The year of this report, 2019, seems like a lifetime ago, a world away. To be issuing a report that examines that year feels disjointed and out of step, but looking back helps assess how we did and how we can do better. Rest assured, most of our time these days is spent thinking about the future of PPS, of Providence, of Rhode Island, and beyond. At the same time, we are quite tethered to the current moment, with pressing concerns for our families and friends, those who are sick, and those whose economic circumstances have taken a downturn. We feel for community members whose restaurants, shops, and businesses may not recover from this calamity, even more for those who have lost loved ones.

We don’t save buildings simply to study them, or advocate for good design and planning for the sake of some metrics. Places matter. They matter for the histories held in those places, histories that can be admirable or deplorable. They matter for the way they make us feel. Places matter for the environmental benefits that they create. Places matter for the way they engender community. At no time in the recent past has that been more important. And there is no better way to connect people to place than through story. In 2019, we worked with artists to convey untold or forgotten narratives of several historic places. These artists dove into social histories and contemporary stories with the help of scholars and the community. At Knight Memorial Library, Channavy Chhay shared her experience as a young refugee using the library to learn English and understand her new home. Through our program, more-recent immigrants – students at the Center for Southeast Asians – learned the history and architecture of the library, helping to strengthen their understanding of its past while helping bring to light the role the library plays in the lives of Rhode Islanders today. Later that year, hundreds gathered at Earnescliff Woolen Mill/Paragon Worsted Mill in Olneyville to participate in a “one-night-only choral haunting concerning the women who worked from 1888-1960 in the textile mill” titled, She Died for Our Convenience. Readers and singers conveyed stories of the place from its original inhabitation by the Narragansett Nation to the workers in the mill until its closing to the artists who created massive countercultural artworks here. It is important that we remember and record these layers of history, especially as uses change and people are displaced. This is done too infrequently, so we were happy to engage artists to enhance the public remembrance and understanding of some of our Most Endangered Properties.

In 2020, we are striving to connect people as much as possible, not only to place but to each other. That is something our annual Festival of Historic Houses does quite well. In thinking about how to produce the event this year, we found that it was nearly impossible because of the serious prospect of exposure to the coronavirus, and a virtual version of the Festival was deemed unworkable. Though we can’t bring people together in person, we have launched new online programming to serve a diversity of interests. We encourage you to join us for our lunchtime series, Bite-Sized Preservation, which explores topics related to advocacy, research tools and the practice of historic preservation. Our social media channels are great ways to connect with others who share our passion for architecture, placemaking, history, and culture. We recently saluted health care workers in an Instagram series on Providence’s historic hospitals and we’re now exploring each of the city’s unique neighborhoods with PVD25. While we may not be able to see each other in person, there are many ways we are engaging the community. Our work continues.

As we look back at 2019 with pride in our many accomplishments, advocacy efforts, and rich programming, we must thank the hundreds of members and thousands of supporters that make our work possible. Additionally, none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work by our fine staff and our Executive Director Brent Runyon. As we look ahead, even during these unsettled times, we have never been more optimistic about the important role PPS plays in our community, working to ensure that Providence continues to be the unique, diverse and relevant city that it has always been.

We launch each year’s full calendar of programming with our Annual Meeting. Our membership and the public are invited to this event where we elect new officers and trustees, hear the executive director’s review of the previous year’s activities, announce the new Most Engangered Properties (MEP) list, and feature a prominent speaker. In January 2019, we welcomed Tom Mayes, VP and Senior Counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who spoke about his book, Why Old Places Matter.

A two-year program titled SITES and STORIES EXPLORED Through Art, Scholarship, and Community Engagement took place of the our 2019 spring programs. In a culmination of walking tours, research and creation throughout 2018 and 2019, PPS unveiled five original artistic works that explore hidden and layered narratives of four sites on our 2018 MEP list: Earnescliff/Paragon Mill, Knight Memorial Library, Parcel 1A, and the Broad Street Synagogue. The works provoked conversations about the meaning of place, what happens when a site tells more than one story, and what kind of reparative work can ensue when a site erases some of its narratives in favor of others. Artists included Rebecca Noon and Jed Hancock-Brainerd, Megan and Murray McMillan, Deborah Spears Moorehead, David Wells, and Walker Metling. Since 1994, PPS has used the MEP program to engage the public in thinking about the future of significant historic buildings, landscapes, structures, and neighborhoods. With SITES and STORIES, we hoped to expand this engagement through the work of Rhode Island-based artists, involving the community in the re-building of narratives around the human beings who inhabited these important properties. Artists and artist teams worked with scholars, historic preservationists, and community members, interpreting endangered sites, drawing out hidden histories, and provoking essential public conversations. Collaborating with PPS on the project were artists Mary Beth Meehan and Holly Ewald, and Maureen Taylor, a photography and genealogy expert. This project was supported by an anonymous donor, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism and Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.

