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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamestown Rediscovery Appoints New Director of Archaeology

JAMESTOWN, VA (October 9, 2024) –

Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (Preservation Virginia) is delighted to announce that Sean Romo has been appointed Director of Archaeology at Jamestown. With extensive experience in archaeology in this region and a deep passion for uncovering the past, Sean will oversee archaeological research and excavations at the site of America’s Birthplace.

Sean’s career in archaeology actually began at Jamestown, when he attended the Jamestown Rediscovery – University of Virginia Summer Field School in 2007. Graduating from Rutgers University the following year, he moved to Virginia to pursue professional archaeological roles. After stints at Monticello and the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research, he completed a graduate program in historical archaeology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Prior to returning to Jamestown Rediscovery in 2019, Sean worked in cultural resource management archaeology at many sites in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, ranging from Archaic Period Indigenous sites to early 19th-century sites of enslavement. His broad range of experience in diverse locations across different time periods is vital for understanding Jamestown’s multi-layered past.

“Sean comes into this role with more than 15 years of experience excavating and managing archaeological projects in the region,” said Jamestown Rediscovery President & CO Dr. Jim Horn. “He is a terrific field archaeologist with a high level of technical skill, which is particularly important as we pivot our field work to focus on areas of the site impacted most by recurrent flooding caused by climate change.”

Reflecting on his new role, Sean said, “From the beginning of my career, Jamestown has been the benchmark. For thirty years, the work done here to uncover evidence of the past has changed how we understand the earliest days of our nation and I’m incredibly honored to take on this new role as we look towards the next thirty years. It’s all one gigantic puzzle and I’m excited to continue disentangling the pieces of this fascinating history.”

Sean’s commitment to the view that artifacts and features speak to individuals’ lives, opinions, and ideals is at the core of his approach to archaeology and research. At Jamestown, his skills using GIS mapping, lidar, and ground-penetrating radar help to reconstruct the environment of 400 years ago. By envisioning where and how people in the past lived, researchers and visitors can better understand the challenges English settlers faced as they adjusted to their new home, how Virginia Indians interacted with the landscape before 1607 and with the English after, and the lives of enslaved Africans forcibly brought to Jamestown in 1619 and after.

Jamestown Rediscovery has been at the forefront of archaeological research since its inception in 1994. In the last three decades, archaeologists have uncovered more than 4 million artifacts, the once-lost James Fort, the first Anglican church in North America, the second church and site of the First Assembly held in 1619, the home of Angela, one of the first Africans to arrive in English America, and the last Statehouse from which Virginia's colonial government ruled. Today, Jamestown Rediscovery continues to uncover the story of our nation's precarious and stalwart beginnings.

Promotional photos with captions can be found [here](#). All images should be credited "Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation."

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (JRF) preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.