



# CURRENTS

QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE OF HISTORIC COLUMBUS / FALL 2022





## DEAR HCF MEMBERS,

Hello everyone! It's been a little while since our last newsletter earlier this spring. I waited on purpose, because I wanted to have confirmation in hand that our City Council approved the transfer of the Heritage Park property to Historic Columbus. On Tuesday, August 23rd, the transfer was unanimously approved, and we can officially begin our next steps to making this project a reality.

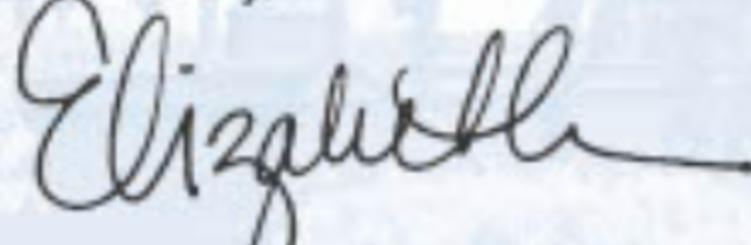
In the article included in this newsletter, you will read about our takeaways from the public meeting and survey that was conducted over the summer. This part of the process was vital to ensuring your confidence in this project and it gave Historic Columbus important information that will enable this project to be successful.

Because of your continued investment in preservation and your unwavering commitment to making our community a better place, this project is not only going to happen, but it will also be the largest single revitalization effort (\$2.5 M – \$3 M) in the history of the organization. Never has one project hit all the notes of our mission like this one – the **revitalization** of the historic Chattahoochee Promenade area, the expansion of **education** through the development of a new history trail, the **advocating** of preservation by returning the use of Heritage Park to single family, and the **preservation** and renovation of five historic structures. You will be seeing much more over the course of the next several months. Stay tuned!

I also hope you will be able to join us for *A Night in London*! This is Historic Columbus' major fundraiser, and it is going to be a night you won't want to miss. Chairman Tom Bowden, a great volunteer committee, and the talented Bob Vardaman are putting together an incredible night with high roller casino games and great food. It will be held on Friday, February 3rd at the Country Club of Columbus. This fun evening will benefit our preservation projects and education programs.

Through your "likes" on our social media, reading our weekly emails, your generous contributions, and renewing your memberships, YOU have made it possible for Historic Columbus to not only be standing but flourishing. If you have any questions or concerns, please email or call anytime (706-322-0756 or [elizabeth@historiccolumbus.com](mailto:elizabeth@historiccolumbus.com)). Thank you all again for everything you do for our community.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth B. Walden  
Executive Director



**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Historic Columbus Staff

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56th Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation

On the cover...

### Gertrude Pridgett "Ma" Rainey

This image and the story of Gertrude Pridgett "Ma" Rainey will be a part of Historic Columbus' second exhibit in partnership with the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. It will showcase our community's cultural arts history and icons like Ma Rainey. Our first exhibit, Lost Columbus, will remain on the second floor of RiverCenter until December. The second exhibit will be installed in January thanks to a grant from the Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance. Visit RiverCenter and celebrate Columbus history with us!





# HERITAGE PARK AND CHATTAHOOCHEE PROMENADE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Historic Columbus' overall concept is to revitalize the Chattahoochee Promenade and expand the history of our city told by moving the industrial history elements from Heritage Park to the Promenade along with creating a new history trail, return the Heritage Park property to its original residential use, and save five endangered historic structures for them to become single family homes once again.



Perspective Overview of the Heritage Park Property with the moved houses. Two are facing Front Avenue, one facing 7th Street, and two facing Broadway.

**W**e began speaking about the hope of this project with many of the original donors to Heritage Park, the Historic District Preservation Society, several individual homeowners, and with the City about a year ago. We made the first public presentation to City Council on June 14th. A public meeting was held on Monday, June 27th and we conducted a digital public survey over the course of several weeks to get input and reaction.

The Real Estate Agreement for the transfer of the Heritage Park property to HCF was unanimously approved by City Council on Tuesday, August 23rd. Once we close on the property, we will hit the ground running to begin the project. Our ultimate hope is to have the first house moved to the site at the end of the year.

This article provides the highlights from both the public meeting and survey, along with Historic Columbus' main takeaways for the project. Please note, the Promenade images are CONCEPTS and will be tweaked now that we have the results of the survey.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Meeting was held on Monday, June 27th at the City Annex Building. It began about 5:00PM and wrapped about 6:30 PM. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. The questions dealt with future maintenance and trash pick-up for the promenade; losing greenspace if the promenade wasn't going to be maintained; being careful of how tree removal is done; parking; how far the project would cover on the promenade; timeline of the project; and power lines.

