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PLYMOUTH 400 KICKS OFF WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2020 COMMEMORATION EVENTS

*Press Conference at State House Generates Excitement Around
400th Commemoration of the Mayflower Voyage and the Founding of Plymouth Colony*

Boston, (August 28, 2018) – Today the organizations behind Plymouth 400, the commemoration of the *Mayflower* voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony, announced the year-long schedule of Signature Events for the 2020 Commemoration.

The Chair of the Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission, Conventures' founder Dusty Rhodes, led a press conference on the Grand Staircase at the Massachusetts State House that featured remarks from Governor Charlie Baker, legislators, Plymouth 400, Inc. and more.

Non-profit Plymouth 400, Inc., established in 2011, has been working alongside the 35-member State Commission since January 2016 as the architects of what is shaping up to be an epic commemoration of the voyage of the *Mayflower* and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620, a story that significantly shaped the building of America. "In name, Plymouth 400 calls to mind a singular place, but the history of Plymouth Colony is integral to the founding of Massachusetts and the Nation," said Dusty Rhodes, Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission Chair. "The cultural contributions and American traditions that began with the interaction of the Wampanoag and English peoples have significantly shaped the building of America and continue to provide lessons for our future. Further, the inclusion of the Native American perspective is one of the truly unique aspects of this commemoration as, historically, this perspective has been mishandled and misrepresented."

"The same cornerstones that defined this moment in history are also defined by the themes of this commemoration: exploration, innovation, self-governance, religious expression, immigration and thanksgiving," stated Michele Pecoraro, Executive Director of Plymouth 400, Inc. "These values continue to inform global diplomacy and illuminate the diverse contributions of the immigrants that fortify the fabric of American culture. Each of Plymouth 400's commemorative events and programs were specifically designed to highlight these themes."



ONGOING PROGRAMS

The Legacy Trail of Authentic Places is being developed to trace key events of 1620 via a major history and culture-based network of sites throughout Eastern Massachusetts and Boston. This trail is a collaboration between Plymouth 400 and the following seven institutions and historic sites: (1) the Provincetown Monument & Museum; (2) Corn Hill in Truro; (3) First Encounter Beach in Eastham; (4) The Aquinnah Cultural Center on Martha's Vineyard; (5) Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth; (6) the John and Priscilla Alden Family Sites of Duxbury; and (7) the New England Historic Genealogical Society, headquartered on Newbury Street in Boston.

“Our” Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History is an educational exhibition created by Wampanoag tribal members from Aquinnah and Mashpee. The research and design team developed multiple “chapters” to highlight critical elements of Wampanoag history and a new chapter is added each year leading up to 2020. This exhibition will travel regionally to various educational and cultural institutions shining a light on the “people of the dawn.”

SIGNATURE EVENTS

- **April 24, 2020: The Quadricentennial year kicks off with the PLYMOUTH 400 COMMEMORATION OPENING CEREMONY**
Held at Plymouth’s Memorial Hall and grounds, the Opening Ceremony will be a cross-cultural spectacle of historical content, visual and performing arts, special guest speakers and more. Honoring the past while paving the way for the future, each of the commemoration’s themes will be presented in creative ways.
- **June 27-28: OFFICIAL MARITIME SALUTE TO THE 400th in Plymouth Harbor** *This event pays tribute to the Pilgrim’s journey onboard the Mayflower with a parade of sail in and around Plymouth Harbor. A regatta of wooden ships, official vessels, work boats, native mishoons and pleasure craft will culminate in a traditional New England lobster dinner at the waterfront. Mayflower II will be a centerpiece of this event.*
- **August 15: The WAMPANOAG ANCESTORS WALK**
The Walk will be led by people from the Wampanoag tribes of Massachusetts through downtown Plymouth. Placards will be carried with the names of the original 69 villages of the Wampanoag Nation. Participants will pay homage to Massasoit and King Phillip and stop at designated sites to bless the spots where their ancestors once walked. The event will conclude with a drum ceremony and reception.
- **September 14: The OFFICIAL STATE HOUSE SALUTE TO THE 400TH COMMEMORATION** *Held at the Massachusetts State House, this ceremony will honor the Pilgrim forefathers and Native people who are immortalized in the historic founding of Plymouth Colony.*



- **September 19 & 20: The EMBARKATION FESTIVAL**

This grand cultural and arts festival will honor the traditions, cuisine, and music of not only the original settlers and Wampanoag people but the diverse immigrants who followed and contributed to the fabric of American life. National and international in scope, invited dignitaries will include heads of state, celebrities, and students from around the world.

