

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016



Drawing on History: Infill Design Competition

Historic Richmond recognizes the needs and challenges of designing new construction on empty lots within the City of Richmond's Old & Historic Districts. In an effort to encourage thoughtful and creative design and dialogue, Historic Richmond is hosting **Drawing on History: Infill Design Competition** in partnership with The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. We believe Richmond's irreplaceable built environment defines its character, and are committed to maintaining and building on that unique sense of place to create our future architectural legacy.

Submissions are due May 13, 2016 by 5:00 p.m. and the best designs will be exhibited at The Branch from June 9 – August 31. Challenges and requirements are spelled out on our website: www.historicrichmond.com



There is so much new to share with you that we hardly know where to start!

Over the winter, we were busy building – building on our four cornerstones of Preservation, Rehabilitation, Revitalization and Advocacy – to create a strategic plan for Historic Richmond’s future. The Historic Richmond Board of Trustees and staff are excited to present to you (on pages 4 to 5 of this Newsletter) the approved strategic plan – our “Vision 2020” – with the organizational goals and specific strategic objectives that will shape Historic Richmond’s planning and growth for the next few years.



Creating an ambitious strategic plan is easy. It’s the implementation that is the true challenge. But we are already hard at work on the implementation and, with your help and support, we are confident of success. Here are just a few of the ways we have been advancing our mission through the new strategic plan:

Revitalization & Rehabilitation

- We launched the “**Drawing on History: Infill Design Competition**” in January 2016 with a submission deadline of May 13, 2016. While this type of competition is new to us, word of mouth thus far has been enthusiastic and we hope that the design submissions will elevate the discussion of infill design in the City’s Old & Historic Districts. See cover page for details.
- We are actively investigating neighborhoods, districts and blocks to determine where our impact will be transformational. Current neighborhoods under investigation include Northside streetcar neighborhoods, historic East End neighborhoods and The Boulevard – in addition to the earliest City neighborhoods of Church Hill, Jackson Ward and the Shockoe Valley.
- We are working on developing criteria for identifying which projects will have the most significant impact.



Preservation

- We have been monitoring a number of significant buildings – too many to list here – but we have highlighted a few for you on pages 6 to 7 of this newsletter.
- In 2015, we completed Property Condition Reports on all easement properties. And we are inviting all easement homeowners to the Historic Richmond Rehab Expo to help connect them with key resources for the care and maintenance of their homes.



- Commonwealth Architects is assisting us in reviewing Monumental Church's needs and is working on a draft report and cost estimates for remaining restoration work. We believe that this information will be helpful as we consider strategic planning for its future.

Advocacy & Education

- The **2nd Annual Historic Richmond Rehab Expo** will be held April 30, 2016. In connection with the Rehab Expo, we are working to produce several short "how to" videos to create and provide educational resources to owners of older homes in the care and maintenance of their homes.
- Our traditional focus on educational publications continues as we work with Ed Slipek to advance his work (with the late Drew St. J. Carneal) researching and writing a manuscript on the life and times of Richmond's famed architect W. Duncan Lee. We also are in the early planning stages for developing a new version of our "Official Guide to Historic Richmond."
- Historic Richmond nominated the General Assembly Building to Preservation Virginia's Most Endangered Places List. See page 7 for more information.
- Our panel discussion program highlighting "**The History and Development of the Shockoe Valley**" provided an enlightening and engaging discussion, addressing the complexities of this neighborhood with sensitivity. A podcast of this program is available on Historic Richmond's website.

We are excited about Historic Richmond's opportunity to shape the future of Richmond with our new strategic plan. Your help is vital to our success.

Please join us! THANK YOU!



Andrew Clark, President



Cyane Crump, Executive Director



STRATEGIC PLAN - "VISION 2020"



The Historic Richmond Board of Trustees and staff are excited to present the approved strategic plan that will shape this organization's planning and growth for the next few years. The plan has been adopted by our Board and we are already hard at work implementing our strategic priorities. We want

GOAL ONE

Identify and protect Richmond's most important historically significant buildings, structures and places.

