

# Currents

SUMMER 2015

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY HISTORIC COLUMBUS



8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RIVER RAFFLE  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

## DEAR HCF MEMBERS,

You are the voice for historic preservation in our community. Because of your volunteer time, generous support, and attendance at events, Historic Columbus is able to show the importance of saving our history, the built environment, and sense of place for our children's future.

2016 will bring the 50th Anniversary of Historic Columbus. This past year, a 50th Anniversary Committee was created to plan the celebration. The 50th Committee has mapped out an incredible year to celebrate Historic Columbus, our cultural arts partners, and the preservation and history of our community. The entire calendar of events is included in this newsletter and it is refrigerator ready!

Historic Columbus has diligently worked for 50 years to improve our original city, High Uptown, and Midtown Columbus. And as you know, there is much more to do.

The Board is excited to launch its first major capital campaign and you will find more about this transformative and exciting effort inside this newsletter. It includes a signature project, as well as expanding current programs and introducing new revitalization tools to ensure growth in our struggling historic neighborhoods.

Because of your continued confidence in Historic Columbus, our programs have built the foundation for economic development to succeed in our historic districts. The original city would still be a blighted area and Columbus State University would not have its second campus in Uptown if not for the work and vision of the Historic Columbus Board of Directors, Trustees, and membership over the past 50 years.

You are essential to the continued success of this organization. Thank you for all you do for our community and Historic Columbus.

With sincere appreciation.,



Elizabeth K. Barker  
Executive Director



*"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."*

Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

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## ON THE COVER...

**RIVER RAFFLE ON THE 14TH STREET BRIDGE**  
BY ANONYMOUS

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# COLUMBUS' FIRST BLACK PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Autumn Nobles

Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship Applicant

In our nation's current state, equal rights are more important than ever. The battle for equal rights for all races has been going on for a long time. The struggle still wages on today, but over time, important steps have been taken to further this cause. A major issue preventing the equality between blacks and white people was the lack of education for blacks. There was no way for black men and women to be on equal footing as whites without an equal opportunity for education. That is why the first black public school built in Columbus, Georgia is very important.

The south was the slowest in making the changes outlined in the Emancipation Proclamation, and after the Civil War, when black people were placed in positions of power, they were not respected. The south was slow in implementing changes to the systematic racism employed on blacks in their cities. For this reason, I am so proud of Columbus for establishing the first black public school in July of 1872. The City Council commanded the Columbus Public Schools trustees to start a school for black people. The chance to learn to read opened up a whole new world of opportunity for black people. The first school was started in Temperance Hall, which was the biggest theater before the Springer Opera House was built. The school was moved to AME church in 1874. Other schools for black people followed in their wake such as the Radcliff School, the 28th Street School, and



Spencer High School. The new school opened up a world of possibilities for young black children who now had more job prospects. The school eventually led to William H. Spencer being elected to serve as Supervisor of Colored Schools in Muscogee County.

There are a lot of historic black sites like this one in Columbus, but the first black public school speaks to me because of its connection to education. As a graduating senior from Columbus High School, I am reflecting on all that I can achieve because of the first steps African Americans took almost two hundred years ago. My education, meeting people

who have influenced me, and getting the opportunity to go to an amazing college are all things that would have never been possible if the first black public school had never been built. A person being born an African American should not be a disadvantage, and the opportunity for learning closes the divide between races. By resolving the question of equal access to education, what other fields can be improved on or changed? Today, our society has improved but it is not perfect. The first black school was built nearly one hundred and fifty years ago and it set off a domino effect. I think this place matters because the first black public school reminds us of where we have been. The historic sign refuses to let us forget the beginning of equal access to quality education for all. It makes the fight for equality that is still going on today important and necessary.



