







2017 ANNUAL REPORT







FISCAL YEAR 2017 | OCTOBER 1, 2016 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2017



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, exhibits, 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.



LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

This past year has been quite an unusual one for the Historical Society. While we hosted two exhibits, welcomed thousands of researchers and students to our library, published two issues of *Washington History*, and gave tours of the Carnegie Library to hundreds of curious history buffs, we also welcomed the Washingtoniana Collection of the DC Public Library to provide services to the public while the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library is renovated. Amid all this change, we even negotiated an agreement with Events DC and Apple—the largest company in the world—to restore our home, the Carnegie Library on Mt. Vernon Square. We consider the Carnegie Library to be one of the most important pieces in our care, so its restoration and preservation are critical. The best news is that updated systems and controls are being installed to ensure the preservation of our collections. And we will have three new exhibit spaces, a refreshed Kiplinger Research Library, and streamlined offices.

In August 2017 the Historical Society vacated the Carnegie Library so that the restoration could begin. We reestablished services of the Kiplinger Research Library at the Newseum in October. We are extremely grateful to the Newseum's leadership for welcoming the Historical Society as well as the DC Public Library's Washingtoniana Collection during the restoration. Likewise, we thank our many community partners, notably the George Washington University Museum and the National Building Museum, both of which have hosted exhibits during our transformation.

The restoration of the Carnegie Library, home to the Historical Society until 2098, is on track to be complete in late 2018. Plans are still in the works, but we can safely predict that when the Carnegie Library reopens, you will marvel at the new Kiplinger Research Library, the flexible exhibit galleries, and the dedicated D.C. history bookstore! Your support for the mission of the Historical Society and your active involvement make it possible for the Historical Society to continue to tell *your* stories.



JOHN T. SUAU Executive Director Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



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JULIE B. KOCZELA Chair Historical Society Board of Trustees

ON THE MOVE



DISTRICT II exhibit on display at the National Building Museum.

The Adaptable Historical Society

Twice in one year, the Historical Society moved collections and staff. Services and operations continued with brief interruptions.

In September 2016 the need to correct environmental conditions in the Carnegie Library interrupted library and research services. Staff relocated to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center until January 2017, when library and research services resumed.

DISTRICT II, scheduled to open in the Carnegie Library in September 2016, needed a new home. The National Building Museum stepped in to host our exhibit, building upon a strong existing partnership.



Exterior of the historic Carnegie Library building, June 2017.

Moving out of the Carnegie Library

In August 2017 the Apple deal was signed. The exciting restoration of the building to house the Historical Society and the Apple store required the relocation of all collections and operations. The Newseum offered interim space to accommodate reference service and staff.

Beginning in July 2017 staff and volunteers conducted inventory of holdings to determine which collections would move to interim storage which would move to the Newseum.

The staff and partial holdings of the Washingtoniana Collection of the DC Public Library also moved to the Newseum. Washingtoniana has shared space with the Historical Society since May 2017, when the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library closed for its own renovation.

In September the Historical Society opened in the Newseum.

The Historical Society is grateful to our intrepid 2017 summer interns and all of the volunteers who facilitated the move to the Newseum.

> Photos of the move preparations by Judy Hubbard, Katrina Ingraham, Anne McDonough, and Jessica Smith.













EDUCATION

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

On-going Support for Educators

The Historical Society's Third Grade Historian activity moved out of the library and into the classroom when the Cleveland Park Historical Society sponsored visits by Historical Society staff to John Eaton Elementary School. The partnership of the Historical Society, a neighborhood association, and a school is a model for future student experiences. A significant FY16 gift from the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants continues to underpin third- and twelfth-grade educational initiatives.

> John Eaton Elementary School, Third Grade Historians



Student Research

University students explored history, culture, politics, and the visual landscape of the city at the Kiplinger Research Library in spring 2017. Students also received instruction in collections handling. Groups came from American University, Catholic University, George Washington University, and Western Kentucky University.

> Western Kentucky University undergraduate student explores a real estate atlas in the Kiplinger Research Library.



Internships

Summer interns Caitlyn Kennedy (Georgetown University), Avital Smotrich-Barr (Yale University), and Ben Durren (Eastern Mennonite University) gained skills helping inventory collections, conducting condition reporting, and preparing collections for the move from the Carnegie Library to the Historical Society's interim home in the Newseum. Their assistance was invaluable.

