

# BEQUESTS

## HISTORY BEGINS AT HOME.

The Historic House Trust of New York City (HHT) is a nonprofit organization that operates in tandem with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks) via a public/private partnership to aid in and insure the preservation of 23 city-owned historic properties located in parks in all five boroughs. We believe historic sites are not static antiquities – they are living institutions uniquely poised to address current issues while retaining their connections to the past. HHT is therefore dedicated to preserving our sites, protecting their collections, engaging diverse audiences, educating visitors and sustaining the nonprofit organizations that operate our houses.

## FOLLOW US:

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[www.historichousetrust.org](http://www.historichousetrust.org)

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## What is a bequest?

A bequest usually refers to a charitable gift that is written into a clause in your will or trust. Bequests are the most common way that donors leave gifts to a nonprofit organization after their death.

## What are the benefits of making a bequest to the Historic House Trust?

With a bequest, you can make a significant impact on our organization, allowing us to support the 23 houses in our collection.

Bequests allow you to retain ownership and use of your assets during your lifetime and give you the flexibility to change your mind from time to time.

The bequest that you make to the Historic House Trust will not be subject to any federal or state estate tax at your death.

## How can you make a bequest to the Historic House Trust?

- STEP 1:** Decide what type of bequest you would like to leave to HHT. Speak with your attorney or financial advisor about which option makes the most sense for you. We can assist in identifying the most effective designations for your gift.
- STEP 2:** Include a clause in your will or trust describing the bequest, or modify your current will or trust by adding a codicil. See below for sample language.
- STEP 3:** Once you have finalized your plans with your attorney, we ask that you notify HHT of your intent to leave a bequest to the organization. We will then be in touch to welcome you as a member of our Legacy Society and discuss your wishes for the gift.

**A GOOD OPTION  
FOR YOU IF:**

\* You would like to maintain flexibility to modify your gift if your situation changes.

\* You would like to help establish new, innovative programs.



**OTHER WAYS  
TO GIVE:**

- \* Life Insurance Policies
- \* Retirement Plans
- \* Outright Gifts

For more information about donating to HHT, please contact us at (212) 360-8282 or [hhtinfo@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:hhtinfo@parks.nyc.gov).

**HISTORIC HOUSE  
TRUST OF NEW  
YORK CITY**

830 Fifth Avenue  
The Arsenal  
Room 203  
New York, NY 10065

## Sample Bequest Language

**The following language may be used in a will or trust to make a bequest to HHT:**

I give to the Historic House Trust of New York City, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of New York, and with the current business address of 830 Fifth Avenue, The Arsenal, Room 203, New York, NY 10065, [gift] [purpose].

**Gift:**

- the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_,
- all of my interest in the following described property: \_\_\_\_\_,
- \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate.
- all of the residue of my estate.

**Purpose:**

- to be used in furtherance of its exempt charitable purposes.
- to be used as the Board of Directors of the Historic House Trust of New York City shall determine.
- to be used to grow the Historic House Trust's endowment fund.
- to be used as general operating support.
- to be used in support of preservation projects at HHT member sites.
- to be used for the benefit of HHT's programmatic efforts (i.e. educational programs, community engagement initiatives, curatorial programs, etc.)

**Additional Suggested Clause, if funds are allocated to a specific program, effort, or cause:**

If in future years, the above stated purpose is no longer necessary, practical, or possible, the Board of Directors of the Historic House Trust of New York City shall use its discretion to designate this gift for a purpose closely related to my original purpose in furtherance of its exempt purposes.

We strongly recommend speaking with your attorney prior to making any changes to your will or trust. We are happy to work with you and your legal, tax, and other advisers to come up with a plan for giving that meets each of your personal goals.