Strategic Objectives:

- a. Monitor Richmond's most historically significant landmark buildings and places to guide our involvement in the preservation of at risk landmark properties. In this regard, develop a list of the most historically significant buildings and places and a toolkit of services for helping preserve such properties.
- b. Review our easement program and manage existing easements to assist homeowners and building owners to achieve our mutual goal of protecting Richmond's irreplaceable buildings.
- c. Develop a master restoration plan for Monumental Church to identify remaining restoration work. In addition, develop a long range strategic plan for the management, operation and support of Monumental Church as a fully functioning facility.

GOAL TWO

Be a leader in the city revitalization movement by strategically choosing and supporting rehabilitation and advocacy projects which will serve as catalysts in historic districts for increased use and enjoyment of historic districts, neighborhoods and structures.

Strategic Objectives:

- a. Identify those neighborhoods, districts, and blocks where our involvement will be transformational. Select one or more and initiate action.
- b. Develop and implement measurable criteria for identifying which projects will have the most significant impact.
- c. Develop and implement a process or a plan for discussing infill in historic districts.
- d. Increase the capacity of our Revolving Fund to support more involvement the rehabilitation of at-risk properties.



to excite, inspire, and inform our growing and diverse audience about the significance of Richmond's built environment. We invite you to join us in our effort to preserve, protect and promote Richmond's architectural legacy.

GOAL THREE

Engage targeted groups of existing and potential stakeholders in the community by serving as an informed, approachable and active community partner concerning Richmond's built environment.

Strategic Objectives:

- a. Increase educational outreach to the community, by creating and providing resources such as the Rehab Expo, lectures, videos, social media programs, or electronic or digital formats for existing publications.
- b. Continue our traditional focus on educational publications by publishing a new educational resource for Richmond's historic built environment.
- c. Lead the discussion of Richmond's historic architecture, with an added focus on 20th century and mid-century modernist architecture.
- d. Partner with other public, private and non-profit organizations to achieve our goals.
- e. Proactively establish and promote positions on the most significant issues involving Richmond's most important architectural, historic and cultural resources.
- f. Create an award to recognize people living our mission in Richmond.

GOAL FOUR

Ensure the long term financial stewardship and sustainability of the organization.

Strategic Objectives:

- a. Create a development plan that creatively addresses annual donor retention, expansion of donor demographics, grants and fundraising strategies.
- b. Ensure that staff capabilities are aligned with strategic goals.

PRESERVATION

Historic Richmond works to protect historically significant structures and places 50 years or older. To see the latest updates on the many properties we monitor, please see the Richmond@Risk page of our website for additional information.



Vision for Monumental Church

Our new strategic plan contemplates developing a master restoration plan for Monumental Church as well as a long range strategic plan for the facility. As part of this process, Commonwealth Architects is assisting us in reviewing Monumental's needs and is working on a draft report and cost estimates for remaining restoration work. In addition, Commonwealth's Bryan Clark Green is working with his VCU Preservation Planning class to consider strategic alternatives. At left, Executive Director Cyane Crump and Preservation Specialist Danielle Worthing discuss Monumental's challenges and opportunities with Mr. Green's class.

Mason's Hall (1807 East Franklin Street)

Historic Richmond is devoting significant resources to help the Masons preserve this historic Shockoe Valley structure. Due to its age, history of uses and association with important personages, Mason's Hall is one of Richmond's most significant structures. Built in 1785, it is the oldest continuously occupied Masonic building in the country, housing Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19, which was named in honor of Edmund Randolph, Virginia governor, first U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Secretary of State and Grand Master of Virginia Masons. U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall and Solomon Jacobs (Richmond mayor, businessman and president of his congregation) also were grand masters associated with Mason's Hall. The Marquis de Lafayette was made an honorary member upon visiting in 1824. Some say that the actress Eliza Poe, mother of Edgar Allen Poe, last performed at Mason's Hall. The future English King Edward VII attended a lodge meeting at Mason's Hall. In 1787, the Virginia delegation to the constitutional convention met in Mason's Hall before travelling to Philadelphia. During the War of 1812, it served as a hospital. Richmond City Courts and council met in Mason's Hall. Religious groups unwelcome elsewhere conducted services in Mason's Hall during the 19th century. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.



Winfree Cottage

Historic Richmond has partnered with Storefront For Community Design, the City of Richmond, and the Slave Trail Commission to review stabilization plans, create signage, and find a local donor for materials. We have coordinated with Siewers Lumber to donate materials and we are currently working to develop signage.