From left: Ben Durren, Research Services Librarian Jessica Smith, Avital Smotrich-Barr, and Caitlyn Kennedy.



LIBRARY AND COLLECTIONS

The **collections** document more than 200 years of city history and drive exhibits, programs, and publications.



Moving and Caring for Collections

Objects and framed works were moved to off-site storage, but all manuscript collections, maps, photographs, ephemera, and a selection of books came to the temporary Kiplinger Research Library at the Newseum. Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers, progress was made on reducing the number of unprocessed collections. Researchers now have access to 19 additional manuscript collections.

> Volunteer Dave Wood inventories the map case in the a collections area in the Carnegie Library building, summer 2017.

Kiplinger Research Library

The staff and volunteers provided consistent library services, responding to **1,701 in-person and remote reference queries** from new and returning patrons. They also processed **661 scan-on-demand requests** and pulled **4,856 collection items** for researchers.

First day of joint library services with the DC Public Library in the interim reading room at the Newseum.





View to northwest over Thomas Circle to the National City Christian Church, c. 1940 (PC CI .Thom16)

D.C. History on View

Galleries across the city continued to borrow original objects and exhibition reproductions from the extensive collections. The Historical Society participated in:

- Your Next President . . . ! The Campaign Art of Mark and Rosalind Shenkman at the George Washington University Museum | The Textile Museum (2016 -2017)
- Architecture of an Asylum: St. Elizabeths 1852-2017, at the National Building Museum (2017 - 2018)
- Wish You Were Here! Vintage Postcards from Washington, D.C., at AIA|DC (2017)
- *Undesign the Redline,* at the PEPCO Edison Place Gallery (2017)
- Patriarch of Brewers: the Enduring Reputation of Christian Heurich, at the Heurich House Museum (2017)

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

With two interruptions to our mission, the Historical Society delivered **programs and events** from January to August 2017.



Dr. Frank Smith



Kathryn Smith (left) with Lou and Di Stovall



Professor Adam Rothman

Events

Fifth Annual **Making D.C. History Awards**, October 7, 2016, recognized the enduring contributions of Mayor Anthony Williams, the Association of Oldest Inhabitants, *Washingtonian*, McGuire Family, and Meyer Foundation.

Annual Members Meeting, January 28, 2017

Fourth Annual **Visionary Historian Award and Anniversary Celebration**, May 10, 2017, honored Dr. Frank Smith.

Sixth Annual **Making D.C. History Awards**, September 28, 2017, recognized José Andrés, Douglas Development Corporation, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Ruppert Family, and Di and Lou Stovall

Two Washington History author receptions

Conferences, Panels and Lectures

Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture at the National Archives with Adam Rothman, Professor of History at Georgetown University

43rd Annual D.C. History Conference hosted at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Documenting Downtown D.C. with photographers Chris Earnshaw, Phil Portlock, Bill Lebovich, and Joseph Mills at the National Building Museum

F Street, the Place on the Ridge, film by Phil Portlock, at the National Building Museum

Wymer's D.C. Hackathon, adding data to the Wymer's D.C. website



Tours

Historic Carnegie Library building tours

Historic Seneca Maryland members-only tour

DISTRICT II walking tours: Billy Luck's Downtown, Billy Luck's Mt. Vernon Square

D.C. Fire and EMS Museum guided tour

African American Civil War Museum guided tour

Bridges of Washington by Boat with the DC Preservation League

Street Photography Series neighborhood tours

Public Programs and Outreach Coordinator Izetta Autumn Mobley leads a Carnegie Library building tour.



Patricia Tyson, Hulit P. Taylor, and R. Barbara Johnson at the 2016 Making D.C. History Awards.



Participants in the Street Photography Series toured the Congress Heights neighborhood. Some also received coaching on how to document streetscapes.



Workshops

Archiving Digital Photography

Preserving the Records of D.C.'s LGBT Communities

Joy of Method: Research to Writing

Landscapes, Love, and Memory: How Authors Use Place

Library Orientation

Researchers explore a Baist plat map during a Library Orientation workshop.

EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS

SMALL-ALPER FAMILY GALLERY



Library and Collections Director Anne McDonough leads final tour.

Window to Washington: The Kiplinger Collection November 2012 - January 2017

In January the public came to the final tour of *Window to Washington: The Kiplinger Collection*. Thousands viewed the exhibit on the evolution of D.C.'s built environment since it opened in 2012.

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM



Chris Earnshaw discusses his work at the exhibit opening.

DISTRICT II

November 2016 - February 2017

More than 7,000 viewers visited *DISTRICT II*, a look at downtown D.C. in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s throught the works of fine art photographers Chris Earnshaw, Joseph Mills, and Bill Barrett. The National Building Museum hosted the exhibit.



Washington History

Publication of the only journal dedicated to new research on local D.C. history continued with two new issues. *Washington History* is available online, through the digital repository JSTOR and Amazon.com, as well as from area retailers.

JSTOR

JSTOR, short for Journal Storage, is an online library that contains digitized issues of academic journals, books, and primary sources, including *Washington History*. Members receive access to back issues of the magazine through JSTOR, and university libraries offer access to their communities. This fiscal year **13,240** *Washington History* articles were downloaded by researchers worldwide.

History Headlines

The monthly electronic newsletter delivers updates on recent activities and news. Readership has grown from **12,898** in October 2016 to nearly **14,000** subscribers by September 2017.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND OUTREACH

Media Coverage

The Carnegie Library renovation and the Historical Society's library services, programs, exhibits, and events were covered by *the Washington Post, the New York Times, Washington Business Journal, Washingtonian* Magazine, *the Intowner, Washington City Paper*, NBC Channel 4, WAMU 88.5, DCist.com, and Greater Greater Washington.



Social Media @dchistory

Instagram: 1,334 followers (91% increase from FY2016)

Facebook: 7,501 "Likes" (13% growth from FY2016) **Twitter:** 6,136 followers (13% more than FY2016)



Community Partnerships

The Historical Society is grateful to all of our partners in history: African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, Anacostia Community Museum, Capital Pride Alliance, DC Public Library, DC Preservation League, D.C. Fire and EMS Museum, George Washington University Museum | The Textile Museum, HumanitiesDC, Khepera Wellness, National Archives Foundation, National Building Museum, Newseum, Rainbow History Project, and Smithsonian Associates.

Oral historian Benji de la Pledra, left, speaks with a library patron about the D.C. Oral History Collaborative. This project began in 2016 and is a partnership with HumanitiesDC, under a contract with the DC Public Library.

DONOR ROLL OF HONOR

ORGANIZATIONS

888 Realty Investors American University Antunovich Associates Arent Fox, LLP The Aspen Institute Association of the Oldest Inhabitants DC Beaty Family Fund Beyer Blinder Belle **BNY Mellon Wealth** Management Bonstra | Haresign Architects Bridge Street Books Clyde's Restaurant Group The Counsellors CoStar Group DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Digital Conventions, LLC District of Columbia Office of Planning Douglas Development Corporation Downtown DC BID EHT Traceries Inc. Estate of Wade H. Cooper Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation EventsDC Goldblatt Martin Pozen, LLP Greater Washington Community Foundation Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, D.C. **HumanitiesDC**

James Scott and Sally Foss Hill Foundation Jane Henson Foundation The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Kiplinger Foundation The Levy Group Limited Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP MARPAT Foundation McCaffery Interests, Inc. McGuire Funeral Service. Inc. MDB Communications Merrill Family Foundation, Inc. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP Museum of the Bible Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation Newseum The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church Perseus Realty, LLC PNC Bank Robert N. Alfandre Foundation Ruppert Real Estate, Inc. Venable, LLP Washington Print Club

INDIVIDUALS

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Upgrade in Technology

Thanks to a successful GoFundMe campaign and a significant contribution from a generous member, the Historical Society was able to replace its 15-year old server and install firewall protections and strong Wi-Fi.

