



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

NEWS

www.chrs.org

September 2022

Concern About the Library of Congress

By Angie Schmidt

CHRS has weighed in on the proposed changes to the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress. Here is an excerpt of the letter I sent to J. Brett Blanton, Architect of the Capitol; The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton; DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson; Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen; Marcel Acosta, Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission; Rebecca Miller, Executive Director, DC Preservation League; Kirby Vining, Chair, Committee of 100 on the Federal City; and The American Library

Association on July 22, 2022, on behalf of our organization:

We urge that the historic and functional librarians' desk and tower in the Main Reading Room be preserved and left intact — not sacrificed so that tourists can view the Reading Room dome through glass from below. The Reading Room is one of the most beautiful spaces in the city, and many visit to see the room and the dome and to learn the history of this important landmark. Because the dome can be enjoyed from the Reading Room and from the current visitor overlook, there

is certainly no need to look up at the dome through a glass floor.

This proposal is reminiscent of the infamous National Visitor Center and its "Pit" inflicted on Union Station in the 1970s. Please preserve the Main Reading Room as is. ✧

Guided Fall Walking Tours

Tickets are now on sale for our guided walking tours on October 1 & 2. Veteran tour guides, Beth Purcell, Angie Schmidt, Elizabeth Nelson and Undine Nash are offering two different alley tours:

- **High Life & Low Points** (the lifestyles of the residents living both in front of and actually in the alleys of NE).
- **SE Capitol Hill Alleys** (a trip back in time to explore the residential and commercial uses).

Find tour schedules, starting locations, other details and purchase instructions at chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-october-2022. These events often sell out quickly, so don't delay in making your reservations!

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Garden Party for CHRS Members at Hill Center

Now is a good time to see if you have renewed your membership to CHRS! All members are invited to come and enjoy coffee and cake at the Hill Center's East Garden on Tuesday September 13 at 6:30 pm. This will be a great chance for members to reconnect with friends outdoors in a beautiful setting. There will also be a very brief membership meeting to vote on the budget. Masks will be

available for anyone needing to go inside to use the restrooms.

The Hill Center is located at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Enter the East Garden from Pennsylvania Avenue or 9th Street SE. We request that members RSVP at caphrs420@gmail.com or (202) 543-0425 so that we can plan the refreshments. We look forward to seeing everyone in person! ★

Thank You, CHRS Supporters!

CHRS wishes to thank the following donors for their invaluable support:

Memberships

Bronze

Barry Johnson and
Edward Chapman

CHRS Outreach Efforts: July 4th Parade and Beyond

By Elizabeth Nelson

As part of our ongoing outreach efforts, Society volunteers marched in this year's Capitol Hill Fourth of July Parade. Out of concern for the environment, we substituted consumable lollipops for the traditional plastic beaded necklaces. These were well received and are much lighter to carry and pull along in our garden cart. As an interesting

side note, we'd decorated that cart with leftover house tour tickets and received requests from spectators for the "pamphlets"—which we were very glad to pass along.

Thank you to event organizers, Phil Guire, Jeanne Harrison, and Christine O'Reilly of the Jeanne Phil Meg Team at Compass Realty. And many thanks to everyone who

marched with us: Maygene Daniels, Nick Alberti, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, and our new President, Angie Schmidt. You can see additional pictures here: chrs.org/capitol-hill-july-4th-parade-2022.

Sad to say, there won't be a Barracks Row Fall Festival this year, so we won't have that outreach opportunity. But we'll have a table (and more lollipops) at Hilloween under the shed roof at the Eastern Market on Friday, October 28. This is a great opportunity to introduce the organization to young families on the Hill. It's also a lot of fun to see the kids in costumes.

And on Saturday, October 29, we'll hold our annual House Expo at the Eastern Market North Hall, with over 30 home services providers. If you are available to help with either of these events, please contact Elizabeth Nelson, elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com. Volunteers are always welcome and needed! ★



CHRS Board Members Nick Alberti, Beth Purcell and Maygene Daniels at this year's parade.

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Angie Schmidt
 First Vice President Christine Mullins
 Second Vice President Tina May
 Treasurer Nick Alberti
 Secretary Maygene Daniels
 At Large Fynnette Eaton
 At Large Delancey Gustin
 At Large Beth Hague
 At Large Jackie Krieger
 At Large Gary Peterson
 At Large Jim Thackaberry
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 Grants Larry Pearl
 Historic Preservation* Beth Purcell
 House & Garden Tour Vacant
 Investments John Shages
 Membership* Maygene Daniels
 Public Safety* Undine Nash
 Public Space Steve Kehoe
 Zoning* Beth Hague

* Chair is an appointed Board Member

NEWSLETTER

Angie Schmidt and Kelly Vielmo, Editors

WEBMASTER

Elizabeth Nelson

OFFICE MANAGER

Jill Uvena Cullinane

To reach any of the above, please contact the Society offices at (202) 543-0425 or via e-mail: caphrs420@gmail.com.