As we did within our June presentation to City Council, we also addressed the larger known concerns at the public meeting – controlling the quality of the renovation work for the five houses and limiting their use to single family homes (restricting short term rentals).



The Chattahoochee Promenade is highlighted in red, and Heritage Park is in yellow.

## SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was available to fill out on our website for four weeks between Friday, June 17 and Friday, July 8. Historic Columbus also generated four social media posts over the course of that month and ran a reoccurring advertisement on social media asking for people to complete the survey. A total of 96 surveys were completed.

The survey asked questions such as: what are the aspects you like the most, the aspects you like the least, desired new activity for the Promenade, improvements you see needed, what history should be included in a new history trail, rating the current maintenance of the space, how you feel about the addition of a river view, and should the existing amenities be retained (like the gazebos).





**Broadway perspective looking North from 7th Street to 8th Street. The two houses in the rendering are the Bryan House and the Rawson House.**

Aspects liked the most: amphitheater and gazebos, open space, natural beauty, greenspace by the river, and the history told. Aspects liked the least: trash, lack of security, lawn cutting, weeds, overall maintenance, and a growing number of people living in the promenade. Desired Activities: gathering space, improved walkways, improved signage, and a place to enjoy nature.

There were seven out of the 96 that included statements of wanting Heritage Park to remain as is or in some smaller scale. We also received three emails from one homeowner with continued concerns of control over quality of renovations for the moved homes and restricting their use. There was one phone call received wanting to keep Heritage Park.

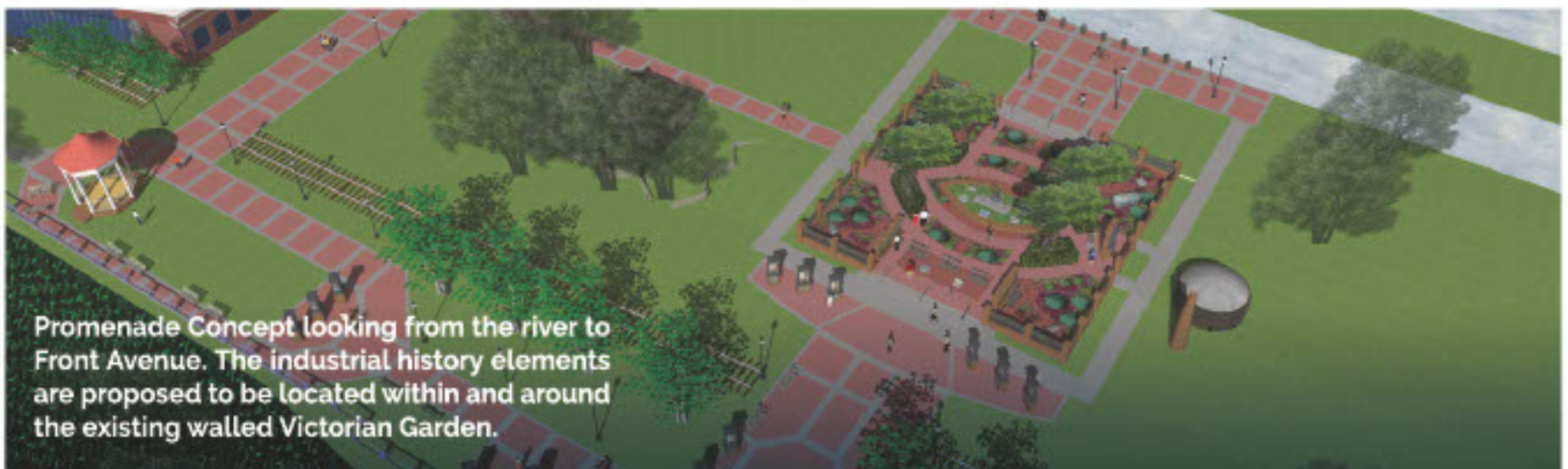
Historic Columbus' overall take-aways include ensuring a high quality

of work for renovation of the moved homes, including deed restrictions for the moved homes (to eliminate Airbnb as potential use), sharing all of our community's history within the new history trail, keeping the natural beauty of the Promenade and maintaining the open greenspace, the importance of future maintenance for the Promenade, keeping it walkable, and creating a river view is important.

