



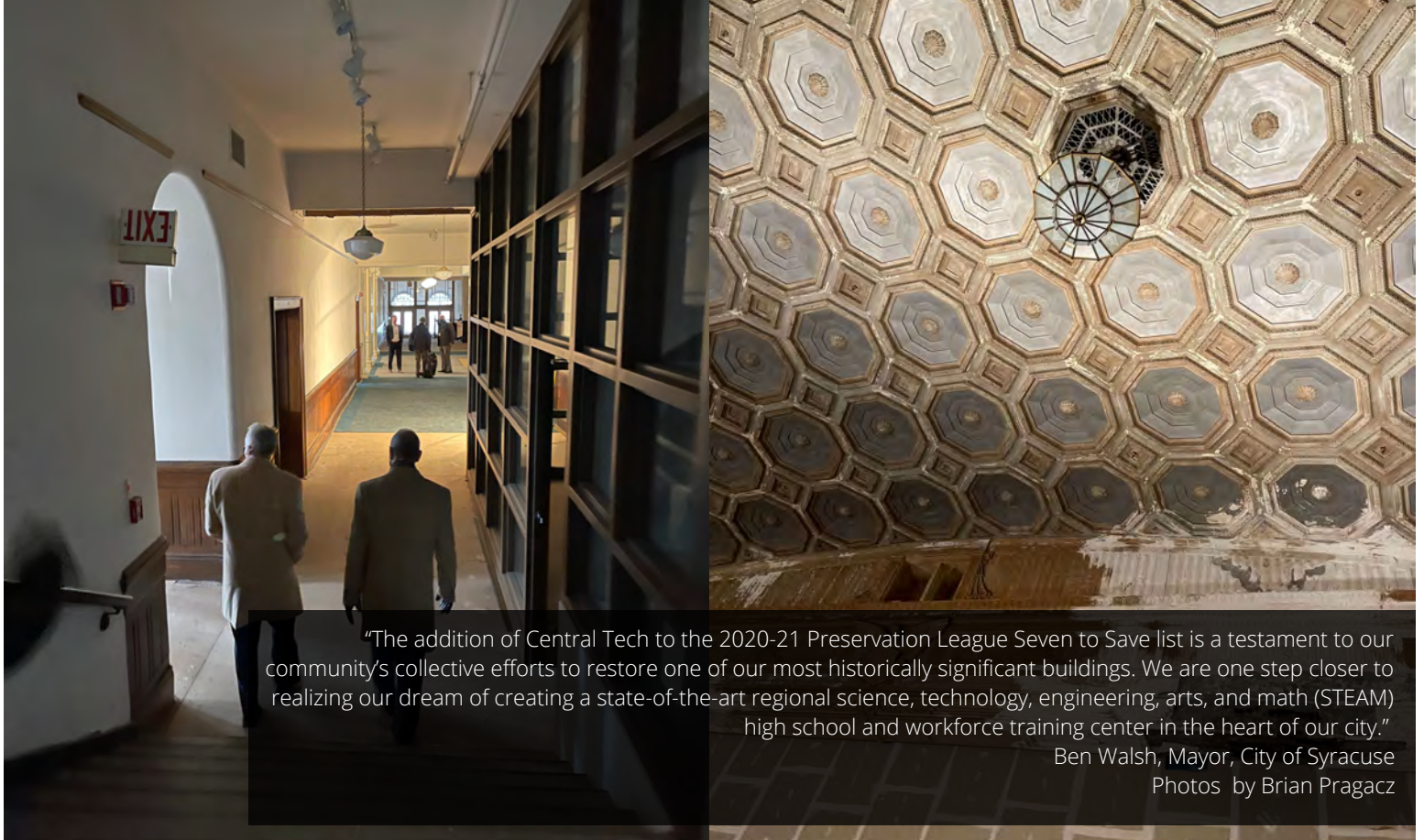
Preservation
League of NYS

*July 1, 2019-
June 30, 2020*

ANNUAL REPORT



*So our past
has a future*



“The addition of Central Tech to the 2020-21 Preservation League Seven to Save list is a testament to our community’s collective efforts to restore one of our most historically significant buildings. We are one step closer to realizing our dream of creating a state-of-the-art regional science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) high school and workforce training center in the heart of our city.”

