From 1986-2010, PPS prioritized the education of schoolchildren as part of our educational mission. The goal of the program was to actively involve students with the social and cultural development of Providence by helping them understand why the buildings and landscapes of each neighborhood uniquely contribute to the city’s character and vitality. This is especially important because most children don’t live in the storied College Hill neighborhood. In order for them to form an understanding of and attachment to this city - in hopes they will become advocates for it - we must meet them where they are.

**education is critical to ensuring citizens understand why our city is treasured**

Based on the available statistics, we know that from 1986 to 2004 more than 40,000 schoolchildren from all over Rhode Island participated in PPS’s Children’s Heritage Education Program (CHEP). Over that time, school curriculums changed and, even with our financial support for bus transportation, attendance in the program by Providence schools fell steadily each year. The program was discontinued in 2010.

Heritage or Preservation Education is critical to ensuring that current and future generations of citizens and policy makers understand why our city is treasured, and that it must be nurtured and protected. It’s not only a “nice thing to do,” it’s essential for cognitive development. Preservation Education uses local resources and the built environment to teach concepts and skills in the arts, humanities, sciences, and math.

**successful advocacy always starts with education**

The other leg of PPS’s mission is advocacy. To successfully advocate takes the engagement of people who are knowledgeable and passionate about our city. Successful advocacy always starts with education. Those who fully understand the value of preservation and why it matters will be prepared to lead us into the future. The future of our city’s heritage is in the hands of our children. It is critical that residents of all ages are taught to value the history and heritage of the place they live and to prioritize long term stewardship over short term gain.

In 2015, the PPS Board of Trustees and other community members worked to create a strategic plan that detailed the goals and direction of the organization for the next decade and beyond. That process identified critical areas through which PPS could best satisfy its mission and benefit the people who live and work in Providence. One of those areas was Preservation Education. We hope, within the next year, to bring back a robust educational program for youth, one that capitalizes on the assets we developed for 25 years and imagines them for the 21st century.

*Chris Marsella, President of the PPS Board of Trustees, 2018-2019*

*Brent Runyon, Executive Director, PPS*
Four of five new Trustees who joined PPS in January, 2018 including Kathy Cavanaugh, Martha Sheridan, Miguel Quezada and Ed Restivo. They are shown here with Brent Runyon, Executive Director, and Chris Marsella, incoming Board President.

PPS’s annual Winter Bash showcases the many possibilities that lie in historic urban spaces and draws new advocates for preservation. The 2018 locale, ALCO, was once home to such industrial giants as Rhode Island Locomotive Works, American Locomotive Works and US Rubber. The Bash was held in the final section of ALCO to be rehabilitated as distinctive commercial space by The Foundry Associates. The theme, A Speakeasy Affair, paid homage to one of the most bustling of eras in the site’s history.

Our mission is to improve Providence by advocating for historic preservation and the enhancement of the city’s unique character through thoughtful design and planning.

Christina Bevilacqua moderates a conversation with Claire Andrade-Watkins and Elihu Rubin on urban displacement and its aftermath at the 2017 Providence Symposium.

Participants on the panel “The death and life of American planning” which explored the post-urban renewal evolution of the planning field, including the role of historic preservation.

The 2017 programs theme was Sites and Stories. Weybosset Hill redevelopment area, shown here in 1987, was examined as a historic place, a mid-century renewal program and a lesson for how important city planning is for sense of place. In 2018, we examined the Public Works Administration including the many school buildings and parks they built in Providence.

Trustee Patricia Raub and City Council President David Salvatore led two walks of the neighborhood around Providence College as part of our summer walking tours which explored three different areas with locally elected officials and scholars.
MoHA
Following the documentation by PPS of hundreds of code violations on just two dozen houses on Benefit Street, as well as major issues with streets, sidewalks, trees, signs and lampposts, a group of concerned Benefit Street residents organized the **Mile of History Association**. Their goal is to ensure that this historic corridor, the most-visited in Providence, is a safe, healthy, vibrant and livable neighborhood.

