

Press Release: June 29, 2020

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The Board of the Historic Alexandria Foundation unanimously voted to grant four grants for the 2020 grant cycle totally \$25,000. The Board felt these grants very important even in these unprecedented times. Over the past 30 years, HAF has supported a broad range of activities, ranging from “bricks and mortar” restoration work, to conservation of artifacts in our museum buildings, to scholarly research on aspects of Alexandria’s cultural and architectural history. Over \$1,000,000 has been distributed by the Historic Alexandria Foundation Preservation Fund. Included are details of HAF grant recipients over the last 30 years.

The Alexandria Elks Lodge, #48, 227 N. Henry St., in the Parker Gray Historic District, was awarded a \$10,000 grant. The grant is for emergency roof repairs and a structural engineer’s report on the building’s further needs. With a history in Alexandria dating to 1903, the fraternal organization is an anchor for the African American community. The Lodge has always hosted weddings, funerals, and educational activities, and during the era of segregation it was the venue for famous entertainers such as Ray Charles, Tina Turner, Fats Domino, and Little Richard.

The Athenaeum was awarded a \$5,000 grant. This grant will go toward repair of the Athenaeum’s east facing basement windows. The window frames and sills are in bad repair and need to be fixed. The Athenaeum is one of Alexandria’s Greek revival treasures and HAF has bestowed upon them many grants in the past to complete such projects as the restoration of the Doric columns in front and ongoing exterior stucco restoration.

The Freedom House Museum was awarded a grant for \$5,000. This grant will pay for the digitization of approximately 151 folders of archival material from the Rice C. Ballard Papers, 1822-1888, held as a part of the Southern Historical Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina. Portions of this collection will be integrated into an expanded Freedom House Museum in the form of physical reproductions of key documents or an exhibit panel.

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 glad to offer this opportunity to a T.C. Williams high school senior once again.