508 St. James Street

Activist in Action: Zarina Fazaldin recently purchased this Richmond@Risk property. Fazaldin plans to use historic tax credits to rehabilitate this 1915 Jackson Ward property, designed by Charles Thaddeus Russell, the first African-American architect in Richmond, for Dr. William Henry Hughes, a prominent African American physician.

Imminent Danger

Historic Richmond proactively works with the City of Richmond to save historic buildings from demolition. We are currently focused on:

- 14 1/2 West Leigh Street (pictured) and
- 824 North 24th Street.

The City is seeking bids to stabilize these properties, with a goal of including them in future tax sales.

Maggie Walker Plaza

This controversial memorial plaza is planned for Brook Road, Broad and Adams Streets. Historic Richmond supports efforts to construct a memorial to the great Maggie L. Walker but, since this intersection is in the Broad Street Old & Historic District, we also advocated for the CAR's authority to review the design and for the design to respect the historic roadway of Brook Road.

REHABILITATION & REVITALIZATION



Historic Richmond considers the General Assembly Building (GAB) at the corner of Broad and 9th Streets to be one of the finest assemblages of 20th-century architecture in Richmond. On April 11, 2016, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the General Assembly and Gov. Terry McAuliffe had reached a deal to allow \$2.1 billion in new capital spending to proceed, including \$300 million for Capitol Square projects such as a replacement GAB, a new parking structure, and renovations to Old City Hall.

Jeff Satterthwaite Photography



Linden Row Inn

Linden Row (c. 1847-53) is an extraordinary example of Greek Revival row-houses, remarkable for its simple brick façade, classical porticoes, granite steps, iron fencing, front yards, and stone wall. With its unity of design and classical rhythm, it is not only unique in Richmond, but one of the finest examples in the country. As the holder of a historic preservation easement, Historic Richmond worked with The Linden Row Inn to approve modifications to a side entrance to allow outside access to their dining room to accommodate a new Urban Farmhouse restaurant in the space.



Old City Hall

Historic Richmond participated in an early stage update on the design/planning process for restoration work on Old City Hall. Many thanks to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of General Services and Quinn Evans Architects for considering the preservation needs of this historic structure. Funding for renovation work on Old City Hall is tied to the funding for the new GAB.

St. John's Mews

Historic Richmond has been working to implement the latest recommendations of The Garden Club of Virginia's Restoration Garden Committee, including installation of pine needles rather than mulch, fertilization with chicken manure, cutting of the ivy against the brick wall and renewing the pebbles along the garden paths. Please let us know what you think.



ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Our goal is to engage the community by serving as an informed, approachable and active community partner concerning Richmond's built environment. In recent months, we have engaged in educational outreach, leading the discussion of Richmond's historic architecture through lecture programs, panel discussions and the Historic Richmond Quoit Club.



Preservationist Joanne McDonald leads a tour during **Court End Christmas** on Sunday, December 13, 2015. With beautiful weather for the event, Historic Richmond welcomed a record number of visitors to Monumental and provided tours to over 300 people. Many thanks to The Valentine for managing this cooperative event among Court End historic sites.



In January, Executive Director Cyane Crump discussed **Historic Preservation** during The Valentine's Community Conversation Program "**ReRVA - Revitalizing, Recycling and Reimagining**" as a member of a panel of experts including Elizabeth Kostelny (Preservation Virginia) and Kim Chen (City of Richmond/Preservation Planner).



Ms. Kostelny and Ms. Chen listen while Cyane discusses some of the challenges and opportunities presented by the City's derelict buildings regulations, historic preservation tax credits, the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization.



The Junior Board is excited to be hosting a number of Young Professional Events in 2016. The first – "**Architecture 101 with Ed Slipek**" – was held at Patrick Henry's Pub on February 24. Take Ed's advice and "hug an architect!"