I-195 Redevelopment District Commission
PPS constantly monitors progress on the redevelopment of former I-195 land on both sides of the Providence River. A number of projects broke ground in 2017 including the Wexford Innovation Center. The massive South Street Landing project opened last summer and was the site of PPS’s *Powered by Preservation* 60th Anniversary Gala in November. Proposed projects include a hotel at Parcel 1A; East Side Parcels 2, 5, and 6; and the controversial 46-story tower on Parcel 42.

Federal HTC Saved!
Through advocacy and diligence, and with great support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Action, the Federal Historic Tax Credit was incorporated into the tax reform legislation of 2017. PPS worked tirelessly with local and state-wide preservation colleagues to lobby the Rhode Island Congressional delegation for support of the HTC.

Brown University
The University’s Institutional Master Plan Amendment presentation to the City Plan Commission in December included a proposed performing arts center between Angell and Waterman Streets, necessitating the demolition of four historic buildings and relocation of another. PPS rallied the support of the public, including current undergraduates, against this site and demolition. Shortly after PPS listed the five Brown buildings on the 2018 MEP list, Brown resubmitted the project on a new site one block north of Angell Street—with no demolition required.

Most Endangered Properties
Each year, PPS announces a list of Most Endangered Properties to call attention to buildings and spaces that could be in danger of demolition, severe neglect or out-of-character development. Here are updates on four of those places from our 2017 MEP list. More up-to-date information can be found on our website.

**Cranston Street Armory** (1907), 310 Cranston Street, West End
What has been described as “the Castle for the People” has appeared as an MEP nine times. PPS is hopeful there will be light at the end of the tunnel, at last. The State of RI, the owner, is in the process of addressing deferred maintenance and identifying potential tenants.

**Bomes Theatre** (1921), 1017 Broad Street, Elmwood
After five appearances on the MEP list, there is new hope and new life for this Beaux Arts-style landmark on Broad Street. From post-WWI movie theater to furniture store to being vacant and shuttered, the next act will include mixed-use retail/office and reception space thanks to a local developer.

**Welcome Arnold House** (1785), 21 Planet Street, College Hill
The good news is that the Welcome Arnold House is still standing after serious threat of demolition a year ago. The building remains moth-balled and suffering from increasing graffiti and neglect. There have been some mentions of the owner intending to restore or sell the Federal style house, but PPS is not aware of a concrete course of action.
Industrial Trust Building (1928), 111 Westminster Street, Downtown
PPS determined this year that Providence’s beloved “Superman Building” will remain on the MEP list until it is saved from the threat of demolition and neglect. The iconic Art Deco high-rise building, still the tallest in the state, has now been vacant for five years and begs for a colossal adaptive reuse plan. In the meantime, spalling limestone means that the joints need caulking immediately.

On June 2-3, 2017, the 38th Festival of Historic Houses highlighted the Upper Elmwood Historic District, anchored by Princeton Avenue. The neighborhood offers architecture from one of Providence's greatest growth periods in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and has reemerged as a sought-after locale for home and business owners alike. It is also home to the historic Knight Memorial Library (1924), built nearby as a tribute to Webster and Louisa Knight by their children, and now part of the Providence Community Library (PCL) system. For years, this library has suffered from deferred maintenance and a lack of air conditioning, often closing during the hottest summer days.

As part of the Festival, PPS contributed $3,500 in funds raised from the Preview Party to PCL to help fund a Knight Memorial Library conditions assessment, completed by DBVW Architects in March 2018. The study is currently being reviewed by the PCL facilities committee to prioritize the restoration. In December 2017, PCL received a generous grant of $544,000 from the Champlin Foundation to aid in exterior renovation work.

