



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Staten Island Historical Society
Historic Richmond Town

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In 2019, when Historic Richmond Town was in its 163 year of operation, the team and community had the highest hopes for the year's institutional growth and stability. We looked forward to hosting our signature fundraising events, Uncorked and the 41st Richmond County Fair and welcoming thousands of students and visitors to experience the sights, sounds, smells and even tastes of history. This growth would remind us of why we support Historic Richmond Town - New York City's most complete living history village, historical museum and gardens.

By December, Historic Richmond Town's team saw our dreams starting to be realized. Attendance was increasing for our educational programming, including the newly reinstated Open Village, and thousands attended the Richmond County Fair. We were encouraged that this would be the best year on record.

By February, new and exciting programs were in development and key staff members were joining our team. We were looking at a fiscal surplus and increased access to the mission.

I was in my eighteenth month of my tenure and was proud of what Historic Richmond Town accomplished in such a short time. We had developed a true collaborative culture. Then March brought the tragic COVID-19 pandemic.

The team produced our first ever online program, Arts & Culture in Quarantine. This was a compilation of historic craft how-to videos, online exhibitions, behind the scenes tours, staff library tours, and more. Each department contributed to the program. It received over 17,000 impressions from across the world.

Historic Richmond Town came through the remainder of the FY20 year with a deep appreciation for the importance of digital programming. We realized that all the earlier team building efforts allowed us to work remotely but as a team to continue forwarding the mission in real ways. Together we faced challenges and hardships and we are grateful for the relief funding provided through the SBA and our community for their dedicated support.

Historic Richmond Town has been serving our public history-based mission for 163 years. We look forward to 163 more!

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

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ABOUT US

We're a historical museum, living history village, and gardens all in one.

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. We accomplish this by preserving and presenting centuries of American life through the efforts of ordinary people, from every background. The site and its structures are not bound to a specific historical event or famous persons.

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 local history and culture over the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Our school tours, Open Village, and workshops immerse community in historical trades, crafts and the lives of the everyday person of pre-1900, while our public programs allow the entire community to celebrate our history.





FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BY THE NUMBERS...

Attendance

Visitors: 15,571

Special Events Attendees: 42,471

Support

Total Memberships: 89

Total Revenue: \$4,830

Individual Donations: \$15,943

RESTORATION



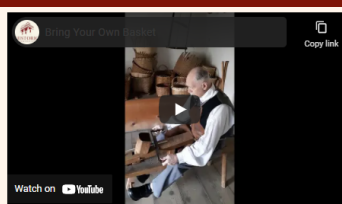
During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Parsonage located on the main campus of Historic Richmond Town had been severely damaged due to malfunctioning drainage systems. The gutters were repaired and the roof was cleaned of the years of moss growth. The damaged siding and windows were restored and a new door was installed.

This restoration has saved this key structure from ruin, allow it to be part of the crown jewels of the preservation building library.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Education & Public Programs team hosted a fall and winter season full of school tours (12,359 school visitors), daily trips to our Decker Farm to learn about the agricultural past of Staten Island (6,429 school visitors), and cold wintry evenings spent over candlelight listening to the acoustic sounds of sea shanties in the 19th century Guyon Tavern (527 visitors) or touring holiday traditions of the past on the much beloved Candlelight Tours (302 visitors).

In response to the pandemic, the Education & Public Programs team pivoted its focus. Online programming was introduced through our pandemic-inspired Arts & Culture in Quarantine series. Video segments created included demonstrations of tinsmithing, basket making, hearth cooking, crafts, costuming, and staff interviews, generating more than 17,000 digital impressions.



BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

Paper or Plastic? ...How about a wood basket? Portable, reusable, a necessity in everyday life. Long before plastic bags and plastic bag bans, early Americans used wood baskets to carry and contain goods.

In this video, Historical Interpreter Paul describes and demonstrates the process of basket making as interpreted at Historic Richmond Town. White oak wood baskets were made by the Lenape and other indigenous peoples for centuries. European colonists on the North American continent would adopt these process of weaving for their own use and trade.

On Staten Island in the 19th century, baskets were in high demand for use in oystering, one of the chief industries in the area. The Basket Maker's House is one of the more than 40 buildings that make up Historic Richmond Town. The house was built in 1810, located on Richmond Avenue in New Springville. It was moved to Historic Richmond Town in 1965.



BACK TIN TIME

In the 19th century, many household items were made of tin. Using hand tools and machines to cut and shape this malleable metal, tinsmiths fashioned lanterns, pots, pans, sconces, and many other goods. Tinsmithing is one of many trades and skills demonstrated at Historic Richmond Town.

In this video, using period tools and practice, Historical Interpreter Chris creates a scallop patty in the Tinsmith Shop at Historic Richmond Town. Circular baking tins with indentations, patty tins or patty pans were used to make small cakes and pies. To fashion the scallop patty, Chris cuts a circle out of a piece of tinplate with a pattern form and a pair of tinsnips. To make the indentations in the circle, a creasing swedge is used to strike the tin, bending it into the scalloped shape. Goods made in a tinsmith were made with precision and attention to detail, but each piece was unique, reflecting the skill and style of the maker.