From Historic Columbus' perspective – through the survey, comments on social media, and direct contact – there has not been an overwhelmingly large voice to keep Heritage Park as it is, but an overall desire for the proposed plan to be thoughtful, mindful of future maintenance, and to work. There will be a lot to share with you over the course of the next year as the project gets underway. Stay tuned!



**The five houses to be relocated to Heritage Park are the Rawson House (Lumpkin), the Moye House (Lumpkin), the Promenade House (Front Avenue), the Lummus House (Juniper), and the Bryan House (Lumpkin).**



**Promenade Concept looking from the river to Front Avenue. The industrial history elements are proposed to be located within and around the existing walled Victorian Garden.**



## NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

March 1, 2022 – August 15, 2022

To conserve publication costs, we are only printing new and renewal memberships made between March 1, 2022 and August 15, 2022. If you see an error or omission, please contact the office (706) 322-0756.

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 Mrs. James J. W. Biggers, Jr.  
 Mr. Christopher R. Harman  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. Chris Peebles  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Ramsay, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Sheftall

*Mrs. Reuben B. Kimbrough*  
 Mrs. Terrell W. Hill

*Col. (Ret.) Robert S. McGurk*  
 Ms. Marie J. Avant and Mr. Dan M. Snively  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Bickerstaff  
 Ms. Patricia Callaway  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Childs

Mr. and Mrs. Graham D. Fulton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Griffin  
 Mrs. Barbara G. Haneman  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Madden Hatcher, Jr.  
 Mrs. Jane D. Herndon  
 Mr. and Mrs. James K. Pound  
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Lowry Reid, Jr.  
 Mrs. Charlie Frank Riley  
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Stubbs  
 Mrs. Clifford J. Swift III  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Barrington Vaught  
 Ms. Nancy M. Waldrep

*Mr. Clifford J. Swift III*  
 Della Robbia Garden Club

*Ms. Liddy H. Wilson*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Graham D. Fulton

**CORRECTION** to the Donations List June 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022) under Memorials, Mrs. Louise Brooks Thomas. The following donors were not previously listed: Mrs. Max E. Burr, Ms. Mary Ann Eaddy, Ms. Lee Eaddy, and Mr. Sim Thomas.

## IN MEMORIAM

(March 1, 2022 – August 15, 2022)

**Dr. Champ L. Baker**  
 March 18, 2022

**Mr. Robert N. Kidd**  
 April 24, 2022

**Mr. W. Mizell Alexander**  
 May 6, 2022

**Mr. R. Wayne Andrews**  
 May 14, 2022

**Mr. Jerry D. Elmore**  
 May 31, 2022

**Mr. James C. Clark**  
 July 1, 2022

**Mrs. Alma S. Winn**  
 July 16, 2022

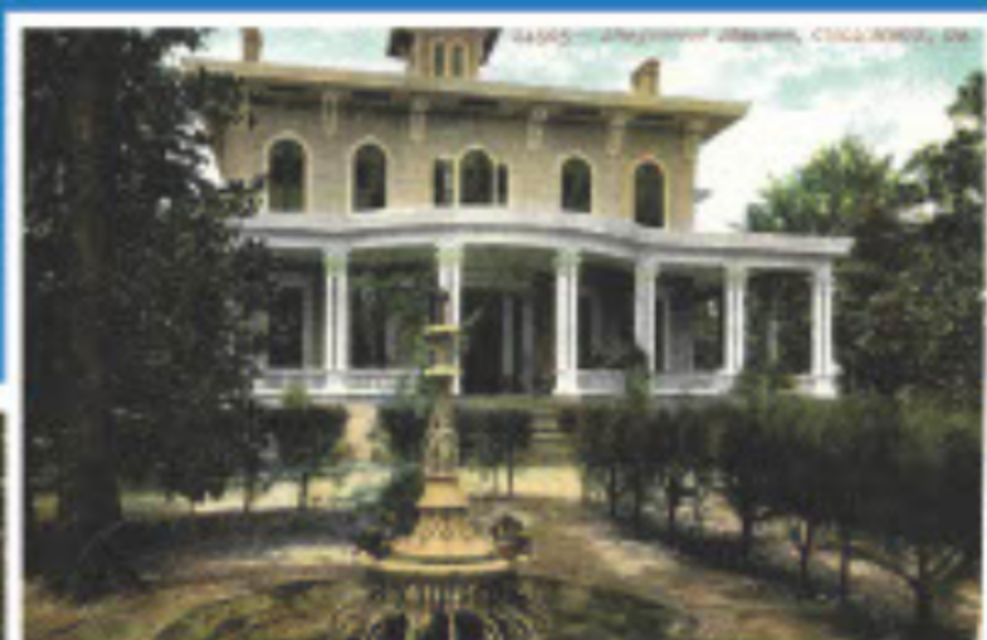
**Mr. William B. Hardegree**  
 July 18, 2022