- **October 30-November 1: The INDIGENOUS HISTORY CONFERENCE & POWWOW**

Hosted by Bridgewater State University, the conference will celebrate the longevity and continuity of America's indigenous people. This cultural event will feature the historical and contemporary contributions of the Wampanoag and other Native nations. Speakers will include both native and non-native scholars and experts and culminate in a traditional Powwow.

- **Thanksgiving Week 2020:** *A multi-day series of programming beginning with America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration concerts on November 20, and Parade on November 21, the "One Small Candle" Ceremony November 22, Thanksgiving Festival Events throughout the week culminating in the spectacle of Plymouth 400's Illuminate Thanksgiving on November 25, the Eve of Thanksgiving.*

In addition to the Plymouth 400 Signature Events there will also be a whole host of sanctioned events. These are existing or new events produced by partner organizations that will also be included in the master 2020 calendar. The following summarizes two such events:

- **MAYFLOWER: THE VOYAGE THAT MADE A NATION®**

Mayflower II will serve as the iconic centerpiece of the 400th Commemoration thanks to the work of Plimoth Plantation. Planning is underway to sail the ship to Boston in the spring of 2020 and to Provincetown that fall*. Visitors will be able to board the ship, hear stories about the Mayflower and her famous passengers, and imagine what it was like on board for the 66-day voyage.

- **PROVINCETOWN AND GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS**

The Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum and the Town of Provincetown will host the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for their 2020 Congress beginning on September 11, 2020. Plans are also in place to welcome Mayflower II to Provincetown Harbor ahead of the event*. During the visit, Mayflower II, will be part of daily historical reenactments of the Signing of the Mayflower Compact in Provincetown Harbor in 1620. On September 13, a Memorial Service and Wreath Laying will be held, followed by ticketed luncheon. The commemoration will culminate with a Sunrise Toast and Bon Voyage to Mayflower II on September 14 as she journeys to her home port in Plymouth.

** Mayflower II schedule subject to change due to maritime and other conditions.*



Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission

On September 20, 2016, Governor Charlie Baker signed an Executive Order, which reaffirmed and expanded the 35-member Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission, who were charged with ensuring a befitting national and state observance of the settlement of Plymouth Colony in 1620, including opportunities for local, state, national and global educational programming and interaction and a reflection of Massachusetts' rich history, natural resources and diverse cultural contributions.

About Plymouth 400, Inc.

Plymouth 400, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2009 in Plymouth, Massachusetts formed to lead the planning and execution of programs and events commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620. The Plymouth 400 Commemoration will highlight the cultural contributions and American traditions that began with the interaction of the Wampanoag and English peoples, a story that significantly shaped the building of America.

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For Immediate Release

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State Commission Leads 2020 Planning

Boston, MA (August 28, 2018) – The Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission, officially formed in 2016, is charged with ensuring a befitting national and state observance of the settlement of Plymouth Colony in 1620. This Commission and its subcommittees meet regularly to plan for this global commemoration. Under the leadership of Dusty Rhodes, President of Conventures, the 35-member commission has been working to ensure opportunities for local, state, national and global educational programming and interaction and a reflection of Massachusetts' rich history, natural resources and diverse cultural contributions. Non-profit Plymouth 400, Inc., established in 2011, has been working alongside the State Commission since January 2016 and the organizations share the same mission and goals for the 2020; one of working together to create a commemoration that is culturally inclusive, historically accurate, and elevates the brand of the Commonwealth, leaving legacies for future generations.

"Plymouth 400 is not about any geographic location; it's about a moment in history that changed the world," said Michele Pecoraro, Plymouth 400's Executive Director.

"Commemorations like this one provide opportunities to honor our heritage and cultures, to educate and build understanding, and to deliver a proven economic impact. This opportunity only comes around once every 100 years, and we intend to use it to leave lasting legacies for our children."

Members of the Commission include 26-gubernatorial appointees with varying expertise in tourism, business and industry, community outreach, marketing and advertising, media, food services, travel, water transit and technology to assist in educational, promotional, tourism and economic development efforts. The Commission also includes the Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, Secretaries for Education, Energy and Environmental Affairs, Housing and Economic Development, Labor and Workforce Development, Public Safety and Security and the Department of Transportation

PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 400th COMMISSION

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or their designees and legislative, organizational and local appointees and several private corporations. According to Commission Chair, Dusty Rhodes, “The commission is here to support the efforts of these organizations and constituents. Our goal is to assist in creating a commemoration that presents accurate history, diverse viewpoints and brings attention and economic benefit to the Commonwealth.”

