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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING MARYLAND'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS, NEIGHBORHOODS, LANDSCAPES, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES THROUGH OUTREACH, FUNDING, AND ADVOCACY

FROM THE DESK OF NICHOLAS A. REDDING

“I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history.”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

When we re-launched the printed version of “The Phoenix” in 2015, this column normally took on the jovial task of announcing new initiatives, programs, and successes.

FOR THE PAST YEAR, this space served as an opportunity for me to remind our generous donors, friends, and colleagues that our work remains as relevant as ever—even in the midst of a deadly pandemic and resulting economic devastation. Now, as I sit to write,



America is grappling with a violent assault on the temple of democracy—the historic Capitol building itself—just days before the nation is set to inaugurate a new president.

Keeping the faith in moments like this is challenging for all of us. Yet, though I struggle, I return again and again to history to sustain my faith. Like Dr. King, I too refuse to accept despair—because the lessons of history remind us that there is another path. Even in the darkest moments, there is cause for hope. The inherent power of history to provide context and optimism becomes more apparent every day that passes—and that power of history fuels the work of this organization.

Today, with history as our guide and beneficiary, this organization remains steadfast in its commitment to preservation, our communities, and the future. With a growing team of professionals and a slate of dynamic and diverse projects, we are prepared to make this year—our 90th anniversary—one to celebrate. We are investing heavily in our historic property redevelopment program, historic trades training in education, advocacy, and grant funding to support partners across the state. On Hagerstown’s Jonathan Street, for example, we have begun work on rehabilitating our historic ca.1830s log cabin and are already eyeing several more projects and lining up the funders to make it possible. All across the nation, our Campaign for Historic Trades is attracting attention for the potential the program holds to change the nature of trades’ training across America. We’re not just talking about preservation—today we’re restoring buildings and training the hands that make the work possible—while also educating, advocating, and providing significant grant funding.

History remains our guide and is a powerful antidote to despair. History also needs us—and in 2021, with your help, we’ll continue to make history.

With pride in our past and faith in our future,

Nicholas Redding
Nicholas A. Redding · Executive Director

EXPANDING CAPACITY

Organization Announces New Projects and Expands Team to Meet the Challenges

Three new professionals join team to help oversee complex projects around state and nation.

AS PRESERVATION MARYLAND looks forward to the opportunities of 2021 and celebrates its 90th anniversary, it does so with a trio of new team members prepared to help tackle new projects and challenges. The growth of the organization has been made possible thanks to the generous support of individual donors, private foundations, and public grants targeted at investing in smart growth, historic trades, and property redevelopment.

To meet the growing needs of Smart Growth Maryland, a program of Preservation Maryland, Ruby Nwaebube joined the team in early January as the organization’s first full-time Advocacy Associate. Ruby’s work will focus on expanding the advocacy capacity of the organization as well as researching innovative policy solutions to smart growth and preservation challenges at the local, state, and federal level. Ruby is a graduate of the University of Virginia, and, prior to joining the Preservation Maryland team, she enjoyed a diverse range of experiences from documenting African-American historical sites to developing augmented reality and educational simulation games.

The exponential growth of the Campaign for Historic Trades and the launch of its new initiative to establish registered federal apprenticeships for historic trades resulted in the hiring of Natalie Henshaw. Henshaw is an accomplished historic trades’ professional with a background in instructional design and curriculum development. A graduate of Savannah Technical College’s Historic Preservation and Restoration Program, Natalie has worked in hands-on preservation with various non-profits, construction

companies, and federal agencies. Natalie previously served on numerous projects with HistoriCorps and founded a preservation company in Savannah, Georgia, specializing in window restoration and historic masonry.

From Jonathan Street to City Dock in Annapolis, Preservation Maryland’s rejuvenated historic property redevelopment program has gone from programmatic concept to bricks-and-mortar preservation in the matter of a few short months. To support the unprecedented growth of the program, Laura Houston was selected to serve as the organization’s first full-time Historic Property Redevelopment Manager.

Laura holds degrees from both the New York University and Texas State University, and, prior to joining Preservation Maryland, she worked as a Historical Sites Specialist for the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. Laura also served as Research Associate for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, a statewide preservation nonprofit, where she oversaw research projects and assisted in writing and editing organization publications.