**Dr. Mary W. Schley**  
 July 29, 2022

**Mr. Larry K. Stephens**  
 August 14, 2022

Historic Columbus extends its deepest sympathies to the families of our members. If a member was not included, please contact our office at 706-322-0756 and the correction will be made in the following newsletter.





## EXCERPTS FROM THE DINGLEWOOD HOME

*by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.*



**D**inglewood, located on Buena Vista Road at Wynnton Road, is one of the finest antebellum homes in Columbus. It was completed in 1859 for Joel Early Hurt (1821 – 1865) and his wife Frances Flournoy Hurt (1821 – 1899) and was perhaps the last great house built in Columbus before the Civil War began two years later.

It was designed in the more ornate Italianate style, making it distinct from the popular Greek Revival homes of the times with their clean lines and stately columns. It cost more than the First Baptist Church, completed around the same time.

The property/estate was 30 acres purchased in 1857 from John Woolfolk, local planter, and major land holder in what became Wynnton, as well as Fort Benning. The Hurts lived at the house with their only child, Julia (1842 – 1891), who was 17 – 18 when they moved into the house. No young children of any subsequent owner were to grow up in this house until a century later.

Joel Early Hurt died only a month after the end of the Civil War, age 45, on May 19, 1865, of cancer and was buried in Linwood Cemetery. He had lived in his new house barely six years.

After Mr. Hurt's death, the house was inherited by his wife and daughter. In 1868, Julia remarried in Columbus to Leonidas "Lee" A. Jordan (1828 – 1899) of Macon, 14 years her senior. Lee was said to be the wealthiest man in Georgia at that time. They had a long marriage but no children and lived in Macon and on his property near Albany, Georgia. On a visit to her mother, Julia died at Dinglewood in December 1891.

During her long widowhood, Mrs. Frances Hurt at some point invited one of her many nieces, Miss Frances Hurt Adams (1854 – 1940), to live with her at Dinglewood. When Mrs. Hurt died in 1899, although she left no will, Dinglewood, by then 20 acres, eventually went to her niece/companion.

By 1900 – 1901, Miss Adams was advertising in the Columbus newspaper – "First Class Board, large, cool rooms, with private baths if

desired." In a c.1905 brochure, she advertised renting rooms to regulars, as well as winter tourists, effectively becoming a boarding house. By 1905, Miss Adams, as sole owner, sold half her interest to her friend, Miss Annie G. Hinde (1868 – 1947), an Ohio native and non-relative, who family moved to Columbus in the 1870s. The two women lived there together for the next 35 years until Miss Adams death in 1940.

Starting in 1916, Miss Adams and Miss Hinde began selling off lots to individuals to form the Dinglewood subdivision. This process took several decades. At the death of Miss Adams in 1940, she willed her undivided half of the Dinglewood house to Miss Hinde. In 1946, Miss Hinde sold 14.5 acres to the City of Columbus for a city park, including where the Boy Scout hut stands today. At her death in 1947, leaving a will, her family sold the property to A.G. Wells (1890 – 1959), President of Wells Dairies Cooperative. The remaining acreage consisted of 3.95 acres.

In 1950, Mr. Wells sold the property to Lloyd G. Bowers (1912 – 1994), and his wife Effie Siegling, from Charleston, whom he had married in 1946. At this point, the house would have children to grow up their once again, as the Bowers eventually had six children. Mr. Bowers died in 1994 and Mrs. Bowers, age 100, in January 2022. The Lloyd Bowers family had long been associated with Dinglewood – Mr. Bowers ancestors served as pall bearers for both Frances and Julia Hurt.

Dinglewood was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 as an individual history property and was added as part of the Dinglewood Historic District in 2001. The district contains the original 30 acres from the estate, including the houses whose lots were sold from the estate and the city park.

During the Bowers stewardship of Dinglewood, the house came alive again not only with a growing family, but with social events in various areas especially in music. The house now awaits its new destiny.



