



HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN

Living History Village • Historical Museum • Arboretum
www.historicrichmondtown.org | 441 Clarke Avenue, SI, NY 10306



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Staten Island Historical Society
Historic Richmond Town

Message from the CEO

July 2021 - June 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters of Historic Richmond Town,

As we bid farewell to 2022, I am thrilled to share with you the incredible journey we've embarked upon over the past year. As COVID-19 restrictions gradually waned, Historic Richmond Town experienced a revitalizing resurgence, embracing the opportunity to reconnect with our community and renew our commitment to preserving history. Our shared determination and unwavering spirit have truly made 2022 a year to remember.

Throughout the year, we witnessed an inspiring surge in engagement as visitors eagerly returned to our historic site. Our carefully curated exhibits and immersive experiences offered a unique window into the past, allowing visitors to step back in time and rediscover the rich heritage of Staten Island. From educational programs that captured the imaginations of young learners to the Richmond County Fair, our team's dedication shone through in every aspect of our work.

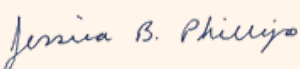
Collaboration was at the heart of our achievements in 2022. We forged new partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and businesses, fostering a sense of unity that strengthens our mission. Our volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to ensure that every guest felt welcomed and enlightened during their visit. Together, we hosted successful fundraising events that not only sustained our operations but also propelled us towards new horizons of growth and innovation.

Looking ahead, I am filled with excitement for what the future holds. With the momentum of 2022 moving us forward, we are poised to continue expanding our reach, telling untold stories, and preserving the treasures of our past. None of this would be possible without your continued support, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed to our success.

As we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I am confident that Historic Richmond Town will remain a beacon of inspiration, education, and community connection. Together, we will ensure that the echoes of history resonate through time, reminding us of where we've been and guiding us towards a brighter future.

Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead.

Warmest regards,



Jessica B. Phillips
CEO

Message from the President of the Board of Directors

In 1963, James Baldwin published “A Talk to Teachers” in the Saturday Review. Baldwin reminds us that the purpose of education is to “create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decision.” ... To ask questions of the universe...”

Our mission at Historic Richmond Town is to preserve the artifacts of our material culture in order to inspire engagement with, and understanding of, the diverse histories of Staten Island. Our mission to educate is as important and as powerful as our mission to preserve. We preserve the artifacts of our people in order to tell the histories of our people. We tell the histories of our people to understanding, kinship, and pride to our community.

2022 brought learners of all ages to our campus for programs, events, apprenticeships, school programs, celebrations, and curated museum offerings. School children are most precious in our focus, but learners of all ages come to be fascinated, surprised, and challenged. 50 years after Baldwin reminded us of our primary mission, to support our ability to look at our world, ask questions and make decisions, Historic Richmond Town is rightfully proud of this goal.

Our talented, dedicated, creative staff under the brilliant leadership of our CEO Jessica Baldwin Phillips provided new and inventive offerings and burnished beloved traditional programming to bring history to our community of learning and sharing.

From the Goethals to the Outterbridge to the Verrazano, Historic Richmond Town spans the years and bridges the diverse histories of all our citizens to bring us together as a community in appreciation and understanding of our unique contributions to our shared life. We accept the challenge of James Baldwin to equip our learners to look, question, and decide, and ultimately to contribute.

We are the future of history. Join us.

Laura Gentile

Board of Directors

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About Us

We are a remarkable living history village, historical museum and arboretum.

Staten Island's largest and oldest cultural institution, Historic Richmond Town, operates the most complete historic village in the City of New York: 100 acres and 38 structures across four unique properties, which include the largest collection of the oldest houses in New York State. We proudly interpret and restore a living history village, operate a historical museum, and collect and preserve material culture to inspire engagement with and understanding of the diverse histories of Staten Island.

Providing an Immersive Historical Experience

Throughout the year, Historic Richmond Town provides an array of creative and interpretive programs and workshops designed to immerse the public in centuries of local history. Our school programs, Open Village experience, guided tours, and a rich array of hands-on public programs present the historic trades, crafts, and diverse histories of centuries of ordinary people of every background who worked together to build an extraordinary community.

Preserving & Restoring the Built Environment

The historic houses and structures on site date back as far as the 1660s and not only provide the perfect backdrop to host our unique programming, but also serve as an authentic platform to share the diverse histories of the individuals who lived and worked there. Through our diligent preservation and restoration efforts, we strive to re-create spaces that are both true to history and promote diversity, representation, and equity for all.



