Historic Germantown is a partnership organization serving historic, green and cultural sites in Northwest Philadelphia that works collaboratively to preserve these assets, increase public access and equity, and raise their visibility.
A Word from the President of the Board

Almost 50 years ago, my husband and I took a walk through Germantown only to discover the old headquarters of the Germantown Historical Society, then housed in 18th century stone buildings in the 5200 block of Germantown Avenue. What a gift to discover what was inside: a treasury of objects, volumes and paintings that revealed the life of the German Township dating back to 1682 when a small crew from Crefeld, Germany, took advantage of William Penn’s land grant to create a community that comprised what we now know of as Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill. Now, many years later, the Germantown Historical Society is one of 18 historic sites of Historic Germantown’s consortium—each one with stories to tell, stories that shaped our region and stories that truly are the story of America. Follow the stories of the German Township, and you will know the history of this country—its high points and its low points, its moments of discovery, pride and struggle, its clashes of cultures, its blossoming of community, its enduring spirit. And it’s still happening, you know. Every day each one of us creates our history, the complex, splendid story that tells the world who we are. You have helped Historic Germantown to speak with a loud, proud voice. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you for contributing to the story of the German Township.

Loretta Witt
President of the Board

A Word from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

When we began producing this annual report the world was a different place. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had not yet changed how we live our lives and relate to one another. And in the midst of this pandemic we have seen and supported the national and international upswell of the Black Lives Matter protest movement in response to the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and so many other Black men, women and children.

At this writing, we do not know the course of the virus and the full extent of the trauma and change it will bring. We do know, however, that our 18 member sites speak to our collective ability to persevere and weather major upheavals and their aftermath. We also know that we will vigorously promote and support our Black led member sites including the ACES Museum, Black Writers Museum, The Johnson House, and Lest We Forget Slavery Museum, as well as all our sites’ efforts to work with Black scholars, artists, activists, community leaders and others to lift up Black stories and to help dismantle racist structures within our organizations and our community.

The ability to record, remember and tell these stories is one of the central values Historic Germantown member sites offer to our region and to the broader world. They also bring life, hope, learning, opportunity and joy to our community. This report represents a new, expanded view of our combined economic and social impact. Of course, much of that impact depends on what we all now crave, to come to together in particular places -- including our sites -- to learn, to celebrate, to contemplate.

Tuomi Joshua Forrest
Executive Director
Board

Loretta Witt - President
Lucy Strackhouse - Vice President
Timothy Lieb - Treasurer
Carolyn Adams - Secretary
Patricia Bass+
Linda Bantel*
James Earl Davis
Supreme Dow+
Laura Fox
Lois Frischling
Dwayne Grannum
Susan Harrison*
Harold Haskins

Tom Hemmerick
John Kromer
Steve Kurtz
Kathleen Lee+
Mark Lloyd
Norman Marcus
Ruth Marino
Joe McCarthy*
Dennis Pickeral*
Amy Ricci+
Dora Rogers+
Mark Sellers*
Carolyn Wallace

* = Rolled off the Board in 2019 | + = Joined Board in 2020

Staff

Tuomi Joshua Forrest - Executive Director
Alex Bartlett - Archivist and Librarian
Stacey Swigart - Program Manager

History Hunters Guides | ‘19-20 School Year

Kerry Bryan
Christopher Bryant
Piper Burnett
Elise D’Avella
Rick Heimann
Andrew Jickling
Helga Krauss
Mary McGinley
Jenna McLaughlin

Claire Meashey
Jessica Otterbine
Ilene Poses
Loree Schuster
Tom Snow
Ethan Snyder
Katherine Thomas
Jacqueline Wanjek
Ken Wilson

2019 Interns

Christopher Bryant
Margarita Ortiz
Financial Report

Income

- Contributions - Individual: 20%
- Contributions - Institutional: 40%
- Events: 8%
- Earned: 5%
- Investment: 16%
- Other: 11%

Expenses

- Development: 13%
- Administration: 11%
- Program: 76%

Program Expense Details

- Germantown Historical Society: 29%
- History Hunters Guides: 12%
- Sustaining Our Sites: 18%
- Promotion and Programs: 15%
- Advocacy (2%)
- Historic Germantown Consortium: 45%
Thank you to our Donors

