Exposition to Offer a Range of Programs

Thomas Jefferson’s vision for the West and the multiple accomplishments and lasting outcomes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition will be spotlighted during Jefferson’s West: A Lewis and Clark Exposition.

Organized by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in conjunction with the University of Virginia School of Continuing & Professional Studies and a host of partners, Jefferson’s West will run from Tuesday, Jan. 14, through Sunday, Jan. 19, at Monticello, UVa, and other sites in the Charlottesville area. The event will feature eminent figures in the worlds of Jefferson and Lewis and Clark and varied programming designed to educate and entertain everyone from schoolchildren to scholars.

Jefferson’s West will be a two-tiered event, operating as a paid conference and a public festival. Most of the discussion sessions and selected other programs will be open only to individuals who pay the conference registration fee of $225. Many other activities will be free and open to the public, including a welcome ceremony at Monticello on Jan. 14, the bicentennial inaugural event at Monticello on Jan. 18, four talks and an exhibition at the Jefferson Library, and live performances featuring Lakota hoop dancer Kevin Locke on Jan. 15 and character interpreter Clay Jenkinson on Jan. 16.

Two live performances—by the Show-Me Opera of the University of Missouri-Columbia on Jan. 17 and by Makoché, a multimedia performance group, on Jan. 18—will be open to the public with admission charged.

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Lewis and Clark Exposition

Following the lead of the Lewis and Clark Expedition itself, Jefferson's West programs will address a broad list of topics, including anthropology, archaeology, art and culture, botany, cooking, environmental protection, geology, history, music, Native American issues, literature, and zoology.

The roster of those scheduled to participate includes John Logan Allen, author of Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American West; Gerard A. Baker, superintendent of the National Park Service's Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; Daniel P. Botkin, author of Our Natural History: The Lessons of Lewis and Clark; award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns; author and filmmaker Ron Craig; Dayton R. Duncan, author of Out West: An American Journey; culinary historian Mary Gunderson; anthropologist Jeffrey L. Hantman; Gary E. Moulton, editor of the 13-volume Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; James P. Ronda, author of Lewis and Clark among the Indians; and natural scientist John E. Taylor.

Many of the featured participants also will be conducting programs at Charlottesville-area schools during the week.

A number of exhibitions will be open concurrent with Jefferson's West, including Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future, a traveling project of the National Park Service, at the Monticello Visitors Center; Many Nations – Many Voices, an exhibition organized by the Circle of Tribal Advisors of the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, at UVa; and the American Rivers exhibition Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark, at the Atlantic Coast Athletic Club. Other related exhibitions will be on display at venues including the Albemarle County Historical Society, University of Virginia Library, University of Virginia Art Museum, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Albemarle County Office Building, and Virginia Discovery Museum.