



2019 Annual Report

2019 By the Numbers

24k+

*visitors to our
museums*

5k+

*guests engaged
in educational
programs*

5

*of our historic
homes were
repainted*

17

*museum
collection items
conserved*

684

*students visited
our museums*

2

*Keeping History
Above Water[®]
conferences held*



A Letter from the Director

As this Annual Report reflects, 2019 featured significant progress and welcome change on a number of fronts at NRF. The Whitehorne House Museum reopened in May after being closed for more than two years. NRF is thrilled to be able to share this incomparable collection of Newport furniture with our community and we hope you'll join us as WHM evolves into a more accessible, visitor-friendly, and engaging institution.

At Rough Point, we opened a new exhibition, *Beyond Fortune: The Life & Legacy of Doris Duke*, and offered a range of programs in an effort to separate myth from fact with regard to our founder. During the summer months, we hosted a festive Jazz on the Lawn and partnered with Newport Film on an outdoor showing of the compelling documentary, *Halston*. More than 20,000 people visited the museum in 2019.

NRF collaborated on two well-attended conferences – in St. Augustine and Nantucket – focused on the threat of sea level rise to historic buildings. This outreach into other coastal communities is critical to our work at NRF as we contemplate the impact of climate change right here in Rhode Island. You can keep abreast of NRF's programming related to our *Keeping History Above Water[®]* initiative at historyabovewater.org.

Of course, all of the work we do is made possible through the generous support of our donors. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and NRF staff, I thank you for reading this report and taking an interest in our mission. We hope to see you at one of our museums or a program in 2020.

Sincerely,



Mark Thompson
Executive Director



Rough Point MUSEUM

2019 was another exciting year for Rough Point Museum as we welcomed over 20,000 visitors throughout the season. Notably this year, the museum changed its operating model to a mainly self-guided visitor approach as well as decreased general admission prices. This model required the development of new interpretive materials and signage for guiding visitors without a tour guide through the museum. Complimentary guided tours were offered twice daily.

NRF also continued its 11-year relationship with Newport Public Schools. NRF was the beneficiary of a grant from the Newport Public Education Foundation, which funded Rough Point visits for over 237 students from Newport Public School 4th grade, 8th grade art classes.

Rough Point Museum held a new exhibition this year entitled, *Beyond Fortune: The Life & Legacy of Doris Duke*. The exhibition used historical documents, photographs and items from the Rough Point fine art and fashion collection to learn more about Doris by looking honestly at her interests, complexities, and eccentricities to see beyond the myths and legends often associated with her life. Our events this year reflected this theme as well.

2019 EVENTS

- Closet Tour: Fortune's Fashions
- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke's Cultural Curiosity
- Newport County Free Days
- Ask a Gardener
- Rosé with the Roses
- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke in Newport
- Jazz on the Lawn
- Plant Sale
- Floral Design Workshop
- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke's Inner Circle
- Closet Tour: Fantastic Plastics
- Spotlight Talks
- Newport Schools Night
- Roam Around Rough Point: Halloween Edition
- A Rough Point Holiday



Whitehorne House MUSEUM

Whitehorne House Museum reopened its doors to the community on May 29, 2019 after a 2+ year closure. 2019 was also the first year we offered free admission for Newport County residents. The museum welcomed over 1,300 visitors this season. NRF redesigned the museum to enable a self-guided experience, giving more access to the incredible 18th-century furniture on display.

2019 EVENTS

- Details Matter: Making Furniture Microscopic
- Creative Survival: African Artisans in Newport
- Creative Survival Installation
- Midsummer Celebration
- Behind the Design-A Craftsman's Tour of Newport Furniture



PRESCOTT farm

In 2019, Prescott Farm provided a diversity of experiences for over 1,300 visitors, showcasing its Revolutionary War era history and the lifestyles, foodways and structures of that period. Prescott Farm's kitchen and herb gardens continued to be cared for by a dedicated team from University of Rhode Island's Master Gardener program.

2019 EVENTS

- Stone Wall Workshop
- Monthly Second Sundays (April through November)
- Native Plant Walk with Gary Casabona



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Keeping History Above Water®: St. Augustine & Nantucket

Keeping History Above Water® traveled to two locations in 2019: St. Augustine, Florida and Nantucket, Massachusetts.

NRF joined Flagler College, the University of Florida and the City of St. Augustine for the fourth *Keeping History Above Water®* convening that took place on May 5-8, 2019 at the historic Casa Monica Hotel.

Keeping History Above Water®: St. Augustine explored the impacts of sea level rise on historic coastal and river communities and cultural resources through the lens of time. With the theme of *Envision 2050*, the emphasis was placed on policies, programs, and projects that address the situation in the short-term (defined as 30

years). Presenters shared research, strategies, and case studies of real-world applications that will physically, socially, and economically transform the world as we adapt to sea level rise over the next few decades.

Keeping History Above Water®: Nantucket was a two-day workshop on Nantucket hosted by Nantucket Preservation Trust, University of Florida, and the Town of Nantucket on June 26 - 28, 2019. On Day One, participants learned from the successes and lessons of other historic coastal communities. Participants then turned their focus to Nantucket on Day Two, using state-of-the-art laser scanning models to help envision sea level rise and held roundtable discussion to propose solutions.





