



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Staten Island Historical Society
Historic Richmond Town

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Growing up, I wished I could meet George Washington more than meet the members of New Kids on the Block. There is nowhere I'd rather work in New York City than at Staten Island's Historic Richmond Town, the City's only complete living history village. With a mission to preserve and interpret history, over the past 100 years the organization has amassed a collection of over 100,000 objects and photographs, and preserved 40 local structures across four properties with a combined 112 acres of land.

We have much to be proud of in our 2019 fiscal year. We hosted the 40th consecutive county fair. The Richmond County Fair is our biggest fundraiser and in 2019 it reached over 12,000 visitors and raised \$65,000, which helps to support our educational programming. Over the year we welcomed 70,000 visitors, including 20,000 school children. Historic Richmond Town completed the restoration of the Guyon Tavern, which had been damaged in a car accident a year before. Additionally, we enjoyed the successful sophomore year of Egger's Ice Cream at Historic Richmond Town.

Whether you are walking your dog in the misty morning hours along the car-free streets, raising a mug of hippocras at a candlelit Tavern Concert on a dark February evening, or watching the tinsmith twist a bundle of tinsel for you during Christmas at Historic Richmond Town, you are sure to enjoy the sounds of nature and children, savor the fresh air, and appreciate the immersive serenity of stepping back in time.

The 2019 fiscal year was my first year as Executive Director & CEO. I have been welcomed and supported by the dedicated Board of Directors, the community, and staff. The community's love for Historic Richmond Town is emboldening.

I thank you for empowering us to continue to deliver robust, history-based education in our community and well beyond. I appreciate all your support and all that you do for Historic Richmond Town, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Jessica B. Phillips,
Executive Director & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Fisher - President

Don M. Bosco - First Vice President

Robert Champi - Second Vice President

Gerard Carbonella - Treasurer

William Ferrier - Assistant Treasurer

Timothy G. Boyland - Secretary

Sherylyn Bouldin- Bailey

Dina Marie Filippini

Laura Gentile

Elizabeth Greene

Thomas Murphy

Claire Regan

Edward J. Vomero

ABOUT US

The Staten Island Historical Society doing business as Historic Richmond Town works to create opportunities for the public to explore the diversity of the American experience, especially that of Staten Island and its neighboring communities from the colonial period to the present. We accomplish this by preserving and presenting centuries of American life through the efforts of ordinary people, from every background, who worked to build an extraordinary country. The site and its structures are not bound to a specific historical event or famous persons. Our region's history is a platform to share about American growth through the centuries.

To accomplish this the Society:

- Operates and interprets Historic Richmond Town, the largest and most complete historic village in the City of New York—100 acres and 40 structures.
- Collects and preserves the materials of everyday life including artifacts, archives and buildings that tell the story - 60,000 artifacts.
- Conducts and promotes research based on the historic collection.
- Shares the collection and knowledge with the public through creative and engaging interpretative programs.

STATEN ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE COMMUNITY

Historic Richmond Town offered an array of opportunities for the public to engage in Staten Island history and culture over the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Our school tours and workshops immerse students in fundamental concepts of our community, while our public programs allow the entire community to celebrate our history. We're a museum, a classroom, a park, a playground, and more, simultaneously.



FISCAL YEAR '19 BY THE NUMBERS...

Attendance

Visitors: 4,126

Special Events Attendees: 17,896

Support

Total Memberships: 135

Total Revenue: \$7,639

Individual Donations: \$8,875

RESTORATION



During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Billiou-Stillwell-Perine House located at 1476 Richmond Road received new gutters and a new front yard fence. A Friends of Perine group was established to achieve the \$124,000 funding goal needed to continue preservation on Staten Island's oldest house. The oldest part of the house was constructed ca. 1663, and is the only remaining architectural evidence of the first permanent settlement on Staten

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In Fiscal Year '19, Historic Richmond Town provided educational programming for 17,896 students.



CURATORIAL & COLLECTIONS

During Fiscal Year '19, the Curatorial and Collections staff...

- Completed a major assessment and reorganization of the HRT painting collection (approximately 400 items) with a grant from the Barker Welfare Foundation.
- Cataloged 1,160 previously uncataloged photographs, artifacts, and documents.
- Added 10 new accessions to the collection.
- Responded to 453 research, collection, and photo inquiries.
- Provided 120 digital Alice Austen images to the Alice Austen House for their new museum-wide reinterpretation exhibition.
- Presented 6 small exhibitions: “Historic Broadsides”; “Gardens Grow,” “A Trip to the Barbershop,” “Imported Ceramics on Staten Island”; “Jewish American Heritage Month”; and a firearms display as part of the July 4 event.
- Completed work on a two-year project to prepare a new, in-depth Historic Structure Report for the Voorlezer’s House; prepared materials for a public roll-out of the new interpretation.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & ACCESSIBILITY

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the organization implemented a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) plan.

