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Save All The Houses With Us

“...Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors.”

In difficult moments, I turn to the past and the future. History reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles—and that there is always a future worth fighting for.

RONCALLI: the future is what is driving Preservation Maryland—an organization dedicated to preserving the past. We are dedicated to endowing future generations with the historic places, stories, and communities which speak to the great expanse of our heritage; from our greatest achievements to our darkest hours. We are dedicated to telling the full story of our history and being the good ancestors our descendants deserve.

At a time when retreat or holding our position would be an understandable strategy, we’ve poured our money, energy, and souls into expanding our work. In 2020, as the pandemic upended our operations, we purchased an historic cabin threatened by the archaeology project we helped to organize.

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“...It's not enough, we're continuing with our historic property redevelopment project with a focus this time on saving a structure from the future of trades training in America. Meanwhile, we're also preparing to announce yet another partnership with the National Park Service’s groundbreaking for a major expansion of our future of one of Maryland’s most historic African American neighborhoods.

We have also been quietly laying the groundwork for a major expansion of our partnership with the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Training Center with a viable plan that we believe will completely change the future of trades training in America. Meanwhile, we’re also preparing to announce yet another historic property redevelopment project with a focus this time on saving a structure from rising tides and an unpredictable climate. And, if that’s not enough, we’re continuing with our core operations—providing grants to important projects, releasing a new podcast every week, leading small smart growth advocacy and racking up big wins, hosting sold-out webinars to national audiences, and preparing for our in-person, socially-distant drive-in event to celebrate preservation successes.

None of this would be possible without our generous donors—a fact I repeat every chance I get. Your support makes it all possible. The staff of Preservation Maryland also deserves recognition—as they have excelled at a moment when the challenges were stacked high and have made this continued growth a reality.

No one knows what tomorrow holds—but we are confident that tomorrow will be richer, stronger, and smarter with its history preserved. With pride in our past and faith in our future,
CELEBRATING HISTORY

Best of Maryland Awards

Preservation Maryland is honored to shine a spotlight on the tireless work of volunteers, architects, artisans, and legislators doing the essential work of protecting the places that make Maryland such a special place to live, work, explore—and celebrate.

1 Expert House Movers

President’s Award - STATEWIDE

Sharpstown, Maryland-based Expert House Movers, is a national leader in moving, shipping, and transport. The third-generation family-owned company’s portfolio includes the relocation of six lighthouses, several historic theatres, two covered bridges, an airport terminal, and countless historic residential structures of every shape and size across the country.

2 Delegate Stephanie Smith

City of Baltimore, District 45 - LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION

Delegate Stephanie Smith of District 45 in Baltimore City was the House sponsor for the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2020. Delegate Smith understands the transformative potential an historic tax credit project can have on a community as well as the role of revitalization in her role as Assistant Director of Equity, Engagement and Communications in Baltimore City’s Department of Planning.

3 Senator Katie Fry Hester

Howard County, District 9 - LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION

Senator Katie Fry Hester served District 9 and all of Maryland when she sponsored a 2019 bill in Maryland General Assembly to initiate a modernization project, the Library shines bright as a beacon of a protective conservation district and the relocation of the staff and resources of the Library to the newly opened, state-of-the-art Library Renovation & Modernization.

4 Pete Lesher

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum - Town of St. Michaels’ Gearhart Professional Service Award

Pete Lesher has been working full-time at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for nearly 30 years. As Chief Curator, he develops interpretive exhibitions and public programs that highlight the rich maritime history and culture, including Native American life, naval history, boat building traditions, shipwrecks, wrecks and shipwreck recovery. In his capacity as advocate in support of Maryland’s museums and cultural sites and efforts to promote Maryland’s maritime heritage tourism.

5 James Castle

Resource Heritage Museum

City of Brunswick - Harboson Volunteer Award

A native of Brunswick, Maryland in Frederick County, James Castle is a model citizen, dedicated volunteer, skilled historian, and stalwart preservationist. In his tenure as President of the Brunswick Potomac Foundation since 2015, he has led a note-worthy fundraising effort, supported the creation of a community meeting place. The group is also responsible for the restoration of the historic Old Railroad Trestle and the reinstallation of the historic William Railroad Trestle, and oversaw the organization’s online presence during Covid-19.

6 Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Library Renovation & Modernization

City of Baltimore - Preservation Award - Statewide

Baltimore City’s ca. 1933 Enoch Pratt Free Library Central Library is the flagship location of the oldest public library system in the United States, and through the work and life of many hands during an extraordinary renovation and modernization project, the Library shines bright as a beacon of community, knowledge, and betterment. The work of innumerable authors housed in the Library, the renovation project the hard work and innovation of a collective work of dozens of skilled artisans led by EverGreen Architectural Arts and F.G. Vogt Company to receive this Temple of Learning.