ABOUT CHRS

Capitol Hill is a special place. We promote, preserve, and enhance the character of our historic neighborhoods.

Since its founding in 1955, CHRS has worked continuously to make Capitol Hill the desirable location it has now become. Due to CHRS's efforts, Capitol Hill won designation as a historic district in 1976. Today, that legacy of standing up for the community continues with our work in planning, zoning, historic preservation, and public safety.

CHRS is a volunteer organization, made up of Hill residents who love their historic neighborhoods and want to ensure that the unique character of the Hill is around for future generations. Come join us!

To learn more or join, please visit:
www.CHRS.org

Fall Preservation Cafés

Building and Designing with Mosaics

Jim Miller, Artist and Renovator
Virtual CHRS Preservation Café
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Join CHRS on Sept. 20, 2022 for a virtual chat with Jim Miller, local artist, historian, and renovator, who has transformed his Capitol Hill home into an elaborate oasis of mosaic design—a stunning tribute to time spent studying in Ravenna and Venice, Italy. During his presentation, Jim will showcase the mosaics he has created in his beautiful house which you may have visited on the 2019 CHRS House and Garden Tour.

Jim will discuss his growing fascination with mosaic artistry and the time he spent studying this ancient craft in Ravenna and Venice, Italy, which are famous for the colorful mosaics that adorn their many buildings and cathedrals. Jim will explain what mosaics are, talk a bit about the materials he uses, briefly discuss the history of mosaics, and offer friendly advice for how to create your own mosaic designs. His presentation will include many photos and slides which illustrate some of his most beautiful works. We hope to see you there!

Color Harmonies for your Home, Artistry at Your Windows

Linda H. Bassert, Design Principal
Masterworks Window
Fashions and Design
Virtual CHRS Preservation Café
Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm

What do you need to know about color when choosing paint colors for the interior and exterior of your home? There are three things you can change about a paint color to get it right, three different aspects of

what we call color—do you know what they are? On October 18, Linda Bassert will answer these questions and discuss the best way to sample paint colors. She will offer tips for selecting a paint color for your home and show some photographic examples of details brought out, or hidden, by paint color choices. A brief question and answer period will follow her presentation.

Linda Bassert is an award-winning specialist in paint color consultation, custom window treatment design, custom reupholstery, and residential interior design. She has advised several homeowners on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in the Washington area on paint color for their homes and small businesses since 2006. She has designed interior spaces at historic Anderson House, headquarters of the Revolutionary War Institute, and the Society of the Cincinnati, including one award-winning space, the Pennsylvania Room. ★

Our CHRS Preservation Cafés are free to CHRS members and non members. You can access the presentation links at chrs.org.

Historic Preservation Briefs

By Beth Purcell

The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB or the Board), considered the following case at its virtual hearing on July 28, 2022. HPRB is responsible for determining if proposed changes to a building are consistent with the DC Preservation Act. A “concept review” is a preliminary determination of a building owner’s plan to alter the building, and if the concept is approved, the owner will return to the HPRB for a final review.

227–239 Massachusetts Avenue NE, HPA 22-281, revised concept/ fourth floor addition, façade and site alterations. The Board found the proposed project compatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District, and delegated authority to HPO. Please see July–August 2022 issue of *CHRS News* for prior coverage.

1007 8th Street SE (Brig Beergarden), HPA 22-363, concept/construct raised deck addition. The Board recommended additional revisions, including moving the wheelchair lift to the inside wall of the deck away from the street; pushing the stairs back into the mass of the deck so they don’t project out; making the deck smaller and pulling it further back from 8th and L Streets; and to provide additional information on the appearance and materials of the screen walls. The Board also noted that this proposal is only being considered as potentially compatible because it is proposed for an open building lot next to a non-contributing building. A less-than-quorum group of Board members will collaborate with HPO and the applicant to further work on refining this proposal before it returns again for concept review. Please see the

December 2021–January 2022 issue of *CHRS News* for prior coverage.

203 3rd Street NE, HPA 22-322, concept/construct areaway at front; add fourth story and deck at roof; alter openings at rear. We agreed with the staff report that the new basement entrance failed to satisfy the Board’s standards in Preservation and Design Guidelines for Basement Entrances and Windows and that the penthouse would be visible from public space. The Board did not approve the concept and advised the applicant that the basement entrance should be moved to the interior or a creative solution be found to make it minimally obtrusive, and the rooftop addition should be revised to be not visible or only minimally visible. The project should be resubmitted for review once revised.