Kendrick-Prentice-Tirocchi House (1867 “The Wedding Cake House”) often listed by PPS as a Most Endangered Property, was purchased by The Dirt Palace, an arts group with plans to restore the building. Below, an interview with Xander Morro and Pippi Zornoza, the organization's directors:

What is your vision for the house?
When completed, the building’s upper floors will house a project based, artist in residence program [and] short term rentals. Artist talks, programing and exhibitions will happen on the first floor. [We'll] provide support to 20 - 50 artists per year. Rhode Island is home to an incredible community of artists, but has a distinct lack of residency platforms. Our organization shares the connection of female leadership/entrepreneurship with the Tirocchi legacy of the building. The location and history of the building as the famous site of a woman owned design business makes it an ideal project to complement our current facility, mission and program. Our hope is to showcase Rhode Island as a place steeped in design thinking and visionary approaches.

What is your previous experience with historic preservation projects?
The Dirt Palace at our flagship property in Olneyville Square (formerly the Olneyville Library) is a national model for how artists can occupy a difficult to rehab historic space without a large reserve of cash to invest at the onset, and improve and maintain it over time. When purchased it was woefully neglected with tons of deferred maintenance. As detail oriented artists and crafts women we are uniquely qualified to handle some of the more delicate aspects of interior renovations. Having renovated the building at 14 Olneyville Square, with bare bones resources, we’ve developed a wide range of technical proficiencies and insight into construction projects.

Why did you decide to take on such a challenging project?
Following a rigorous strategic planning process funded by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, it became clear that our organization needed to expand. We have long loved the house. When it was suggested that we consider the property as part of our expansion, it just felt too perfect. We felt positioned to preserve the building in a way that incorporates a public component and integrates its textile, design, and female entrepreneurship history into its future incarnation.

How does community support play a role?
The amount of enthusiasm and willingness to get into it in a hands-on way has been staggering and truly humbling. It’s made seemingly impossible things possible. It’s also made clear how much the house has entered the public imagination in Providence and how much people want the unusual and special parts of the historic built environment to be cared for and stewarded in a thoughtful way.
PPS has begun to explore how to create a program that teaches traditional building skills. As generations of tradespeople retire, their knowledge is not being passed on. PPS and other preservation groups around the country are creating programs to teach these skills and pair them with historic preservation philosophy. Thanks to a recent gift, we began a feasibility study this year.

As background, on the occasion of the Providence Preservation Society’s 60th Anniversary Celebration at South Street Landing on November 4, 2017, Dr. Annie De Groot and EpiVax, Inc. pledged the seed funding to establish a special fellowship at PPS. Dr. De Groot, a famous URI research scientist and CEO/CSO of EpiVax, a 20 year old biotech company in Providence, dedicated the gift to Bill Struever, a Baltimore-based real estate developer and early visionary behind the preservation and reuse of the formerly endangered 1912 Narragansett Electric Company Building (“Dynamo House”). The building reopened as South Street Landing in fall, 2017, as an education hub housing the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center of the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College as well as Brown University administrative offices.

The fellowship will fund a feasibility study for a new program whose goals are to preserve historic buildings, teach traditional building skills and increase the supply of affordable housing through building reuse. Below, Dr. De Groot and Mr. Struever discuss with PPS their longtime friendship and interest in revitalizing historic places.

_How and when did your paths first cross in Providence?_
AD: We were introduced by Andy Cutler who thought we should meet to discuss building a free clinic in Olneyville.
BS: We met at the Clínica Esperanza free health clinic. [Ed. Note: Clínica Esperanza was established by Dr. De Groot and a group of medical volunteers in 2007 to provide primary medical care to RI residents without health insurance. In 2009, the clinic moved to The Plant, a mill complex being rehabilitated by Mr. Struever.]

_How did you discover your mutual fascination with the vacant power station building?_
AD: I had just moved to URI and was intrigued by President Dooley’s vision for a downtown footprint for URI’s biotech program, and the building is really cool, and Bill and I thought you could have a great party there.
BS: I owned the building. She [De Groot] was an energetic supporter of reusing old buildings near the harbor.

_What was special to you about this building in particular?_
AD: I can see boats parked out front and I want one!
BS: The building is breathtaking and amazing, and I wanted to put it back to use. It has soaring character, with grand spaces, and old buildings can have purpose again. Buildings like this can offer more jobs now than they did back in their prime, and I think that the reuse and creation of jobs really speaks to the strength of the Rhode Island economy. RI has a powerful heritage, and these buildings can’t be copied so why not use them?

