who portrays Williamsburg's Lafayette, and Julien Icher, a French geography student at William & Mary.

The public is invited to attend the unveiling. The schedule of events is:

- 11:00 a.m. – Welcome and Introductions
- 11:10 a.m. – Singing of the French and U.S. National Anthems
- 11:20 a.m. – Short Remarks by Invited Speakers
- 11:45 a.m. – Unveiling of the Statue
- 11:50 a.m. – Closing Remarks

This ceremony is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.friendsoflafayette.org or email americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com.

About the American Friends of Lafayette: Formed in 1932 at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, the American Friends of Lafayette studies the life of the historical figure including his time in America and France. The society boasts over 300 active members nationwide.

About the artist: Cyd Player is a long-time Williamsburg resident and sculptor whose work can be seen at the Christian Broadcasting Network in addition to the statues at Riverwalk Landing.

Photo attached: In the attached photo, Washington (left) and de Grasse (right) are saluted by a young patriot visiting Yorktown. A statue of the Marquis de Lafayette will join the two military leaders on October 18th at 11 a.m. at an unveiling ceremony.