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Currents



DEAR HCF MEMBERS,



Great news! In February, Historic Columbus was awarded a \$75,000 grant for preservation projects by the 1772 Foundation of Providence, Rhode Island. The 1772 Foundation plays a leading role in promoting revolving funds, nationwide. We came to know about the Foundation through an email by The Georgia Trust, who was sharing the upcoming grant cycle and promoting the previous funding for groups in Atlanta, Macon, and Augusta.

The grant funds will be used to rehabilitate the most recent acquisitions of the Janice P. Biggers Revolving-Redevelopment Fund. The three historic houses in the High Uptown Historic District are located at 1523, 1531, and 1535 Third Avenue. Each house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a significant remaining example of the historic fabric of High Uptown.

The houses were purchased by Historic Columbus from SEE Properties this past September. They were then cleaned out and properly secured. Other acquisitions of the surrounding vacant property were also recently made by Ken Henson for a future residential development. As a result, the three houses also became of interest to incorporate into a new vision for the block that would combine historic preservation with compatibly designed new construction.

Now, thanks to the 1772 Foundation, Historic Columbus will be able to provide a Rehabilitation Loan of \$75,000 for their exterior renovation. The exterior work will be completed and funds will be repaid by October of this year. Then, the 1772 Foundation grant funds will be put back to work in the JPB Revolving-Redevelopment Fund for another project, and so on, and so on.

We will keep you all posted on what happens next. Thanks to you, there are great things happening in our community. YOU make our city a better place and never forget your membership matters!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth B. Walden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Elizabeth B. Walden
Executive Director



High Uptown is a critical link to strengthening the connection and overall revitalization of Uptown and the Mill District. This is an exciting step thanks to Ken Henson and the 1772 Foundation.

Historic Columbus established The JPB Revolving-Redevelopment Fund in 1968 with a \$25,000 donation from the Junior League of Columbus. Since that time, Historic Columbus has acquired and revolved 86 properties and returned over \$14 million to the Muscogee County tax roles. Historic Columbus' Façade and Rehabilitation Loan programs are also housed within the JPB Fund. These programs have made a total of 229 loans for an investment of almost \$1.4 million in the renovation of individually-owned historic properties.

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ON THE COVER...

COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY BUILDING ON 6TH AVENUE, CA. 1918

DESIGNATED FUND DONOR OPPORTUNITIES YOU can designate your donation!

The **Patricia Jackson Howard Scholarship** is awarded annually to high school seniors in Muscogee County. The \$2,500 scholarship is to be used for college expenses.

This year's due date is April 10th. You can find the application at www.historiccolumbus.com.

The **Virginia T. Peebles Historic Preservation Grant** was created to facilitate projects to renovate, stabilize or plan for the protection of non-residential historic structures and sites. The grants can range from \$3,000 - \$6,000 depending on funding and applications.

For more information please contact Historic Columbus.

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Restored Skinner's Furniture Signage on Second Avenue

A SIGN OF HISTORY

Historic buildings detail their history in a variety of ways, the architectural style, building materials, door and window openings, etc. But, another interesting way buildings tell their story is through the old signs and marketing information painted on their facades.

Before TV commercials and social media platforms became prevalent ways of marketing,



Nehi at Kinfolk's Corner

businesses relied on location, word of mouth, or advertising signs located on the building. Ghost signs have a special place in any city. Hand-painted signs were a popular form of advertising between the 1880s and the 1950s, before ads could be inexpensively mass produced, installed, and replaced. Their remnants offer a lens into a neighborhood's past, reminding passers-by about elements of business and life at certain points in history.

They acquaint us with the type of businesses that once lined the streets, and offer glimpses of products and services that were important at the time of the sign's painting. Columbus has its fair share of "ghost signs" that still remain visible, such as the Nehi Cola sign at Kinfolk's Corner, the Pepsi sign in Bibb City, the City Mills buildings at 18th Street, the Coca-Cola sign on 6th Avenue, the Skinner's Furniture sign on 2nd Avenue, Buck Ice and Coal on Talbotton Road, the Pop-A-Top on

32nd Street, the Sputnik on 15th Street, and various fading hand painted signs throughout Uptown Columbus.