_Bill, please share with us your early vision for preserving the building, and the steps that followed._
BS: The early vision was for the building to have multiple purposes within it. It would have been mainly a hotel and a heritage museum with event and office spaces. However, because of the 2008 economic recession, that didn’t happen, so we brought Wexford Science and Technology to town. It’s a great company and is taking off.

_Annie, what inspired you to establish a fellowship at PPS in honor of Bill?_
AD: Because Bill has a heart of gold and it’s fitting that we honor him this way.

_We envision this fellowship eventually helping to establish a preservation skills training program at PPS. From your perspectives today, why is the development of such skills—and the preservation movement in general—important for Providence and other cities?_
AD: Obviously we have so many beautiful buildings to preserve, we need the human capital and expertise to preserve them.
BS: Skilled laborers and contractors drive redevelopment, and right now RI has a shortage of skilled trades people. Those careers are good, and offer a good living, and are great for industry. Preservation could put Providence back on the map like it has Boston and Baltimore. The old buildings bring out a special character, and boost the economy by adding jobs.
In 2017, the rising economy finally found Providence and cranes began to appear in the sky. New buildings are going up everywhere and historical rehabs are steadily progressing. That same rising tide has allowed PPS to devote ourselves to greater stewardship of our own properties. While we don’t need a crane, we did see a few ladders last year. With support from the 1772 Foundation and from the Daniel Rosenblatt Foundation, we painted the exterior of the Old Brick School House, re-glazed the windows and upgraded the landscaping. The Shakespeare’s Head building at 21 Meeting Street has been fully rented for the past two years and now has a significant, positive cash flow. After setting aside a fixed amount to a capital reserve fund, PPS nets about $10,000 for educational and advocacy projects.

Fundraising efforts in 2017 were very successful. The $30,000 “Powered by Preservation” Challenge increased the number and value of gifts to the Annual Fund. Our total 2017 Annual Fund results were nearly on par with our 2016 Anniversary Year totals. Our “Powered by Preservation” anniversary gala, held in November at South Street Landing, was a resounding success. With 300 attendees and 26 generous sponsors, we netted $67,000 for our mission. Our Partner in Preservation program has held steady at 25 year-round corporate partners. We welcomed two new Partners in Preservation in 2017: KITE Architects and Steele Realty Consultants International. And, we welcomed four more this past January: Alex & Ani, Armory Revival Company, Site Specific, and VHB.

We are also on solid organizational footing, with 100% of our Board of Trustees making philanthropic gifts to PPS in 2017 and our membership standing strong at just over 500 member households. We were awarded an Organizational Development Grant from Rhode Island Foundation; a Major Grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for our program series “Why Preserve”; and grants from both the ADDD Fund and the Providence Tourism Council for an online guide to Providence architecture, among other grants.

Most exciting of all is that PPS is completely debt free! Because of successful fundraising and fiscal management over the prior 3 years, the Board made the decision this past year to pay back the approximately $40,000 we had borrowed from our investment portfolio to purchase the Brick School House in 2013.

Since we strive to fund all of our programming with income generated each year, we count very much on the generous support of our regular donors and members. We hope you will all continue with your support in 2018.

Jack Renshaw, Treasurer of the PPS Board of Trustees, 2017-present

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<th>2017 Operating results</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
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Since 2016, members of PPS have traveled twice to Cuba. An enticing destination where few have been able to travel in past decades, the country also has a noticeably different approach to heritage conservation. In January, 2018, Executive Director Brent Runyon accompanied five members for a one week educational trip. While there, we met with planners, historians, architects and scholars, each of whom offered a unique perspective on the opportunities and challenges of preservation in Havana and Trinidad. This September, more than 30 members will join PPS in Detroit for a similar program. What places would you like to go with PPS? Let us know!

