2020 ANNUAL REPORT The New Haven Preservation Trust

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Preservation draws from the past and looks to the future, but it operates in the present. It was an exhilarating ride to see what the New Haven Preservation Trust, a small, volunteer-dependent organization with a single full-time staff member, could achieve in the year of COVID-19.

The year 2020 got off to a resounding start. Highlights of the early months included a stimulating members-only tour of Eero Saarinen's David S. Ingalls Rink, the "Yale Whale", led by Saarinen scholar Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen and architect Wesley Kavanagh. In the wake of the painful demolition of the Art Moderne bank building at 80 Elm Street, the Trust hosted a talk, accompanied by pizza, at BAR, entitled "Why Modern Architecture Doesn't Matter". Preservation project manager Mike Stallmeyer and the Trust's own Director of Preservation Services, Elizabeth Holt, together demonstrated what preservation professionals are doing on behalf of Modernist structures, which are frequently fine candidates for adaptive reuse.

Then the "normal" of the first ten weeks of 2020 became the "new normal" of an unoccupied office, working from home, meetings on Zoom, and fears for the Trust's financial health.

The Trust's work continued. Over the months that followed, supported by the Preservation Committee, Holt still provided advice to property owners, worked with applicants to the Historic District Commission, explained Historic Tax Credits, liaised with the City on a possible preservation ordinance, researched requests for date plaques, and oversaw grants from the Trust's Historic Structures Fund.

One major project was concluded: the Pinto House at 275 Orange Street will remain on the National Register of Historic Places. Some projects rolled on, in particular efforts to find solutions for properties at risk, including the Pierce N. Welche House of 1879 at 131 Sherman Avenue; buildings from the late nineteenth century that are part of the former church, now school at 208 Columbus Avenue; and the Robinson House of c.1810 at 601 Chapel Street. And new projects were launched: interventions on behalf of the deteriorating Bigelow Boiler Company factory, a contributing structure for the River Street Historic District; discussions about

noteworthy but contaminated undeveloped structures from the Winchester Repeating Arms factory; support for the listing of Marcel Bauer's Pirelli Building on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Trust marked with sadness the death of Doris "Deb" Townshend, a founder member of the Trust and exemplary advocate of New Haven's history and architecture. Many organizations rallied to commit to finding a future for Raynham, her remarkable Gothic-Revival house on Townsend Avenue, a home Deb Townshend so treasured.

The Trust adapted to a virtual life, seizing the opportunity to implement pending online projects and rethink how it reaches its audiences. Holt developed self-guided tours, of Beaver Hills and Autumn Street (as part of the Jane's Walk venture) and of Modernist buildings of the 1970s (as part of DOCOMOMO tour day). Style guides were added to the Trust's website. Quarantine was the time to initiate a longstanding plan to digitalize photographs of some 5,000 New Haven structures that were taken between 1979 and 1983 to accompany the Historic Resources Inventory. Hours of scanning and cataloguing have generated a unique resource (going live throughout 2021) for property owners, history lovers, and former and current residents of New Haven.

While we regretted the loss of each opportunity to be together in person, webinars were an opportunity to bring together speakers and substantial audiences, near and far, with a shared fascination for the buildings and streetscapes of New Haven. From Storrs, Connecticut, Bruce Clouette explored "New Haven Stations, Past and Present", and from

Minneapolis, Minnesota, Tom Fisher presented on "Cass Gilbert and *The Plan for New Haven*".

On October 29, the Trust held its "Celebration of Preservation" online, an extravaganza of Annual Awards, Annual Meeting, and an illustrated talk by Elizabeth Holt. Awards were presented to The Graduate, 1151 Chapel Street (Merit Plaque), The Washington, 39 Church Street (Landmark Plaque), and Robert and Susan Frew (Margaret Flint Award).

Holt's provocative talk, entitled "The Changing Face of Historic Preservation", threw down the gauntlet for future preservation efforts. Preservation, she noted, must respond to contemporary concerns, including environmental threats and racial inequality. Insularity will herald irrelevance, even do harm. Her words were particularly apposite as the Trust continues to grapple with how it must center diversity, inclusion and equality in its mission and its structures.

The remarkable conditions of 2020 reminded the Trust that while preservation seeks to shape the lived experience of communities, it is nothing without the support of its own community. The Trust thrived because so many people — staff, volunteers, and members; donors and sponsors; homeowners and property users; developers and city planners; architects and builders; students and award recipients - were ready to invest, each in their own way, in honoring the past in the present. I am so grateful to everyone who was there for the Preservation Trust in 2020.

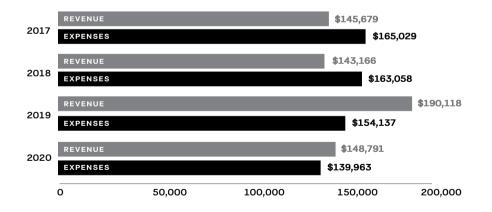
Rona Johnston

FINANCIAL SUMMARY Pending Audit

Statement for 2018, 2019, and 2020 (Unrestricted Funds)

	2018	2019	2020
INCOME			
Membership	\$17,250	\$16,717	\$12,671
Fees-for-Service	\$5,403	\$11,720	\$3,380
Grants	\$67,500	\$44,749	\$64,822
Events	\$6,874	\$15,917	\$18,518
Contributions	\$65,846	\$67,496	\$49,400
Total Income	\$143,166	\$190,118	\$148,791
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$55,397	\$47,984	\$43,703
Program	\$18,140	\$24,404	\$14,072
Personnel	\$89,521	\$81,749	\$82,188
Total Expenses	\$163,058	\$154,137	\$139,963
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$(19,892)	\$35,961	\$8,828
RESERVES, RESTRICTED FUNDS, ENDOWMENT	\$223,314	\$283,005	\$334,447

Historic Operating Revenue and Expense Comparison



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