There is some debate in the preservation world on whether these ghosted signs should be restored or left to weather away in their own time. Some argue that unless the original sign painter or an apprentice that worked under that sign painter restores the sign it should be left alone. That can be tough for a sign that is 75 to 100 years old

Columbus has one lone professional sign painter left, Ralph Frank. Ralph lives in the colorfully decorated historic house on 10th Avenue across from the Synovus Bank Medical Park Branch and is still at work restoring hand painted signs and creating new ones in Columbus and the surrounding region. You might have seen his minivan around town or at Lakebottom Park serving as a mobile art project and work truck. Ralph and his work are both truly one of a kind.

As Columbus continues to see investment in historic buildings, we will inevitably continue to see more of these signs come back to life as well as some lost to creating a new history for our repurposed historic properties.



Historic Signage at City Mills

A Night IN SINGAPORE

What a wonderful night in Singapore! This year's A Night in Singapore was a tremendous success thanks to Chairman Amanda Baker and her incredible committee! Bob Vardaman Events and Columbus State University transformed the Country Club of Columbus again and it was absolutely beautiful. With approximately 325 in attendance, the evening was another knockout thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, patrons, artists and attendees.

Photo Credit: Southern Views Magazine



Doctors from Piedmont Hospital



Amanda and Bobby Baker



(Above) - Shelby Banta, Jeannie Myers, Maggie Portillo, Erin Stillwell, and Kathleen Hung



(L) - Tammy, Lula and Charles Huff



(Above) - Pease and Jarrell Families



Carrie Sigman, Kathy Tanner, Lindsay McLaurin, and Rebecca Sigman

Thank you to our wonderful committee: **Chairman**, Amanda Baker; **Production**, Bob Vardaman; **Sponsorships**, George Flowers and Elizabeth Walden; **Raffle Prizes**, Chris Harman; **Marketing**, Callie Hecht; **Volunteers**, Ellie Flowers; and **Ticket Sales Team Coordinator**, Elizabeth Cliatt.

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IN MEMORIAM

Helena McCormick Pease

1927 - 2019



Mrs. Pease was from a Columbus family with deep roots in the community. Her maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Paul Dismukes and her parents were Major and Mrs. Edward George McCormick. She was one of four sisters; Elizabeth, Patricia and Leonora. In 1951, Helena married Leonard Gerrard Pease, Jr. and they had three children - Leonard Gerrard Pease III, Ann Pease Dodys, and Edward Schley Pease.

Mrs. Pease was a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, and a Kappa Kappa Gamma sister in the inaugural KKG chapter at the University of Georgia. She was also a great supporter of Historic Columbus, the Springer Opera House, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

In 1997, Helena established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust with Historic Columbus listed as one of three recipients. The funds are to be utilized to grow each organization's Endowment Fund. Mrs. Pease wanted her gift to be put to work to secure the foundations of each of these three cultural arts organizations.

Historic Columbus is grateful for her confidence in our mission, trust in our organization, and generosity to ensure our future. Thank you, Helena!



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WAVERLY TERRACE HOUSE NOW FOR SALE THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES



The proceeds from the sale of the house will go back into the Janice P. Biggers Revolving-Redevelopment Fund to further the ongoing preservation work being undertaken by Historic Columbus.

Historic Columbus recently installed new columns to finish its exterior rehabilitation of the house located in the Waverly Terrace Historic District (2909 10th Avenue). The house had been significantly damaged by a fire that started on the front porch. The owners were left with few options. Realizing the high likelihood of it being demolished and a minimal chance of a new appropriate home being built, Historic Columbus stepped up and purchased the property to stabilize.

The 2900 block where the property resides is challenged, but has great bones. The homes are a mix of wood and stucco bungalows from the early 1900's that help tell the story as that neighborhood serving as the first "suburb" of Columbus.

With the exterior finished and interior cleaned out, it is ready for a new owner to complete the renovation. There is now room to also create a second story within the existing roofline.

If you know someone who would be interested in a great house, please let us know (706-322-0756 or hcfinc@historiccolumbus.com). Historic Columbus will be asking \$50,000 for the property.