7 Center for Health Care and Healthy Living

At the Baltimore Hebrew Orphan Asylum

City of Baltimore - The Phoenician Award

The nation’s oldest standing urban orphanage, a starkly 1870s Romanesque structure in Baltimore City, was once slated for demolition and suffered decades of abandonment, but thanks to the hard work of community advocates and preservation professionals, the building has been reimagined into a much-needed health care center operated by the Baltimore Health Department and Behavioral Health System Baltimore. The combination of a signature vacant building and the desperate need for medical options created a powerful opportunity for reuse of the Asylum. For achieving this awe-inspiring rehabilitation and for providing a place for Marylanders to perhaps remake themselves, this year’s Phoenix Award goes to Crippin Heights Community Development Corporation, Baltimore Heritage, Inc., and Waldon Studio Architects.

8 Kent County Cultural Landscape Assessment 2018

Kent County, Maryland - SMART GROWTH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Kent County, Maryland’s picturesque historic and natural resources were the subject of a model report which confirmed the unique and unparalleled opportunities for preservation in this eastern shore county. In recognition of the inspired and innovative undertaking, the Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland, self-receive the Smart Growth Excellence Award from Preservation Maryland and Smart Growth Maryland. The project team is comprised of the Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance, Barton Ross & Associates, McGillic Landscape (now Kenton Williams Landscape Studio), Heritage Strategies, and Washington College Center for Environment and Society.

9 CASA de Maryland Historic Bloom Theatre

City of Baltimore - Stewardship Award

As part of a physical and programmatic expansion, CASA de Maryland, a Latino and immigration advocacy and assistance organization, bought and renovated the historic Bloom Theater. Selective demolition removed a non-historic ceiling revealing beautiful architectural details and a space large enough to create a series of modern pods for different uses—all while respecting those design elements and achieving ADA compliance and LEED Gold Certification.

10 Maryland Department of General Services

Post Office Conversion - Stewardship Award

Under the direction of the Maryland Department of General Services, one of Annapolis’s historic post offices just underwent a world-class comprehensive adaptive reuse project to restore the deteriorated Georgian Revival architecture and to convert its interior space into the governor’s office of community initiatives and the governor’s legal office. This Best of Maryland Stewardship Award goes to the Maryland Department of General Services for envisioning and financing this iconic $15 million project on Annapolis’ Church Circle.

11 Evergreen Heritage Foundation

Allegeny County - Stewardship Award

The Evergreen barn in Allegeny County is believed to be the last remaining 18th century barn in Western Maryland and was the site of a concerted preservation and reuse effort to imagine the future of this charming barn. Starting with a feasibility study in 2015 and major repairs in 2018, the Foundation reimagined the historic barn as an architectural museum complete with an exhibit called, “Living Off The Land,” that educates over 9,000 Western Maryland school children each year.

12 Town of Washington Grove Volunteers

Morganstown County - Community Choice Award

When Washington Grove transitioned from a summer resort to an incorporated town, much of the rustic camp character of this special place carried on, including their approach to handcrafting their street signs. Volunteers, led by Susan Van Nostrand, recently worked with the Historic Preservation Commission and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service to make minor modifications to the original design so that the town would not lose these iconic signs that provide a sense of direction—and a sense of place.

13 Parsons Cemetery Advisory Committee

City of Salisbury - Community Choice Award

Parsons Cemetery is an historic cemetery, an urban green space, and an outdoor museum. The six-member volunteer committee works diligently to create a site of reverence and culture by offering self-guided walking tours based on the on-going historic and genealogical research. They also maintain the 18 acres of sacred grounds and the promise of perpetual care, and lately, a lively Facebook page with incredible and enduring stories of the interred.

14 Ozolndent Historical Society

Anne Arundel County - Community Choice Award

Recently the all-volunteer group, led by President, Wylie Donaldson and Roger White, Curator, completed the transformation of the Ozolndent Cemetery for the Osolndent Heritage Society Historical Center which serves as a local museum for the town. They also maintain the Osolndent Cemetery as a community meeting place.

15 Historic London Town & Gardens

Anne Arundel County - Community Choice Award

Historic London Town & Gardens in Annapolis is a long-established living history site tackling every day and extraordinary daily life. The site is led by Rod Coiffel and Lauren Silberman embarked on recreating the tavern bar in the Brown House and added the Fish and Oyster bar as an interpretative array of characters and experiences into their interpretation practices. Next up, they’ll utilize a Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant to build a new education pavilion.