Ben Walsh, Mayor, City of Syracuse
Photos by Brian Pragacz

WHAT DOES PRESERVATION DO?

Preservation protects historic buildings and landscapes; Builds thriving neighborhoods; Promotes smart, sustainable growth; Tackles climate resiliency...so our past has a future.

For over 40 years, the Preservation League of NYS has worked with grassroots preservationists, advocates, municipalities, and other organizations in every corner of the state to help preserve our shared cultural heritage and bring our past into the future. The 2019-2020 fiscal year was one of the most difficult in our history, but our work remains vital — and we remain committed to championing the wide-ranging benefits of preservation and the people who make it happen.

Cover: The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse at sunset. Photo by Jonathan Simons

“The communities of Hudson and Athens have always known their Lighthouse is a special place, a symbol of their part of the Hudson River and its history. Our designation as one of the Seven to Save validates its importance and will enable us to give it a future, to be a new beacon carrying us forward as a revitalized asset for all our people.” Kristin Gamble, Friends of the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse
Photos of the League’s 2020-2021 Seven to Save sites are featured throughout this document.

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT



We are living through historic times. This is always true, but it is not always so obvious. It has been impossible to live through 2020 and not feel the magnitude of what we all have been collectively experiencing. The year brought incredible challenges, devastating loss, and forced us all to confront difficult truths about who we are as a society. But through it all, we still found ways to come together, to support each other and our communities. We stayed connected while socially distanced. And we embraced the opportunity to look critically at how we can best be of service. This report is a look back at our fiscal year ending in June of 2020, but the lessons learned certainly carried through the rest of the year and beyond.

In some ways, the League's work did not change much in our last fiscal year. The first eight months were business as usual, pre-COVID. And even after the pandemic hit and upended everything, we worked hard to remain a statewide leader. We were still able to provide grants to communities across the state through our New York State Council on the Arts-funded Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants. And although we have been working remotely since March, League staff remained available to assist individuals on an array of preservation issues. We announced our biennial Seven to Save list of endangered historic sites in February and we awarded the annual Zabar Family Scholarships in March.

But just like everyone else, we needed to pivot. There were no more site visits or in-person workshops. Our largest fundraiser of the year, the annual Pillar Awards, was postponed and then bumped from the 2020 calendar altogether (*Save the date for our Virtual Pillar Awards coming up on April 21, 2021!*).

Preservation never stops, even when we all PAUSE. We continued to advocate for pressing policy issues at the local, state, and federal levels. We turned our in-person workshops and pop-up office hours into virtual programs. And we got to work on crafting a slate of new virtual programming that will continue to help us engage broader audiences across New York State and beyond.

Fundamentally, we believe historic preservation is about building community – preserving our shared cultural heritage for future generations, saving and repurposing historic buildings to build stronger neighborhoods, protecting sacred landscapes, and highlighting the diverse stories that make our cities, towns, and villages vibrant. While we have all felt disconnected from our communities, the League has been grateful for **you**, our community of members, donors, and supporters, for continuing to show up for preservation and remain dedicated to saving New York State's historic treasures. Thank you for all that you do, and we look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the new year.

Frank Emile Sanchis III
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jay DiLorenzo
President



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting preservation across the state

A look inside historic Parrott Hall in Geneva. This spiral staircase remains intact despite years of vacancy and neglect. Thanks to a partnership between Friends of Parrott Hall, Landmark Society of Western New York, City of Geneva, and the League, this building could still find new life. Parrott Hall is a Seven to Save site as well as a recipient of a Gratz Fund grant and an EPIP loan.

Photo by Randy Crawford.

"Our grassroots efforts to save this National Register landmark might have been futile if it weren't for the intervention and continuing assistance of the Preservation League...we are in a much stronger position today to preserve and protect Parrott Hall."