Collectively, these three new employees bring years of experience and a diversity of backgrounds to their respective roles—and will help shape the future of the organization and its many new projects and programs. Sustaining this growth—from expanding historic trades’ development to investing in the rehabilitation of historic buildings and broadening our smart growth reach, will require sustained and expanded fundraising—but we are confident that the relevance of our work and the tangible results of our efforts will make the case to our generous donors.

To help support our work and the growth of the organization, make a gift today at: presmd.org/donate.

New Preservation Maryland staff (Clockwise from top): Laura Houston, Ruby Nwaebube, Natalie Henshaw.





Preservation Maryland and Smart Growth Maryland stand ready to serve our members and partners as the voice of history and sustainability in Annapolis.

enhance their historic buildings.

There are major fiscal challenges facing Maryland that will bear out in the Governor’s Capital and Operating Budget. In previous lean years, preservation and conservation programs have been cut in a manner that hampered the opportunities that they offer for revitalization, tourism, and sustainability. Therefore, we are advocating for level funding for the state’s preservation grant programs.

Smart Growth Maryland, one of Preservation Maryland’s major programs, will focus its efforts on passage of the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Program Act, the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2021, and the Climate Solutions Now Act. Moreover, we continue our advocacy for a fully-funded Program Open Space—a proven program that supports open space acquisition, rural and urban parks and trails, as well as the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

As always, Preservation Maryland will regularly update our website with the latest information and release advocacy alerts by email and social media. Our readers are invited and encouraged to participate in Session this year in new ways—attending virtual hearings, submitting written testimony, and supporting our Advocacy Fund. For the latest information, please visit: presmd.org/advocacy

ADVOCACY AGENDA

An Historic Session of the Maryland General Assembly Begins

We have adapted our strategies and stand ready to be the voice of preservation and smart growth in Annapolis.

ON JANUARY 13TH, the Maryland General Assembly reconvened for their 442nd session after a truncated session in 2020 due to the growing Covid-19 crisis. As the need to reduce the spread of the virus is as important as ever 10 months later, the public will not be invited to the Statehouse or state office buildings to testify in person, and the historic chambers of the House and Senate have been retrofitted with plexiglass partitions.

While this historic session will certainly not look like years past, Preservation Maryland and Smart Growth Maryland stand ready to serve our members and partners as the voice of history and sustainability in Annapolis.

Legislative Priorities

The revitalization of Maryland’s historic communities is fueled by the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit program. Over the years, Preservation Maryland has secured various improvements to the program—but simply put, those efforts will be moot if the program continues to go underfunded. We are strongly advocating for an increase in funding for the Competitive Commercial program in Governor Hogan’s FY22 budget.

We also support the legislation introduced by Senator Guy Guzzone and Delegate Stephanie Smith to extend the life of the Small Commercial Historic Tax Credit—an essential program for Main Street property owners and business owners to maintain and

PRESERVATION UPDATE

New Study Confirms 18th-Century Timbers Used to Construct Hagerstown Cabin

Preservation Maryland, with the assistance and generous support of the Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration, recently announced the findings of a newly completed dendrochronology report by the Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory, which confirms 417 North Jonathan is constructed with some of Hagerstown’s oldest timbers.

THE RESEARCHERS were able to confirm the date of the log’s felling using a process known as dendrochronology which uses the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks to determine its age. Core samples from logs in the Jonathan Street cabin were taken in September 2020 and were compared against a master tree-ring sample for the region—determining the precise date of felling as the winters of 1739–40 and 1740–41. The consultant was also able to identify the region of origin of the timber—concluding that the logs were likely previously used in the construction of a log house in Washington and Frederick Counties and more precisely along the Antietam Creek.

It is interesting and worthwhile to note that very few structures stood in Hagerstown in 1739, save for two cabins that town founder Jonathan Hager is believed to have built in the late 1730s prior to the

completion of his stone dwelling. Therefore, it is highly likely that the timbers comprising the cabin at 417 N. Jonathan Street were reused from a structure built by Jonathan Hager—making this cabin one of Hagerstown’s most historic structures.

The legacy of this building and its layers of unique, diverse, and significant history speaks to the value of preservation—and the need to continue to invest and support the revitalization of the historic Jonathan Street community. Remarkably, all of this could have been lost as the cabin was headed to demolition before Preservation Maryland deployed emergency funding to acquire and now rehabilitate the building thereby securing its future.