**Gifts $10-$99**

A Distant Wind
Linda Aldrich
Duffield Ashmead
Richard Baron
Georgette Bartell
Nancy Beans
Susan Beetle
Oscar Beisert
Naomi Bey
Laura Bligh
Barbara Bloom
Kurt and Margaret Boehner
Barbara Boswell
James Bowman
Pamela Bracey
Amy Branch
Clarence Brannam
Richard Brehm
David Breiner
Madison Brown
Erik Brown
Jessica Brown
Gwendolen Bryant
Anne Burnett
Sharon Callard
Robert Callet
Jenny Rose Carey
Julie Carroll
Joseph Caruso
Rory Ann Cohen
Barbara Coleman
Elizabeth Colson
Peggy Conver
Stephen and Linda Corsover
Nina Curlett
Dena Dannenberg
Sue Davis
Robert Daymon
Susan Detweiler
Anna Louise Detweiler
Christina Diaz
Harold Dilbeck
Kathryn Donahue
Landis Doner
Judith Donovan
Samuel Dorfman
Regina Duffin
Edward Duffy
John Eads
Robert Emberger
Beth & Bob Emmott
Linda Esh
Walter Evans
Margaret Fahringer
William Faltermeyer
Marty Foley
Leroy Foulkrod
Cheryl Fox
John Frank
Russell Fulton
Anne Gallagher
Maureen Gibney
Martin Gilbert
Christopher Gruits
Jane Guerin
Colleen Haley
Stewart Hall
Elifie Harris
Richard Hassold
Glenna May Hazeltine
Cara Herold
Faith Hoffnung
Nancy Holst
Maryanne Hunter
John Ingram
Lynne Jackson
Marion Jarzemski
Spurgeon Johns
Robert Kafes
Charlie Karl
H. Jean Kraft
Marita Krivda
Jennifer Krivinskas
Kelly Lee
Warren Leibowitz
Janet Lippincott
Joseph Livezey
Dennis Lucey
Joshua Lustig
Madeline Magee
Maggie Manzer
Marianne Thomas Architects
Sarah Maxwell
Joseph McDowell
Roland McDuell
Mari McLean
Deborah McMurtrie
Edward Meadowcroft
Christine Medlin
Joseph Menkevich
Dolores Merrick
Ted Miller
Michael Martin Mills
Handsel Minyard
Crystal Monroe
David Moore
Margret Mukai
Clemmie Murphy
Naomi Nabor
Susan Nicholson
Chris Nicholson
Frank and Andrea Niepold
Yi Niu
Robert Nuneviller
Mark Olson
Thomas Pastorius
Marlene Patterson
Robert Pierce
Janet Potter
Theodore Quann
Dwight Radford
Timothy Raezer
Bonnie Raines
Theodore Reed
Jessica Roberts
Barbara Rogers
Dorothy Rosten
Sol Rosenblatt
Lori Salganicoff
Russ Scarboro
Peter Schneider
Gregory Schwab
Lucy Sellers
Kathryn Shafer
Mary Silverstein
Jeffrey Smith
Eleanor Smith
Alice Smith
Robert Smith
Marjorie Snelling
Wayne Snover
Diana Sperle
Barbara Stechert
George and Deborah Stern
Susan Stevenson
Lynne Strieb
Beth Sutter
Mary Sweeten
Lois Taylor
Margaret Taylor
Anna Cox Toogood
Les Updegrove
Jeanine Uribe
David and Terry Vaughan
Deborah Vaughan
Mary Ellen Wagner
Carroll Walker
John Walton
Pearl Webster
Carla White
Kent Whiting
Emily Whitted
Linda Wojciechowski
Katherine Wolf
Theo Wood
Kathryn Woods
Dolly Young
Karl Young
Peggy Zwerver

