

# **A Celebration of Art & History**

## **The Nights of Lights Fireplace Mantel Exhibition**

**Presented by the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum &  
The St. Augustine Art Association**

### **Honoring the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**

For this year's Nights of Lights "Art and History" Exhibition, the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum — in partnership with the St. Augustine Art Association — invites artists to celebrate the Semi-quincentennial (250th) of the American Revolution.

Though Florida did not formally participate in the War for Independence, the people, cultures, and events here had a profound influence on the outcome of the war and the founding of the United States. This exhibition brings those often-overlooked stories to light — through art.

#### **Your Mission**

Design a fireplace mantel display inspired by Revolutionary-era Florida.

Selected artists will create one installation featuring:

- One focal point work of original art (painting, sculpture, textile, etc.)
- Supporting elements that visually connect to the time period or theme
- Mediums can be traditional or abstract — creativity encouraged!

14 artists or artist teams (up to 3 collaborators) will be selected.

#### **Theme: "Flights to Freedom" — Florida During the American Revolution**

Your artwork should honor the people and cultures of Florida in the 1770s and their unique struggles, contributions, or paths toward freedom — literal or symbolic. Artists are encouraged to reflect on Florida's diverse communities and how their stories relate to themes of survival, identity, and liberty.

Examples include:

- Indigenous peoples displaced by colonial conflict
- Enslaved Africans who found refuge at Fort Mose
- Minorcans who fled brutal conditions at New Smyrna in 1777
- Spanish alliances that shaped the war's outcome

- British Loyalists and exiled American Patriots who converged in St. Augustine
- These stories will also be explored more deeply in the museum's Spring 2026 Lecture Series, which expands public understanding of Florida's complex role in the Revolution.

## **Installation Materials You May Use**

Your installation may include

- Original artwork (painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, fiber art)
- Framed pieces, small 3D elements, historical props or documents
- Faux greenery, artificial garlands, battery-operated LED candles
- Fresh greenery is allowed but must be maintained
- Tabletop easels may be used on mantels

(No electricity is available. Battery-powered lights only.)

## **Installation Rules**

- Use only existing nails/hooks — no new nails, glue, or adhesives
- Nothing may be taped, tacked, or affixed to museum surfaces
- Artwork and materials must not extend past the fireplace opening
- Museum staff will clear mantel areas before installation
- Artwork must be stable and durable for the full exhibition run

## **Important Dates**

- Submission Deadline: September 26, 2025
- Jury Review & Selection: October 2025
- Artist Notifications: Mid-October 2025
- Installation: Week of November 10, 2025
- Exhibition Opens: November 15, 2025
- Exhibition Closes: January 18, 2026

## **How to Submit**

- Visit [www.staaa.org](http://www.staaa.org)
- Fill out the online entry form
- Upload images of your proposed design
- File formats accepted: jpg, jpeg, png, or pdf
- Max file size: 5MB
- Renderings, sketches, or mockups are acceptable

## Looking Ahead

The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum will present a Spring 2026 Lecture Series titled:  
**“Forgotten Florida — Facts, Features, and Faces You Do Not Know”**

These talks will expand on the same themes explored in the exhibit — spotlighting the lesser-known stories of Indigenous peoples, Africans, Minorcans, Loyalists, Spanish allies, and imprisoned Patriots during the American Revolution



## ROOM #1, Ximenez General Store

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9 in
- Width: 68  $\frac{3}{8}$  in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 64 in
- Width: 68  $\frac{1}{2}$  in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 33 in
- Depth: 19  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Bottom -> 12 in Top
- Width: 32 in Outside -> 17  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 10 in
- Width: 68  $\frac{1}{2}$  in



## ROOM #2, Entrance Hall

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9 ½ in
- Width: 70 in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 56 in
- Width: 69 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 36 in
- Depth: 13 in Bottom -> 12 ½ in Top
- Width: 37 ½ in Outside -> 26 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 5 in
- Width: 69 in