To learn more and support this project, please visit: presmd.org/jst

ARE YOU A LISTENER?

PreserveCast: Weekly Interviews With Preservation Thought Leaders



Preservation Maryland’s Executive Director Nicholas Redding is the host of PreserveCast, a podcast with a worldwide listenership that explores the broad world of preservation from every angle—from drones to mudlarking and everything in between.

PRESERVATION MARYLAND believes we all succeed when we all know more about our past. PreserveCast is one of the ways that we can reach that goal—and we have the data to prove it:

- 46 episodes released in 2020, as we returned to a weekly release schedule
- 160+ total episodes available on your favorite podcatcher or on our podcast website, with show notes and transcriptions
- Thousands of listeners across the United States and hundreds in the UK, Canada, Australia, and India
- Nearly 50,000 downloads since launching in 2017 and nearing 2,000 downloads every month

As Preservation Maryland kicks-off a fourth year of PreserveCast episodes, we’re pleased to offer new sponsorship opportunities. Become an episode sponsor at: preservecast.org/sponsor

Photos of log samples used in the report, provided by Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory.



IN MEMORIAM

“If you seek
his monument,
look around.”

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN



DOUGLAS HAYES

When long-time preservationist Douglas Hayes passed away unexpectedly, his family graciously asked that donations be made in his name to support Preservation Maryland.

Creating a memorial fund at Preservation Maryland is a meaningful way to honor the legacy of Hayes’ passion for Maryland’s historic places—and has helped our work tremendously.

If you would like to set up a special fund for a loved one, please contact Katie Parks at kparks@presmd.org



Preservation Maryland
Leadership

OVER 89 YEARS OF PROTECTING
THE BEST OF MARYLAND
presmd.org

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DIRECT IMPACT

Preservation Grants Invest
in the Heart of Maryland’s
Historic Communities

Preservation Maryland administers much-needed direct financial assistance across the state.

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, Preservation Maryland has directed the investment of nearly \$100,000 of grant funds to a vast array of important research, revitalization, and archaeology projects—creating and sustaining opportunities for economic development and heritage tourism during difficult times. Our grant-making efforts are just one of the ways that we support our partners—nonprofit organizations, historic house museums, and neighborhood groups—reaching the heart of historic communities in every corner of the state.

STATEWIDE HERITAGE FUND GRANTS

- 1 Bostwick House Preservation Planning
Aman Memorial Trust
Prince George’s County • \$8,000
- 2 Restoration of Cylburn
Arboretum’s Marble Lions
Cylburn Arboretum Friends
Baltimore City • \$5,000
- 3 Restoration of Roof Dormers
at Retreat House
Friends of Smallwood State Park
Charles County • \$8,000
- 4 Stabilization of Malone’s Chapel Steeple
Harrisville/Malone Cemetery
Maintenance Fund
Dorchester County • \$8,000
- 5 Trail Signage at Historic London
Town & Gardens
London Town Foundation
Anne Arundel County • \$5,000
- 6 Town of Hancock Preservation Plan
Main Street Hancock
Washington County • \$4,500
- 7 Entryway Restoration at Handsell
Nanticoke Historic Preservation
Alliance • Dorchester County • \$7,000
- 8 Historic Landscape Report
at National Park Seminary
Save our Seminary
Montgomery County • \$6,000

Preservation Maryland has directed the investment of nearly \$100,000 towards creating and sustaining opportunities for economic development and heritage tourism during difficult times.

CITY OF BALTIMORE PRESERVATION FUND AWARDS

- 9 Ambassador Theater Architectural Design
Artspace Projects, Inc. • \$5,000
- 10 Gorsuch Avenue Firehouse
Exterior Repairs
Civic Works, Inc. • \$10,000
- 11 Patterson Theatre Marquee Restoration
Creative Alliance • \$10,000
- 12 Herring Run Heritage Trail
Friends of Herring Run Parks • \$5,500
- 13 Roland Water Tower Restoration
Roland Park Community Foundation
\$3,500
- 14 West Baltimore Archaeology
University of Maryland • \$6,000
- 15 Condition & Interpretation Assessment
Mount Clare Museum • \$10,000

The Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund is a collaborative program of Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Historical Trust, Baltimore Heritage, Inc., and the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) with financial support from the Baltimore Community Foundation. The Heritage Fund is a joint program of Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust.