Bruce Reisch, Friends of Parrott Hall

PRESERVATION LEAGUE BY THE NUMBERS

46 YEARS

of championing historic preservation in NYS

14

in-person presentations and

11

virtual workshops attended by

585

people

450

technical assistance phone calls fielded

49

meetings with NYS Legislators

3

students supported through the Zabar Family Scholarship Program

\$244,802

awarded through our Gratz Fund and NYSCA-supported Preserve New York & TAG programs, benefiting

31

projects

\$230,000

awarded as the League's first-ever capital grants, thanks to funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission as part of our four-state Northeast Heritage Economy Program partnership

\$469,250

total foundation funding received

\$185,000

in new EPIP loan commitments

Seven to Save

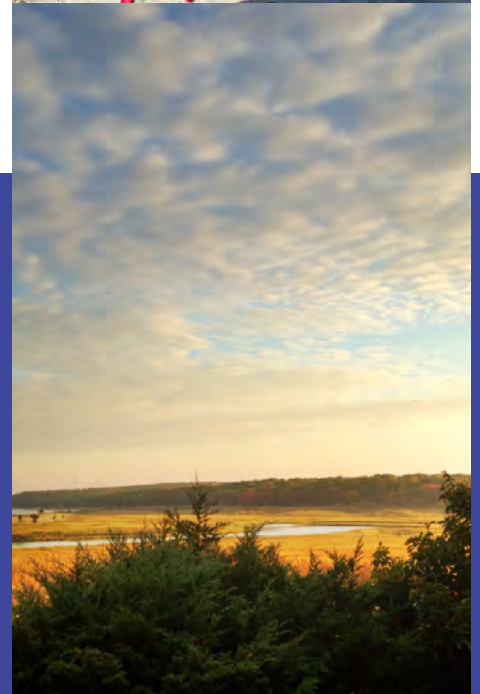
This biennial list of endangered historic sites is one of our signature programs. Announced in early 2020, the League will continue advocating on behalf of these important places over the coming year (and beyond).

Pictured here is Sag Harbor Hills, Azurest & Ninevah Subdivisions (SANS), a historically African American vacation community on the East End of Long Island that is threatened by inappropriate development and deterioration. The rest of our Seven to Save are pictured throughout this document.

"Seven to Save forged a vital partnership that ushered awareness and much needed attention to the SANS Sag Harbor community. This brilliant platform utilized various electronic mediums to examine SANS through academic scholarship and spotlighted generational examples directly from the triumph stories of these residents who resisted Jim Crow, discrimination, and neglect."
Dr. Georgette L. Grier-Key,
Executive Director and Curator, Eastville
Community Historical Society

The 2020-2021 Sites

- NYS Barge Canal System, Multiple Counties
- Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, Greene County
- Richard Lippold's *Orpheus & Apollo*, New York County
- Central Technical High School, Onondaga County
- Parrott Hall, Ontario County
- Elmhurst African American Burial Ground, Queens County
- SANS, Suffolk County

