



#158-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #158-21**

DATE: June 11, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **VMFA Exhibit on Southern Hip-hop Culture is Free for Public and Private Teachers and State Employees**

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond is announcing the premier of a new exhibit entitled *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* now through September 6, 2021. Governor Ralph Northam is encouraging preschool and K-12 teachers, both from public and private schools, to see the exhibit at no charge.

“I hope Commonwealth employees will take advantage of cultural opportunities like *The Dirty South* exhibition at VMFA as more and more residents are getting vaccinations and Virginia begins to safely emerge from the pandemic,” said Governor Northam.

“Visitors to *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* will undoubtedly gain an appreciation for how African Americans in the South, through art and music, have had and continue to have a significant influence on our entire culture,” wrote VMFA’s Director and CEO, Alex Nyerges.

In addition to this exhibit, the VMFA is open 365 days a year at no charge with regular admission, and features nearly 50,000 artworks spanning 6,000 years. The exhibition is free for VMFA members, children ages 6 and under, state employees and teachers, as well as active-duty military personnel and their immediate families; \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors 65+; and \$10 for youth 7-17 and college students with ID.

For more information

More information about *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse* [can be found at the VMFA website](#) or by telephone (804) 340-1400. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is located at 200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond. Tickets may be obtained via the museum's website or purchased/received in person.

JFL/JGH