The Board approved the following case on the consent calendar:

- **323 10th Street SE,** HPA 22-371, concept/construct two-story accessory building at rear. ✱

Interested in learning more about historic district designation?
Contact CHRS at info@chrs.org.



IMAGE COURTESY BETH PURCELL

The front of the building at 203 3rd Street NE.

2022 HOME EXPO

Join us in Eastern Market North Hall on October 29 from 9 am to 3 pm for our annual HOME EXPO featuring over 20 exhibitors of home craftsman and city services for your home. Talk with and meet exhibitors we are inviting in historic restoration, electric work, solar, roofing, security, construction, window repair, water and energy conservation, and so much more.

Proposed CHRS FY2023 Operating Budget

The CHRS Board of Directors agreed to an operating budget for the fiscal year 2023 (October 2022–September 2023) at the July 20, 2022 board meeting. The Board is recommending that the CHRS membership approve the budget outlined below at the upcoming membership meeting to be held on September 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm. ★

	Current Year to Date Income & Expenses October 2021– June 2022	Prior Year Income & Expenses October 2020– September 2021	Proposed Budget October 2022– September 2023
INCOME: OPERATING REVENUE			
Membership	20,205.00	19,255.00	22,000.00
General Contributions	14,086.70	11,371.00	10,000.00
House Tour Revenue	9,735.40	16,673.23	54,000.00
Special Events (House Expo, etc.)	2,130.00	600.00	9,000.00
Other Income	77.19	68.01	100.00
Debited from Operating Funds Balance	0.00	0.00	9,900.00
TOTAL INCOME	46,234.29	47,967.24	105,000.00
EXPENSES			
Administration	36,281.87	48,839.92	52,750.00
Outreach	20,732.40	19,846.26	29,400.00
House Tour Expenses	7,969.25	205.98	14,500.00
House Expo	1,200.00	0	1,700.00
Committees	1,276.45	5,265.11	6,250.00
Fundraising	247.48	108.90	400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	67,707.45	74,266.17	105,000.00

IN MEMORIAM

Susan Burgerman (1956–2022)

It's with heavy hearts that we note the passing of Susan Burgerman, who served on the CHRS Board of Directors from 2013 until she resigned due to illness in 2019. A hard-working organizer behind the scenes, she could always be counted on for a dazzling presence at our community-facing events. Beautiful, smart, funny, energetic, powerful, creative, stylish and kind—every good quality was hers. We'll not be the only organization missing her; she was a long time member of Batala, an all-female Afro-Brazilian percussion ensemble. Our sincere sympathies go out to her husband, Andrew Baxley.



IMAGE COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON



CHRS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
420 10th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mark Your Calendar!

Please check website for current information—cancellations and postponements are expected and will be posted as they are known.

SEPTEMBER

6 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room. Chair: Beth Purcell (202-544-0178).

13 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
CHRS Membership Meeting. All CHRS members are invited to come and enjoy coffee and cake at the Hill Center’s East Garden on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm. Details: chrs.org/garden-party-0922.

15 Thursday, 7:30 pm
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE. Co-Chairs: Beth Hague (202-714-9523) and Nick Alberti.

20 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Preservation Café: “Building with Mosaics” with Jim Miller. Details and Zoom link: chrs.org/mosaic-design-pc.

21 Wednesday, 6 pm
Board Meeting, Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

OCTOBER

1–2 Saturday–Sunday
Guided Walking Tours: Tickets on sale now! Details: chrs.org/guided-walking-tours-october-2022.

3 Monday, 6:30 pm
Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, 420 10th Street SE, first floor conference room. Chair: Beth Purcell (202-544-0178).

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Preservation Café: “Color Harmonies for your Home” with Linda H. Bassert, Design Principal of Masterworks Window Fashions & Design. Details and Zoom link: chrs.org/color-harmonies-4-home-pc.

19 Wednesday, 6 pm
Board Meeting, Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE.

20 Thursday, 7:30 pm
Zoning Committee Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE. Co-Chairs: Beth Hague (202-714-9523) and Nick Alberti.

29 Saturday
CHRS will hold a free House Expo at the Eastern Market North Hall, featuring a wide variety of home service exhibitors and representatives of city agencies. Details: chrs.org/house-expo-2022.

Please consider joining CHRS!

Annual membership is only \$35 and includes the newsletter, a set of historic guidelines, and early access to events, including our annual House and Garden Tour. Visit: chrs.org