Collecting & Sharing Knowledge

Historic Richmond Town is home to more than 60,000 artifacts, photographs, and archival collections from different time periods; a wide variety of which is on display in the Historical Museum. We also conduct and promote research based on the historic collection, welcome visitors to conduct their own research, and play an active role in assisting research efforts beyond the borders of New York by supporting humanities projects both within and outside the United States.

Protecting the Natural Environment

Historic Richmond Town is also dedicated to protecting the natural environment for the public to enjoy year round, including caring for and playing host to a wide variety of native plants and animals.

Building the Brand & the Future

We host three major fundraising events a year, each designed to connect with the community and enrich the ongoing telling of new and diverse histories of today's visitors. These events increase visibility, awareness, and support for the Historic Richmond Town brand as a leader in the efforts to preserve and share history on Staten Island.



Fiscal Year

2021-2022

By the Numbers

Attendance

2,363 General Admission visitors

21,165 Special Events attendees

1,836 Public Programs attendees

3,168 School Program and Apprentice participants

Volunteers

45 Richmond County Fair volunteers

61 Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm volunteers

10 Visitor Services volunteers

Members

119 Total Memberships

Education & Public Programs

By the Numbers

- Independence Day Celebration:** 328 Visitors
- Old Home Day:** 234 Visitors
- Hearth & Harvest Festival:** 114 Visitors
- Candlelight Tours:** 376 Visitors
- Tavern Concerts:** 542 Participants
- Revolutionary War Living History Saturday:** 269
- School Program Participation:** 3,129
- Summer Apprentice Program:** 39 Participants



Independence Day Weekend

Historic Richmond Town's educational offerings, programs, and amenities fully returned in-person. Signature seasonal events that were adjusted or muted in the pandemic were brought back better than ever—including the Independence Day Celebration, Old Home Day, and Candlelight Tours. School program participation resumed for the first time since the pandemic, with over 3,000 students visiting the historic village and Decker Farm site.



Old Home Day



School Programs

Historic Richmond Town's re-focused mission seeks to include narratives of the underrepresented in the historical record, and to serve audiences that reflect the diversity of Staten Island's people today.

Great steps were taken this year to advance those goals. The roster of Old Home Day presenters, traditionally reserved for costumed living history trades, was expanded to include The Staten Island Cricket Club, Nazz Blacksmiths & Baybayin Calligraphers. Native American history and culture were exhibited by guest Native American speakers, performers and educators in November during the Hearth & Harvest Festival, a re-imagining of the traditional 'Kitchen Tours' program.

With grant support from Con Edison, a Native Encampment construction project was initiated in May 2022 in the southwest quadrant of town, which will create a resource within the campus to amplify the story of the Lenape people, and to contend with the legacy of Staten Island's colonization. In early summer, with the help of local craftivists from the Pride Center of Staten Island, an LGBTQIA+ themed urban knitting installation was displayed in town honoring Pride months of New York and Staten Island.

Living History programming is at the heart of Historic Richmond Town's public-facing work. In fiscal year 2022, Historic Richmond Town hosted two Revolutionary War Living History events in September and June, which brought in living historians from across the tri-state area to demonstrate military life, spy networks, and the divided loyalties of Staten Island in the conflict. The Kruser-Finley House broom shop activation was completed with the fabrication of additional broom winding machines, and staff training on the trade. The Open Village, Historic Richmond Town's most impactful visitor experience, was enhanced this year with the inclusion of timed interpretive programs that highlight themes and stories through the eras the village depicts. With programs offered each week, visitors could plan their visit around participating in a timed talk. A generous grant award of \$25,000 from the Richmond County Savings Foundation allowed for the purchase of much-needed new equipment, props, and costume pieces for the interpreters to wear in the field.

New partnerships brought cultural experiences to Historic Richmond Town, including the Carnegie Hall Citywide concert series, in which Jayme Stone's Folklife performed on the General Store porch in July. Historic Richmond Town also participated in Open House New York in October, which activated the Billiou-Stillwell-Perine House for free tours.

In addition to school programs on site, Historic Richmond Town's incredible Historical Interpreters led after-school workshops through the CASA program, virtual experiences for students studying remotely, English Country Dancing classes, guided tours throughout the year, and Cabin Fever Reliever workshops. In addition, patrons were welcomed back to the Guyon Tavern in the winter for Tavern Concerts, which resumed for the first time since COVID.

Historic Richmond Town's Education and Public Programs offer encounters with the American past that are familiar and reliable. This year's offerings sought to honor those traditions while also seeking new audiences, new perspectives, provide greater access to the site, and improve the experience of visitors.