Moving forward, the Plymouth, Massachusetts 400th Commission will continue to assist in program development for the 2020 Commemoration and building awareness locally, nationally, and internationally.

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SIGNATURE EVENTS ANNOUNCED FOR PLYMOUTH 400 COMMEMORATION

Companion press release to the State House announcement you received.

Focus is solely on event details.

Boston, MA (August 28, 2018) –The year-long schedule of Signature Events for the 2020 has been announced for the Commemoration of the voyage of the Mayflower and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620, a story that significantly shaped the building of America.

A full year of signature events and programs is planned for 2020. These include ceremonies with appearances from dignitaries, state and federal officials, celebrities and other VIPs, historical and cultural exhibitions, live broadcasts, multi-day festivals, original arts and entertainment collaborations and educational programming and resources.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

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- **June 27-28: OFFICIAL MARITIME SALUTE TO THE 400th in Plymouth Harbor** *This event pays tribute to the Pilgrim's journey onboard the Mayflower with a parade of sail in and around Plymouth Harbor. A regatta of wooden ships, official vessels, work boats, native mishoons and pleasure craft will culminate in a traditional New England lobster dinner at the waterfront. Mayflower II will be a centerpiece of this event.*
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This grand two-day cultural and arts festival will be held in Plymouth. The festival will honor the traditions, cuisine, and music of not only the original settlers and Wampanoag people but the diverse immigrants who followed and contributed to the fabric of American life. National and international in scope, invited dignitaries will include heads of state, celebrities, and students from around the world.
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The next stop for Plymouth 400's Traveling "Our"Story Wampanoag History Exhibit will be at the Big E in the Massachusetts Building

WEST SPRINGFIELD (August 28, 2018) -- "Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History, an educational and cultural exhibit about the history and traditions of the Wampanoag tribe, will be open to the public at this year's "Big E" in the Massachusetts Building from September 14-30. This traveling, multi-media exhibit is part of the Signature Events and Programs of [Plymouth 400, Inc.](http://Plymouth400, Inc.), the organization planning the international 400th anniversary commemoration of the 1620 *Mayflower* voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony. Admission to the exhibit is free with Big E admission.

"Our"Story is an interactive traveling exhibit, told in the Native voice, which shines a light on historic events that had a significant impact on the Wampanoag tribe, their relationship with the Mayflower Pilgrims, and the founding of Plymouth Colony, cornerstone events that shaped America's earliest beginnings. A Wampanoag Advisory Committee, with representation from both the Aquinnah Wampanoag and Mashpee Wampanoag tribes, created the concept and designed the exhibit. It was designed to bring to light key legacies of America's earliest beginnings from the Wampanoag perspective, a voice largely absent from the colonial narrative. The exhibit has received widespread media attention since its debut for its honest and powerful approach to highlighting occurrences in indigenous history that are not commonly known, yet vital to the founding of Plymouth Colony and the building of America.

Each year, a new theme is added to the exhibit; the first installation debuted in 2014 with "Captured 1614," a critical back story to colonization and the roots of the American holiday, Thanksgiving. "The Messenger Runner" added new context regarding the Wampanoag tribe's communication traditions. The "The Great Dying," depicts the catastrophic effects of a plague that devastated the Wampanoag nation between 1616 and 1619. The newest panel, titled "Powwow" was introduced in

November 2017. It explores the traditions around gathering and giving thanks with a mix of interactive video, contemporary native art, and photos collected by the Mashpee and Aquinnah powwows, held annually in July and September respectively.

Plymouth 400 commissioned a Native design team to create "Our"Story to ensure that the exhibit was thoroughly representative of the history of New England's indigenous peoples. The Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Council Inc. and SmokeSignals Marketing and Communications conceptualized, researched, and produced "Our"Story, and members of the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes



portrayed historical figures for the exhibit. The creation of this exhibit aligns with Plymouth 400's mission to create a commemoration that is historically accurate and culturally inclusive, as indigenous peoples have declined participation or faced misrepresentation and even omission from previous anniversary events. "Perceptions from Plymouth's earliest period became etched into the American story when President Lincoln used the iconic symbol of the Wampanoag people and English colonists feasting together in 1621 as a representation of cooperation as he proclaimed our national holiday, Thanksgiving," said Michele Pecoraro, Executive Director of Plymouth 400. "Plymouth 400 is committed to creating a commemoration that is historically accurate, which means addressing the realities of the story that don't reflect the simplified and often inaccurate depictions of the First Thanksgiving. This exhibit is intended to create conversations around these crucial realities in our history in an informative and authentic way, honoring the contributions of both cultures and recognizing the complexities of their relationship."