This is an image of a sample section of the Arts & Culture in Quarantine virtual series.

CURATORIAL & COLLECTIONS

The Curatorial team oversees a collection of over 60,000 artifacts, including dozens of horse drawn carriages and over 1,100 linear feet of archives. Our time is spent ensuring the objects are well taken care of and researched, and shared with the community. In fiscal year 2020 we put 1,499 objects into the online database and responded to 434 research requests.

With the help of interns and volunteers we assessed a woodworking tool collection of 700 handplanes. From the assessment we were able to curate a collection of 441 well researched hand planes that demonstrate an encyclopedic collection of American handplanes.

We installed two exhibitions. One told the story of the Richmond County Fair, which is an event hosted by HRT for forty years but which had not been presented for many years. The exhibition featured handcrafts from centuries past and pictures of local folks enjoying the fair and competing for prize ribbons. The second exhibition highlighted the German heritage on Staten Island. It featured images of German-cultural clubs, brew houses, and businesses.

In response to the COVID pandemic we established a community driven collecting program to encourage object donation relating to people's experiences during the pandemic. We also started the Time Capsule Program, which invited folks to create a time capsule and fill it up with their memories and objects. The capsules will be kept in our archives and in 10 years will be exhibited on the tenth anniversary of the pandemic.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The External Affairs team had a busy fiscal year before in-person events were shut down. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions we were still able to grow our communications and share all the newly developed video content established for Arts & Culture in Quarantine.

External Affairs by the numbers

Special Events

Richmond County Fair - 11,655 visitors
Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm - 6,702 visitors
Halloween in Historic Richmond Town - 2,290 visitors
Christmas in Historic Richmond Town - 1,102 visitors

Communications

Social Media Audience Growth - 17 %
Press Hits - 22
Website Page Views - 138,487
New Website Visitors - 88.7%
Website Accessed via iOS operating system - 62.9%
Website Visits Lasting Longer than 30 minutes - 50,882



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

MaryAnn Weibel

The Women's Auxiliary of Historic Richmond Town, is honored that Auxiliary member and Board of Directors Representative, MaryAnn Weibel was named Historic Richmond Town Volunteer of the Year for 2019-2020.

MaryAnn Weibel, nee Ryan, was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to the Todt Hill Projects when she was five. She was a graduate of Hunter College. MaryAnn worked at Willowbrook State School and Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office her entire career as a social worker. MaryAnn was a wife to Dan, an avid golfer, bowler, and a volunteer in several community organizations. MaryAnn served as Vice President of the Staten Island Women's Golf Association, and officer, and player in two other golf leagues. She bowled in two leagues, and played bridge in two monthly bridge groups.

For fifteen years, MaryAnn delivered Staten Islanders meals from Meals on Wheels. She assisted with fundraising events for Very Special Place. Additionally, MaryAnn was a poll worker for the Board of Elections. MaryAnn joined the Women's Auxiliary in 2008 as a Bennett Café volunteer. Three years later MaryAnn was invited to join the Auxiliary's Executive Board as Assistant Treasurer (2011 -2016), and President from September 2017 to April 2020.

MaryAnn Weibel exemplified generosity of her time, money, and talents at home, within her community, and with all she interacted with. Sadly, MaryAnn's life was lost to cancer, but she left a legacy of a life well lived. THANK YOU, MaryAnn.



From left to right: MaryAnn Weibel, Kevin Fisher, Jessica B. Phillips

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary HRT was organized in 1956 and committed to aid , assist, and raise funds to support Historic Richmond Town carry out its mission.

Women's Auxiliary Officers

MaryAnn Weibel- President 9/ 2017- 4/2020

Caroline Esposito- Acting President 4/20-

Jennifer Dolcimascolo-1st. Vice President

Ann Borik- Treasurer

Eugenia Hand- Assistant Treasurer

Angela Barone- Recording Secretary

Marie Elena Money Penny-Corresponding Secretary

Although the Women's Auxiliary faced challenges, including unexpected and tragic loss of our President, and COVID-19 restrictions, they still donated : 4,968 Volunteer Hours and \$30,500 in financial support during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The Women's Auxiliary will continue to support Historic Richmond Town in achieving its Mission.

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$170,465
Government Grants	\$973,864
In-Kind Donations	\$6,800
Net Special Events Revenue	\$101,871
Membership Dues	\$4,830
Admissions	\$252,681
Rental Income	\$51,902
Deaccession Income	\$1,909
Investment Income	\$84,047
Realized Gain on Investments	\$(62)
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(\$203,445)
Gift Shop and Other Retail Sales, Net	\$3,801
Other Income	\$106,926
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$1,555,589

EXPENSES

Restoration	\$157,807
Education	\$454,069
Curatorial	\$234,398
Special Program Events	\$239,809
Other Programs	\$33,368
Maintenance and Security	\$424,095
Management and General	\$213,985
Fundraising	\$83,172
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,840,703

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's living history village, historical museum and gardens 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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Youtube - [Historic Richmond Town](https://www.youtube.com/HistoricRichmondTown)



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.