

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cara Burton, (757) 787-3400

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA TOURING SLAVE HISTORY EXHIBIT IN ACCOMAC

To Be Sold: Virginia and the American Slave Trade, a traveling exhibition from the Library of Virginia, will be on view at the Eastern Shore Public Library in Accomac, Virginia from October 4 until November 12, 2016. Through images of paintings, insurance policies, bills of sale, broadsides, and other items from the Library of Virginia's collections, *To Be Sold* reveals the slave trade as slaves were "sold South." The exhibit includes interactive media kiosks with slave narratives recorded in the 1930s. *To Be Sold* will examine the impact of the domestic slave trade on African American families. This information is invaluable for African American family historians, since such personal data on enslaved people is difficult to locate.

Corresponding to the traveling exhibition, the Library will have two series of programs collectively called "Sawubona" which means "I see you" in the African Zulu language. The series provide a more in-depth look into the exhibition and currently how we look at each other today and recognize our individual and shared pasts. Sawubona includes four Interplay sessions and four InterShare presentations.

Sawubona Interplay sessions will use movement, music, storytelling and stillness to help us explore our thoughts and feelings about the "To Be Sold" exhibit. This program is especially beneficial for children and youth. Interplay will be led by Karen Hatch and Malaika Nanette Mitchell. These sessions will be Saturdays, October 8 and 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm and Thursdays, October 20 and 27, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. They are free and open to the public at the Accomac Library.

Sawubona InterShare is a series of slide presentations by Dr. Arthur Carter followed by facilitated audience discussions. The topics include "Ancient African Contributions to World Civilization," "Overview of a World History of Enslavement," "Selected Vignettes of Enslavement and Its Immediate Aftermaths in Virginia and the Eastern Shore of Virginia," and "Race: The Power of Illusion." These topics will be in the order listed on Thursdays, October 6 and 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays October 22 and 29, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. They are free and open to the public at the Accomac Library.

Families, church and community groups are invited to tour and attend the programs. For a special event or tour, including library resources for African American genealogy, please call the Library Director, Cara Burton. The "To Be Sold" touring exhibition is made possible by the Library of Virginia and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The free exhibition and programs will be at the Library at 23610 Front Street in Accomac, Virginia. For more information, call the Eastern Shore Public Library at (757) 787-3400 or visit online at www.espl.org.

end