"Our"Story was displayed at the New England Historic Genealogical Society on Newbury Street in Boston April through May of this year and, prior to that, was at Pilgrim Hall Museum for the month of March, in addition to several museums and libraries throughout New England prior to that. It received international media attention upon its debut for telling "the story of Squanto, and the millions he represents" (*Public Radio International*) and for "changing Thanksgiving's history" (*The Boston Globe*).

At press time, the exhibit is on Martha's Vineyard at the Aquinnah Cultural Center and will be on display there until it packs up and heads back to the mainland for the Big E! Parties interested in hosting this exhibit should contact Plymouth 400 at 508-812-2020.

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Topline Messaging

1. TOPLINE MESSAGING

Boilerplate

Plymouth 400, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit formed to lead the planning and execution of programs and events commemorating the 400th anniversary of the 1620 Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony.

MISSION STATEMENT

America is poised for an Anniversary of National and International significance, the 400th Anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony. The Plymouth 400 Anniversary will highlight the cultural contributions and American traditions that began with the interaction of the Wampanoag and English peoples, a story that significantly shaped the building of America.

SUPPORTING MESSAGES

- Plymouth 400 Commemoration tagline is: *America's Founding Story (sub-tag: An American Story, A National Legacy)*
- Plymouth 400, Inc. is planning *Signature Events and Programs* honoring this historic Anniversary - *America's story of exploration, innovation, self-governance, religious freedom, immigration, and thanksgiving*; the legacies sparked by these historic events and that continue today as cornerstones of our nation.
- *Signature Events and Programs* will include historical and cultural exhibitions, live televised and web events, multi-day festivals, original arts and entertainment collaborations and educational programming and resources. *Signature Events and Programs* will take place between 2014 and 2020.
- With participation anticipated in the millions, celebrated national and global leaders, artists, entertainers, veterans, descendants, indigenous Nations, and students from around the world will join in the commemoration events and moments of remembrance.

2. PRIMARY GOALS

Each of Plymouth 400's commemorative events and programs will meet at least two of the following Primary Goals:

- I. **Tourism and Economic Development (TED):** Increase tourism, thereby, increasing revenues to the Town of Plymouth, its surrounding regions, and the Commonwealth of MA.
- II. **National/International Recognition (NIR):** Increase visibility of

Plymouth Colony and its historical significance to the founding of America & cultural contributions to the world by renewing the story of the 1620 voyage and landing—bringing it into focus for current and future generations.

- III. **Educational, Cultural and Civic Engagement (ECCE):** Highlight via educational programming the multi-cultural roots of America-English, Dutch and Native Americans and the continuing waves of immigrants whose arrival in Plymouth and America inspired our nation.
- IV. **Commemoration Legacies (CL):** Create, promote, and/or partner with other organizations in order to leave lasting positive and meaningful legacies as a result of the Anniversary which may include; education, sustainable attractions, exhibits, and preservation of the historic nature of the Town of Plymouth and surrounding regions.

3. THEMES

Each of Plymouth 400's commemorative events and programs will meet at least two of the following themes:

- I. **Exploration:** In reference to the centuries of exploration of this continent preceding the Mayflower Voyage and continuing through America's westward expansion and the continued spirit of modern space exploration.
- II. **Innovation:** In reference to both the innovative ways in which the Wampanoag people utilized nature and the innovations adopted by the Pilgrims. Additionally, the ways in which cutting-edge technology and ideas will be used to deliver the programs, events, and information for this commemoration.
- III. **Self-governance:** In reference to the American democratic society, which began with the signing of the Mayflower Compact in 1620 and became the basis for the American Declaration of Independence, informing our government for 400 years.
- IV. **Religious expression:** In reference to the unique intention for many of the Mayflower passengers traveling to the New World and one of the cornerstones upon which this nation was founded.
- V. **Immigration:** In honor of the Pilgrims being the first true immigrants through the pursuit of a better life to this continent and paving the way for those that followed, building a diverse America.
- VI. **Thanksgiving:** In reference to the act of thanksgiving which was highlighted at the First Harvest Feast in Plymouth Colony in 1621, and compelled President Abraham Lincoln to use its iconic images to proclaim the American holiday, Thanksgiving.