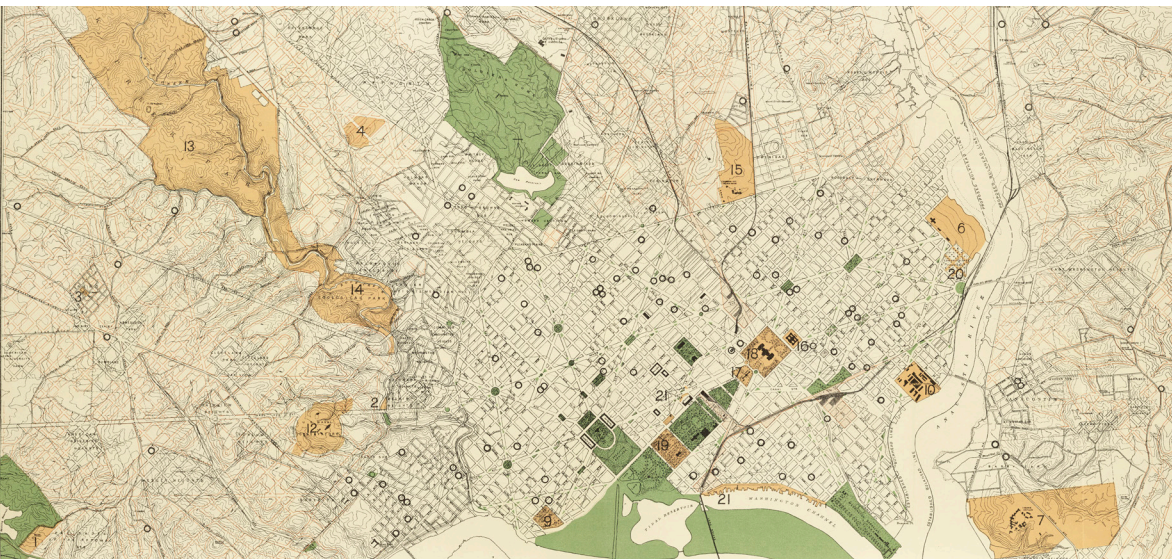




ANNUAL REPORT 2016





Professional development pilot program for D.C. history teachers | Photo by Anne McDonough

MISSION

The Historical Society of Washington D.C. is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, it serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications.

VISION

Washington is known throughout the world as a monumental federal city. Less well-known are the stories of Washington's many diverse and vibrant communities. The Historical Society makes this local history accessible to the public to promote a sense of identity, place, and pride in Washington and to preserve our heritage for future generations.

Front cover from top left - AmeriCorps and Reading Partners DC volunteers; Street Photography Photo Walk; collections rehousing; 2nd generation Washingtonian at Visionary Historian Award event (photo by Jason Hornick); newly digitized map from Kiplinger Collection; 3rd Grade Historians; Washington History Fall 2015. Unless otherwise noted, cover photos are by Anne McDonough.

Graphic design of this Annual Report by Katrina Ingraham

EDUCATION

Education is the core of our mission. We teach students from local elementary, middle and high schools, colleges, and teachers from public, private, and charter schools.

Major gifts supported educational initiatives

The Bloedorn Foundation generously supported FY16 educational school visits. The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C. celebrated its 150th anniversary with a \$25,000 gift to the Historical Society for developing 3rd and 12th grade initiatives, including portable “history cart” prototypes.



Two Rivers Public Charter School, 3rd Grade Historians



American University Public History student interns

Internships

Nine graduate-level interns from American University and The George Washington University received training through hands-on experience in collections management, reference services, and educational programming.

Student Research

Student groups explored history, culture, politics, and the visual landscape of the city at the Kiplinger Research Library. Participating schools and programs include: American University, Bridge DC, Boston University, Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan, Cornerstone Schools, The George Washington University, Investigating Where We Live, SEED Public Charter School, THATSummer, Two Rivers Public Charter School



Discover D.C. incoming freshmen orientation program

Photos by Anne McDonough

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Historical Society dramatically expanded programs and outreach in FY16, creating dynamic programs and enhancing existing activities.