**Gifts $100-$499**

Alex Aberle
Carolyn Adams
AMJ Foundation
Mary Bannister
Jennifer Barr
Murray Belman
John Bevan
Laurence & Elizabeth Bicking
Charlotte Biddle
Gene Bishop
Bill & Sandy Bixby
Susan Bockius
Thomas Boyle
Baird Brown
George and Virginia Bryant
Charlotte Caldwell
Cantrill Clark Inc.
Ryan Caviglia
Joan Levy Coale
Joan Coale
Amy & Michael Cohen
Commons and Commons LLP
Margaret Cooper
Edward Cooper
Rachel Countryman
Nicholas Covolus
John Culhane
James Earl Davis
Dominick DeCaprio
Marc DiNardo &
Elizabeth Drum
Stuart Ditzen & Denise Cowie
John Domzalski
Barbara Dowdall
James Duffin
Davis Dure
Michael and Deborah
Edmonds
Steven Elkins
Steven Erisoty
William Ewing
Doris Fanelli
Graham & Kay Finney
Philip Flynn
Tuomi Forrest & Rebecca Bixby
Kevin Fox
Janice Galert
Gary Gehman
Frank Genieser
Peter Gentieu
William & Mindy Glassman
Claire and Richard Goldman
Jan Goplerud
Ruth Greenberg
Harold & Yvonne Haskins
Our Institutional Supporters

- Attic Brewery
- Bargain Thrift Center
- Loretta Witt Home Teams of Berkshire Hathaway, HomeServices Fox & Roach, REALTORS
- Chestnut Hill College
- David Brothers Landscape Services
- Electrical Wizardry, Inc.
- Ernst Brothers Builders
- Fairmount Park Commission
- Fox Roach Realtors
- Friends of Germantown NW LLC
- Frosted Fox
- Gaffney’s Fabrics
- Germantown Friends School
- Germantown United CDC
- Goldenberg Group
- Hanson Fine Building and Restoration
- Holiday House Publishing
- Kurtz Construction Company
- National Society of the Colonial Dames of America/PA
- Night Kitchen
- Old Republic Title
- Philly Office Retail LLC
- Pledgeling Foundation
- PZS Architects
- Sheldon Fogelman Agency, Inc.
- Stahl Electric
- Stechert & Micciche
- Stenton Museum
- University of Pennsylvania Medicine
- Wills Eye Hospital
- Wissahickon Tree and Landscape Services
- Woodmere Art Museum

Gifts $2500-$4999
- Carolyn and Tim Adams
- Susan & Hank Harrison
- Catharine Keim
- Mark Frazier Lloyd
- Penna. Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC): General Operating

Gifts $5,000-$9,999
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED): Keystone Grant
- Philadelphia Cultural Fund
- Ken & Judy Weinstein
- Loretta & Tom Witt

Gifts $10,000 and above
- Daniel Gordon
- Mary and Stephen Kurtz
- Penna. Historical and Museum Commission: Keystone Grant
- Ted & Stevie Wolf
- Michael Young

To learn more about membership in Historic Germantown please visit:
freedomsbackyard.com/support-us
Historic Germantown’s 18 member sites provide a wide array of programs, events and services that attract visitors, build community and support the local economy. See below for some highlights!

**SHARING AND PRESERVING HISTORY**

100,000 VISITS

Historic Germantown sites welcome over 100,000 visitors a year for tours, education programs, events, festivals, and recreation.

100+ EXHIBITS, EVENTS, LECTURES, AND COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Our sites present over 100 lectures, classes, performances, concerts and other programs that educate entertain and inspire neighbors and visitors alike.

Member sites spend over $1,000,000 on preserving and maintaining their sites and property

$1M+ SPENT ON PRESERVATION AND MAINTENENCE
**EDUCATING K-12 STUDENTS**

Historic Germantown member sites educate over 10,000 k-12 school children each year including over 4,000 fourth and fifth grade students that take part in the year-long, award winning History Hunters program.

---

**PROVIDING GREEN SPACE**

Historic Germantown sites own or are situated on a range of accessible green spaces including an arboretum, landscaped gardens, lawns and park spaces, community gardens, and burial grounds. These green oases provide habitat to a wide variety of plants and animals and offer places for neighbors to experience nature, enjoy beauty, relax, and exercise or play.

