



October, 2021

Dear Historic Alexandria Foundation Supporter:

We have survived another year of separation from people, places and events that are meaningful to our lives. During these trying times, HAF has continued to pursue its mission of promoting the ideals and goals that are central to our mission of historic preservation in Alexandria.

A major endeavor over the past year was our effort to protect the house and garden of the Justice Hugo Black house at 619 South Lee Street from an inappropriate and illegal building scheme proposed by the current owner of the property. Justice Black had placed both house and garden under a strict easement that he felt would protect the property in perpetuity. The battle was a long and arduous one, that ultimately, HAF took to the Virginia Supreme Court. Much to our dismay, the Court ducked the essential legal issue, by ruling that HAF did not have standing to appeal decisions of the Board of Architectural Review or City Council to the courts—a cursory reading of the City Code states explicitly that we do. Our website provides access to all of the materials associated with this case. We are obviously disappointed, but intend to continue this fight by seeking legislative remedies.

Due to yet another surge of the wily coronavirus, HAF was once again unable to host its Annual Meeting and Garden Party. Preservation grants are traditionally announced at that gathering. The Board recognizes how important our grants are for small non-profits during the pandemic — over \$1.5 million has been disbursed over the past 25 years. Thus, once again this year, the Board solicited applications and awarded six very special grants.

The Athenaeum was awarded \$7,000 for repair of the building's gutters and downspouts to prevent further water intrusion onto the cornice and into the basement. The beloved Greek Revival temple-form building is one of the city's architectural landmarks.

The Basilica of St. Mary's was awarded \$15,000 toward restoration of the cupola at St. Mary's School on Green Street. This will be the first major conservation work of the cupola since its completion in 1950. A fact that is little known, is that the cupola houses the 1811 bell from the early church. Saint Mary's is the first Catholic parish in Virginia, founded in 1795.

The Freedom House Museum received a grant for \$4,500, which will be used to create a fine scale diorama of the slave jail complex as it appeared ca. 1840, including main block, men's and women's yards, kitchen, enclosed passageways, fencing, as well as walls and trees. In 2020, the City of Alexandria purchased the National Historic Landmark property at 1315 Duke Street that was once the Alexandria Slave Pen where thousands of enslaved men, women, and children were purchased locally, held, and sold for a large profit to plantations in the Deep South. The model will be displayed at the Freedom House Museum.

The Friendship Firehouse Museum was given a \$5,000 grant to complete the restoration of the 1851 Rodgers engine. Originally housed in a shed on Alexandria's historic Market Square, the Friendship Fire Company was Alexandria's first fire company, established in 1774. The conservation work will take approximately 8 months and the engine will be taken to an off-site conservation facility.

History Revealed, Inc. received \$5,000 to digitize and transcribe three 18th century Alexandria store ledgers owned by the New York Public Library. In addition, there will be weekly social media posts of the year-long process highlighting HAF's support and the results of this project.

The T.C. Williams Scholarship Fund of Alexandria received a \$5,000 grant. This grant will support a scholarship for a graduating senior from T.C. Williams High School who intends to study history, architectural history, archaeology, or architecture at an accredited institution of higher learning. HAF provided a pilot scholarship a few years ago and is pleased to offer once again this opportunity to a T.C. Williams High School senior.

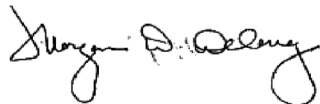
Throughout the past year, our standing committees continued their critical advocacy work, via ZOOM, before the Boards, Commissions and Councils that decide the future of our city and its historic districts.

We acknowledge and appreciate your continued, generous support more than ever during these unprecedented times. Although, in adherence of public health guidelines, we will not be able to host a live gathering at “Toasting our Town” this year, we expect to be back in 2022. We are pleased to announce that both of our long-standing Corporate Sponsors for the “Toasting” event have generously pledged their continuing support of HAF. Mars, Inc. has donated \$5,000 this year.

Babs Beckwith and McEneaney Associates, Inc. Realtors have been committed annual supporters of HAF since 1988 – 32 years!! They have pledged \$2,500 this year in support of our mission and endeavors. We are most grateful, and thank them for their continued support throughout the years.

We hope you will be as generous as possible to help us continue our valuable programs. You will find enclosed a list of our givers over the past year. Please mark a membership category on the response envelope and send it in today or pay by PAYPAL on our website. For updated information, go to our website: www.historicalexandriafoundation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morgan D. Delaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Morgan D. Delaney, MD
President