Conferences, Dialogues & Lectures

Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation Lecture

at the National Archives with scholar Eric Foner

Annual Conference on D.C. History

at the National Archives and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

James M. Goode book talk

Capital Houses

DISTRICT: Chris Earnshaw art talk

with Dan Zak of the Washington Post and artists Earnshaw and Joseph Mills

Social and Political Changes in '60s and '70s Washington

with the Anacostia Community Museum

The Lavender Scare

a Conversation with David Johnson and Josh Howard at the Newseum

Patsy Fletcher book talk

Historically African American Leisure Destinations Around Washington, D.C.



Eric Foner | Photo by Anne McDonough

Events

Washington History author receptions

Making D.C. History Awards and Bootlegger's Ball

Spandorf Exhibit Curator Tea and Tour

Exhibition Openings: November 21, 2015; January 6, 2016; March 10, 2016; April 24, 2016

Tours

Historic Seneca and Montevideo members-only tour

Union Station walking tour

Southwest Waterfront walking tour

Window to Washington exhibit tours

Nationals Park behind-the-scenes tour

Street Photography Series neighborhood photo walks: Kenilworth and Buzzard Point

Historic Carnegie Library tours

Workshops

Street Photography Series: Insights into Architectural Photography and Hands-on Street Photography

Collections Workshops: Third Street Tunnel, Navy Yard, Southwest Waterfront, McMillan Sand Filtration Site, McMillan Plan, Archiving Digital Photography, D.C. in the '60s and '70s, Lily Spandorf, Slavery and Citizenship, House History Workshops

Community Partnerships

Institutions across the city's cultural spectrum broaden engagement and reach diverse audiences.

This year the following partners participated with us: The George Washington University Museum | The Textile Museum; National Archives; DC Public Library; D.C. Fire and EMS Museum; Anacostia Community Museum; National Building Museum; HumanitiesDC; Smithsonian Associates; Capital Pride Alliance; Newseum; Nellie's Sports Bar; Rainbow History Project; Nationals Park/Washington Nationals

LIBRARY & COLLECTIONS

Our collections document more than 200 years of city history and drive our exhibitions, programs, and publications.



Photo by Anne McDonough

Kiplinger Research Library Highlights

Historical Society librarians and collections specialists served more than 300 new library patrons and guided more than 500 returning researchers; filled 300+ scan-on-demand requests; responded to more than 2,000 reference queries; pulled more than 4,800 collection items requested by researchers; and hosted orientations for community groups.



Discover DC History

The Historical Society launched a new digital platform, Discover DC History (accessible via www.DCHistory.org), an online resource highlighting more than 900 items from collections digitized in FY16. Support for the underlying digitization

was provided by a grant from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region in FY15. This new platform complements the more than 110,000 records already available for researchers from our online research catalog.

New Collections

The Kiplinger Research Library accessioned more than 40 collections and donations, including manuscripts, maps, business records, and photographs from individuals as well as organizations including the Washington Home & Community Hospices and The Washington Post.



Stereograph of Oak Hill Cemetery from the Wayne Hill Stereograph Collection, SP 0129



Enhancing Research

Staff and volunteers created or updated catalog records for more than 15,000 items and finding aids for more than fifty manuscript collections.

Public Access

Access to collections was enhanced in collaboration with The George Washington University, DC Public Library, DC Archives, Howard University, and the Smithsonian Archives Center on the D.C. Africana Archives Project (DCAAP), and with the DC Public Library through a Library of Congress-funded National Digital Stewardship Resident (NDSR) fellowship.



Archiving Digital Photography Workshop with NDSR Fellow Jaime Mears

Photos by Anne McDonough

EXHIBITIONS

We continue to curate exhibitions that focus on new ways to explore D.C. history. This year D.C. artists and photographers, both bygone and contemporary, interpreted our city through art.