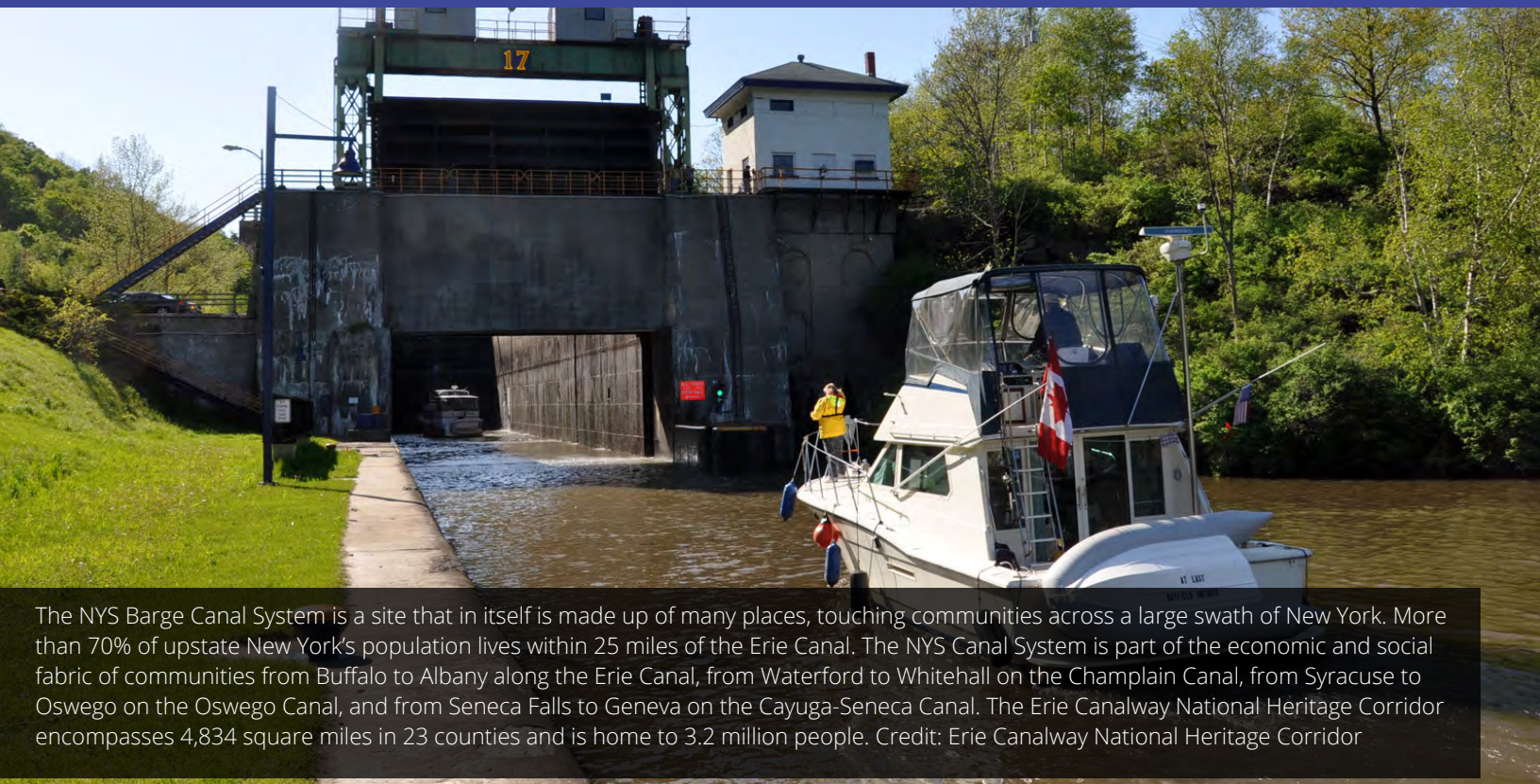


Photos courtesy of Donnamarie Barnes

IDENTIFYING HISTORIC ASSETS ALONG THE CANAL

The Preservation League completed Phase 1 of a new initiative funded by the 1772 Foundation, in partnership with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (ECNHC). This project allowed the League, in partnership with ECNHC, to identify and study vacant and underutilized historic buildings along a portion of the NYS Canal System and Empire State Trail that could be sensitively repurposed to provide services for recreational travelers along that corridor. The League's Phase 1 survey area focused on a 90-mile radius around its Albany headquarters, from Utica to Whitehall, all within the National Heritage Corridor.

Stay tuned for news about our 1772 Foundation-funded Phase 2 project in future Preservation League publications!



The NYS Barge Canal System is a site that in itself is made up of many places, touching communities across a large swath of New York. More than 70% of upstate New York's population lives within 25 miles of the Erie Canal. The NYS Canal System is part of the economic and social fabric of communities from Buffalo to Albany along the Erie Canal, from Waterford to Whitehall on the Champlain Canal, from Syracuse to Oswego on the Oswego Canal, and from Seneca Falls to Geneva on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 3.2 million people. Credit: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Advocating for Preservation

On February 26, 2020, we held our annual Advocacy Day at the NYS Capitol in Albany. League staffers were joined by several advocates from around the state as we met with Assembly and Senate leadership, as well as the Chairs of various committees. Erik Kulleseid, the Commissioner of NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, also met with our group to share his agency's priorities and hear ours.

Many thanks to all the representatives who took time to meet with us during Advocacy Day: The office of Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senators Jose Serrano, Liz Krueger, and Brian Benjamin, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Assemblymembers Patricia Fahy, Pamela Hunter, John McDonald, Daniel O'Donnell, Helene Weinstein, and Carrie Woerner.