8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# River



# Raffle

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015



**Jane Etheridge, Betty Roberts, Sharon and Ed Sprouse**



**Ben Hecht, Casey Carver, April and Bill Miller**



**Catherine Trotter and Ellen and Dey Palmer**



**Bobby and Angela Springer and Mary Allen and Steven Tondee**



**Fellas and the Vine band**

This year, River Raffle will be on Thursday, September 17th on the Frank K. Martin 14th Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Tamara Flournoy and her great committee have planned a fun evening with a few new twists for our attendees. We are also excited to announce that the Patrons Party will be held in the new Troy State University building overlooking the Chattahoochee River. Once again, this will be the best night on the river!

River Raffle is vital to Historic Columbus' mission and your support is invaluable. In 2014 thanks to our sponsors and those who attended the event, Historic Columbus was able to raise over \$43,000.00 for projects like painting the home of the Mother of the Blues Ma Rainey, moving an endangered home to safety and preservation in the original city, and administering the master planning process for City Village.

Don't miss this event! For more information, please visit [www.historiccolumbus.com](http://www.historiccolumbus.com).



**John Martin shooting water balloons into the river**

## 2015 RIVER RAFFLE COMMITTEE

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Tamara Flournoy</b><br>Chairman             | <b>Claire Berry</b><br>Entertainment  |
| <b>Katharine Clark</b><br>General Arrangements | <b>Amanda Baker</b><br>Marketing      |
| <b>SaSa Bickerstaff</b><br>Decorations         | <b>Beth Laney</b><br>Reservations     |
| <b>Kathleen Gilliam</b><br>Patrons Party       | <b>Kristi Watkins</b><br>Ticket Sales |
| <b>Kathy Tanner</b><br>Beverages               | <b>Kayla Turner</b><br>Activities     |
| <b>Troy Mann and Tom Bowden</b><br>Food        | <b>Ellie Flowers</b><br>Volunteers    |





# SUMMER ART CAMP



Historic Columbus has had an incredible summer thanks to 76 creative and energetic children that attended camp this year. Juli Yoder and Logan Kipp with the City Planning Department and

architects Jack Jenkins and Bob Kidd were our special guests. They shared their knowledge of architectural styles and building design, how to plan a city, and so much more.

New this year was a second camp added to each week-long session for those who had previously attended Box City. Box City I campers named their cities and elected Mayors, while Box City II campers named their states and elected Governors. Campers in Box City I named their new cities Fort Box and

Boxiego, and elected Jac Cummings and Conner Ellerbee as Mayors. Box City II campers named their states: Boxifornia and The United Box of America and Colin Hathaway and Lucy Kelley were elected as Governors. Thanks to all the parents and kids for another great summer!!

Thank you to everyone who made it happen!



**SPONSORS:** Kiwanis Club of Columbus, The Ice Cream Girl & Co., Litho-Krome Co., NSCDA: Columbus Town Committee, and The Wynnton Arts Academy.

**COUNSELORS:** Stacy Allison, Jesse Amador, Jaylen Foxworth, Ginny Lawrence, Emma Lipscomb, Emily Lopez, Nicole McGillicuddy, Melissa Niemi, Ashley Rulon, Beth Russell, Erin Sizemore, Carson Tanner, Mary Allen Tondee, Tommy Tuggle, and Julie Wright.

**SPEAKERS:** Jack Jenkins, Bob Kidd, Logan Kipp, and Juli Yoder.

**LUNCH DONATIONS:** George Flowers, Susan Gristina, Dexter Jordan, and Virginia Peebles.



# 2015 PRESERVATION FOR PROFIT

Historic Columbus hosted its 7th Annual Preservation for Profit program at the end of May. Held at the W.C. Bradley Company, Preservation for Profit is an educational program designed to provide continuing education for architects, realtors, and contractors. However, there are many who attend that just have an interest in the topics being covered.

This year's presenters spoke to a crowd of nearly 75 people for the half day event. A highlight of the event this

year was a presentation by local firefighter and homeowner of a Clay Chapman built home in Buena Vista, Josh Adams. The home is a solid masonry structure, no wood framing, built in similar fashion to many of the buildings found along Broadway in Uptown Columbus. Built in part as an experiment to construct a house that would have a 1,000 year lifespan, the home has also proved to be incredibly efficient. For more information visit: [www.hopeforarchitecture.com](http://www.hopeforarchitecture.com).