Young professionals listen attentively to Ed Slipek's explanation of the fundamental styles of architecture: Vernacular, Classical, Picturesque and Modern. Audience members then offered notable examples of each style found in Richmond for Ed's dissection.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION



Edwin Slipek, architectural historian and senior contributing editor at Style Weekly, delights the Council of Historic Richmond with a discussion of the life and times of noted architect W. Duncan Lee, a discussion enhanced by the charm of its setting – a Lee-designed room at the Tuckahoe Apartment Building. Ed is working with us on a manuscript about the life and times of Lee.



We had a capacity crowd for our February 25, 2016 panel discussion on **“The History and Development of the Shockoe Valley.”** Panelists Bryan Clark Green, David Dutton and Matthew Laird provided an interesting and engaging discussion of the complexities of the Shockoe Valley, its architecture, the diverse population of races that once called this area home, the role that Richmond played in the slave trade, the variety of commerce and the impact of transportation.



Shockoe Valley panel moderator Burt Pinnock fielded questions from the audience about not only the history of the Shockoe Valley, but also its future. After the program, one attendee commented: “The program was extremely interesting as was the question/discussion period that followed. I was particularly taken with the panel’s discussion of the future of the site and the need to have it be a part of the City’s life.” The podcast of the program is available on our website.



The March 2016 Quoit Club event featured a private tour of the Virginia Holocaust Museum. Here, Matt Simpson, Director of Guest Services at the Museum, shared with Quoit Club members the history of the restored “Climax” American Tobacco Company Warehouse (c.1899) and its adaptive reuse as a museum.



Historic Richmond’s Junior Board hosts **Quoit Club**, a monthly opportunity for Quoit Club members to meet and mingle, sharing cocktails and conversation, while enjoying a private tour. Here, Quoit Club members tour the Holocaust Museum’s exhibits, experiencing the personal stories of the Holocaust and its survivors. See our website for more information on Quoit Club.

IN MEMORIAM

Preservation is about people. Historic Richmond is saddened by the recent loss of two of the best. Our hearts are broken, but our spirits are lifted by the thought of Jim Whiting and Jack Zehmer (together with fellow HRF Hero Drew Carneal) hard at work up there preserving the best architecture they can find, starting with the wrought iron of those pearly gates.

John Granderson ("Jack") Zehmer (1942-2016)

by Calder Loth



The Commonwealth of Virginia and especially the City of Richmond lost one of its most eminent preservationists and architectural historians with the recent passing of Jack Zehmer. Although space here doesn't allow for a full compilation of his multiple accomplishments, it would be difficult to travel around the city or parts of the state without seeing Jack's imprint on our surroundings. His earliest involvement with Richmond was as a University of Virginia graduate student in early 1960s, when he and Allen Chambers were hired to survey the historic buildings to be cleared for the Coliseum development. This disheartening project instilled in him a keen awareness of the importance of preservation advocacy.

Although Jack was a Virginian to the core, he began his professional career in 1970 with the North Carolina Department of Archives and History where he set up the state's survey and landmark registration programs. He returned to Virginia in 1974 to become Richmond's first senior planner for historic preservation, in which capacity he served as secretary for the Commission of Architectural Review and the Monument Avenue Commission. Through his city post he set important precedents for the conscientious oversight of the city's historic districts.

In 1981, Jack was named director of the Valentine Museum where he initiated the interior restoration of the Wickham-Valentine House, a project brought about by his discovery of the existence of unique classical murals beneath many layers of paint. This restoration elevated the house to one of the nation's most significant Federal-era landmarks. Through Jack's direction, the Valentine sponsored lectures and exhibitions focusing on special aspects of Richmond's history and architecture.

Jack's greatest impact on the city came with his being selected as the second executive director of Historic Richmond Foundation, a position he held from 1984 until 1998. As a scholar, Jack recognized the power of publication for cultivating support for preservation issues. Through his efforts, the foundation published the following books to which Jack significantly contributed or served as author or co-author: *The Architecture of Downtown Richmond* by Robert Winthrop (1982), *Old Richmond Today* (1988), *Church Hill* (1991), and *The Church Hill Old & Historic Districts* (2011). He also published an architectural survey of Richmond's Broad Street, which led to the establishment of the Broad Street Old & Historic District. Finally, he contributed significantly to Drew Carneal's *Richmond's Fan District* (1996), a Historic Richmond Foundation publication.

