



September 8, 2020

Dear Supporter of Historic Alexandria Foundation:

2020 is a year that we will never forget. Our lives have been disrupted and altered, perhaps permanently, by the SARS Coronavirus 2 pandemic. Organizations like HAF which take pride in our contributions towards sustaining the continuity of the life of our community have experienced the same disruption—very trying times, indeed. Yet life does go on.

We were unable to host our annual Garden Party and Meeting this spring due to the critical public health directives of social distancing. We are accustomed to announcing Grant awards from our Preservation Fund at this annual event. Since the inception of the Grants Program 30 years ago, well over \$1,000,000 has been distributed by the HAF Preservation Fund. Because these grants are so important to the groups and sites that receive them, the HAF Board proceeded with reviewing applications and making awards as usual this year. We are proud to announce four very special awards and to share details of them with you.

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 and masonry repairs and the preparation of a comprehensive report on the building's conservation needs. With a history in Alexandria dating to 1903, this fraternal organization serves as 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 towards repair of the Athenaeum's east-facing basement windows. One of the city's Greek Revival architectural treasures, the building serves many roles in our community. HAF has a long history of contributing to the preservation of this beloved structure, including the restoration of its iconic Doric columns and the exterior stucco walls.

The Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke Street was awarded a grant of \$5,000. This grant will pay for the digitization and transcription of approximately 151 folders of archival material from the Rice C. Ballard Slave-Trading Papers, 1822-1888, held as a part of the Southern Historical Collection at the Library of the University of North Carolina. Portions of this collection will be integrated into an expanded Freedom House Museum in the form of physical reproduction of key documents and exhibit panels.

The T.C. Williams Scholarship Fund of Alexandria received a \$5,000 grant. This grant will support a scholarship for a graduating senior who intends to major in history, architectural history, archaeology, or architecture during his/her university study. 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.

We acknowledge and appreciate your continued, generous support more than ever during these unprecedented times. Although we will not be able to host *Toasting our Town* this year, we expect to be back in 2021. We are pleased to announce that both of our long-standing Corporate Sponsors for the *Toasting* event have very generously pledged their continuing support of HAF. Mars, Inc. has donated \$5,000, and is offering an additional contribution of up to \$5,000 in a one-to-one match of donations by HAF members and supporters.

Babs Beckwith and McEneaney Associates, Inc. Realtors have been committed annual supporters of HAF since 1988—32 years! They have once again pledged \$2,500 in support of our endeavors. We offer them our most sincere thanks and gratitude.

We ask you to be as generous as possible to help us continue our valuable programs. 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](http://www.historicalexandriafoundation.org).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan D. Delaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Morgan D. Delaney, MD  
President