2020 Policy Focus Areas

- Improving the NYS Historic Tax Credit
- Funding for historic preservation in the Environmental Protection Fund, Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, New York State Council on the Arts, and the proposed \$3 billion Bond Act
- Legislation recognizing historic businesses in NYS
- Prevailing wage exemptions necessary to ensure preservation projects can continue



Photos of Preservation Advocacy Day

OUR SIGNATURE GRANT PROGRAMS

Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants

Through our signature grant programs, we have strategically invested in the rehabilitation of historic places, leveraged significant additional resources (cash and in-kind), and protected properties at the local, state, and national level through landmark designations. These grants help the League's growing constituency conserve, protect, and use their cultural resources. The grants are an important catalyst in realizing community preservation goals.

Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) are regrant partnership programs between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League of New York State. These grant programs are made possible with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The 2019 TAG program received additional funding from the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.



PRESERVE NEW YORK & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

ALBANY COUNTY
Albany County Historical Association - \$10,000
Historic Albany Foundation - \$15,000

BROOME COUNTY
City of Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing & Community Development - \$8,000

CAYUGA COUNTY
Howland Stone Store Museum - \$10,000

COLUMBIA COUNTY
Village of Valatie - \$4,000

DELAWARE COUNTY
Franklin Stock Company at Chapel Hall d/b/a Franklin Stage Co. - \$5,200
Town of Tompkins - \$4,000

DUTCHESS COUNTY
Scenic Hudson, Inc. - \$15,000

ERIE COUNTY
Springville Center for the Arts - \$3,000

GENESEE COUNTY
Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council - \$4,000

KINGS COUNTY
Prospect Lefferts Gardens Heritage Council, Inc. - \$8,800

LIVINGSTON COUNTY
Village of Avon - \$13,440
Village of Nunda - \$10,000

MONROE COUNTY
Greece Historical Society - \$15,000
South East Area Coalition - \$10,000

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank - \$3,600

NIAGARA COUNTY
Niagara County Historical Society - \$4,000

ONEIDA COUNTY
Uptown Theatre for Creative Arts, Inc. - \$3,312

ONONDAGA COUNTY
Syracuse Area Landmark Theatre - \$4,000

ONTARIO COUNTY
Village of Naples - \$18,150

PUTNAM COUNTY
Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition - \$4,000

QUEENS COUNTY
Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation - \$10,000

RENSELAER COUNTY
Troy Public Library - \$15,000
Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Corporation - \$4,000

RICHMOND COUNTY
Staten Island Historical Society d/b/a Historic Richmond Town - \$3,200

SUFFOLK COUNTY
Friends of Science East, Inc., d/b/a Tesla Science Center at Wardencliff - \$4,000

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Sullivan County Land Bank Corporation - \$5,000

ULSTER COUNTY
Town of Marlborough - \$10,000

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Village of Greenwich - \$7,600

WESTCHESTER COUNTY
Committee to Save the Bird Homestead - \$4,000

NORTHEAST HERITAGE ECONOMY PROGRAM

These grants were made possible thanks to an award to the League along with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, Maine Preservation, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance from the Regional Forest Economy Partnership initiative of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The four states evenly split the award of \$1 million. In total, fifteen projects have been funded by this innovative collaboration.

The four awarded projects in New York are:

Whitcomb's Garage, Whallonsburg Grange Hall, Essex County Trudeau House, Historic Saranac Lake, Franklin County Log Hotel, The Adirondack Experience, Hamilton County Oneida Community Mansion House, Madison County

This work continues into 2021 and we will share updates from each of these four grant recipients over the coming months.





FINANCIALS & DONOR DATA

Trusted stewards of your financial support

Richard Lippold's para-architectural installation *Orpheus and Apollo* was designed and installed in tandem with the architecture of Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall. The League has been working with our colleagues at LANDMARK WEST! to advocate for this iconic piece of public art to be returned to Lincoln Center where it rightly belongs. "Having *Orpheus and Apollo* on the Seven to Save list not only broadens the conversation of historic preservation but has increased any potential reach LANDMARK WEST! could have had on our own. Partnering with the League ensured grade-A talent for programs which have reached far beyond preservation circles and motivated the community at large."