Among Jack's other accomplishments while serving as HRF director were sponsoring the recording by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Virginia State Capitol, the Executive Mansion, and Monumental Church. This involved the production of many sheets of measured drawings and numerous documentary photographs, all now housed in the Library of Congress. Not to be forgotten, he took the bold step of having HRF purchase the National Theatre in order to rescue it for future use.

Jack served as chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council for the Executive Mansion during the Baliles administration, using his position to convince the Governor and Mrs. Baliles to undertake an exterior restoration of the mansion. Thus, balustrades, decorative panels, and historic colors were returned to the exterior, features all lost following the Civil War.

Jack determined to finish his career as an architectural historian. Thus, in 1999, he joined the staff of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, serving as director of the Capital Region Office, where he directed survey and historic designations in thirty counties. Following retirement in 2004, he continued to publish books on historic buildings.

Jack was my friend and colleague for more than fifty years. His knowledge and friendship enriched my life and that of many, many others.

IN MEMORIAM

Resolution In Memory Of James H. Whiting



WHEREAS, James H. Whiting was first recruited to join the Board of Trustees in 1975 by one of our founders – Elizabeth Scott Bocock – and for the next 35 years, Jim demonstrated his love for Historic Richmond through his continuous service on the Board of Trustees (from 1975 to 1999 and 2008 to 2011) and on the Board of Advisors (from 2000 to 2007), and

WHEREAS, James H. Whiting further demonstrated his leadership by serving as President of the Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1987, and

WHEREAS, James H. Whiting's record of service in preservation was recognized in 2009 through the presentation of the Katherine Glaize Rockwood Outstanding Preservationist Award by Preservation Virginia, and

WHEREAS, a mere recital of James H. Whiting's years of service cannot begin to capture his love for Historic Richmond, as evidenced by his commitment and volunteer efforts, and



WHEREAS, James H. Whiting's dedication to Historic Richmond and to the preservation of Richmond's architectural gems is reflected in the fact that, in 1989, he rolled up his sleeves and set to work for 15 years, to repair and brighten the historic National Theatre, reporting to work each day, hand painting walls, balconies, and seat boxes, refinishing the decorative plaster work, gilding and sealing the Adamesque ornamentation, and stripping and restoring the woodwork, and

WHEREAS, James H. Whiting was among the founding members of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, which was established by the General Assembly in 1999 to plan and review projects that affect the State Capitol, its historic artifacts, and the landscape and archaeological features of Capitol Square, and



WHEREAS, James H. Whiting served in two key leadership roles on the Council, first as Vice Chairman from 2000 to 2002 and then as Chairman from 2002 to 2004, with the first landscape master plan for Capitol Square completed during his Chairmanship in 2004 and the restoration planning for the \$104.5 million restoration and expansion of the Capitol initiated during Jim's service to the Commonwealth of Virginia as Chairman of the Council, and



WHEREAS, Historic Richmond will miss James H. Whiting, his positive attitude, his knowledge of real estate, his ever-present smile and his generosity with his time and talents, but recognizes that his expansive spirit lives on in the fully restored National Theatre (a project he would not allow to fail) and all of Historic Richmond's projects, such as Monumental Church, the Scott House, the Stewart-Lee House and the Patteson-Schutte House, that he painstakingly cared for over the years, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Historic Richmond Foundation mourn the passing of James H. Whiting while rejoicing in thankful remembrance of his vision for the future, his enormous impact on our city, and the happy memories of his leadership and friendship.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Historic Richmond Foundation is directed to spread on the records of the Foundation a copy of this Resolution and to forward copies of the same to his family.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees November 18, 2015.

Andrew K. Clark, President

Cyane B. Crump, Executive Director



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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27



Historic Garden Day
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
 James River Plantations
 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Cohosted by the Council of Historic
 Richmond and Garden Club of Virginia*
Tickets: <http://www.vagardenweek.org/>

April 30



2nd Annual Rehab Expo
Saturday, April 30, 2016
 Dovetail Construction
 1620 Brook Road
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: Free, please register by emailing
 us at info@historicrichmond.com

May 13



**Drawing on History:
 Infill Design Competition**
Friday, May 13, 2016

Submissions due by 5:00pm

For more information go to
historicrichmond.com.

Go to www.historicrichmond.com for a full schedule of our events.