For grant information and deadlines about the Heritage Fund and the Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund, please visit: presmd.org/funding

FUNDING HIGHLIGHT

Archaeology at West
Baltimore Rowhome

The Old West Baltimore Historic District includes the homes of many important African American figures in civic life, the arts, and advocacy including Thurgood Marshall.

The University of Maryland is organizing an urban archaeology project in the neighborhood with funding from the Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund. The dig site became available when Black Women Build, a non-profit, started rehabbing several historic rowhouses on Etting Avenue. During a week-long dig in January, the student participants found fragments of writing slates and glass inkwells, along with other household items and toys. A virtual presentation of findings is being planned for Spring.

Led by Adam Fracchia, Assistant Research Professor, School of Anthropology, University of Maryland, dig participants include: Jacqueline Alston, Lyteera Felipa, Alexis Szkotak, Marquise O’Neal, Alexander Symonette, Erina Kironde, Brittany Bednash, Zihan Chen, Elgin Klugh, Jourdan Wallace, Alexandra Jones, Issac Shearn, Skye Stellone.



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HEARTBOMB

Our Heart Belongs to History

There is no question that preservationists put their heart into their work and communities.

HERE WE OFFER a simple at-home project to create an origami heart just in time for Valentine's Day—or any day! Did you know that the heartbomb may have been invented in Rockville in the 90s!?

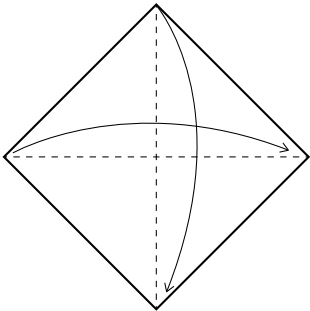
Reinvigorated recently by young preservation groups across the country, heartbombing is the simple act of declaring your love for at-risk historic properties with a valentine of their own.

In 1993, when a likely buyer of the ca. 1895 Wire Hardware building had plans to gut the interior, Peerless Rockville, a regional preservation non-profit, brought a law suit to defend its right-of-first-refusal to purchase the building—ensuring its preservation. Soon after, the organization publically kickstarted an Emergency Repair Fund with a gigantic heart in the storefront window, declaring “Our Hearts Belong to Wire.” To see photos, go to: presmd.org/wire.

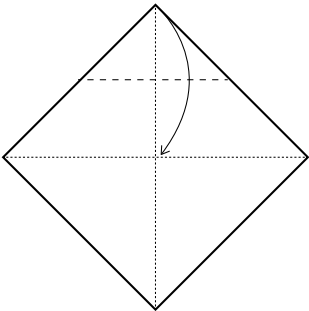
Inspired by that creative advocacy, we encourage you to make an origami heart with our special edition phoenix origami paper. Download more patterns at: presmd.org/origami



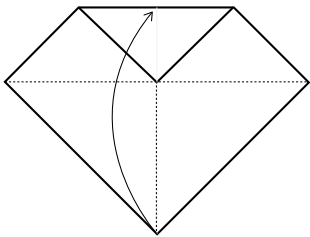
STEP 1
Cut out the patterned square along the dotted line. Fold twice diagonally and reopen flat oriented as a diamond.



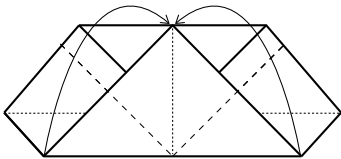
STEP 2
Fold top point of paper to meet the center point. It will look like a gem stone.



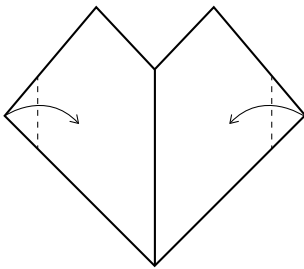
STEP 3
Write a secret message to your valentine inside now or just fold the bottom point to meet the top fold.



STEP 4
Bring up the bottom right side diagonally so the bottom meets the vertical center line. Repeat with the left side.



STEP 5
Turn paper over and fold down the top and side points. This will smooth out the edges of your heart.



STEP 6
Adorn your origami heart any way you like and please share your love by tagging us with #preservemd.