David Friedman Debra and Peter Friedmann Matthew Frumin Lenora R. Fuller-McCall Mark Furstenberg Stephanie Garfinkle Jennifer Gelman Greg German Anthony Gittens Kate Glantz Daniel T. Goggin Mary Goldwag Stephen H. Grant Donna Greenfield Linda Greensfelder William H. Greer Katharine B. Gresham Mark G. Griffin Richard F. Grimmett Jane P. Guiliano Ann Haas Frona Hall Newman T. Halvorson Paula Hansen David Haresign Sandra Harrelson John A. Herron William J. Herron Wayne K. Hill Joseph and Marie Hinchliffe Frederick S. Hird Alison K. Hoagland Christine Rose Hobbs Julius W. Hobson David Hochman Melinda K. Holmes Parma Tuten Holt John K. Hoskinson Lauren Howard Virginia H. Howard Judy Hubbard John Huennekens Charles Hunter John F. Jameson Franz Jantzen Myles M. Johnson Cliftine Jones Edna R. Jones Caroline H. Joss Todd Katz Greg Kenefick Dale Burchard Kenney Ann Kessler Eileen Kessler Thomas Kester Richard W. Kidwell Zach Klitzman Julie B. and Jack Koczela William W. Kummings Stuart Land Isabel A. Langsdorf

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*Deceased



As Treasurer for the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., I am pleased to report very good financial progress for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. Although the year ended with a decrease in net assets of about \$57,000 the overall financial future for the Historical Society looks very positive.

The agreement reached with Events DC and Apple in August 2017 created in a number of significant changes to the assets held by the Historical Society. The most significant change—the demolition of capital improvements realized by the Historical Society in 2001—resulted in a write-off of \$1,637,486. However, with our new build-out and updates to our space, the net assets will increase by October 2018 (fiscal year 2019). Apple estimates that the value of the restored spaces for the Historical Society will be approximately \$2,500,000.

Further, the changes necessitated reallocation of expenses from programmatic to administrative support for the relocation and rental of space for offices, programs, and exhibits during construction. When the restoration project began, public programs were interrupted to facilitate the relocation of operations to the Newseum. All the moving costs, fit-out, and rental of spaces in the Newseum came as in-kind donations from Apple. During the year ended September 30, 2017, the Historical Society recognized net revenue on the relocation costs from Apple totaling \$78,526, which includes incentives on events and reimbursement of employees' time.

The Historical Society also received contributed services and materials in the form of legal, rent, donated equipment, and relocation costs. The value of the donated services are recorded at their fair value. Contributed services and materials for the year ended September 30, 2017 totaled \$594,129, of which \$103,001 was donated from Apple and was capitalized as an asset for new storage equipment.

As you can see, this was an extraordinary year for the Historical Society, and the Apple partnership provided unprecedented corporate support for the administration of the move to temporary space while providing a platform for the future of the organization. The leadership believes the following will aid in the organization's continued growth for the future:

(1) Increased rent from Events DC providing almost 20% of the \$1,000,000 budget(2) Civic support is close to 25% of the budget

(3) The Apple partnership benefits are significant with more than 1,000,000 customers annually.

We anticipate a dramatic increase in visibility in the community, which is already resulting in increased funding support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the District of Columbia government. The future is bright for the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

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JOSEPH D. SVATOS Treasurer Historical Society Board of Trustees

Total Assets Total Current Assets Furniture, Equipment, Exhibits, and Improvements Noncurrent Assets Total Assets	2017 \$ 482, 444 \$ 636,609 \$ 4,450,840 \$ 5,569,893	2016 \$ 279,131 \$ 2,265,145 \$ 4,110,949 \$ 6,655,225
Liabilities and Net Assets Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred revenue Note payable Accrued employee benefits Deferred income Long-term liabilities Net (deficit) assets Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2017 \$ 33,145 \$ 182,612 \$ 312,500 \$ 22,659 \$ 5,626,759 (\$ 56,863) \$ 5,569,893	2016 \$ 61,597 \$ 128,750 \$ 56,200 \$ 16,000 \$ 18,325 \$ 5,528,504 \$ 1,126,721 \$ 6,655,225
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year Ended September 30, 2017		
Revenue and Support Grants and contributions Rent payments Events and exhibit revenue Membership dues Contributed services and materials Library services Program income Journal revenue Miscellaneous Total revenue and support	2017 \$ 519,739 \$ 132,917 \$ 120,377 \$ 54,570 \$ 594,129 \$ 12,226 \$ 39,984 \$ 11,204 \$ 1,180 \$ 1,486,326	2016 \$ 417,151 \$ 128,750 \$ 103,394 \$ 73,648 \$ 26,496 \$ 8,676 \$ 4,676 \$ 4,676 \$ 11,870 \$ 5,496 \$ 780,157
Expenses Program services Supporting Services Management and general Fundraising Total supporting services Total expenses Change in net assets before other items	\$ 316,714 \$ 920,826 \$ 185,910 \$ 1,106,736 \$ 1,432,450 \$ 62,876	\$ 424,598 \$ 295,840 \$ 184,581 \$ 480,421 \$ 905,019 (\$ 124,862)
Other items Payment of debt by 3rd party Net relocation costs Loss on disposal of assets Settlement of litigation Change in net (deficit) assets Net assets at beginning of year Net (deficit) assets at end of year	\$ 312,500 \$ 78,526 \$ 1,637,486 - (\$ 1,183,584) \$ 1,126,721 (\$ 56,862)	- \$ 20,000 (\$ 104,862) \$ 1,231,583 \$ 1,126,721