pps by the numbers 2017

508 member households
361 volunteers
7,312 social media followers
11 projects reviewed by PPS’s Planning and Architectural Review Committee
11 Most Endangered Properties highlighted
16 historic property markers awarded
1,541 historic property markers citywide
Marc Hutchison joined the PPS staff as Office Administrator in May 2018. A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, he received a degree in anthropology from Normandale College in 2007 and relocated to Rumford, RI that summer. Marc continued his passion for Anthropology and History at the University of Rhode Island where he received his baccalaureate degree in 2011. After an internship with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, he is excited to be back in the preservation world with PPS. Marc has a passion for architecture and photography and is a classically trained pianist from the Lola and Rudy Perpich Minnesota Center for Arts Education. He lives in Cumberland, RI with his family.

Angela Kondon, Director of Donor Relations and Special Events, displays the two Best of RI awards PPS received for the Winter Bash.
One of PPS’s most visible public programs is the Historic Marker Program. There are over 1500 markers on houses and other buildings across Providence. Each one provides a mini history lesson on when the structure was built and by whom. PPS has noticed a recent uptick in marker applications as residents, especially transplants from Boston and New York, take an interest in their neighborhood and house history.

16 historic markers were installed in 2017 across 8 neighborhoods

Jenica and Dylan Conley, 12 Willow Street, West End, talked to PPS:

*What do you love most about your house and neighborhood?*
The West End has so much diversity and culture -- our neighborhood has a story and we love that our home is a part of that story.

*Why was it important to you to apply for a house marker?*
We loved learning the detail of our house’s story, and publicly recognizing our house as “historic” is just one small effort to maintain the history of our home and neighborhood.

*What’s the most interesting thing you learned from your house history?*
The fact that the house was moved to make room to build a church across the park is fascinating. We now feel an oddly personal connection to the Hmong Church. It’s just awesome to build these sorts of connections.

*What else would you like to share?*
We have been slowly but surely doing a lot of work around the house, fixing up this and that. Hanging up the plaque was a special moment, couldn’t help but feel proud.
$25,000+
Mr. Malcolm G. Chace, Jr.

$10,000-24,999
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. Buonanno
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Baldwin Freeman
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Providence Tourism Council
Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
Rhode Island Foundation

$5,000-9,999
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. L. Bennett
Mr. Warren C. Curtis and Mr. Mark Steinbach
Dr. Anne S. De Groot and Epivax
Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Gilbane
Carolyn B. Haffenreffer Endowment Fund
Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund
Mr. and Mrs. H. LeBaron Preston

$2,500-4,999
Mr. Ian Barnacle
The Chace Fund, Inc.
Mr. Jon-Paul Couture
Ms. Sally Lapides and Mr. Arthur Solomon
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Moran
Mr. Charles H. Page
Dawn and James Robertson
Sharpe Family Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. E. Paul Sorensen
The Daniel Rosenblatt Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Van Noppen

$1,000-$2,499
Mr. and Mrs. Lucien D. Agniel, Jr.
Anonymous
Barbara S. Gwynne Garden Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Bilodeau
Capital Properties, Inc.
Dr. Joseph A. Chazan
Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Florence
Mrs. Frances McLeod and Forensic Risk Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Jagger
Mr. Paul Kappel and Ms. Mary Reineman
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mauran, IV
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Murphy, Jr.
Nicholas Everett & Ann O. Picchione Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan W. Seely
Mr. and Mrs. Deming E. Sherman
Soutter Family Fund
Ms. Victoria Veh
gifts and grants

$500-999
Mr. Leo Julian Blackman and Mr. Kenneth T. Monteiro
Ms. Phoebe Blake and Mr. Peter McClure
Ms. Laurel Bowmer
Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Chace
Mr. Frank DeAngelis
Timothy M. Empkie, M.D.
Maia and Donald Farish
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Fluck
Mr. and Mrs. William Foulkes
Peter and Lucia Gill Case
Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Handy, III
Ms. Kirsten E. Kenney
Dr. Catherine Lund and Dr. Peter Karczmar
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Mammen
Mr. Frederick Mattis
Mrs. Alison McNaughton
New England Institute of Technology
Herbert Rakatansky, M.D. and Ms. Barbara Sokoloff
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Reeves, IV
Mr. Colgate Searle, Jr.
Dr. Mary E. Sherlock and Ms. Lissa DiMauro
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Thomas
Dr. Michael J. Tsapakos and Ms. Janine Kanzler
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wharton