The Staten Island Historical Society values, celebrates, and is committed to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in all its activities. We believe building an inclusive and equitable environment is an ongoing, active process that requires constant and deliberate attention. With our audiences, staff, board of directors, volunteers, and partners, we persistently strive to build truly accessible spaces, a culture of diversity of voice and representation, and equity for all. To live out this vision, we work to develop a diverse field of candidates for all positions including board and staff leadership, while ensuring that all recruitment procedures are inclusive. Workforce members are valued and nurtured in ways that help them to grow, advance, and achieve, pathways to leadership are fair and genuinely embrace difference and board and staff leadership is diverse and reflective of the communities served. Ultimately, the organization is known, understood, and valued by diverse communities and people from underrepresented or historically marginalized groups are explicitly invited to become involved and participate fully at all levels of the organization. Leaders respectfully listen to opinions that challenge existing norms. The organization continuously builds relationships with current and potential audiences in a way that appreciates multiple perspectives and welcomes meaningful participation to benefit both the organization and the communities it serves.

We accomplished this with the help of: FutureWork Institute, Walker International Consulting Group, Hampton Consulting Group, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. Support for building diversity, equity, and inclusion at Historic Richmond Town in FY 19 was received through an Expanding Audiences and Cultural Participation Regrant from Staten Island Arts, made possible with generous support from New York Community Trust, The Staten Island Foundation, the Altman Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and Time Warner.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Norm Pederson is a Staten Island native who grew up on Grymes Hill. His grandfather, Halvor Pederson came to America in the 1890s as a carpenter from Norway. Norm started learning carpentry as a child using his grandfather's tools, and found a lasting interest in 19th-century carpentry methods. Norm is a Korean War Veteran and a retired SI Ferry deckhand. He began Civil War reenacting in 1993, and subsequently started volunteering at Historic Richmond Town. After years of dormancy, Norm revived HRT's carpenter shop when offered use of the shop by Bill McMillen (former Chief of Restoration) in 1995. Norm has pursued study of 18th and 19th-century rural carpentry and in addition to his time at HRT has demonstrated his craft at various historic sites. He has been commissioned to reproduce wares for a multitude of historic parks, villages, and museums. Norm is on-site several days each week, interpreting his trade to visitors, and handcrafting reproduction items for Historic Richmond Town. Norm is an integral part of our team, and we are thrilled to be able to honor him in this way after years of dedication to our organization.



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Mary Ann Weibel - President

Jennifer Dolcimascolo - 1st Vice President

Ann Borik - Treasurer

Jean Hand - Assistant Treasurer

Angela Barone - Recording Secretary

Marie Elena Money Penny - Corresponding Secretary

During the 2018/2019 fiscal year, the Women's Auxiliary contributed 4,165 volunteer hours and was able to donate \$30,000 to furthering our mission. Our Women's Auxiliary is instrumental year after year in supporting our continued commitment to our community. We thank them for their hard work, their time, and their devotion to our organization.

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$506,700
Government Grants	\$1,035,672
In-Kind Donations	\$1,429
Net Special Events Revenue	\$186,840
Membership Dues	\$8,369
Admissions	\$272,709
Rental Income	\$15,237
Deaccession Income	\$2,418
Investment Income	\$59,391
Realized Gain on Investments	\$3,721
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(\$39,285)
Gift Shop and Other Retail Sales, Net	\$73,876
Other Income	\$147,522
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$2,274,599

EXPENSES

Restoration	\$168,398
Education	\$481,991
Curatorial	\$279,949
Special Program Events	\$233,093
Other Programs	\$42,209
Maintenance and Security	\$434,679
Management and General	\$241,421
Fundraising	\$70,057
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,951,797



THANK YOU!

*To our members, visitors,
donors, and sponsors:*

Your support is incredibly valuable to our community, and the opportunity to share our mission would be meaningless without you.

We hope to see you at Historic Richmond Town soon. Thank you for being an important part of our story.

Support Us

DONATE

<https://www.historicrichmondtown.org/donate>

Find us on Amazon Smile under Staten Island Historical Society, Inc.

VOLUNTEER

<https://www.historicrichmondtown.org/volunteer>

BECOME A MEMBER

<https://www.historicrichmondtown.org/membership>

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Historic Richmond Town 441 Clarke Avenue | 718-351-1611 | www.historicrichmondtown.org

Historic Richmond Town is a remarkable living-history village and museum complex that evokes 300 years of the history, community and culture on Staten Island. With 40 historic structures on more than 100 acres of New York City parkland just a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of Manhattan, Historic Richmond Town is a breathtaking glimpse into the City's rural past.

Historic Richmond Town is non-profit educational cultural institution. Programs and events help raise funds to support the mission. Historic Richmond Town is operated by the Staten Island Historical Society a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation instituted and incorporated in 1856.