Apprentice Program



Open Village



Broom making



Candlelight Tours



Revolutionary War Living History Saturday

Building Restoration & Preservation



Corbet Walser

The highlight of FY22 in the department was the hiring of Corbet Walser as the Restoration & Preservation Manager thanks to a generous underwriting grant from the Staten Island Foundation. Starting at the very end of the fiscal year, Corbet was tasked with helping to rebuild the Restoration & Preservation department, Corbet has the unique opportunity to work under a few of the organization's founding master craftspeople who will mentor, guide and provide institutional knowledge. Corbet will work between disciplines to assist in the preservation, research, and restoration of all of HRT's historic structures, which includes coordinating and performing restoration and preservation activities as well as planning and implementing projects and capital improvements.

Corbet was born and grew up in New Haven, Connecticut. He moved to New York to attend college and remained living in Harlem for several years thereafter. His longtime love of craftsmanship and the skilled trades led him to apply to North Bennet Street School in Boston, where he studied Preservation Carpentry from Fall 2020 through June 2022.

This was a good year for the Restoration & Preservation Department. Although work was still done almost entirely by outside contractors, we were able to identify and execute on several key repairs. John Janaskie and Ron Laub, our Facilities & Maintenance team, went above and beyond in taking on the restoration of the Bennett House windows, reglazing and repainting the window sash, many of which were in dire need of attention. Windows are, by their very nature, extremely important to the larger health of a building, especially when water infiltration is considered, and by their very construction, particularly susceptible to massive deterioration if unmaintained. John and Ron's work came out exceptionally well and will prove to be the proverbial stitch in time that saves nine.

The largest project was the push to restore the large barn at Decker Farm. There was significant replacement of worn roof joists and other ancillary framing members in preparation for a complete re-shingling of the roof. Meanwhile, the doors and a fair amount of the clapboard siding (especially the lower courses, which are susceptible to rain splashing up off the ground and rising damp) were replaced and repainted. The barn is an integral infrastructure for the much-beloved autumnal programming that takes place at the farm every year, and this work has ensured that it can continue in that function for years to come.

Decker Farm Barn - Before



Decker Farm Barn - During



CURATORIAL & COLLECTIONS

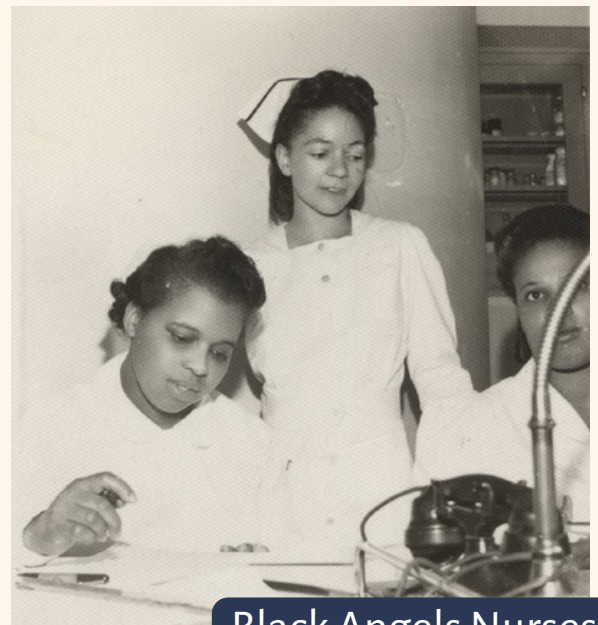
Historic Richmond Town preserves, cares for, and shares with the public a collection of approximately 60,000 objects, 50,000 photos, and 1,100 linear feet of archives, dating from the seventeenth century to the present day. Our collection inspires engagement with the diverse histories of Staten Island, and includes items as varied as musical instruments from accordions to zithers, yellow brick from the earliest Dutch settlements on Staten Island to a Yankee skiff, paintings of 19th century farms to digital photos of community fridges set up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fiscal year 2022, we added 10 new groups of items to the collection, including a rare group of snapshots of some of the heroic Black Angels nurses who treated children with tuberculosis at Seaview Hospital in the 1940s; photos and ephemera documenting girls' sports on Staten Island; and a trove of Curtis Log newspapers from the 1950s-1960s filled with items illustrating the diversity of the students and staff, including Black student leaders, and their activities relating to issues of human rights, race-based discrimination, and reactions to local, national, and international news.

Researchers from around the world use our Online Collections Database to explore our collections and connect with our resources. This year, we responded to 338 research, collection, and photo inquiries, and 67 offers of donation. We completed 34 photo orders, hosted 30 onsite researchers, and completed requests from 7 remote researchers.