$250-499
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Altman
Ms. Mary Anthony
Mr. Eric Army
Mrs. Elizabeth Capozzi
Mr. Arnold B. Chace, Jr.
Ms. Mary Ann Coffey and Mr. Louis Andrews
Mr. Curt Columbus and Mr. Nate Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dana
Mr. and Mrs. Barry W. Fain
Mr. Ken Garrepy
Mrs. Sarah Gleason
Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Gricus
Ms. Barbara Harris and Mr. Seth Kurn
Ms. Karen Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jessup, Jr.
Ms. Muriel Jobbers
Mr. Fred Jordy
Ms. Lynette Labinger and Mr. Ross Eadie
Mr. Ned Levine and Mrs. Isabella R. Porter
Ms. Paula Lusignan and Mr. Tom Randall
Mr. Christopher J. Marsella
Mrs. Ann Brooke Mason
Mr. William Lynn McKinney and Mr. Ron Margolin
Mullen Scorpio Cerilli
Mr. and Mrs. J. Geddes Parsons
Mr. Jeffrey Schreck and Ms. Nancy K. Cassidy
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Slaitg
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher A. Soutter
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Stevenson
Ms. Maureen Taylor and Mr. Dexter L. Strong

$100-249
Ms. Diane Adam
Mr. Patricia Amiraught
Mr. and Mrs. William Applegate
Ms. Toby D. Ayers and Mr. Don Keefer
Mr. Jonathan Bell and Ms. Sarah Zurier
Ms. Jan Brodie
Mr. James P. Brown, III
Mr. David Brussat and Ms. Victoria Somlo
Mr. Edward Burgess and Mrs. Peggy Burgess
Ms. Katherine Burton
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Carria
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chase
Mr. and Mrs. Jack J. Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Cornwall
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Costa
Mr. and Mrs. Cornelis J. de Boer
Ms. Elizabeth A. Debs
Dr. Deborah Del Gais
Mr. William Deveney and Ms. Linda Getgen
Ms. Margaret DeVos
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent N. DiStefano
Ms. Jane Driver
Mrs. Alexandra B. Earle
Ms. Melody Ennis
Mr. and Mrs. Don Gralnek
Ms. Roberta Groch
Mr. Matthew Guterl and Ms. Sandra Latcha
Mr. Louis Hafken
Mr. Steven A. Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. William Harsch
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hassan
Mr. Anthony Hayward
Mr. Roni Kabessa and Ms. Kara Orr
Ms. Jennifer E. Kiddie
Ms. Cheryl A. King and Mr. Bernard Zimmermann, III
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Kite, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Lappin
Ms. Jennifer Laurelli
Mr. Joseph Lombardi
Ms. Cindy Loveless
Mr. Peter Mackie
Ms. Marilyn Mathison
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy T. More
Ms. Jane S. Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.
Margot and David Nishimura
Mr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Partridge
Mr. Dylan Peacock and Mr. Miran Kicic
Mr. and Mrs. John Powers
Ambassador and Mrs. Joseph A. Presel
Mr. Clifford M. Renshaw and Mr. Robert Matthews
Mr. Brent Runyon
Mr. Robert Rutley and Mr. Antonio Reisopoulos
Mr. James Sanford
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Santos
Ms. Daisy S. Schnepel and Mr. Paul R. Evans
Mr. B. Clarkson Schoettle

Mrs. Martha P. Sherman
Mrs. Jillian Siqueland
Mrs. Joan Slafsky
Ms. Susan Smulyn
The Reverend Rebecca L. Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Stacey G. Swift
Mr. Donnell Van Noppen and Ms. Rivka Gordon
Mr. Paul Wackrow
Ms. Cynthia Warren
Mr. Ed Webb, III
Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson
Dr. Richard Wong and Dr. Barbara Schepps Wong
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth K. Wong
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Worrell

