

- Established in 2000 "to tell the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation"
- A 501(c)3 tax-exempt educational corporation
- More than a museum, a Center

## How Is It Unique?

- Places the Civil War in the context of American history
- Presents the perspectives of those who lived it: Union, Confederate, and African American
- Focuses on contemporary relevance

# **A Diligent Process:**

- National Advisory Board—panel of outstanding historians
- Community Advisory Board—sounding board of diverse community leaders
- Visits to state-of-art museums
- Top-flight design professionals All Virginia firms
- Mixed funding—Raised nearly \$14 million
- Partnerships with Smithsonian, UVA, Gilder Lehrman, VHS, MoC, etc.

### Site and Architecture

- 8.3 acres in downtown Richmond's Riverfront District
- Five historic buildings located on the site
- Pattern Building houses NPS Visitor Center with Richmond exhibits
- Gun Foundry houses In the Cause of Liberty, a groundbreaking national exhibit that opened three months ago











"The Tredegar Iron Works is an authentic...magnificent setting and the best place in the country to tell the story of the Civil War from all three perspectives."

Prof. James M. McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, *Battle Cry of Freedom* 

## The Exhibit:

# In the Cause of Liberty

Our nation was the first to be founded on ideals of liberty.

Attaining those ideals has been an ongoing challenge requiring us to balance the interests of the Nation, of States, and of Individuals. This quest has made Union, Home, and Freedom enduring themes of America's history.

In 1861, the balance fractured over very different concepts of the meaning of liberty. Americans fought a Civil War that changed forever how we balance Union, Home, and Freedom.

The legacy of the Civil War continues to shape our lives today.







Multiple Ways of Delivering Information...



Films



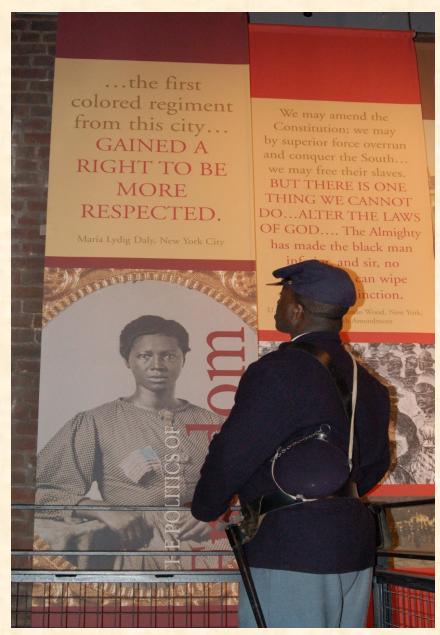
**Homefront Activities and Tactiles** 



Video Notebooks



**Timelines** 





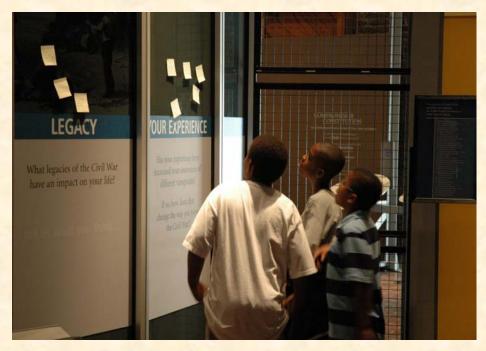


**Artifacts** 



Map Stations and Interactives





Visitor Feedback



#### K-12 Education

- History Labs in the galleries, outdoors, and in school classrooms
- Teacher workshops
- Website in partnership with Virginia Center for Digital History





## **Programs**

- Tredegar Institute
  - -Conferences
  - -Publications
  - -Dialogue programs in Richmond and elsewhere
- Gallery programs
- Special Events







- Opened October 7, 2006
- Team in place 11 full time staff
- Finances \$2 million annual budget from gate, retail, rentals, annual fund
- Visitor and media feedback overwhelmingly positive
- Building visitation through earned media and marketing

### The Future...

- The Sesquicentennial: Big picture exhibit creates needed context; makes the Center a natural hub
- Room to expand on 8.3 acres, including parking
- Plans on the shelf for a building that could include exhibit, education, and entertainment space

