



Application for SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Department of Planning and Development Review
Land Use Administration Division
900 E. Broad Street, Room 511
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 646-6304
<http://www.richmondgov.com/>

Application is hereby submitted for: (check one)

- special use permit, new
- special use permit, plan amendment
- special use permit, text only amendment

Project Name/Location

Project Name: Black History Museum of Virginia Date: _____

Property Address: 122 W. Leigh St. Richmond, VA 23220 Tax Map #: N0000153032

Fee: \$ 1800.⁰⁰ Total area of affected site in acres: .25 ACRE
(See page 3 for fee schedule, please make check payable to the "City of Richmond")

Zoning
Current Zoning: R-6

Proposed Use
(Please include a detailed description of the proposed use in the required applicant's report)

Existing Use: Vacant Shell

Is this property subject to any previous land use cases? Museum

Yes No

If Yes, please list the Ordinance Number: _____

Applicant/Contact Person: STACY BURRS

Company: 1895 GROUP, INC.

Mailing Address: 00 E. CLAY ST.

City: RICHMOND State: VA Zip Code: 23219

Telephone: (804) 700-9093 Fax: ()

Email: _____

Property Owner: CITY OF RICHMOND (DENISE LAWUS)

If Business Entity, name and title of authorized signee: _____

Mailing Address: DEPT. OF ECONOMIC / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - MAIN ST. STATION

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (804) 646-3975 Fax: ()

Email: DENISE.LAWUS@RICHMONDGOV.COM

Property Owner Signature: _____

(The names, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of all owners of the property are required. Please attach additional sheets as needed. If a legal representative signs for a property owner, please attach an executed power of attorney. Faxed or photocopied signatures will not be accepted.)

NOTE: Please attach the required plans, checklist, and a check for the application fee (see Filing Procedures for special use permits)

Applicant's Report

Special Use Permit:
Leigh Street Armory Restoration and Addition
122 West Leigh Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Tax Map #: N0000153032

Submitted by:
1895 Group, Inc.
00 East Clay Street
Richmond, VA 23219

The applicant request certain exceptions to the Zoning District and a special use permit to authorize the renovation and addition to the historic Leigh Street Armory for the purposes of continued operation of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia currently located at 00 East Clay Street, Richmond, VA. Founded in 1991 by Carroll Anderson, Sr., the Black History Museum opened to the public in 1991 in the Adolph Dill House in the historic Jackson Ward district of Richmond.

The First Battalion Armory (Leigh Street Armory) was built in 1895 to serve as Richmond's center for training and organizing local African American municipal militias. It is one of only three armories built for use by black militias in the United States, one of the oldest such buildings in the country and certainly the oldest armory of any kind in Virginia. It has been placed on both the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Registry.

The Leigh Street Armory is one of only three public armories "built for the specific use of black units. One of those was in Chicago's Bronzeville district (for the 8th Regiment) in 1914-1915 and the other in New York's Harlem (for its 369th Infantry) between 1920 and 1923. Those two armories still stand. Only New York's Armory is still being used by the New York National Guard. Chicago's is used as a school. He cites Richmond's Leigh Street Armory as the oldest and the only 19th-century black militia armory still standing in the United States."

The Armory and the new facility to be constructed to the rear of the Armory will provide compact, functional, accessible and fully integrated spaces within which the Museum will carry out the kinds of robust activities expected of a modern museum.

The grace and grandeur of the historic building's large and tall rooms will be preserved. In order to maximize usable space, the newly constructed building will include a basement and two upper floors.

The addition will provide the new main entrance to the building through a new lobby with a small café and gift shop to support the museum. The elevator, egress stair, public restrooms, mechanical spaces, staff break areas and small catering kitchen are all contained in the addition.

Founded in 1981 by Carroll Anderson, Sr., the Black History Museum opened to the public in 1991 in the Adolph Hill House, located at 00 Clay Street in the historic Jackson Ward district of Richmond.

Project Information:

Current Zoning: R6

Current Use: Vacant

Proposed Use: Private Museum

Number of employees: 8 full time

Hours of Operation for Museum, Gift Shop and Café':

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8 AM – 5 PM

Wednesday: 8 AM – 5 PM

Thursday: 8 AM – 5 PM

Friday: 10 AM – 8 PM

Saturday: 10 AM – 8 PM

Sunday: 1 PM – 8 PM

Rental Facilities: The 1000 SF Community Room will be made available to outside groups

1. This project will not be detrimental to the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the community involved. The Armory restoration and addition will provide a positive addition to the Jackson Ward community and the City of Richmond as the Black History Museum has done since 1981
2. The Armory project will not tend to create congestion in streets, roads, alleys and other public ways and places in the area involved. The last recorded annual visitation for the Black History Museum is less than 7,000 visitors per year. Six parking spaces will be provided on site. It is expected that the loading area on Leigh Street will remain for bus loading and not interfere with traffic on West Leigh Street. The 1895 Group is currently seeking permission from the Richmond Public School Board to use the parking lot at the Adult Career Development Center at 119 West Leigh Street for buses when necessary. It is anticipated that visitors will also use available street parking including the underutilized West Duval Street (see photo below).



3. The Armory project will not create hazards from fire, panic or other dangers and meets all current applicable building and life safety codes.

4. The Armory project will not cause overcrowding of land and an undue concentration of population. The addition will be built on a portion of the site previously occupied by the gymnasium building when the Armory was a school.
5. The Armory Project will not adversely affect or interfere with public or private schools, parks, playgrounds, water supplies, sewage disposal, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences and improvements.
6. The Armory Project will not interfere with adequate light and air.