EAST GALLERY



Photo by Jason Hornick

ReVision: Thinking Big
September - December 2015



Photo by Anne McDonough

DISTRICT: Chris Earnshaw
January - February 2016



Photo by Kristen Finn

**ExposedDC 10th Anniversary
Photography Show**
Independent exhibition
March 2016



Photo by Jason Hornick

For the Record: Changing DC
April - July 2016

SMALL-ALPER FAMILY GALLERY



Photo by Anne McDonough

**Window to Washington: The Kiplinger
Collection**
November 2012 - Present



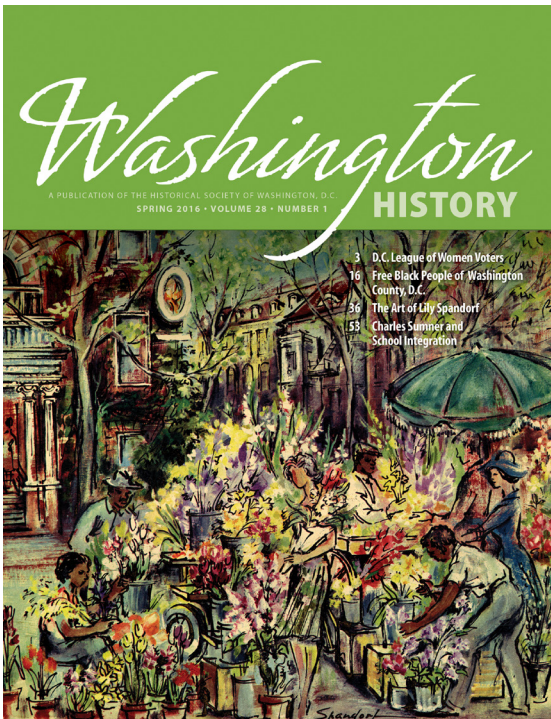
Photo by Anne McDonough

For the Record: The Art of Lily Spandorf
Co-curated
November 2015 - July 2016

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MUSEUM | THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

PUBLICATIONS & OUTREACH

Online resources and social media exponentially expanded educational opportunities.



Washington History

Two issues of our award-winning journal were published and shipped to members and subscribers, continuing our tradition of producing the only journal dedicated to new research on local D.C. history. *Washington History* is available online, through the digital repository JSTOR and Amazon.com, as well as through local retailers.

History Headlines

The monthly electronic newsletter delivers updates on recent activities and news. Readership has grown from 9,825 on October 1, 2015, to more than 12,700 subscribers by September 30, 2016.

DCHistory.org

This fiscal year, our blog-based website reached an all-time peak of 16,289 visitors with between 350-525 visits per day.

Social Media @dchistory

Facebook: "Likes" increased by 77%

Twitter: approx. 5,200 followers

Instagram: (started account in

October 2015) approx. 600 followers

Youtube: new videos of

FY16 programs

Media Coverage

The Washington Post highlighted the Historical Society in numerous columns and articles, including Dan Zak's four-page feature on a local photographer and his solo photography debut, DISTRICT: Chris Earnshaw ("The Polaroids of the Cowboy Poet," January 2016). Additional media coverage of the Historical Society's library services, programs, exhibits, and events included outlets such as *Vanity Fair*, *Washingtonian Magazine*, *The Intowner*, WAMU 88.5, DCist.com, and Greater Greater Washington.

Membership

FY16 saw a 15% increase in members. Digital and social media channels have increased visibility among younger audiences, with the 25-45 year old age group most responsive to our presence on Facebook and Twitter.

The North American Reciprocal Membership benefit offers free admission to more than 800 cultural repositories around the continent, an increasingly popular incentive for members at the "Membership Plus" level of \$100.

Funding from the Graham Fund supported the purchase of 15 new computers and software, as well as an upgrade to Neon CRM, the membership and donor database software that provides a more robust interface with our members through a cloud-based system.

FY16 DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Donors at all levels are essential to the continuation of our mission. We give particular thanks to donors who gave **\$2,500 and above** during FY16, including:

Arcana Foundation
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Cardinal Bank
Clyde's Restaurant Group
CoStar Group
Russell Dawson
DC By Foot, Inc.
DC Preservation League
Digital Conventions, LLC (in-kind)
District of Columbia Office of Planning
Downtown DC BID
EHT Traceries, Inc.
Exposed DC
EventsDC
Glenmede
Newman T. Halvorson
James Scott and Sally Foss Hill Foundation
John K. Hoskinson
HumanitiesDC
Ann and Knight Kiplinger Family Foundation
Kiplinger Foundation
Julie and Jack Koczela
MARPAT Foundation
Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation
Museum of the Bible
Newseum
OmniStudio, Inc. (in-kind)
Ourisman Automotive
Pepco Holdings, An Exelon Company
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Wagner Roofing Co.
Washington Walks
Joseph W. White
Helena Wright

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Affiliations provided for identification
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Karen Harris, Events and Publications
Laura Barry, Social Media Coordinator
Chris Myers Asch, Editor, Washington History
Jane Freundel Levey, Managing Editor, Washington History

Special thanks to Kavitha Kasargod who served as coordinator of K-12 Education through May 2016.