---

**10,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN EDUCATED**

**75 ACRES ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE**
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Many of the major public events and festivals that take place in Germantown and Mt. Airy are hosted and managed by Historic Germantown (HG) sites. Collectively, these celebrations draw tens of thousands of visitors from the local community and across the region who patronize many dozens of on-site vendors and nearby businesses. Some of the major festivals are:

**JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL**
Germantown initiated the region's first celebration of this holiday that recognizes the emancipation of Black people following the Civil War. For many years the Johnson House has managed the event attracting thousands of attendees.

**REVOLUTIONARY GERMANTOWN FESTIVAL**
On the first Saturday in October, Cliveden hosts the popular reenactment of 1777 Battle of Germantown and the HG sites provide educational activities for families, and later that day Grumblethorpe hosts an Ocktoberfest event for the public and the reenactors.

**PEOPLE’S POETRY AND JAZZ FESTIVAL**
The Black Writers Museum in Vernon Park welcomes thousands of people to enjoy locally and nationally renowned musicians and spoken word artists.

**HONEYFEST**
Organized by the Philadelphia Beekeeper’s Guild and held at three historic sits in Philadelphia, including Wyck, this event features bee/honey themed demonstrations, food, vendors and activities for families.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**
This October event created and hosted by Awbury Arboretum, draws over two thousand people to enjoy seasonal foods, crafts, animals, music and more.
SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Our sites love supporting locally owned businesses and entrepreneurs – everything from coffee shops and restaurants, to contractors, consultants and artists. The money spent on over 100 such businesses ‘stays in the community’ and provides an important economic impact.

The HG sites are small businesses themselves employing over 80 full and part-time staff. And they leverage over 25,000 hours of volunteer time to manage the HG sites and help provide public programs and events.
Our Member Sites

ACES MUSEUM
The ACES Museum pays tribute to Minority Veterans of World War II. Every day is Veterans’ Day at ACES!

AWBURY ARBORETUM
Awbury Arboretum’s 55 acres provide the community with free access to nature and history 365 days a year.

BLACK WRITERS MUSEUM
The Black Writers Museum is a repository for and provides exhibits of classic and contemporary Black Literature and artifacts. Writers are the Narrators of History.

CLIVEDEN OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
Built in 1767, Cliveden is central to the struggles for American freedom. This elegant Georgian house was home to the Chew family for two centuries and site of the 1777 Battle of Germantown.

CONCORD SCHOOL HOUSE AND UPPER BURYING GROUND
The Concord Scholhouse, open from 1775-1892, was Germantown’s first English language school.

EBENEZER MAXWELL MANSION
The Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion is Philadelphia’s only authentically-restored Victorian house museum and garden.

GERMANTOWN WHITE HOUSE
The Germantown White House (Deshler-Morris) was the summer home to President George Washington.

GERMANTOWN MENNONITE HISTORIC TRUST
Germantown, the first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America, features this 1770 meetinghouse.

GRUMBLETHORPE
Grumblethorpe, “John Wister’s Big House”, is a 1744 Colonial German county seat.
**GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Germantown Historical Society library and museum is the headquarters for history in Germantown.

**HISTORIC RITTENHOUSETOWN**

Historic RittenhouseTown is the site of British North America’s first paper mill built in 1690.

**HISTORIC FAIR HILL**

Historic Fair Hill, Inc maintains the 315-year-old Quaker burial ground of great leaders of the Underground Railroad and early women’s rights movement, including Lucretia Mott and Robert Purvis.

**HOOD CEMETERY**

Behind the monumental stone gateway, soldiers of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and prominent early citizens rest at one of Germantown’s oldest historic sites.

**JOHNSON HOUSE**

The Johnson House is one of the few remaining Underground Railroad Stations in Philadelphia open to the public.

**LEST WE FORGET SLAVERY MUSEUM**

Lest We Forget Slavery Museum is the only area museum with authentic slavery artifacts.

**STENTON**

One of the earliest and best preserved historic sites in the Philadelphia region.

**WYCK**

Wyck House, garden, and farm served as the ancestral home of the Wistar-Haines family for over nine generations.

**LASALLE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM**

La Salle Art Museum houses outstanding works from 1400 to the present.