## ROOM #3, Dining Hall

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9 in
- Width: 70 1/2 in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 57 in
- Width: 70 3/8 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 35 in
- Depth: 16 in Bottom -> 14 1/2 Top
- Width: 38 in Outside -> 29 1/2 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 6 in
- Width: 70 3/8 in



## ROOM #4, Guest Parlor

### **Mantle:**

- Depth: 8 in
- Width: 64 in

### **Chimney Surface:**

- Height: 61 1/2 in
- Width: 59 1/2 in

### **Fireplace:**

- Height: 30 1/2 in
- Depth: 14 1/2 in
- Width: 35 1/2 in Outside -> 22 1/2 in Inside

### **Total Surface:**

- Height: 9 ft 5 in
- Width: 59 1/2 in



## ROOM #5, Soldier's Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 8 ¼ in
- Width: 64 ¾ in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 58 ½ in
- Width: 60 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 28 ½ in
- Depth: 15 ½ in
- Width: 32 in Outside -> 17 ½ in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 6 in
- Width: 60 in



## ROOM #6, Sea Captain's Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 7 in
- Width: 65 ¼ in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 60 in
- Width: 61 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 28 in
- Depth: 14½ in
- Width: 37 in Outside -> 20.5 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 5 in
- Width: 61 in



## **ROOM #7, Owner's Office (NSCDA-FL History Exhibit)**

### **Mantle:**

- Depth: 9 ¼ in
- Width: 56 in

### **Chimney Surface:**

- Height: 67 in
- Width: 60 in

### **Fireplace:**

- Height: 29 ½ in
- Depth: 10 in Top -> 14 in Bottom
- Width: 33 in Outside -> 26 in Inside

### **Total Surface:**

- Height: 9 ft 11 in
- Width: 60 in



## ROOM #8, Owner's Parlor

### Mantle:

- Depth: 7 in
- Width: 57 in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 60 in
- Width: 72 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 36 in
- Depth: 12 in
- Width: 32 in Outside -> 18 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 9½ in
- Width: 72 in



## ROOM #9, Owner's Bedroom

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  in
- Width: 70  $\frac{1}{2}$  in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 60 in
- Width: 69  $\frac{1}{2}$  in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 28  $\frac{1}{2}$  in
- Depth: 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  Top -> 15 in Bottom
- Width: 37 in Outside -> 31 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 10 in
- Width: 69  $\frac{1}{2}$  in



## ROOM #10, Family Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 8  $\frac{3}{8}$  in
- Width: 56  $\frac{1}{2}$  in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 62 in
- Width: 60 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 27  $\frac{1}{2}$  in
- Depth: 14  $\frac{1}{2}$  in
- Width: 33 in Outside -> 20in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 8 in
- Width: 60 in



## ROOM #11, Frail Lady's Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9 in
- Width: 61 $\frac{3}{4}$  in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 64 $\frac{1}{2}$  in
- Width: 61 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 28 in
- Depth: 15 in
- Width: 35 in Outside -> 21 in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 9 in
- Width: 61 in



## ROOM #12, Tourist's Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 9 in
- Width: 64 $\frac{1}{4}$  in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 65 in
- Width: 62 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 25 in
- Depth: 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  in
- Width: 32 in Outside -> 19  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 9 in
- Width: 62 in



## ROOM #13, Naturalist's Room

### Mantle:

- Depth: 8 ½ in
- Width: 61 ¼ in

### Chimney Surface:

- Height: 65 ½ in
- Width: 61 in

### Fireplace:

- Height: 32 in
- Depth: 13 ½ in
- Width: 32 in Outside -> 18 ½ in Inside

### Total Surface:

- Height: 9 ft 9 in
- Width: 61 in



## **ROOM #14, Detached Kitchen**

### **Mantle:**

— NO MANTLE SURFACE. Flush mount board above fireplace has 6 nails across its width, which is 82 in.

### **Chimney Surface:**

— See total surface measurements.

### **Fireplace:**

- Height: 45 1/2 in
- Depth: 22 in Bottom -> 19 1/2 in Top
- Width: 67 in Outside -> 57 in Inside

### **Total Surface:**

- Height: 93 in of coquina wall + 5 in of wooden beam
- Width: 79 in