Up to $99
Ms. Diane Adam
Mrs. Thomas R. Adams
Ms. Virginia H. Adams
Mr. and Mrs. James Allen
Mr. and Mrs. William Applegate
Mrs. Marilyn A. Ardente
Mr. Fred Atherton
Mr. James Barnes and Ms. Victoria Wilson
Mr. Daniel Baudouin and Ms. Renee Chiocone
Mr. Jonathan Bell and Ms. Sarah Zurier
Mr. Howard Ben Tre and Ms. Wendy MacGaw
Ms. Alice R. Benedict and Dr. Caldwell W. Smith
Ms. Kqantu Bent
Mr. and Mrs. Davies W. Bisset, III
Ms. Ann Marie Bolvin
Ms. Carol Anne Bootle
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Jack Gold, Executive Director of PPS between 2004-2008, passed away December 24, 2017. Jack had a four-decade career in historic preservation, architecture and fundraising for nonprofits. He loved his home in Providence’s Armory Historic District and was actively involved in numerous nonprofit activities, including the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Project and Urban Greens Food Co-op.

PPS Board Member and Past President Mark Van Noppen recalls, “Jack arrived like a blast of fresh air at PPS. He was everywhere to be seen, reminding people preservation matters, turning skeptics into allies and partnering with new neighborhoods, advocacy groups, even artists and entrepreneurs. He worked hard with a smile on his face, bringing people from all over the city to our great cause. Perhaps Jack’s greatest accomplishment at PPS was derailing the City’s attempt to demolish some of our most attractive and significant school buildings and replacing them at great cost with new, sometimes experimental structures. Nathan Bishop Middle School was set to be demolished until Jack galvanized the PPS Board and a whole host of volunteers to advocate otherwise. After much public debate, the City renovated and completely updated Nathan Bishop, and shelved its plans for citywide demolition.”

Past PPS President Arria Bilodeau adds, “The preservation community in Rhode Island lost a champion, and Providence lost a community friend with Jack’s departure.”

Past PPS President Oliver H.L. Bennett elaborates that “Jack Gold was a beloved member of our Providence community who was hired when PPS was going through some challenging financial times. It was a difficult job that he assumed with great enthusiasm and commitment. He stabilized the organization and led us through our 50th Anniversary celebrations and successful Capital Campaign.

“Seeking a new experience, Jack moved to San Francisco to make new friends and continue his work in historic preservation. A few years later, he returned to assume development responsibilities at Women & Infants Hospital. He once again expanded his circle of friends and admirers while he successfully led fundraising events for the widely-admired women’s hospital.

“Above all, Jack was a kind and thoughtful man. His boundless energy, dry wit and warm personality drew people to him in any setting. He had a unique love and connection with Providence that was infectious. His commitment to preservation was unswerving and he would be pleased to see how PPS has continued to become more involved in the preservation planning and development process in a way that contributes to far better outcomes for our City and its residents. His beautiful smile will be sadly missed but his impact on our city (and my life) remains indelible.”
Our members are true activists for our strong sense of place in Providence. Membership dues supplement PPS’s operations and offer our enthusiastic members access to preservation programs, events and resources of interest.

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PPS membership offers access to a strong network of people and resources.

Call us to give a gift membership to a Providence newcomer or student.
Why did you join PPS?

We moved to Providence from Boston two years ago and were looking for ways to get involved. PPS fit the bill. We both know the importance of preserving the history of any city, and there's the added bonus of the social gatherings!

What do you enjoy about being members?

The Winter Bash (Rob was involved with the planning) and the Festival of Historic Homes and preview party. We also like getting the email updates and alerts to know what is going on in the city. In several ways, PPS keeps us connected.

What do you enjoy about living in Monohasset Mill?

Years ago, we lived in an early 1900's plow factory converted into affordable lofts for artists. Monohasset has the same look and vibe. Many of the residents here are artists. That, and we immediately fell in love with the eighteen-foot ceilings, ten-foot windows and the original, 150 year-old wood floors.