# BRADLEY CIRCLE UPDATE



**H**istoric Columbus made its first major investment in the Bradley Circle community in 2015 with the purchase of a property secured from the Columbus Land Bank Authority. Historic preservation wears many hats, from antebellum houses and textile mills to small cottages perched on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. Historic Columbus appreciates the value, collective history, and sense of place that these places provide our town.

Bradley Circle was developed in the early 1900's as workforce housing for the many textile mills located in the area. As the mills eventually slowed their production and work was moved to other countries with a cheaper labor force, the houses and job market were left stagnant in many cases. But new life is finding its way into this small circular street in the larger neighborhood of City Village and the newly created Mill District.

Since 2015, Historic Columbus and many other investors have witnessed the potential and positive change occurring in Bradley Circle. To date, more than 11 houses have been purchased by various buyers and are either in the process of renovation or have been completed. These modest 1,000 SF

homes have some of the best views our city has to offer overlooking the whitewater section of the Chattahoochee River.

Last month, Historic Columbus closed on 2901 1st Avenue with a new investor who is going to complete a wholesale renovation of the property. This home serves as the main entry point to Bradley Circle and will be a welcome new updated addition to the streetscape.

Currently, Historic Columbus is working on a project with architect Jack Jenkins, contractor Tim Gregory, and property owner Mary Bradley in Bradley Circle renovating a relocated shotgun house. The "shotgun shuffle," as it has been named due to "shuffling" the back bedroom to the side of the house, will be another project of Historic Columbus to help fill the gap where a Bradley Circle cottage once stood. When complete, the house will be listed for sale to put it into sympathetic hands once again.

Bradley Circle has certainly made some big strides in the last few years thanks to a lot of private investment and numerous preservation partners. Historic Columbus is excited to be a part of that effort as it continues to move forward in a big way.



## ROBERT N. KIDD, SR.

October 30, 1959 - April 24, 2022

HCF President 2019 – 2021

Bob was born on October 30, 1959, in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture. He was also a graduate from the Harvard University School of Design, the Public School Planning and Design Program and the Executive Education Program.

Bob was an active member of the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley Board of Directors, the Columbus Board of Historic and Architectural Review, member of the Rotary Club of Columbus, Kiwanis Club, Leadership Columbus Alumni, and the Muscogee Education Excellence Foundation.

Since joining Hecht Burdeshaw in 1987, Bob directed interdisciplinary teams through all phases of planning, design, and implementation, from initial master planning and conceptual design, to detailed design, documentation, and construction administration. Some of Bob's projects



Robert Kidd and Ryanne Cotterell

include, Feeding the Valley, Mercer University School of Medicine, Dorothy Height Elementary School (No. 7), Easter Seals of West Georgia, the Valley Healthcare System (South Columbus), the Columbus Hospice House Building Addition, Northside High School Auditorium, and the Columbus Public Library.

For Historic Columbus, Bob was a patient and thoughtful voice behind all preservation projects and education programs since joining the Board of Directors in 2011. One of his most cherished roles was chairing the Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship committee. He was an incredible advocate for the organization and for all those involved. Bob skillfully led Historic Columbus through the COVID pandemic and helped to ensure the Foundation's continued relevance in this community.

Bob was a loving husband to Joyce, father, and grandfather. He is deeply missed.

## 2022 PATRICIA JACKSON HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP



We are thrilled to announce the 29th recipient of the Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship - Eli Hardegree! Eli graduated from Columbus High and is attending UGA this Fall. Historic Columbus' Scholarship Committee awarded Eli with \$4,000 to help with his college expenses.

The Howard Scholarship, in memory of HCF's second Executive Director Patti Howard, is awarded to a graduating senior based on merit and need. \$48,000 has been awarded in Patti's name. Congratulations, Eli and we know you are going to do well at Georgia!





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## **56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING & PRESERVATION AWARDS**

This year, Historic Columbus will debut the business portion of the **Annual Meeting** on Facebook and YouTube. It will contain all of the work that has happened over the past year thanks to your investment in preservation.

There will be an in-person **Awards Presentation** to celebrate the numerous preservation projects in our community. We hope you will join us online and in-person at the World War II Company Street!

### **ANNUAL MEETING VIDEO RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 18th @ 5:30PM

HCF Facebook and YouTube

### **PRESERVATION AWARDS**

Thursday, October 20th @ 5:30PM

National Infantry Museum

World War II Company Street