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Archaeology Reveals Hidden History

This September at the invitation of Preservation Maryland, the Maryland State Highway Administration conducted an archaeological investigation of 417 North Jonathan Street—a condemned property purchased by Preservation Maryland as a part of the organization’s property redevelopment program.

The excavation uncovered hundreds of artifacts, including everyday items such as broken dishes, bottles, food remains, doll parts, marbles, animal bones, buttons, and tobacco pipes. The excavation also uncovered a pierced dime—a widely documented artifact found in sites of known African American habitation and worn as a good luck charm intended to protect the wearer.

Archaeologists, preservationists, and community advocates on-site at 417 N. Jonathan Street; archaeologists from the State Highway Administration offered aid; a close-up of a pierced dime found during the dig.

The project involved dendrochronology—a investigation of the cabin itself by taking small core samples of the logs to determine the year in which they were felled. The technique utilizes the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks and should be able to determine the precise year in which the trees were felled, which will help to date the building and its components.

With the excavation now complete, archaeologists will conduct months of lab study and analysis to make any determination about the property’s history. Learn more and support this work at: presmd.org/jonathanstreet

Maryland is Second in Nation to Complete Statewide LGBTQ History Context Study

October is LGBTQ Heritage Month, and Preservation Maryland is proud to report the accepted submission of Maryland’s groundbreaking “Maryland LGBTQ Historic Context Study” by the Maryland Historical Trust.

The 100-PAGE DOCUMENT and property database of nearly 400 sites important to LGBTQ life in Maryland is now part of the historic record—and is being abridged for a public report.

The report was funded in part by the Maryland Historical Trust and Preservation Maryland’s Heritage Fund and Waxter Memorial Internship Program. This document is a milestone in the organization’s multi-year commitment to LGBTQ heritage visibility in Maryland.

The author of the study is Dr. Susan Ferentinos, a leading expert in LGBTQ research oft associated with major national milestones. Each unique Maryland theme is also keyed into the framework provided by the National Park Services’ LGBTQ Theme Study.

Preservation Maryland hosted five community listening sessions across the state and responded to dozens of research leads from Marylanders. These locations and many more were geocoded to a public map on HistoryPin with a short description, photo, and source by Benjamin Egerman.

Inspired and made possible by the Report, the Baltimore City Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation and Montgomery County Planning teamed up with Preservation Maryland on a National Park Service grant to nominate five key LGBTQ sites to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and National Register of Historic Places.

The Maryland Historical Trust is a member of the project team, overseeing the work. Schablitsky was on-site archaeologist Dr. Julie Schablitsky was on site overseeing the work aimed at determining the cabin’s age, who once lived there, and what life was like for those residents. In addition to the property’s long connection to the African American community, including nearby Green Book stops, new research suggests that the cabin may have once belonged to Hagerstown’s founder, Jonathan Hager.
By the Numbers

With 2020’s days waning and 2021 on the horizon, here’s a quick snapshot of Preservation Maryland’s work through these difficult times. Expect a more thorough analysis in our forthcoming annual report. And, of course, the best way to stay up to date with all of our work is to find and follow us on your favorite social media channels.

1 BALTIMORE SUN front-page article about our work on Jonathan Street in Hagerstown (and a great Washington Post article, too, among many local news stories)

10 DEDICATED EMPLOYEES working remotely from across the state, including nine really helpful cats, two often-napping beagles, and four more human positions to fill in 2021.

15 BEST OF MARYLAND AWARDEES announced and celebrated across the state. Learn more about these remarkable Marylanders on Page 2.

28 AUDIO BIOGRAPHIES of remarkable Maryland women added, in partnership with the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, to our multi-media Women’s Suffrage website: ballotandbeyond

150 EPISODES OF PRESERVECAST released since 2017—that’s 150 conversations with leading preservationists from across the globe available online anytime, with or without a podcast app on preservecast.org

216 FUNDRAISING PINS sold by CIRCA Old Houses with 100% of proceeds supporting our Revolving Fund—each $25 pin moving the needle towards our goal to fully rehab 417 N. Jonathan St.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

His passion for Maryland history lives on through a legacy gift.
What will your legacy be?

WILLIAM D. WAXTER III—was born in Baltimore and spent summers in Ocean City. After serving in WWII and the Korean War, he became a securities analyst. He traveled the world and supported many charities. His legacy gift to Preservation Maryland underwrites the training of the next generation of stewards through the Waxter Memorial Internship Program.

ESTABLISH YOUR LEGACY
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