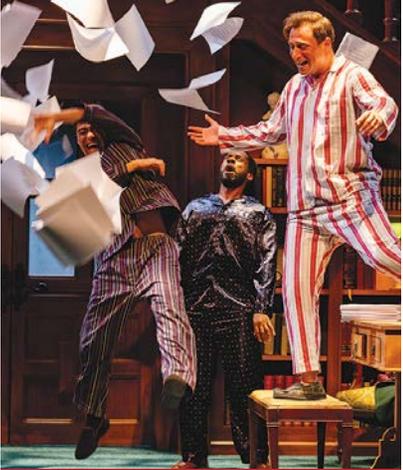




A WORLD OF WONDER

A HOME FOR SHAKESPEARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY



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ENGAGING AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES



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ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE & THE ARTS



On the Cover:

Entering the Folger for an evening's entertainment.
Photo by Daniel Schwartz.

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DISCOVER MORE AT FOLGER.EDU



From the Chair and Director

TO THE FOLGER COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS:

Every day, we connect the challenges and joys of our contemporary age with the extraordinary writer William Shakespeare, his works and ideas, and the times in which he lived. We engage with readers, students, teachers, theatergoers, researchers, and every member of the public in our city, nation, and world.

As we share this report of our most recent achievements and accomplishments, we are also at the start of a great adventure: To add new ways to share our cutting-edge scholarship, groundbreaking performances, and unique resources—including the world's largest Shakespeare collection—with growing, diverse audiences, we are beginning a multiyear major building renovation project.

While that important work is underway, we remain wide open online—and on the road. For us, this time is filled with the chance to try new things in different places. Folger concerts, poetry readings, and family programs are already

taking place around Washington, DC. Folger Theatre is taking the stage throughout the city, with partners ranging from the National Building Museum to Round House Theatre and Theater J. Following years of thoughtful planning, the Folger Institute has launched a tour of scholarly events around the country and the world. Meanwhile, Folger programs on teaching Shakespeare are setting forth to new locations as well.

We are thrilled about the future opportunities that the renovation will allow and look forward to welcoming the public with far more room for varied exhibitions, educational programs, and scholarly collaboration, surrounded by a beautiful, reimagined landscape that provides easier physical access, too.

What makes these changes possible is the continuing support of the Folger community, including generous contributors to *The Wonder of Will: The Campaign for the Folger Shakespeare Library*, an ongoing effort to raise \$50 million to fund the renovation and related programming expansions.

We wish to pay special thanks to the previous Chair of the Folger Board of Governors, Louis R. Cohen, whose efforts were invaluable in setting the agenda for the expansion of our physical space and our outreach efforts during his six years as chair.

We are grateful to every member of the Folger family for your support, well wishes, and insights. We could not do this without you. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

J. May Liang
Chair, Board of Governors

Michael Witmore
Director

OUR BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT



REALIZING AN EXPANSIVE NEW VISION FOR THE FOLGER

A WORLD OF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

“I SHOWER A WELCOME
ON YE; WELCOME ALL.”

Shakespeare’s line from *Henry VIII* may be the best description of the many changes that will be unfolding at the Folger in the next two years, all intended to welcome visitors, scholars, and the public in more accessible and more engaging ways.

The newly imagined Folger will offer expanded exhibitions, new spaces for research and learning, and enhanced experiences for all who visit.

The Folger’s plans include a wealth of innovative programming and initiatives, but they begin with an essential first step: an addition to the Folger’s historic building. Among other changes, the project, created by architects KieranTimberlake, will add modern exhibition spaces, collaborative work spaces for scholars, and an

Education Laboratory for students and teachers. The Great Hall will become a public gathering space with café services.

