



## **NEW Episode: *The White House 1600 Sessions* Podcast "Road Trip to the Presidents Heads"**

*White House Historical Association President Stewart McLaurin Visits  
Giant Decaying Presidential Statues in Williamsburg*

**July 2, 2025 (Washington, D.C.)**— The White House Historical Association released a [new episode of \*The White House 1600 Sessions\* podcast](#) featuring what has become a social media sensation, the Presidents Heads. This collection of giant statues depicting 42 presidents from George Washington to George W. Bush was once part of an outdoor museum located just outside of Williamsburg, Virginia that closed in 2010. Though he was contracted to demolish the collection, local businessman Howard Hankins transported the statues to his private industrial recycling facility for safekeeping because he couldn't bring himself to destroy them. In this episode, Stewart is joined by two men who were given Hankins' blessing to host tours of the Presidents Heads, John Plashal and Fred Schneider.

While no longer under his care or jurisdiction, the statues were made by David Adickes, an artist from Houston, Texas. They were part of Presidents Park, which was created to diversify the attractions in and around the prominent historical tourist town of Williamsburg. The park exhibited just one of the three sets of busts Adickes made. They average 15 feet in height—though a few are a bit larger—and weigh approximately 1.5 tons each.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," said McLaurin. "It's a dream come true for me to see these heads up close and to experience the history here."

Plashal and Schneider share observations and facts about the decaying sculptures which were damaged when they were transported about 11 miles from the old Presidents Park to their current location. The statues have been weathering the elements without upkeep for over a decade. Plashal and Schneider marvel at the fact that these statues have grown even more popular sitting in a muddy field than they were at Presidents Park. These larger-than-life presidential sculptures have drawn crowds of all ages from across the country and around the world.

"Obviously we get a heavy contingent of folks that are here only for social media," said Plashal. "But a large contingent of folks really want to bring their kids here kind of as a catalyst for learning more about American history and the U.S. Presidents in the most unique of ways."

Following his conversation with Plashal and Schneider, McLaurin explores individual statues more closely, admiring the detail in the presidents' expressions and accessories, and reflecting on the historical impact of these sculptures.

As popular as these statues are to visit, McLaurin takes a moment to emphasize that the park is on private property and entering without permission is trespassing. He highlights the admirable job Plashal and Schneider do to make this fascinating stop accessible to the public. A few times a year, the recycling facility shuts down operations so the public can safely access these unique heads and explore American history from an entirely new angle.

“We're on the eve of America's 250th anniversary. All across our nation, there are presidential sites, birthplaces, childhood homes, libraries, museums, even alma mater of our presidents and first ladies,” said McLaurin. “If you're taking a family trip, explore those along the way and learn a little bit about presidential history and White House history.”

*The White House 1600 Sessions* podcast is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify in both audio and video formats.

The full video of this podcast episode is also available on the White House Historical Association's YouTube channel [here](#).

For more information, please contact [press@whha.org](mailto:press@whha.org).

### **The White House 1600 Sessions**

The White House Historical Association's President Stewart McLaurin is the host of *The White House 1600 Sessions*, the Association's official audio and video podcast devoted to exploring the history, cultural impact, untold stories, and personal accounts of America's most iconic residence and highest office.

### **About the White House Historical Association**

The White House Historical Association was founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to support her vision to restore and preserve the Executive Mansion and its legacy for generations to come. Mrs. Kennedy sought to inspire Americans, especially children, to explore and engage with American history and its presidents. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has contributed more than \$115 million to the White House in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit [WhiteHouseHistory.org](http://WhiteHouseHistory.org).

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