The Newsletter of Historic Seattle

The Gift of Rent Relief

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC, SEEING THE RESPONSE OF OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN A BRIGHT SPOT IN TOUGH TIMES. We are deeply grateful to each person who has contributed to our Emergency Rent Relief Fund thus far. Thanks to a matching gift challenge by the Raynier Foundation and our generous donors, we have been able to make $82,000 available to our tenants and anchor partners for rent relief thus far.

As the pandemic continues with no end in sight, these dollars are providing direct support to the people who make up our community and need it most. Historic places provide the bones of our community, but the people who live, work, and play in them are the heart. We are committed to continuing to support our community in every way possible and appreciate each donor who is helping us to do so.

All About Advocacy

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION BOARD and historic district Board/Commission meetings have resumed – online – after being canceled for many months because of the pandemic. As the Board/Commission members and staff continue to work through a backlog of agenda items, we are regularly attending these virtual meetings. The controls & incentives negotiation for The Showbox has been delayed significantly and likely will not appear on the agenda until well into 2021.

New landmarking efforts continue as well, including the La Quinta Apartments on Capitol Hill. Driven by a grassroots group of building residents and community (calling themselves Viva La Quinta), we submitted a landmark nomination for this Frederick Anhalt-designed 1927 property. We have also been supporting Save the Market Entrance in their effort to landmark the Hahn Building, one of the four corners at the entry to the Pike Place Market.

As the pandemic continues, we encourage you to continue to participate in the public processes of landmarking, from nominating to public comment. Stay tuned to our eNews & social media for alerts on places you care about. And as development continues at a frenzied pace and new pandemic pressures close businesses, let us know — as early as you can — if you hear of a threat to a historic place.

Seattle's Full Story

HISTORIC SEATTLE IS COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING RACISM WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION and making tangible progress in resolving the lack of diversity in our staffing, governance, and storytelling. One such step is the creation of the recurring blog feature Seattle's Full Story, which launched in August 2020.

We are actively soliciting compensated content for Seattle's Full Story from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community members. Submissions should relate to telling BIPOC stories of Seattle's history and/or preservation. The format is not limited to traditional article format - photo series, poems, art, song, video, etc. are all options. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis (no deadline). Visit historicseattle.org/resources/sfs for more information and to check out the Seattle's Full Story submissions published to date.
ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT ABLE TO HOST OUR PRESERVATION CELEBRATION BENEFIT THIS YEAR, we were excited to recognize the 2020 Preservation Award winners: Building 9 at Magnuson Park (Best Preservation Project Award), Lincoln High School (Beth Chave Rehabilitation Award), Louisa Hotel (Community Investment Award), South Park Yacht Club (Preserving Neighborhood Character Award), Town Hall (Exemplary Stewardship Award), Dan Say (Preservation Champion Award), and Wa Na Wari (Community Advocacy Award). In lieu of attending an event this year, generous donors gave more than $10,000 to support our mission and fund Wa Na Wari’s $3,000 prize, which will help advance their work to create space for Black ownership, possibility, and belonging through art, historic preservation, and connection.

AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT to public health and safety, Historic Seattle will not resume in-person gatherings until King County reaches phase 4 of reopening. Until we are able to see you again, we are excited to continue offering a number of virtual programs for free, thanks to the generous support of our program sponsors. To learn more about past virtual programs or upcoming ones, please visit www.historicseattle.org. If you need help accessing these virtual offerings, generally taking place on Zoom, please call or email us at 206.622.6952 or info@historicseattle.org.

FIRST, WE HOPE YOU KNOW THAT WE MISS SEEING YOU. As we wrote this newsletter, we thought about each person that is a part of our work. From the tenants and anchor partners at our nine historic properties, to our advocacy and program partners, to our generous donors who have helped us through this pandemic, we know we are fortunate to have such a wonderful community.

As we look to 2021 – still with much uncertainty – we know we can continue our mission to save historic places that foster lively communities, thanks to the strength of our community. Part of our commitment to our mission is to the people who live, work, and play in our historic buildings – from the Good Shepherd to Washington Hall, we are dedicated to helping our tenants and anchor partners through this challenging time. Your continued dedication is also helping us continue our education and advocacy work in a virtual setting.

If anything, this pandemic has shown us just how much we all love our favorite places, with many of them historic, full of soul and charm and liveliness. Until we’re able to see you again, we are thinking of you and are grateful for your ongoing support of our efforts.

TAKE CARE,
THE HISTORIC SEATTLE TEAM