DORIS DUKE PRESERVATION AWARDS

On Friday, September 6, Newport Restoration Foundation held its fundraiser, the 13th annual Doris Duke Historic Preservation Awards, on the grounds of Rough Point.

NRF recognized and honored four restoration and rehabilitation projects that embody Doris Duke's legacy of preserving the historic sites, landscapes, and overall character of Aquidneck Island. Over \$63,000 was raised to support NRF's historic preservation efforts. The following projects were recognized:

23 Hammersmith Road (1887), Newport

Awarded to Linda and Rocky Kempenaar; recognized for the rehabilitation of a nineteenth-century utilitarian out-building. The building was originally constructed in 1887 as a horse barn to support the larger Wild Moor Estate. Until its purchase by the Kempenaars in 2016, the property had been used as storage space and had never been fully utilized as a modern, residential structure. Highlights of the rehabilitation included upgrading mechanical systems to meet modern building codes and restoring historic windows, doors, radiators, and woodwork throughout the house.

Restmere (1857), Restmere Terrace, Middletown

Awarded to Cheryl Hackett and John Grosvenor; recognized for rehabilitating a 10,000 square-foot dilapidated mansion originally designed by architect Richard Upjohn in 1857 for Alexander Van Rensselaer. The homeowners designed a plan that qualified for federal historic tax credits and, in so doing, preserved the building's architectural integrity, documented the site's history, and ensured the house would be economically sustainable for future stewards. Exterior restoration included painting, roof replacement, and historic wood window restoration. Interior restoration included repairing original cracked plaster walls and water-damaged ceilings, refinishing hardwood flooring, rebuilding fireplace hearths, and upgrading systems.

St. Columba's Lych Gate (1897), Vaucluse Avenue, Middletown

Awarded to St. Columba's Chapel; recognized for restoring a rare American lych gate, a feature which traditionally serves as the entrance to an English churchyard. St. Columba's timber framed lych gate was

designed by prominent Gothic Revival architect Henry Vaughan, supervising architect of the Washington National Cathedral. Extensive damage by insects and other animals had affected both the appearance and the structural integrity of the Chapel's iconic gate. The restoration work included in-kind replacement of the gate's sculpted sill beams and roof shingles as well as leveling the stone floor and staining the entire structure.

Vinland Ironwork (1880), Ochre Point Avenue, Newport

Awarded to Salve Regina University; recognized for the restoration of the University's cast- and wrought-iron fencing along Shepard and Ochre Point Avenues. The fencing was originally part of the Vinland Estate built by Peabody & Stearns in 1881-83, which was then gifted to the University in 1955. The project included foundry replication and casting of fence posts, panels, and piping that were damaged beyond repair as well as the return of fencing that had previously been removed from the original site.

We are grateful to our co-chairs, Victoria Mele, Christine MacDonald and Tracy Bach-Sorensen, and the dedicated committee of volunteers, who help make this signature event a success. Special thanks to our Platinum sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Berkowitz, III, Ms. Edith McBean, Ms. Lisette Prince, and Mr. James Ross, for their generous support.





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FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash	2,638,247
Accounts & other receivables	5,872
Contributions receivable	2,433,740
Inventory	70,333
Prepaid expenses	189,770
Total current assets	5,337,962

Assets restricted to investment in property and equipment	197,380
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Property and Equipment	38,770,816
Less accumulated depreciation	17,245,165
Net property and equipment	21,525,651

Investments	9,103,144
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Total Assets	36,164,137
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:

Current portion of long-term debt	8,297
Accounts payable	469,553
Accrued expenses	130,063
Total current liabilities	607,913

Long-term debt, less current portion	229,608
Security deposits	151,406
Enironmental remediation obligations	271,819
Total liabilities	1,260,746

Net assets:

Unrestricted	26,719,825
Temporarily restricted	8,183,566
Total net assets	34,903,391

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	36,164,137
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Statement of Activities December 31, 2019

Changes in unrestricted net assets:

Operating revenue and support:	
Rental income and related charges	2,097,405
Retail sales	13,846
Admission income	262,855
Interest and dividend income	32,417
Special events	117,501
Program income	28,591
Grants and Contributions	54,521
Other revenue and support	85,525
Total:	2,692,661

Net assets released from restrictions	1,965,032
Total unrestricted revenue and support from operations and net assets released from restrictions	4,657,693

Program expenses:	
Rough Point	2,544,501
Rental property	2,292,596
Whitehorne	154,212
Prescott Farm	48,098
Queen Anne Square Maintenance Trust	5,458
Total program expenses:	5,044,865

Supporting services expenses:	
Administration	469,965
Special events	51,847
Total supporting services	521,812

Total expenses:	5,566,677
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Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets from operations	(908,984)
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Nonoperating revenue (expenses) and support:	
Investment income, net	1,223,459
Net gain (loss) on disposal of assets	(1,407)
Net assets released from restrictions	344,801
Total nonoperating revenue and support	1,566,853

Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	657,869
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Net assets with donor restrictions:	
Contributions	2,793,305
Investment income, net	9,830
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,309,833)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	493,302

Change in net assets	1,151,171
Net assets - beginning	33,752,220
Net Assets - Ending	34,903,391



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