Do you have a favorite building in Providence?

We both like old houses. We owned a 1920's Victorian bungalow in a historic district of Atlanta, so the Wedding Cake House [514 Broadway] would be the obvious choice. We love the old homes in Fox Point, the Victorians in Elmwood and Federal Hill and the stately houses on College Hill. We joke about wanting to own a home with a plaque on it. Honestly, there are too many options in Providence to choose from. It's one of the reasons why we love it here!
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Rita Danielle Steele, founder of Steele Realty Consultants International, spoke with PPS...

Why did you join PPS as a Partner in Preservation?
Steele Realty Consultants International (SRCI Group) has been a Partner in Preservation for two years now. We got involved with PPS because of the organization’s commitment to advocacy. PPS has a voice at the table in all timely city issues involving adaptive reuse, urban planning and historic preservation. As a local real estate brokerage, my business is centered around the city’s historic housing stock. Historic preservation and vigilant city planning are paramount to my business’ success and my clients’ quality of life.

What do you value most about your partnership with PPS?
PPS’s commitment to safeguarding the city’s nationally regarded aesthetic and forward thinking approach to mindful city growth is invaluable. I have also found a priceless amount of value in the connections I have made and the relationships that I have built through the organization. PPS looks out for the city’s best interests from a vital perspective, and with them I am proud to be a part of the conversation. I look forward to my company’s involvement with PPS for many years to come.

Please share a little about your company.
SRCI Group is a full service boutique real estate brokerage and consulting firm located in the Fox Point Neighborhood of Providence. We represent clients in residential and commercial real estate transactions, and additionally offer consulting services that enable us to tailor our services to meet our clients’ specific real estate needs. Historic restoration and innovative renovations are at the forefront of our work on a regular basis. The life this city puts back into its historic properties adds inspiration to our work every day. PPS is a huge part of that, and my colleagues and I are grateful to them for it.

Rita Danielle Steele currently serves on the Board of Trustees and will chair the 2018 Providence Symposium this fall.
In addition to our Partners in Preservation, the following provided monetary sponsorship of a PPS program or event, from walking tours to our Winter Bash.

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WaterFire Providence
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Wexford Science + Technology
XO Café
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How did you get involved with PPS as a volunteer?

I first got involved volunteering with PPS in 2006 doing the holiday decorating along Benefit Street for the PPS Holiday Stroll. It was a great opportunity to support a cause I strongly believe in (preserving and enhancing the historic fabric of the city) while at the same time allowing me to meet and work with other people with similar interests.

What is your favorite part of volunteering with PPS?

I enjoy using my design skills to assist with PPS activities where I can. Perhaps my favorite experiences have been spearheading the decorating for the PPS Winter Bash, a festive event that often involves turning a raw industrial space into a fantasy land for just one night. I particularly enjoy incorporating landscape elements into these interior settings, as well as including materials related to PPS programing, such as the Most Endangered Properties List. Since the Bash tends to attract many attendees who might otherwise not be involved with PPS, I see this as an opportunity for recruiting new members to the organization.

Why do you support PPS?

I truly believe in the value of historic preservation, which includes the preservation of historic gardens, streetscapes and landscapes, as well as historic structures. For me, it is a magical experience to enjoy the sense of timeless, natural beauty in places like the Shakespeare’s Head Garden on Meeting Street, which is owned and maintained by PPS. I want to do what I can to make sure these places will endure.

Tell us a little about your own business.

After 20 years designing jewelry for the likes of Joan Rivers, Erwin Pearl and Tiffany & Co. I decided to make a career change and started my own landscape design business. Robert Alan Matthews Garden Design is a small company providing landscape design and installation services, primarily in the Providence area. We enjoy creating personalized garden spaces that have a sense of history and feel as if they have developed over time. We often look toward the use of native plants and salvaged materials for hardscaping where possible. In addition to design and installation, we offer plant selection and fine pruning, and we can provide guidance on long-term garden maintenance.
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Providence Preservation Society

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