

BRONX Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Edgar
Valentine-Varian House BROOKLYN
Lefferts Historic House Old Stone House
Little Red Lighthouse Gracie Mansion Swedish
Merchant's House Museum QUEENS Bowne
Queens County Farm Museum Kingsland Homestead



Allan Poe Cottage Van Cortlandt House Museum
Hendrick I. Lott House Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum
MANHATTAN Morris-Jumel Mansion
Cottage Marionette Theatre Dyckman Farmhouse
House King Manor Lewis H. Latimer House
STATEN ISLAND Alice Austen House Conference House
Seguine Mansion Historic Richmond Town

Dear Friend of HHT,

Community has always been a pillar of preservation for me. After visiting the Historic House Trust sites for 30 years, it remains clear to me that these house museums reflect our changing communities like few other places, and remind us that the voices from the past impart important lessons for our lives today. Even when certain chapters of history are marked by adversity, these historic places affirm the resiliency of NYC and its people. We don't yet know how history will remember 2020. I hope future visitors to these house museums define this moment by our communities uniting to improve our world.

Everyone is aware of the challenges of this year, many of which will remain with us into 2021. I applaud the staff and boards of HHT's 23 partner house museums for their creativity during these daunting months, and their dedication to ensuring that the public continues to have meaningful interactions with their programs. We will continue to be tested, but I'm confident that **with your support HHT and these historic sites will emerge stronger and more effective than ever before.**

I am also grateful for the tireless efforts of our partners at the NYC Parks Department. During a time of extraordinary park usage and more limited funding, the agency continues to maintain these treasured places and their surrounding parks and is ensuring that they are preserved to the highest standards through capital projects. HHT's work would be impossible without our devoted advocates at NYC Parks.

As HHT launches our ambitious plans for 2021, we are also continuing our core mission of preserving, promoting, and providing expertise to these 23 sites. In the coming year this will require HHT to stay nimble so that we can respond to the shifting needs of these museums while also ensuring that their significant role in our cultural realm is recognized and amplified. This ensemble of historic sites tells the story of NYC, from the indigenous people who first settled its shores to the diverse New Yorkers who populate the five boroughs today. It is vital that this story, and its lessons, are imparted to our next generation.

How can you help? Some of HHT's priorities for the coming year are included on the other side of this letter. Donors such as you can help us realize these aspirations. Whether it's enhancing green spaces, creating innovative accessibility programs, addressing curatorial needs as the museums reopen, or developing new virtual tools to engage with the public, we strive to bring these sites alive in the fullest ways possible. **Please consider a gift by December 31st to ensure this can happen.** With your support, the Historic House Trust will continue to champion these important places in NYC.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ackerman, Chair



HHT's work never paused during NYC's shutdown! HHT's Deputy Director of Historic Houses Derek Dandurand (top) distributed PPE and emergency supplies to our partner sites and helped complete a roof reconstruction at King Manor in Jamaica, Queens (bottom).

PS: See the projects your contribution supports on the next page. I hope you'll give as generously as you can!

In a challenging year, your support has helped keep HHT and our partner historic sites alive by:



Providing nearly \$100,000 in direct financial support to the sites



Auditing all 23 sites for physical accessibility



Sustaining critical services to the sites, including essential maintenance and restoration



Assisting the sites in reopening to the public



Holding regular crisis meetings for house staff to brainstorm solutions to common problems



Protecting the jobs and well-being of our staff



Ensuring that the sites and their collections were secure during New York City's closure



Creating infrastructure for working remotely



Launching *HHT Online*, a portal for virtual exploration of the houses

HHT has big plans for 2021! Your donation will help us:



Launch a new website with an integrated portal for virtual engagement



Steward projects to enhance houses' green spaces and ecology programming



Break ground on exciting new design projects at three sites



Address more inclusive histories and create virtual content connecting the sites



Re-grant \$100,000 to the sites for pilot projects that improve accessibility in innovative ways

Donate online at www.historichousetrust.org!