Serving as the opening speaker for the program was Steve Mouzon, owner of Miami based Mouzon Design and author of "The Original Green." Mr. Mouzon related how the relatively recent sustainability movement was pioneered by historic preservation. He also demonstrated how style and design cues should be taken from the common sense way of building and living found in the 19th and 20th centuries. Mr. Mouzon also had the opportunity to speak to the Downtown Rotary Club the day before the program.

The workshop also featured a joint presentation by Mark McDonald of the Georgia Trust and Bourke Reeve of Southface introducing a new efficiency program for historic buildings. One of the initial test cases for the program was the restoration of Rhodes Hall, Georgia Trust headquarters.

The morning ended with a delicious lunch and the work of renowned architect, Norman Askins. Norman took the group on a visual tour of several of his most recent projects and delighted the crowd with his restoration work and incredible new construction.

Be on the lookout in the coming months for announcements about Preservation for Profit 2016.



**Reynolds Bickerstaff, Norman Askins, SaSa Bickerstaff, Betsy Illges, Brent Mooneyham**



**Norman Askins and SaSa and Reynolds Bickerstaff**



**Bourke Reeve and Mark McDonald**



**Steve Mouzon and Hal Averett**





HISTORIC COLUMBUS

1966-2016

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

# HISTORIC COLUMBUS TURNS 50!

**SAVE ME A PLACE!** When the planning began for the 50th Anniversary, it became clear it needed to be a year-long celebration. Thanks to a hard working and growing committee, 2016 will be full of events, culminating with the Golden Jubilee. Historic Columbus is extremely grateful to its Board members and Trustees who have volunteered their time to make sure our 50th Anniversary is the beginning to an exciting new chapter!

As you will see in the coming pages, our vision has become bigger as a result of a signature project - a partnership to stabilize City Mills. By saving our historic structures, Historic Columbus continues to make Columbus the place where you want to live and your children want to return.

Save me a place for the future!

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES

### CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

**Janice Biggers**

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**Virginia Peebles**

Celebration Co-Chairman

**Jane Etheridge**

Secretary

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**Sally Hatcher**

**F. Clason Kyle**

Steering Committee

**Helen Neal**

Marketing

**Catherine Trotter**

Marketing

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Sponsorship Chairman

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**George Flowers**

**Mint Flowers**

**Steve Gunby**

**Dexter Jordan**

**Jack Key**

**Susan Lawhorne**

**Elizabeth Ogie**

**Jimmy Yancey**

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Sally Walden**

Program Committee  
Chairman

**Kia Chambers**

**JoAnne Hecht**

**Nell Hudson**

**Bobsie Swift**

### GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE

**Mint Flowers**

Golden Jubilee

Co-Chairman

**Dexter Jordan**

Golden Jubilee

Co-Chairman

**Mary Bradley**

**Kathleen Gilliam**

**Martha Hatcher**

**Sally Hatcher**

**Margaret McCormick**

**Margot Schley**

**Philip T. Schley**



HISTORIC COLUMBUS



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

## LUNCH AND LECTURE SERIES

To celebrate the education component of our mission, Historic Columbus will feature 6 lunch and lecture programs during 2016 that will be free to the public and lunch will be provided.

### Speakers for this series will include:

#### Sheffield Hale

Director of the Atlanta History Center  
Thursday, January 14, 2016

#### Lula Huff

Local Historian  
Thursday, February 11, 2016

#### Billy Winn

Local Historian  
Thursday, March 10, 2016

#### John M. Sheftall

Local Historian  
Thursday, April 14, 2016

#### Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

Georgia Historian and native of Columbus  
Thursday, August 12, 2016

#### Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Panel

Thursday, September 8, 2016

## FOUNDERS DAY

Founders Day will be held on Thursday May 26, 2016 and will be a celebration of historic



**Stephanie Meeks**



**Mark McDonad**

preservation. May is Preservation Month and the founding month of Historic

Columbus. Mark McDonald, President of the Georgia Trust, will speak on the state of preservation in Georgia and Stephanie Meeks, President of the National Trust, will bring us the future of the movement. The evening will be held at the Springer Opera House, where preservation in Columbus got started.