In June of 2019, the 39th Festival of Historic Houses explored late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings and historic landscapes of the Paterson Park Neighborhood, located in the Blackstone Park Historic District. The Festival offered an inside view of lovingly-cared-for private homes, buildings and green spaces. Paterson Park boasts houses from the turn of the twentieth century, reflecting the era’s appreciation for city planning and the development of public parks and recreational facilities. The neighborhood was also where the writer H.P. Lovecraft spent early years of his life.

Our biennial Preservation Awards were presented at the Providence Public Library in November 2019, and guests were treated to a cocktail hour sneak-peak of the exciting restoration work in the 1953 wing. Eight awards chosen by a jury of design and preservation experts from New Orleans were presented to celebrate excellence in preservation and new construction. Additional honorees were recognized by PPS for their contributions to the improvement of the Providence landscape. The Dirt Palace women’s art collective accepted the Fan Favorite Award for their restoration of the Kendrick-Prentice-Tirocchi House, also known as the Wedding Cake House.
Each year is busy with constant and necessary advocacy work, but 2019 was an especially active year in Providence! PPS continues to closely monitor local and state commissions whose reviews and decision-making have a literal impact on the treatment of historic resources and the future landscape of Providence’s built environment. Projects of concern remain the Fane Tower proposal before the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission and private student housing projects on the East Side, among countless others.

One advocacy effort cleared a major hurdle in September 2019. The City Plan Commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council the proposed expansion of the College Hill Local Historic District – a multi-year effort by neighbors in College Hill’s east side with the full support of PPS. Once approved by the City Council, this zoning overlay will provide much needed preservation protection for buildings, mostly residential, within the National Register Historic District (a largely honorary designation) left vulnerable to demolition, development, and institutional expansion.

On the eve of the Industrial Trust Building reaching six years of vacancy (April 2019), PPS pledged to prioritize bringing attention to this vulnerable and important local landmark. In May 2019, we succeeded in having the beloved Superman Building (1928) listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. This listing and subsequent attention re-energized discussion of Superman’s current condition, redevelopment potential, and meaning within Providence. PPS solicited RISD’s Interior Architecture Department to develop an adaptive reuse studio for its graduate students. The studio faculty and students were undeterred by the pandemic-related disruptions to their Spring 2020 semester and produced seven creative and plausible reuse schemes for this Art Deco skyscraper – the keystone of the Providence skyline, and the tallest building in Rhode Island.

The 2019 Most Endangered Properties (MEPs) list was once again topped by the greatest preservation challenge, the Industrial Trust Building. Nine other properties were listed, representing a variety of building types and threats. The 2019 list spans FIVE centuries from the Richard Brown House (1731) on the Butler Hospital Campus to the 21st century vulnerability of the new park at Parcel P4 – threatened by the Fane Tower development before the public park has even opened.
After five consecutive years of balanced budgets and building up cash reserves through fundraising, 2019 was a year of continued investment in the organization. The capital campaign raised more than $1.4 million, including $450,000 for our endowment, supporting in perpetuity our education staff and programs. Funds were also raised to ensure that our headquarters, the 1769 Old Brick School House, will be accessible to all and brought up to code, for a safe and comfortable environment for our staff, volunteers and visitors. And just over a year ago, we restored to the staff the director of education position by hiring Kelsey Mullen, ensuring a new generation will learn to appreciate how architecture, history, and design impact their daily lives.

We continued property management with Preserve Rhode Island for both of our buildings and I am happy to report that the Shakespeare’s Head building at 22 Meeting Street has been fully leased for the past four years. This property now has a significant, positive cash flow, which supports education and advocacy projects.

In 2019, PPS received grants from:

- 1772 Foundation
- Bafflin Foundation
- The Champlin Foundation
- The Daniel Rosenblatt Foundation
- The Felicia Fund, Inc.
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- The Sachem Foundation
- Providence Tourism Council
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Providence Tourism Council
- Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- The Sachem Foundation
- Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund
- Providence Tourism Council
- The Herman H. Rose Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund
- The Felicia Fund, Inc.
- June Rockwell Levy Foundation

We were pleased to welcome two new Partners in Preservation last year, bringing the total of year-round corporate sponsors to 26. Our new Partners are Shawmut Design and Construction and The Telephone Building.

As of the end of 2019, our membership stood at 522 member households, including 71 new households.

I am pleased to announce that because of strong fiscal results over the past five years, PPS is completely debt-free and has a strong balance sheet. Endowment totaled $1,830,432 as of year-end 2019. The Rhode Island Foundation managed $590,410 and Parsons Capital managed $1,240,022 for PPS.

We wasted no time implementing the campaign goals. Just over a year ago, we hired our first director of education in light of emerging health and safety concerns. This was perhaps fortuitous timing, since we now have the opportunity to reexamine the needs of a contemporary education department. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this pivotal campaign. Donors are listed on pages 15-16.

In April 2018, we kicked off the Power of Preservation Education campaign to fulfill goals set by the Board of Trustees in the 2015-2020 strategic plan. The campaign re-centered education as a primary focus of the organization. At the end of 2019, gifts and pledges totaled just over $1.4 million, exceeding expectations. We are incredibly grateful to the more than 160 campaign supporters who made this happen.

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Design work on the Old Brick School House continues, though it has been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic. We continue property management with Preserve Rhode Island for both of our buildings and I am happy to report that the Shakespeare’s Head building at 22 Meeting Street has been fully leased for the past four years. This property now has a significant, positive cash flow, which supports education and advocacy projects.

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To reinforce preservation’s value to the local economy, we are preparing to launch programs that will train underemployed adults in valuable traditional buildings skills, such as window restoration.

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The campaign also resulted in PPS increasing our endowment by almost 50%. The new funds will support the education department. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this pivotal campaign. Donors are listed on pages 15-16.

Learn more at ppsri.org/campaign.
During the summer of 2019, PPS hosted two dedicated students as preservation interns.

Sofie Luna came to PPS through the One Providence for Youth Advanced Internship Program, a paid internship program. She is an alumna of the Lincoln School and a student at Franklin and Marshall College, where she is majoring in anthropology and Italian. Sofie carried out background research for the 2020 Most Endangered Properties nominations and added content to our online Guide to Providence Architecture.

In August of 2019 the PPS staff had a guided tour of the house and grounds of the Blithewold estate in Bristol, RI. The tour was led by Linda Blade, Collections Manager. After a lunch on the patio of the house overlooking Narragansett Bay, we were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Blithewold archives, including their extensive textile collection!

Jina Pappas-Horii, a history major at Barnard College, served as our Diversity in Historic Preservation intern, a paid internship open to students who come from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in preservation and cultural heritage careers. The preservation field has a long way to go to become more equitable and inclusive. PPS is committed to this ongoing work, and we recognize one important step is ensuring that preservation practitioners better represent the communities they serve. This internship, which will be offered each summer, is made possible through the generous support of the Ricci family. Jina compiled reference databases for educational outreach and assisted with the ongoing digitization of PPS’s architectural slide collection. She graduated from Barnard in May 2020, and we wish her the very best!

While we were excited to celebrate the 40th Festival of Historic Houses tour in 2020, unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic has suspended all group activities. Therefore, we will instead celebrate the 40th Festival in June of 2021 by showcasing a charming corner of the College Hill Historic District on the National Register. Keene Street and Lloyd Avenue are a picturesque part of the tree-lined neighborhoods north of Brown University between Angell and Olney Streets. The earliest dwellings in this area appeared in the 1850s and, by the 1870s, ample Second Empire and Italianate style houses dotted the neighborhood. The building boom of the 1880s and 1890s saw a blend of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival houses, all comfortable in size, rich in detail, and set back from the streets to allow for a dense landscape of flora. The proximity to Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design attracted professors to this burgeoning enclave, while the nearby Thayer Street commercial district provided household needs and entertainment. We hope you will join us as we explore these lovingly preserved homes and gardens next summer!

PPS works diligently to document and share the exceptional structures and open spaces of Providence through the Festival of Historic Houses, annual Most Endangered Properties lists, and the PPS/AIARI Guide to Providence Architecture. Now, for the first time, our accumulated expertise is in one place and available online.

The new Guide to Providence Architecture is a user-friendly database of the buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods that make Providence special. The core text largely borrows from the 2003 PPS/AIARI guidebook, written by Wm McKenzie Woodward, with photographs by Warren Jagger. The site is easily searched and sorted by property, architectural style, designer, neighborhood, and thematic or geographic tour.

In 2019, structural historian and author Judith Dupre consulted on a marketing plan that we’ll be rolling out over the coming months. We are indebted to her for bringing her insights and enthusiasm to the project.

The online guide will be continuously improved with new content. Visit guide.ppsri.org to explore and let us know what you like and what tours you want to see.
One of the most visible public programs run by PPS is also one of our oldest. In almost 60 years, 1,550 historic property markers have been installed across Providence. Coupled with the physical marker is a building history added to the Mary A. Gowdey Library of House Histories, which is an invaluable resource on the PPS website.

PPS marker applications often come from homeowners who have lovingly restored their properties or from those who have relocated to Providence and participate in the program to mark their support of stewardship and preservation in our historic city. Community-funded markers are available to participants as needed.

Recent marker recipient Sally Strachan talked to PPS:

You live in a uniquely Rhode Island house-type! What do you love most about your lightning splitter?

Oh, my. Where do I start? I love that people drive by, take photos, and sometimes ring the bell to ask me questions about the house and its very unique design. I love that children find the house enchanting, especially when they take on a tour inside all the odd and unusual little and hidden spaces. I love that notes are left at the front door from people who have enjoyed the house and the ever-changing scenes in the front window (featuring a very stylish Madeline doll). I love that there is an actual secret garden in the back of the house. I love that I can share my love of the house with so very many people.

What brought you to Providence?

I was living in New York City and adored the city but had reached a point, after 18 years, where my heart and soul needed a garden. Because NYC would not provide that for me, I made the very, very difficult decision to leave. I came to Providence because the city provided me both an urban environment, with access to the things I love that are culturally related, as well as a unique neighborhood (College Hill) that gave me a historic home AND my precious garden.

Why was it important to you to apply for a house marker?

Two reasons. I wanted people to see the historic information on the home’s original owner and I very much wanted to publicize my support of PPS.

What’s the most interesting thing you learned?

The PPS research gave me additional information is in a part of College Hill that was threatened by demolition in the 1960s. Early PPS activists put together a plan to save the entire block of houses. What you see today on the block bounded by Halsey, Benefit, and Jenckes are the homes that were saved and protected by the work of these remarkable preservationists. I think I am very lucky.
Mrs. Ann Slimmon Woolsey and Dr. Barbara Schepps Wong

Mr. Ed Webb, III

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Swanson

Ms. Barbara Feibelman

Mr. James Dorsey

Ms. Wendy Nicholas Dorsey and Mrs. Alison McNaughton

Mr. Ralph Lufkin and Ms. Emily Slapin Lufkin

Mr. Christopher Langlois and Dr. Tina Rizack

in honor of Cathy Lund and Peter Karczmar

Dr. Justine Johnson and Dr. Gary Block,

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Howland

Mr. Richard Godfrey and Ms. Carla DeStefano

Gertrude M. Goldowsky and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Eil

Ms. Jane Driver

Mrs. Elizabeth Capozzi

Mrs. Elizabeth Billik and Mr. John Buzz Billik

Mr. J. Michael Abbott

Ms. Deborah K. Penn

Mr. Dylan Peacock and Mr. Miran Kicic

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Partridge

Mrs. Jane S. Nelson

Ms. Marisa D’Amora Millard

Mr. R. Kent Millard and

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appeal to donors with appreciated assets such as real estate or securities. They allow
guarantee you (or someone you name) a certain fixed income for life. Upon the death of

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Insurance Policy. Should you wish to consider more sophisticated ways of giving, please consult with your

Rhode Island Foundation and one that PPS directs with the investment guidance of Parsons Capital Management.

The Providence Preservation Society has two investment funds: a permanently restricted endowment at the

By contributing to our endowment, your charitable giving can benefit the Society forever. Either endowment is

Antoinette Downing Leadership Circle spotlight

Suzanne and William Reeves (Susie and Bill) moved from Wellesley, MA to the East Side in 1995, leaving a mostly mid-to-late

20th century suburb for Providence. They were drawn to the longer history, beauty, and more intimate size of our city, and to

PPS as the organization that recognizes and advocates for those qualities. Less than a year after moving into their house on Upton Avenue, they agreed to open it for the 1996 Festival of Historic Houses, and to host the Preview Party! In the years to come Susie and Bill hosted many additional fundraising events for PPS. Susie was also trained by Barbara Barnes as a PPS tour guide for 4th graders and adults. The Reeves are currently members of the Antoinette Downing Leadership Circle.

The Reeves were asked What do you feel is important for PPS to further its mission? Residents and visitors need to be made more aware of the extraordinary economic history of Providence. That history of industrial and commercial success is visible in our beautiful older downtown buildings and neighborhood homes, built by business owners and workers. The gorgeous bas-relief sculptures on the Industrial Trust Building, the muscular beauty of the large Brown & Sharpe factory (now the Foundry on Promenade Street), the Arcade, these places are present evidence of our history and must be appreciated and preserved. We think learning the history of where we reside connects us to these places, and it feels in some small but proud way that we are almost part-owners of those places. We’re glad to hear that PPS is again working to offer more educational programs like those I used to volunteer.

planned giving | planning now to give later

The Providence Preservation Society has two investment funds: a permanently restricted endowment at the

Rhode Island Foundation and one that PPS directs with the investment guidance of Parsons Capital Management. By contributing to our endowment, your charitable giving can benefit the Society forever. Either endowment is available for simple bequests, gifting of Retirement Fund Assets, or naming the Society as a beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy. Should you wish to consider more sophisticated ways of giving, please consult with your investment advisor or attorney, and let us know of your intention. Some available options include:

Charitable Remainder Trusts appeal to donors with appreciated assets such as real estate or securities. They allow you to receive income (or provide income to another person) for life with the knowledge that the funds remaining when the trust terminates will be used to support our endowment.

Charitable Gift Annuities guarantee you (or someone you name) a certain fixed income for life. Upon the death of the last annuity recipient, assets will be used to support your endowment.

Gifts of Real Estate, such as the donation of a historically or architecturally significant home ensures its preservation for future generations. The home will be sold with easements to preservation-minded buyers who will maintain the property as their home. Donors may realize significant tax savings and, if desired, may continue to live in their homes.

For further information, please contact the Society at 401-831-7440.
We are thrilled to announce that we have exceeded our goal for the Power of Preservation Education campaign, with a grand total of more than $1.4 million! Spearheaded by our dedicated co-chairs Malcolm G. Chace, Jr., Johnnie C. Chace, and Patricia A. Moran, this campaign will allow PPS to create preservation education programs that inform and inspire our residents and those who impact our city’s future. It will also fund essential and critical improvements to Providence’s 1769 Old Brick School House and restore its role as a center for preservation education in the 21st century. Members are denoted in blue.

$250,000+
Malcolm G. Chace, Jr.

$100,000+
The Champlin Foundation
Eliot Chace Nolen

$50,000+
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. Buonanno
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Gilbane
Michael Hudner, in memory of Hope Hudner
Kirsten Kenney and Nick Carruthers
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Mr. Jeffrey Flemming
Ms. Alexandra Hahn
Rick and Perry Ivey, in honor of Brent Runyon
Ms. Marisa Nardo
Judith Queen
Patricia Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Rigby
Mr. Jimmie Sanford and Mr. Alben Roland
Ms. Linda Loy Whitman

†deceased
These generous, year-round corporate sponsors share in our vision of a vibrant and sustainable city, partnering with us to present signature events like the Festival of Historic Houses.

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- KITE Architects, Inc.
- Marsella Development Corporation
- Mclaughlin & Moran, Inc.
- Odhe Engineers, Inc.
- Paolino Properties
- Parker Construction Company
- Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP
- Pella Windows and Doors
- Red House Custom Building
- Restivo Monacelli LLP
- Shawmut
- Site Specific
- Steele Realty Consultants
- Tavares, LLC
- The Telephone Building
- VHB

### Partner in Preservation profile

M. David Odeh is President, Principal and the founder of Odhe Engineers, Inc. Mr. Odeh has more than 45 years of experience in structural engineering, design, analysis and construction of all types of buildings.

### Why did you join PPS as a Partner in Preservation?
Having worked on the restoration of many significant historic buildings in downtown Providence, we developed a deep appreciation for their intriguing designs and construction. PPS was always there, guiding the architects and engineers to preserve the original historic fabric of these buildings. The results were always amazing, and we proudly joined PPS to further its mission.

### What do you value most about your partnership with PPS?
We value the fact that PPS is relentless in protecting our historic buildings and neighborhoods for future generations to appreciate. We certainly appreciate such unselfish passion.

### Please share a little about your company.
Odhe Engineers is a nationally recognized structural engineering firm, based in North Providence. Our team leverages innovative technology to develop and implement more efficient structural design solutions, and to improve the quality of construction documentation. The firm is a recognized leader in the application of computer technology and three-dimensional building information modeling (BIM) in structural engineering. The firm has also advanced the use of reality capture technology to digitalize existing structures, including laser scanning and aerial drone photography.

The firm has special expertise in the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic structures. We have been the structural engineer for numerous notable preservation projects in Providence, including South Street Landing (former Narragansett Electric Power Plant), Union Station, the Peerless Lofts, the Shepard Building, American Locomotive Works, WaterFire Arts Center, and Rising Sun Mills.

### In-kind donors
The following businesses and individuals have generously donated goods and services in support of PPS’s preservation advocacy and education mission.

- Allega Marketing Print Mail
- Animus Studios
- Aurora Nails
- The Avery
- Bites By Bre
- Bomes Theatre
- The Bottles Group
- Cafe Nuovo
- The Capital Grille
- Kathryn J. Cavanaugh
- Chifferobe
- Coast 93.3
- Stephen Coon
- Stephen Crocker
- D’licious Desserts
- Dennis DeSignore Design Studio
- Dorothy Williams
- Dulce Vida Bebe Elite Event Design
- The East End
- FAITHFACE
- Fireworks Catering
- Franchescas’s Events & Florals
- Gracie’s Restaurant
- Green Ink
- Harper & Tucker
- Highchapel Designhaus
- John and Carol Howland
- Karen L. Jessup, Ph.D.
- Kleos
- Knead Doughnuts
- Layali
- Lincoln School
- Lululemon
- Mancini Beverage
- McLaughlin & Moran, Inc.
- Milk Money
- Mrs. Robinson
- N.E.S. Solutions
- Ocean State Oyster Festival
- Providence Bagel
- PVDonuts
- The Rhode Show
- Rosalina
- The Rosendale
- Skyline at Waterplace
- Tom Sprekle
- Stenhouse Consulting
- Tilly’s Cheesesteaks
- Tom’s BaoBao
- Uniquely Chic Vintage
- Warren Jagger Photography
- Wendy Brown Home
- Wes’ Rib House
- WRIK Entertainment

### In addition to our Partners in Preservation, the following provided monetary support of a PPS program or event, from the Annual Meeting to the Preservation Awards.

- Mr. David Abbott
- Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C
- ArtPack Services, Inc.
- The Avery Bar and Lounge
- Bank Newport
- Bank of America
- Barbara Sokoloff Associates
- Mrs. Elizabeth S. Bodell
- Casa Buena Builders
- Citrin Cooperman
- City Kitty Veterinary Care for Cats
- Cross Street Partners
- Ed Wojcik Architect, Ltd.
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- Insperity
- Kelly Taylor Interior Design
- Mr. David Maceroni
- MG Commercial
- Mott & Chasse Sotheby’s International Realty
- National Trust Insurance Services
- Odhe Engineers, Inc.
- Paolino Properties
- Parsons Capital Management
- Providence City Council
- Restaurant Association of Providence, LLC
- Roger Williams University
- TRAC Builders, Inc.
- Waldorf Capital Management, LLC
- Washington Trust Company
- Wexford Science + Technology
- Yankee Travel
- ZD6 Inc.
PPS lost a dear friend, advisor, and champion on February 22, 2020, when former executive director Deborah Dunning passed away. Deborah started her time with PPS as a volunteer and board member, and became executive director in 1975. During her tenure PPS became more active in preservation advocacy citywide, and under her leadership both the Providence Revolving Fund and the Planning and Architectural Review Committee were established.

Members Jen Thum and James Grice spoke with PPS:

Why did you join PPS?
We had just bought our house in Providence, after living here for several years. Jen is an archaeologist and we both love history—and old houses! One of the first things we wanted to do was get a plaque for our house and learn more about it through PPS’s research. We’ve been hooked ever since!

What do you enjoy about being members?
We love the events. The house tours especially, and the Winter Bash. It’s great to experience spaces that are new to us in Providence, and we often run into people we know. This really feels like a community that appreciates its built heritage.

What is the best thing about living in a historic home?
The character and the quirks! We have lots of built-ins, visible traces of past building phases, and not a single flat surface anywhere. We love to hear visitors’ surprise when they enter our home for the first time and see how unique it is.

Do you have a favorite building in Providence?
We both love the look of the Old Stone Federal Savings Bank. But we still haven’t been inside!

2020 Winter Bash Co-chairs Paul Carpentier and Dennis DelSignore talk about their volunteerism below:

How did you get involved with PPS as volunteers?
Aware of PPS and its dynamic mission for many years, our first volunteering experiences began in 2010 when James Hall was executive director. We were asked to create a variety of exterior holiday décor for that year’s Holiday Walking Tour. In subsequent years we provided creative floral compositions for several PPS affairs such as the Preservation Awards and ironically, a few past Winter Bash celebrations.

What is your favorite part of volunteering with PPS?
Volunteering with PPS allows us many opportunities to meet, collaborate with, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals who share similar interests, intrigues, and passions, with the goal to support and maintain multifaceted citywide preservation and planning.

Why do you support PPS?
Living on an incredible street bordering Providence’s Federal Hill and West Side neighborhoods provided us poignant experiences in recognizing the dignities that make these communities distinct. Those 13 years spent living in the Charles + Josiah Bates House on Bainbridge Avenue developed our deep appreciation for the need to raise awareness of the salient architectural and cultural history of Providence. We quickly learned of the perpetual need to educate others around us, and take pride in all that was happening ‘down the street’, ‘in the neighborhood’, and ‘on the stoop’.

As artists, individually and collaboratively, we support PPS because we share the same values established by PPS in their statement of purpose:
We respect the past and take the long view.
We value the whole city.
We value design excellence.
We value partnership and collaboration.
We recognize the complexity of the Society’s mission.
Tell us a little about yourselves.
Paul Carpentier is an artist educator with over two decades of experience working in public school, museum and community arts education. A strong advocate for the necessity of quality arts education programming, Carpentier strongly believes it is never too early to begin educating young people in the awareness and presence of history in direct relation to their respective environments.

Dennis DelSignore carries over 30 years of experience applying his signature talents for building floral and décor installations domestically and abroad. Professionally trained as an interior designer, DelSignore continuously shares his floral passions as a design director and instructor educating inquisitive individuals fascinated by the varieties of flora and fauna inhabiting our spaces.

These companies generously match the charitable contributions of their employees who support PPS. We encourage all donors to obtain their employer’s matching gift information when applicable.

- Amica Mutual Insurance
- Bank of America
- Citizens Bank
- CVS Caremark
- EpiVax, Inc.
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Nordson
- Sanofi

In memoriam

PPS lost a dear friend, advisor, and champion on February 22, 2020, when former executive director Deborah Dunning passed away. As a member of the Board of the Convention Bureau, and through a number of public events, she increased the role of PPS in the development of tourism as a source of economic strength for the city. After nearly six years with PPS, Deborah accepted a job working on the restoration of “The Mount,” Edith Wharton’s home in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Deborah continued to support PPS through the years as a volunteer, member, and trusted advisor. She leaves a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.
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.

Top left, the former Citizens Bank at Hoyle Square, now vacant, and the site of a proposed development that is being closely monitored by PPS.

Above is Broad Street, anchored by Temple Beth-El at the intersection of Glenham Street. Long vacant and in serious disrepair, the temple is a vital, historic building on this important commercial corridor. It has been on our Most Endangered Properties list at intervals since 2010.

Lower left, the portico of a house to be featured in the 2021 Festival of Historic Houses on the East Side.

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