While the outlines of the historic Cret building will remain unchanged, the expansion will include a 12,000-square-foot public pavilion built under the Folger’s front lawn. This new space will welcome the outside world to all that the Folger has to offer. Visitors will enter through fully accessible plazas on the east and west sides of the building. These plazas will include gardens devised by landscape architects OLIN. To the sides of the plazas will be open green spaces, with paths and benches for relaxation. The playful aluminum statue of Puck will grace the west entry. A nearby magnolia tree, having moved 60 feet to make way for the gardens, will continue providing shade for visitors as it has done since the Folger’s opening.



To fund the building renovation and the new programming that it will make possible, the Folger has embarked on a major fundraising project, *The Wonder of Will: The Campaign for the Folger Shakespeare Library*, which was formally launched at the 2019 Folger Gala on April 15, 2019.

“With *The Wonder of Will*, we are embarking on a bold plan to open up the doors of the Folger Shakespeare Library,” explains Susan Sachs Goldman, chair of the Campaign Committee. “On the shoulders of Henry and Emily Folger, who gave their great collection of Shakespeareana to the American people, we are expanding to better meet the needs of today’s scholars and students, teachers and learners, and lovers of music and theater.”

The Wonder of Will committee, chaired by Goldman, includes D. Jarrett Arp, Rebecca Bushnell, Vinton Cerf, Florence H. Cohen, J. May Liang, and Ramie Targoff. As of April 2020, more than \$30 million of the \$50 million goal has been raised. The largest gift to date, \$5 million from Stuart and Mimi Rose, will name the Stuart and Mimi Rose Rare Book and Manuscript Exhibition Hall. Other naming opportunities include the New Pavilion, the Shakespeare Exhibition

Hall, galleries, gardens, lobbies, and other programs, positions, and features.

For gifts of \$1 million or more, donors will be invited to sponsor one of the Folger’s First Folios, which will be on permanent display in the First Folio Gallery.

“What really excites me about this project is that we are taking Henry and Emily Folger’s gift to the American people and unwrapping it for a new generation,” says Michael Witmore, the Folger’s director. “There are phenomenal, astounding things in our collection that put us in the presence of powerful ideas and experiences. Books and manuscripts that illuminate Shakespeare and his world are being used by scholars who are making discoveries in our reading room, and it’s those discoveries that inform what we do in our exhibitions, what we do on stage, what we’re doing in classrooms. This renovation is going to allow us to take important pieces of our work—research, discovery, performance, exhibitions, education—and put them together in a new way and share them with everyone.”

Learn more about *The Wonder of Will* and follow our progress at folger.edu/wow.







The Wonder of Will: The Campaign for the Folger Shakespeare Library

We proudly recognize and acknowledge the individuals and foundations who have generously made philanthropic commitments of \$25,000 or more, as of March 31, 2020, to support *The Wonder of Will*.

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ENGAGING
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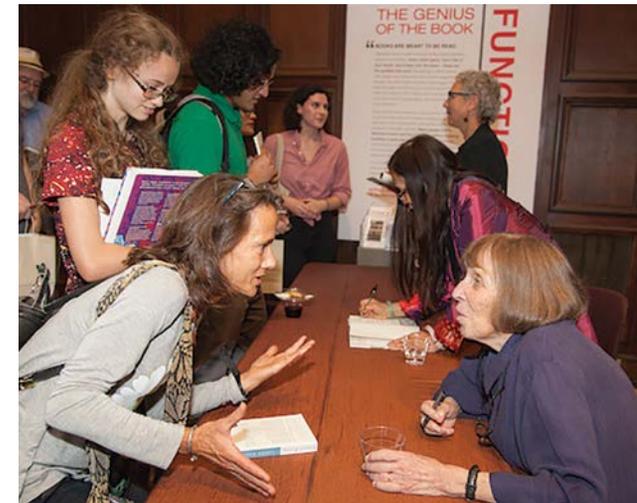
William Shakespeare can be described in many meaningful ways, including as a showman.

In the same spirit, we engage our audiences with Shakespeare's plays and his world and with contemporary voices inspired by the Bard—in person through performances, exhibitions, and readings, and online through blogs, websites, our *Shakespeare Unlimited* podcast, and more.