Executive Committee

Julie B. Koczela, Chair Scott Williams, Vice Chair Judy Hubbard, Secretary Joe Svatoes, Treasurer Eileen Andary Edward J. Phillips

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*As of September 30, 2017



Board members Helena Wright, Eileen Kessler, and Cary Hatch at the 2017 Visionary Historian Award and 123rd Anniversary.



Executive Director John Suau presents Chair Julie Koczela with an award for Outstanding Board Service at the 2017 Making D.C. History Awards.

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF



Volunteer Eda Offutt researches for a blog post.



From left: Derek Gray, Michelle Casto, Lauren Martino, Lauren Algee, Meris Westberg, and Dave Wood at the 2017 Making D.C. History Awards.



Volunteer Elizabeth Ratigan assists collection donor Rosa Hodges.



Library and Collections Director Anne McDonough presents panelists at the Documenting Downtown D.C. event at the National Building Museum.

Volunteers*

More than 25 years of service Eda Offutt

11-20 years of service

Marianne Gill

6-10 years of service

Ann Kessler Elizabeth Ratigan Anne Rollins Dave Wood

1-5 years of service

Lauren Algee Michelle Casto Anne Dobberteen Derek Gray Bill Kummings Katelyn Manfre Lauren Martino John Olinger Beth Purcell Thomas Smith Meris Westberg

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Rendering of the renovated Carnegie Library provided by Apple

COMING DECEMBER 2018

In August 2016 the Historical Society Board of Trustees agreed to share the Carnegie Library with Apple. The restored Carnegie Library will house the Historical Society above a new Apple Global Flagship Store, located on the first floor. The Historical Society's new footprint includes state-of-the-art storage facilities, a renovated Kiplinger Research Library, and two new galleries with public program space on the second floor.

Apple will restore the building's 1903 exterior and renovate the interior. In addition to providing the Historical Society's valuable collections with a museum-quality environment, the restoration will also enable expanded access and extended hours for students, professional researchers, scholars, and the general public to engage with the library and galleries.

The Apple Global Flagship Store is one of about 20 planned worldwide. In addition to selling Apple products, these stores offer job training, educational programs for youth, and entertainment, enrichment, and a cultural destination for area residents.

The Carnegie Library opened in 1903 as one of the city's few fully integrated public spaces. It served as the Central Public Library until 1972, when it was replaced with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. With the new arrangement, Apple and the Historical Society will be the sole tenants of the Carnegie Library. Foster + Partners (London) is designing the restoration.

Front cover from top left: George Washington University students try a "History Mystery" activity; Research Services Librarian Jessica Smith assists John Eaton Elementary School third graders; Mayor Anthony Williams accepts his 2016 Making D.C. History Award (photo by Jason Hornick); Kelsey Johnston and Anne Dobberteen, contributers to the spring 2017 *Washington History*; NBC4 reporter Mark Segraves interviews *DISTRICT II* photographer Chris Earnshaw; DC Oral History Collaborative volunteers pose with oral historian Benji de la Piedra (photo by Anna Kaplan); participants check a map during a Library Orientation Workshop. Except where noted, photos by Anne McDonough.