## 2016 ANNUAL MEETING & PRESERVATION AWARDS



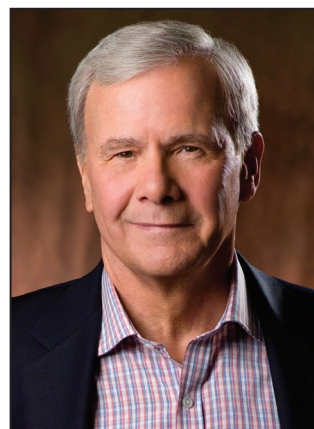
**Todd Groce**

Historic Columbus' Annual Meeting will be held in Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at Legacy Hall in the RiverCenter. This is an evening to show our appreciation to those in our community for their private investment in preserving quality of life in Columbus. It

will also feature a special program by Todd Groce, President of the Georgia Historical Society. It will be followed by a cocktail buffet. The event will be free and open to the public.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

Historic Columbus will end its 50th Anniversary year with a bang! The Golden Jubilee will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at the historic Iron Works. Historic Columbus is excited that distinguished journalist and author Tom Brokaw will be the featured speaker that evening.



**Tom Brokaw**



HISTORIC COLUMBUS



HISTORIC COLUMBUS

1966-2016

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

# SAVE ME A PLACE!

Historic Columbus is embarking on an exciting and transformative chapter for preservation. By saving our historic structures and neighborhoods, Historic Columbus is making it possible for Columbus to be the place where you want to live and to which your children and grandchildren want to return. That is what the Save Me A Place Capital Campaign is all about.

## THE CASE

Historic Columbus has successfully worked to revitalize the original city and the center of Columbus, Midtown. This next chapter will focus not only on existing efforts like expanding our façade loan program, but also on new initiatives to stimulate economic development such as larger grants and rehabilitation loans for historic properties.

## OUTLINE OF THE CAMPAIGN



**Walker-Peters-Langdon House**

education programming, increasing advocacy efforts for preservation, and ensuring this organization endures. Also, Historic Columbus will benefit our cultural arts partners by providing the Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens with a permanent

The goal of the campaign is **\$10,000,000.**

**20%** of the funds will be allocated to the **General Fund** for celebrating our 50th anniversary, providing



**Carriage House**

home in the Carriage House at the Rankin House.

**80%** of the funds will focus on the **Revolving Fund** with expanding existing programs and developing new preservation initiatives. These funds will make a huge impact across the county to improve our historic assets.

## EXISTING PROGRAM EXPANSIONS

### • Façade Loan Program Expansion:

Since 1992, HCF has provided over 190 loans to residential properties within Columbus's eleven



**Waverly Terrace**

historic districts representing \$875,000 in investment. The existing program funds a maximum of \$5,000 for

exterior work. The loan is interest free with a 5 year term. This expansion would increase the maximum loan amount to \$10,000.

### • Acquisitions and Revitalization Funds:

Historic Columbus has utilized this program on a smaller scale steadily over our 50 years through

our existing Revolving-Redevelopment Fund. Having the capacity of the Revolving Fund increased makes our



**429 Second Avenue**

ability to respond to endangered properties that have no other champion even greater and quicker.



## EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES

- **Public Participation Grants:**

This new grant program has an incredible potential for not only transforming historic



**Bibb City School**

awarding a series of large grants for visible preservation projects.