Exploring Shakespeare in New Ways

Folger Theatre is on a constant voyage of discovery as it finds innovative ways to explore Shakespeare's plays and works inspired by them. Among its recent Shakespeare productions were a richly designed staging of *Antony and Cleopatra* in the round and a take on *The Winter's Tale* that featured charming original music by Liz Filios.

In September 2018, Folger audiences participated in a history-making event: the first professional production in centuries of a music-filled version of *Macbeth*, adapted in about 1664 by William Davenant—so popular in its time that it became the standard *Macbeth* for 100 years. The production sold out before opening night. Behind the scenes, it combined scholarly research with theatrical insights, a culmination





“

Folger programming covers an extraordinary swath of what's going on currently in classical theater in America. It really expands our palette in important ways.

”



of cross-disciplinary work that began in part with a 2014 Folger Institute workshop involving scholars, musicians, and performers.

Like many Folger exhibitions, *Churchill's Shakespeare* used Shakespeare to shed new light on an unexpected topic, exploring how Winston Churchill's knowledge of Shakespeare and the theater shaped his famous wartime speeches, which rallied Britain and its allies. Bringing together materials from his home Chartwell, the Churchill Archives Centre at Cambridge, and the Folger, the exhibition included historic audio and video clips of Churchill and others. To complement it, Folger Theatre put on Shakespeare's *King John*.

Making Past Traditions Come Alive

Our vast collection on Shakespeare and the early modern age has many roles—including as a constant source of new performance ideas. Perhaps no inspiration was so absurd as a 1619 manuscript entitled *A Christmas Messe*. A comic play created by students at Oxford, presumably to be performed before a banquet, the script depicts a battle between King Beef and King Brawn, supported by such minions as Tablecloth and Mustard, as they vie to become the featured dish. Folger Consort combined passages from the play with seasonal carols and early

music—and produced a related playlist on Spotify, too. *A Christmas Messe* was just one example of the Consort's full 2018/2019 season, which traced a fascinating history of music and food, drawing from the Folger collection.

Hearing Modern Voices

We also encourage the voices of contemporary writers, including playwrights. Our 2019 production of the new play *Nell Gwynn* was the second in the US. *The Way of the World*, adapted and directed by Theresa Rebeck, was a lively part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival.

The O.B. Hardison Poetry Series, named for the Folger director who launched it in 1968, includes readings by leading contemporary poets. It has included—among many others—Allen Ginsberg, Octavio Paz, Ntozake Shange, Seamus Heaney, Rita Dove, Derek Wolcott, Tracy K. Smith, and Tyehimba Jess.

In the fall of 2018, the series celebrated its 50th anniversary with readings by Linda Pastan, who had read in 1970, and by Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets Marilyn Chin and Ellen Bass, who read works by poets from the inaugural season: Lucille Clifton and Carolyn Kizer. The Folger website debuted *Line by Line*, providing recordings of 21st-century readings in the series. ■





INSPIRING
THE FUTURE

Learning and education about Shakespeare are at the heart of our work at the Folger. We share classroom resources and innovative techniques with K-12 teachers and professors and offer many programs for students and their families. We reach out to learners beyond the classroom through gallery talks, discussions before or after shows, lectures, and resources online.

Connecting Students and Shakespeare

Every year, local students engage in our Shakespeare festivals, attend student matinees, connect with leading poets in our Poetry in Schools initiatives, and participate in our Lily McKee High School Fellows Program and other efforts.

In 2018, we began a reinvented version of our Emily Folger Children's Shakespeare Festival for first- to fifth-grade students in public, private, and home schools. During each event-packed festival, students and teachers visit the Folger, including our reading rooms. They rehearse scenes and perform on the Folger stage. The festivals make the Folger more accessible—and offer younger students many ways of experiencing Shakespeare, in scholarly spaces and on stage.