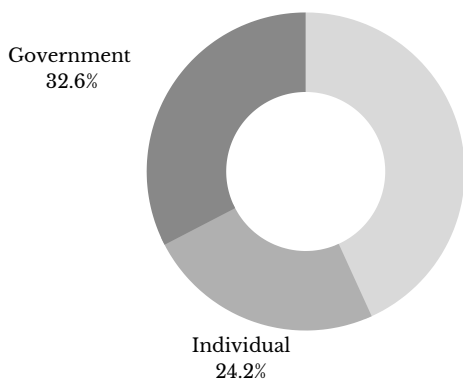
Sean Khorsandi, Executive Director, LANDMARK WEST!

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

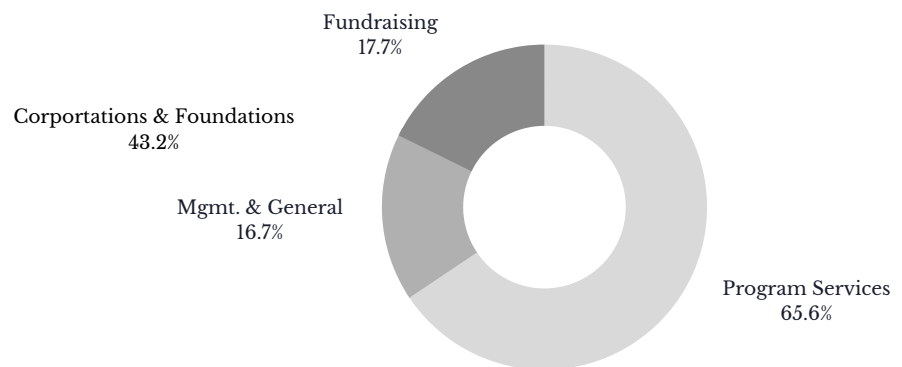
Year ending June 30, 2020

The Preservation League of NYS ended June 30, 2020 with total assets of \$6.6M

Support & Revenue



Expenses



These assets include three endowment funds and earnings totaling \$3.1M:

- **General Endowment Fund**
- **Lionel Goldfrank III Fund for Public Policy** (Annual transfer per Investment Policy is used to support the League's Public Policy Program.)
- **Donald Steven Gratz Preservation Services Fund** (Annual transfer per Investment Policy is used to provide grants to jump start preservation projects.)

The League's Board of Trustees approved \$144K in spending from the Endowment for the year ended June 30, 2020, per approved investment policy.

League Total Assets also include \$1.6M for the Endangered Properties Intervention Program (EPIP), currently structured as a revolving loan program. EPIP provides loans to those seeking to acquire, stabilize, and restore New York's most endangered historic properties.

Current liabilities increased by \$114K due to the COVID-19 PPP loan received, but this is expected to be forgiven in year ending June 30, 2021.

For the year ending June 30, 2020, the Preservation League had \$1.33M in operating revenues and \$1.41M in expenses. Investment income primarily led by gains in the endowment accounts totaled \$69K.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating Revenue | June 30, 2020

Corporation & Foundation	\$604,720
Individual/Org.	295,040
Government Grants	397,849
Special Events	-
(Less Direct Costs of Fundraising Events)	-
Interest on EPIP Loans	36,592
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenue - Net	\$1,334,201

Operating Expenses

Program Services	\$927,905
Management & General	236,000
Fundraising	250,729
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Total Expenses	\$1,414,634

Change in Net Assets from Operations	(\$80,433)
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Non-Operating Income

Investment Income	\$69,332
Investment Fees	(\$31,431)
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Change in Net Assets	(\$42,532)

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2020

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$817,973
Other Current Assets	137,170
Assets Restricted & Designated for Use	5,542,826
Property & Equipment, Net	119,794
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Total Assets	\$6,617,762
Accounts Payable	\$102,363
Other Current Liabilities	123,841
Non-Current Liabilities	47,696
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities	\$273,900
<hr/>	
Net Assets	\$6,343,862
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$6,617,762



The Elmhurst African American Burial Ground was rediscovered in 2011 during construction on the site. What appears to be an empty lot is an important historic site that the community has been trying to save ever since. In addition to including this site on our Seven to Save list, the League is looking closely at unmarked burial grounds as part of our public policy agenda.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

You make the work we do possible.

