



MEDIA ADVISORY

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David Rubenstein Shines Light on James Madison's Montpelier with \$10 Million Gift

Leadership gift accelerates mansion restoration and reconstruction of enslaved community site

Orange, VA - The Montpelier Foundation today announced a \$10 million gift from businessman and philanthropist, David M. Rubenstein. The donation will support the ongoing refurbishing and interpretation of the Montpelier mansion as well as the reconstruction of the South Yard, the enslaved community site adjacent to the mansion.

These projects have been strategic priorities for Montpelier for more than a decade, and with Mr. Rubenstein's support, the Foundation will be able in large part to complete the mansion while telling the more complete American story of Montpelier's enslaved community.

"We are delighted to have an opportunity to take this project to the next level," said Kat Imhoff, President and CEO of the Montpelier Foundation. "With this gift we will be able to continue refurbishing James and Dolley Madison's home with the same degree of authenticity achieved in the architectural restoration, and by reconstructing the South Yard, we can give visitors an opportunity to experience, learn, and discuss the American paradox of slavery while putting Madison's life at Montpelier in context."

"I hope this ignites greater interest in James Madison, Father of the Constitution," said David Rubenstein. "Founders like Madison, Jefferson, and Washington and the stories of their lives are a portal to the past that can be used to guide our future, which is why I have made investments in important American places like Montpelier, Monticello, and Mount Vernon."

For the last decade, The Montpelier Foundation has been restoring Montpelier, James Madison's lifelong home. Following Madison's death, the property was sold by Dolley Madison in 1844 and changed hands a number of times until it was acquired by William duPont in 1901. The architecture of the house was significantly changed during these years. In accordance with the wishes of Marion duPont Scott, her heirs transferred Montpelier to the National Trust for

Historic Preservation in 1984. Under The Montpelier Foundation's leadership, the home is being restored back to its 1817 appearance as Madison intended it.

The completion of the architectural restoration was celebrated on Constitution Day, September 17, 2008. This restoration has been nationally recognized as one of the most significant and authentic restorations ever achieved. With the architectural restoration complete, The Montpelier Foundation initiated an investigation to understand the appearance and use of interior rooms with the goal of authentically refurnishing the mansion. In addition the Foundation has been conducting extensive documentary and archaeological research with the goal of returning the landscape to its appearance in Madison's time, including the interpretation and reconstruction of enslaved community sites. This \$10 million gift from Mr. Rubenstein will support both of these strategic priorities.

About James Madison's Montpelier

Montpelier is the lifelong home of James Madison, Father of the Constitution, Architect of the Bill of Rights, and fourth president of the United States. Montpelier is administered by The Montpelier Foundation, which seeks to inspire continuing public engagement with American constitutional self-government by bringing to life the home and contributions of James and Dolley Madison. The historic home and grounds are open to visitors and student groups throughout the year, and through the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution, Montpelier provides world-class residential and online educational programs. Montpelier is a National Trust Historic Site.

To learn more, visit www.montpelier.org or contact jcarfagno@montpelier.org

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