Partnering with Schools and Teachers

We have become a thought leader through our powerful Folger Method of teaching Shakespeare. Our programs for teachers include summer academies, the NEH-funded Teaching Shakespeare Institute, and other development programs, as well as a wealth of classroom resources. In the fall of 2017, we created another way to share our approach through the *Forsooth!* online teachers community.





Folger Education also has a special connection to DC Public Schools, which recently included the creation of Shakespeare curricula with DCPS. We started with *Romeo and Juliet* for all DCPS ninth graders, added *Hamlet* for the tenth grade, and most recently developed a twelfth-grade *Othello* curriculum.

Our professional development programs also apply the Folger Method to other works, including *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *The Book Thief*, and *The Joy Luck Club*. Inspired by the success of this approach, we later expanded it to offer a similar course on teaching Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* at a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference.

Learning from the Collection

For lifelong learners and the general public, access to original items from the Folger collection, often through large exhibitions, is one of the best ways to learn more about Shakespeare and his world. To offer more opportunities for engagement, we also provide small pop-up exhibitions on extremely varied subjects—food-oriented and historical topics related to plays and concerts at the Folger; wide-ranging topics based on individual scholars' interests or deep knowledge of the Folger collection; and still more topics that reflect 21st-century popular

culture. In 2018/2019, there were 39 of these short-lived exhibitions, on topics that included Oktoberfest, tastes of the Mediterranean, and Machiavelli. Other exhibitions included the 17th-century English opera *Venus and Adonis*, cartoons and caricatures, a tribute to the end of the HBO series *Game of Thrones*, and many more.

Groups of high-school students, college students, and teachers can also get a look at the collection through tours that include varied materials, from the 1623 Shakespeare First Folio to the costume designs for Paul Robeson as Othello on Broadway in the 1940s.

A new digital platform, named Miranda after the character from *The Tempest*, brings together information—including images, catalog details, and more—on an enormous number of collection items and digital objects. In yet another way to learn from the collection—and to make an intellectual contribution—scholars and enthusiasts alike take part in “transcribathons” associated with the early modern food project *Before 'Farm to Table.'* Through hours-long events, hundreds of participants jointly create transcriptions of early modern recipe manuscripts at the Folger, helping to build new resources for scholars and the general public. ■

“

The Folger Method grounds me as a teacher so that every day in my classroom I can take new risks and create new dreams with my students.

”



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE AND THE ARTS





Pioneering a way forward for new scholarly research and artistic expression drives our work at the Folger. This includes fellowships, scholarly programs, care and expansion of the Folger collection, innovative digital tools, and cutting-edge methods of making and sharing discoveries, as well as commissioning and producing new artistic works that illuminate our collection.

Scholarship and Contemporary Issues

The wide range of research at the Folger includes the chosen projects of our Folger Institute fellowships, seminars, workshops, and conferences.

These often reflect contemporary issues, signaling rich new areas of scholarship. The 2017/2018 academic year included a yearlong colloquium on Gender, Race, and Early Modern Studies. A conference in 2019 explored the premodern climate and the field of environmental humanities.

New ways to connect the humanities and the sciences also include the DNA study of centuries-old books and manuscripts. In addition to holding a workshop on biocodicology (the DNA study of parchments), we undertook an earlier book-related effort called Project





“

During my Folger Institute seminar, I was impressed by how much the Folger values community as well as the archival resources that fuel intellectual work.

”



Dustbunny, which was covered in the news in 2018 and 2019. It determined that debris between the pages of an old book can be subject to DNA analysis, suggesting that researchers could learn more about the people who used such books long ago.

The Power of Collaborative Research

In recent years, we have found that collaborative research among academic disciplines can be transformative. A \$1.5 million, four-year Mellon Foundation grant on such research is funding *Before 'Farm to Table': Early Modern Foodways and Cultures*, a project inspired by our collection of 17th-century handwritten English recipe books, the largest in the world. The project delves into multiple topics as it brings together literary scholars, historians, chefs, archaeologists, living history interpreters, and more.

Before 'Farm to Table' connects research with the public in numerous ways, including blog posts, take-home recipe cards, the exhibition *First Chefs: Fame and Foodways from Britain to the Americas*, and work with Chef José Andrés, who developed an early modern menu at his America Eats Tavern during the exhibition. With Folger Theatre, the project commissioned the artists of Third Rail Projects to create

an immersive theatrical experience, *Confection*, which asked, “what is the cost of sweetness and pleasure?” in response to the history of the sugar trade. We have also added all of the Folger’s manuscript recipe books to our digital image collection, making them far more accessible to scholars and foodies alike.

A Deep Collection and New Digital Tools

In January 2018, UNESCO’s Memory of the World project announced the addition of 90 documents related to Shakespeare to its register, marking their historical significance. Six are part of the Folger collection—and all 90 are in *Shakespeare Documented*, an online resource that we convened, which shares Shakespeare documents from around the world. The news highlighted how our own collection, partnerships with other institutions, and digital tools have roles to play in discoveries about Shakespeare and his world.

Our work at the Folger draws deep from the conservation and continued growth of our collection. Recently added highlights include the papers of actor Earle Hyman, a collection of some 1,500 miniature Shakespeare books, and a hand-painted heraldic alphabet of coats of arms that was produced in the early 1600s. ■



INSPIRING
APPLAUSE

Our Donors

Thank you to the many individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies that have provided financial support to the Folger and its programs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Your support creates extraordinary humanities experiences—in-person and online; transforms education for the next generation; and drives discovery in our reading rooms and on our stages.

The list below reflects the highest level of annual giving by donor in the years represented. This list includes all donors of \$250 or more.

We are grateful to all our members and friends, including those who have pledged support for upcoming years. You make our work possible.

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—*Twelfth Night*





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BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,023,885
Accounts receivable, net	2,050,070
Contributions receivable, net	2,590,823
Other assets	1,190,750
Investments	356,799,401
Property, plant and equipment, net	47,819,063
Total Assets	\$ 418,473,992
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable	\$ 990,566
Accrued liabilities	471,582
Deferred income and deposits	553,915
Liability for life income obligations	638,455
Pension and postretirement benefit obligations	7,274,055
Asset retirement obligations	182,471
Other liabilities	649,518
Total Liabilities	\$ 10,760,562
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 77,415,578
Restricted	330,297,852
Total Net Assets	\$ 407,713,430
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 418,473,992

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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Endowment distribution	\$ 10,858,948	\$ 4,117,181	\$ 14,976,129
U.S. government grants		792,892	792,892
Gifts and other grants	1,068,736	4,322,271	5,391,007
Other	3,686,059		3,686,059
Net assets released from restrictions for operations	20,108,632	(20,108,632)	
Total Operating Revenues and Other Support	35,722,375	(10,876,288)	24,846,087
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Central library	5,856,062		5,856,062
Public programs	4,915,502		4,915,502
Research and academic programs	2,536,480		2,536,480
Grant activities	1,200,672		1,200,672
Museum shop and rental properties	284,694		284,694
Office of advancement	3,304,295		3,304,295
General and administrative	2,701,326		2,701,326
Total Operating Expenses	20,799,031		20,799,031
Change in Net Assets from Operations	14,923,344	(10,876,288)	4,047,056
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Realized and change in unrealized gains on investments, and investment income	185,770	33,889,513	34,075,283
Allocation of endowment spending to operations	(10,858,948)	(4,117,181)	(14,976,129)
Change in net value of life income funds		(30,901)	(30,901)
Gifts to life funds, endowment and plant	588	5,379,158	5,379,746
Change in post-retirement benefits, other than periodic benefit cost	2,225,606		2,225,606
Total Nonoperating Activities	(8,446,984)	35,120,589	26,673,605
Increase in Net Assets	6,476,360	24,244,301	30,720,661
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	70,939,218	306,053,551	376,992,769
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 77,415,578	\$ 330,297,852	\$ 407,713,430

Financials: Fiscal Year 2019

THE TRUSTEES OF AMHERST COLLEGE

FOLGER SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,341,902
Accounts receivable, net	434,079
Contributions receivable, net	3,655,856
Other assets	1,048,359
Investments	365,403,187
Property, plant and equipment, net	49,696,067
Total Assets	\$ 429,579,450
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,052,903
Accrued liabilities	453,000
Deferred income and deposits	724,721
Liability for life income obligations	633,449
Pension and postretirement benefit obligations	9,053,954
Asset retirement obligations	189,399
Other liabilities	865,505
Total Liabilities	\$ 12,972,931
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 75,395,229
Restricted	341,211,290
Total Net Assets	\$ 416,606,519
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 429,579,450

The Folger Shakespeare Library is a private, independently endowed, tax exempt institution governed by an independent Board of Governors. The Folger Shakespeare Library is administered by the Trustees of Amherst College in accordance with the terms of the wills of its founders, Henry Clay Folger and Emily Jordan Folger. Therefore, the Trustees of Amherst College are the official body under which the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the tax code.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Endowment distribution	\$ 11,126,956	\$ 4,110,681	\$ 15,237,637
U.S. government grants	651,079		651,079
Gifts and other grants	1,232,679	1,126,260	2,358,939
Other	3,656,921		3,656,921
Net assets released from restrictions for operations	15,005,640	(15,005,640)	
Total Operating Revenues and Other Support	31,673,275	(9,768,699)	21,904,576
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Central library	8,987,321		8,987,321
Public programs	5,673,390		5,673,390
Research and academic programs	2,565,502		2,565,502
Grant activities	1,656,766		1,656,766
Museum shop and rental properties	264,385		264,385
Office of advancement	3,455,857		3,455,857
General and administrative	2,282,004		2,282,004
Total Operating Expenses	24,885,225		24,885,225
Change in Net Assets from Operations	6,788,050	(9,768,699)	(2,980,649)
NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Realized and change in unrealized gains on investments, and investment income	3,587,516	20,698,209	24,285,725
Allocation of endowment spending to operations	(11,126,956)	(4,110,681)	(15,237,637)
Change in net value of life income funds		5,006	5,006
Gifts to life funds, endowment and plant	448	4,089,603	4,090,051
Change in post-retirement benefits, other than periodic benefit cost	(1,269,408)		(1,269,408)
Total Nonoperating Activities	(8,808,400)	20,682,137	11,873,737
Increase in Net Assets	(2,020,350)	10,913,438	8,893,088
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	77,415,578	330,297,852	407,713,430
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 75,395,228	\$ 341,211,290	\$ 416,606,518

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

as of April 1, 2020

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* term ended June 2018

** term ended June 2019

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Folger Shakespeare Library is the world's largest Shakespeare collection,
the ultimate resource for exploring Shakespeare and his world.

The Folger welcomes millions of visitors online and in person. We provide unparalleled access to a huge array of resources, from original sources to modern interpretations. With the Folger, you can experience the power of performance, the wonder of exhibitions, and the excitement of pathbreaking research. We offer the opportunity to see and even work with early modern sources, driving discovery and transforming education for students of all ages.

In 2020, we are beginning a multiyear building renovation project to expand public spaces, improve accessibility, and enhance the experience for all who come to the Folger. During construction, find Folger performances and programs throughout Washington, DC, and across the country.

Shakespeare belongs to you. His world is vast. Come explore.

This annual report for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2019) features the work of the following photographers: Teresa Castracane Photography, Brittany Diliberto, Mig Dooley, Linnea Farnsworth, Chris Hartlove, KieranTimberlake/OLIN, Ben Lauer, Local Projects, Yassine El Mansouri Photography / Elman Studio, Daniel Schwartz, Johnny Shryock, Chester Simpson, Lloyd Wolf, Heather Wolfe, and Teresa Wood. Details at folger.edu/credits.
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