Support from private foundations during the 2019-2020 fiscal year gave us the vision, ambition and resources to develop new ideas and to fund proven, effective programs.

For example, as they have for many years, our partners at the **Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation** underwrote the League's statewide Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards program. In addition, the Foundation funded a comprehensive survey of historic Opera Houses including an interactive map of these unique buildings. **The Peggy N. and Roger G. Gerry Charitable Trust** made a significant investment that will help fund the restoration of the League's historic headquarters in Albany and important preservation commission trainings, both in-person and virtual. A grant from the **Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation** supported Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants on Long Island. The **Corning Incorporated Foundation** together with the **Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes** provided critical funding to support the work of our Southern Tier Field Consultant. **The 1772 Foundation** funded a study of vacant and underutilized historic buildings along portions of the Empire State Trail and Water Trail in hopes of repurposing these buildings to provide services for recreational travelers. Still other foundations, like the **Edwin S. Webster Foundation**, noting the importance of offering funding "where it is needed most," supported ongoing programs and operations. Funding from a number of family foundations was also received for which we are exceedingly grateful.

Many of the League's programs and services are made possible in significant part thanks to invaluable support from these major philanthropic partners. Their investment in our work has been particularly important during these unprecedented times:

1772 Foundation, Inc. | Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation
Howard Bayne Fund | Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes
Corning Incorporated Foundation | Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation
Peggy N. and Roger G. Gerry Charitable Trust | J.M. Kaplan Fund
Thompson Family Foundation, Inc. | Tianaderrah Foundation | Edwin S. Webster Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS & DONORS

You make the work we do possible.

The Preservation League of New York State gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations, and government agencies that supported our work during the past fiscal year. Annual contributions and membership ensure the League's ability to continue to advance our shared preservation goals.

The following list reflects the total giving by members and contributors who donated \$100 or more between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Gifts made after that date will be reflected in the FY 20-21 Annual Report. *Thank you!*

Excelsior Society members are individuals and foundations who made an unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more. Foundations are highlighted in **BLUE**.

\$50,000+

Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation
Robert and Nellie Gipson New York State Council on the Arts
Northern Border Regional Commission
Peggy N. and Roger G. Gerry Charitable Trust
The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Inc.
Tianaderrah Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Bessemer Trust Company
David and Candace Weir Foundation
Mrs. Thomas J. Hubbard J&AR Foundation
Arthur L. Loeb
Janet C. Ross
The Thompson Family Foundation, Inc.
Anne H. Van Ingen
Candace King Weir

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Edwin S. Webster Foundation
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Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
J. P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
Hermes Mallea and Carey Maloney
Ms. Cynthia C. Wainwright and Mr. Stephen Berger
Arete S. Warren

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jan C. K. Anderson
George Beane and Patricia Begley
Ildiko and Gilbert Butler
Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes
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Mr. and Mrs. David Eberhart
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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The Holbrook Family Foundation
The Howard Bayne Fund
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Gregory Long
Richard and Mary Maitino
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Norman and Melanie Mintz
Morgan Stanley
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PBDW Architects
Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pierpont

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS & DONORS

You make the work we do possible.

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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You make the work we do possible.