- **Rehabilitation Loans:**

This program is a new initiative for historic properties that are either listed on the National Register or eligible. Construction loans have become more difficult to receive in recent years and this would allow HCF to fill that gap.

buildings, but growing our support base. We will increase the public's awareness of preservation through

- **City Mills Partnership for Stabilization:**

City Mills is the last endangered mill in the National Historic Landmark District. Historic Columbus has the opportunity to save and stabilize

these two buildings in a partnership with Ken Henson, Jr.

The goal is to make the buildings clean and safe. This will allow for a future developer to see their full potential.



**City Mills**

In the coming months, you will hear more about the campaign and how you can become involved. What a toolkit for the next 50 years! Please join us in this effort!



## 2015 PEBBLES GRANT RECIPIENT

The Virginia T. Peebles Historic Preservation Grant was created in 2005 to celebrate the retirement of Historic Columbus' third Executive Director. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate, stimulate and



incubate projects to renovate, stabilize or plan for the protection of architecturally significant non-residential structures. The grants are limited to \$3,000 dollars and are awarded twice a year depending on funding and applications.

Since 2005, \$17,800 has been awarded to

seven organizations. This year, a new recipient has been added to the list. The historic Liberty Theatre received \$3,000 to assist in renovating the banquet room. The room will be painted, along with

having new sound and lighting installed. This work will help to increase the rentals of the facility. The total project cost is \$25,000.00.

Historic Columbus was pleased to have been able to play a part in this needed work for this wonderful historic theatre.



# A CABIN ON THE MOVE



This June, Historic Columbus moved its c. 1800 Log Cabin from behind 708 Broadway to a new location as a result of selling the Woodruff Farmhouse to District resident and court reporter, Tommy Savage. The Preservation and Executive Committees decided Heritage Park was the most appropriate place for the cabin. The cabin would tie in with the existing interpretation at Heritage Park, as well as have increased visibility.

On June 2, 2015 the I.L. Davis House Movers Company moved the circa 1800's log cabin to Heritage Park. In order to prep the cabin for the move, current Board President Garry Pound's son chose to partner with Historic Columbus in the move as a part of his Eagle Scout project. Murphey Pound helped dismantle the stone chimney and will help landscape the new site in Heritage Park.

Historic Columbus is no stranger to moving historic structures, over the years around 30 buildings have been moved by the organization. Most of these were moved by the Davis House Movers Co. Historic Columbus recently had the opportunity to talk with Mr. I.L. Davis about his

business and how it has changed over the years.

The business has been in operation for nearly 60 years and was started by his father. Learning the process at an early age, Mr. Davis is now present at most jobs, but leaves the heavy lifting to his son Alan Davis and cousin Jack Davis. Alan's mother, Pat, keeps the group organized and handles all the permits and approvals necessary for the moves. The process is surprisingly simple, but involves a good bit of physical labor. The site is first cleared of obstructions; steel beams are then placed under the building using heavy duty jacks. The structure is slowly raised one side at a time as Alan and Jack move from side to side keeping the building level. Eventually, the buildings gets high enough to slide a set of wheels under the building to attach to the steel beams, essentially building a temporary trailer for the building while under it, piece by piece. Then it is ready to move.

The Davis' typically move around 2 buildings a week, but that has slowed down significantly over the years according to Mr. Davis. When asked if he has come across buildings that weren't movable he said, "only a few, mostly due to them being too far gone, but I like a challenge." Solid masonry homes are the most difficult to move according to the Davis', they are heavy and don't have the "give" most wood framed buildings do. "It's easy to crack the plaster in those buildings," Mr. Davis says.

Historic Columbus is grateful to Davis Moving Co. for always ensuring a safe move for these historic structures. If you are traveling through the Columbus Historic District in the near future, check out the new Log Cabin at Heritage Park.





## NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

February 1, 2015 – July 15, 2015

*In order to conserve publication costs, we are only printing new and renewal memberships between February 1, 2015 and July 15, 2015.*

*If you see an error or omission, please contact the office (706) 322-0756.*

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# IN MEMORIAM

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## Mae Margot Sommerville Schley

(1933 - 2015)

Mae Margot Sommerville was born on November 28, 1933 in Glasgow, Scotland. Her father, Robert Leonard Sommerville inherited a literary agency from his father and moved the family to London. Margot was sent to the



west of England during the London Blitz. Shortly thereafter her mother, she and her sister moved to Paisley, Scotland to the safety of her grandfather's house.

She was educated at St. Colomba College in Kilmacalm, Scotland. She came to Roswell, Georgia to visit her father and stepmother in 1952. The visit stretched out and she took a job at the British Consulate in Atlanta.

In the spring of 1956, she and Philip Thomas Schley met. A month later they were engaged, and they married on October 13, 1956. They lived in New York City, Suffolk, England, Atlanta, and then home to Columbus. They bought St. Elmo in the spring of 1964 and were blessed with four children and seven grandchildren.

She loved gardening and was the flower guild at Trinity Episcopal Church for over thirty-five years. She was an active volunteer with CONTACT, having served countless eight hour night time shifts where she manned a telephone calming the agitated and cheering the despondent. She also worked for many years with the Food Bank.

Margot was actively involved in historic restoration for many years. She and Philip were presented with the Sarah Turner Butler Preservation Award in 2011. Historic Columbus was also pleased to name Mae Margot Sommerville Schley as its Honored Lady in 2012.

## James Kyle Spencer

(1926 - 2015)

Having over 150 years of family history linked to Columbus likely had significant impact on Kyle Spencer's passion for supporting business and civic life in our great city. Mr. Spencer graduated from Columbus High in 1943 and Episcopal High School in 1944. He then moved on to higher education and graduated from Princeton University in 1949. After college, he then served as an officer in the Navy during World War II. He married Sara Davis in 1954 and the couple had three boys and nine grandchildren.

Coming back to Columbus to begin a fulfilling career in the banking industry, Mr. Spencer continued his legacy of stewardship and found various ways to help improve

quality of life for Columbus residents. One of his most notable endeavors was his support of the Chattahoochee River. In fact, his efforts go back long before Columbus realized what an asset the river could be. He also recognized the growing problem of deteriorating water quality in the river, along with the lack of urban forests. Trees Columbus was his solution to promoting and advocating for the urban tree canopy. Now, in its 15th year, Trees Columbus, Inc. continues to be a great success and asset for the Columbus community through its ongoing tree plantings, projects, and events.

His and Sally's passion for higher education led to the creation of a CSU Oxford Scholars Program in 1984 and ultimately the donation of a residence in Oxford, England where students and faculty from Columbus can stay to enhance their learning and teaching experience. This residence officially became known as the Spencer House at Oxford in 2002.

Having served as the President of Historic Columbus from 1975-77, Mr. Spencer helped guide the future of this organization in its tenth year of existence. One of his most notable forays in the preservation field has been the establishment of what is now called the "Spencer Environmental Center," a beautiful 1837 high style Italianate home located in the heart of Uptown Columbus.



Mr. Spencer's great passion for the environment, education, and historic preservation was an inspiration to us all. Historic Columbus presented James Kyle Spencer with the Sarah Turner Butler Preservation Award in 2012. Mr. Spencer made outstanding contributions across the State of Georgia, but most of all he worked tirelessly behind the scenes, in many cases, to help improve the quality of life for those living in Columbus, Georgia.

## WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

(February 1, 2015- July 15, 2015)

**Twyla Pifer Dudley** (February 15, 2015)

**Sarah McDuffie Hardaway** (February 19, 2015)

**Otis Blue Burnham** (March 8, 2015)

**Ryland Duke Miller** (March 9, 2015)

**Elizabeth Golden Tyler** (April 9, 2015)

**William Calmese Buck** (May 7, 2015)

**Mae Margot Sommerville Schley** (June 6, 2015)

**Franklin Douglass** (June 23, 2015)

**James Kyle Spencer** (July 12, 2015)

**Ashby Benjamin Moon, Jr.** (July 15, 2015)



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