Visitors to our historic village engage with the past lives of Staten Islanders through exhibits and furnished historic interiors and shops. As education programming increasingly returned to indoor spaces, we engaged a collections care professional to deep clean objects on display, enhancing both their preservation and the visitor experience. We also shared our collections both virtually and in person, through tours, special programs, blog posts, exhibitions, and loans to other institutions, which connect us to diverse audiences.

Our collection continues to grow as more history is being made every day, and we look forward to preserving and sharing it for generations to come.



Black Angels Nurses



Collections Care at work

Events & Festivals

Historic Richmond Town presented the 41st-Annual Richmond County Fair, for the first time since 2019, as well as Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm, and Uncorked! Food & Wine Festival. In addition, HRT's Women's Auxiliary hosted its annual Yankee Peddler Day.

By the Numbers

Total Attendees: 21,165

Richmond County Fair: 11,590

Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm: 7,821

Yankee Peddler Day: 1,000

Uncorked! Food & Wine Festival: 754



Richmond County Fair



Uncorked! Food & Wine Festival



Yankee Peddler day



Pumpkin Picking at Decker Farm

Development & Philanthropy

Funders

Historic Richmond Town recognizes the critical support from corporate funders, foundations, and governmental agencies. Their support ensures we are able to fulfill our educational mission.

Public Support - City

New York City Council Member Debi Rose
New York City Council Member Joseph Borelli
New York City Council Member Steve Matteo
Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella

Corporations and Foundations

Bruce G. Geary Foundation
Con Edison
Historic House Trust of New York City
NYC & Company Foundation
Richmond County Savings Foundation
Staten Island Foundation

Public Support - State

New York State Council on the Arts

Public Support - Federal

U.S. Small Business Administration

Supporters

Our supporters allow us to continue to offer immersive programming and preserve the collective histories of Staten Island.

By the Numbers

Memberships: 119

Membership Income: \$21,142

Individual Donations: \$273,592

External Affairs



By the Numbers

- **Social Media Growth:** 8.3% audience growth from FY20-21 (*increase of 24K followers*)
- **Press Hits:** 61
- **Most Visited Website Pages:**
 - Decker Farm
 - Events Calendar
 - Richmond County Fair
 - Richmond County Fair Ticket Page

Women's Auxillary

By the Numbers

- 78 paid members
- 2 honorary members
- 4 new members recruited
- 2,098 volunteer hours served
- \$16,000 raised for Historic Richmond Town
- 10/21: \$5,000 | 2/22: \$3,000 | 6/22: \$8,000



Yankee Peddler Day

In FY22, the WAUX experienced many challenges including Covid-19 restrictions, aging membership, and loss. Because of the dedication and commitment of the WAUX members, they saw new successes through volunteerism and creative fundraising events.

Donations Generated from WAUX fundraising: Yankee Peddler Day, Christmas Raffle, and Shopping at Christmas in Historic Richmond Town

Stitch in Time: WAUX Crafters

Chairperson: Veronica Caselli

Members: 16

Stitch In Time met weekly for 2-2.5 hours to prepare handmade crafts to sell at various WAUX and Historic Richmond Town events. The Seaman Cottage was offered to the WAUX to utilize for meetings and a workplace for the Stitch in Time Ladies. The WAUX financed the restoration of electricity and a Heat/Cool unit so the Seaman Cottage was usable.

Volunteerism

In addition to sponsoring Fundraising activities, the WAUX volunteer for Historic Richmond Town's events. Management of the Pony Ride at the Richmond County Fair was undertaken by 11 WAUX members on Sept. 4-6, 2021.

Officers/Board

Acting President: Caroline Esposito

Vice President: Vacant due to death of Jennifer Dolcimascola on May 12, 2022

Recording Secretary: Angela Barone

Treasurer: Phyllis Dunn

Assistant Treasurer: Barbara Mereider

Corresponding Secretary: Angela Nahas

Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Report

Support & Revenue

Contributions: \$273,592
Government Grants: \$1,583,090
In-Kind Donations: \$0
Net Special Events Revenue: \$61,403
Membership Dues: \$21,142
Admissions: \$140,903
Rental Income: \$91,889
Deaccession Income: \$2,352
Investment Income: \$66,642
Realized Gain on Investments: \$58,913
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments: \$0
Gift Shop and Other Retail Sales, Net: \$1,937
Other Income: \$34,486

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$2,336,349

Expenses

Restoration: \$88,898
Education: \$516,909
Curatorial: \$254,072
Special Program Events: **\$122,441**
Maintenance and Security: \$543,520
Management and General: \$394,393
Fundraising: \$122,875

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,954,210



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 arboretum 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

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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 a 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.