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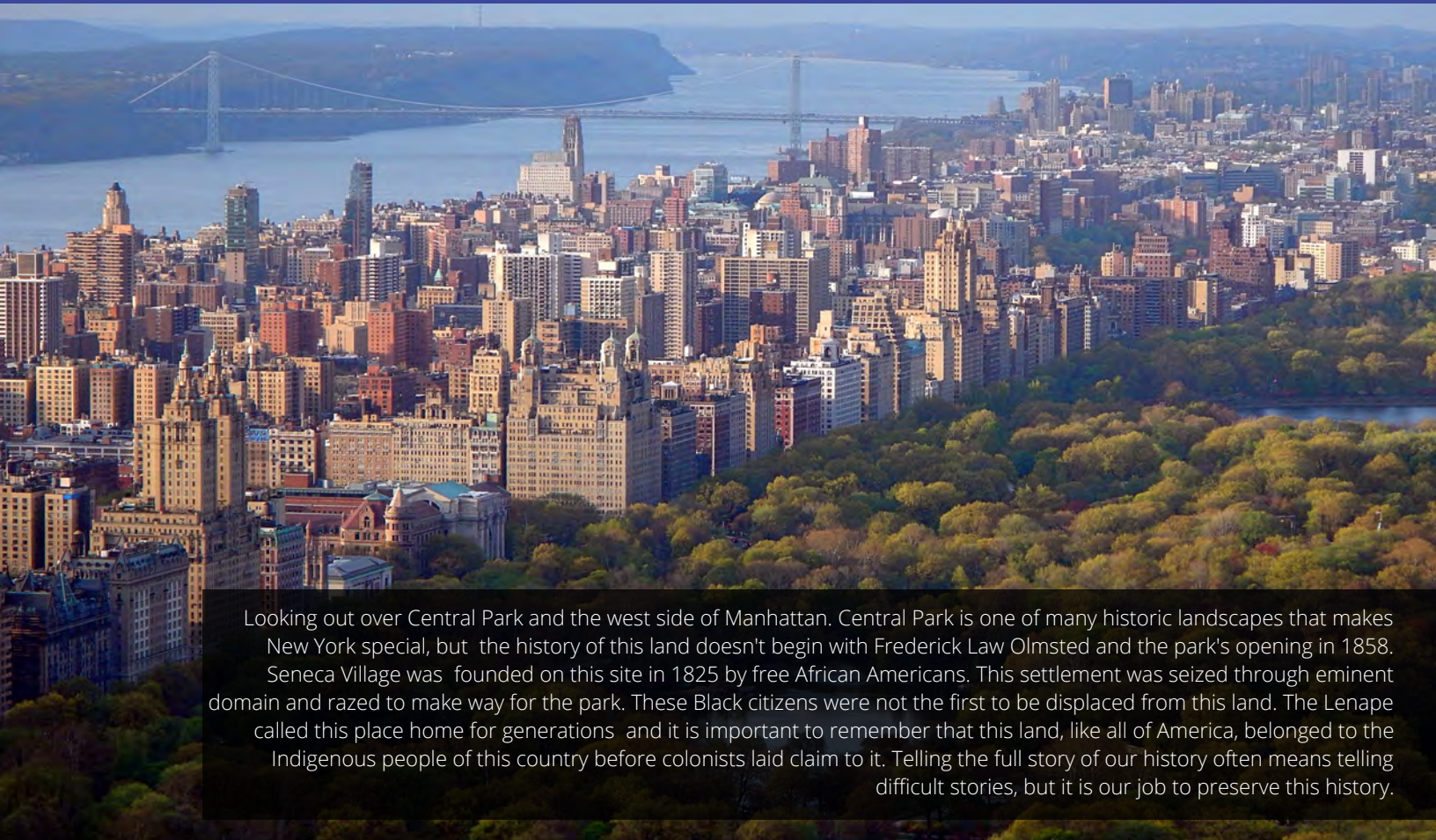
LOOKING AHEAD

2021 and Beyond

Some of the adjustments we made in 2020 will be carried forward as we continue to serve our unique statewide audiences. Embracing online programming and virtual technical services has allowed us to reach more people and try new things. We continue to think critically about the stories we tell, the projects we support, and the people we serve.

Confronting racism in our field and working toward a more equitable preservation community is something the League takes very seriously.

We are working hard to make sure all of our programs reflect these values.



Looking out over Central Park and the west side of Manhattan. Central Park is one of many historic landscapes that makes New York special, but the history of this land doesn't begin with Frederick Law Olmsted and the park's opening in 1858. Seneca Village was founded on this site in 1825 by free African Americans. This settlement was seized through eminent domain and razed to make way for the park. These Black citizens were not the first to be displaced from this land. The Lenape called this place home for generations and it is important to remember that this land, like all of America, belonged to the Indigenous people of this country before colonists laid claim to it. Telling the full story of our history often means telling difficult stories, but it is our job to preserve this history.

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Paddlers in kayaks and canoes make their way through Lock 2 in Seneca Falls on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Photo courtesy of Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor