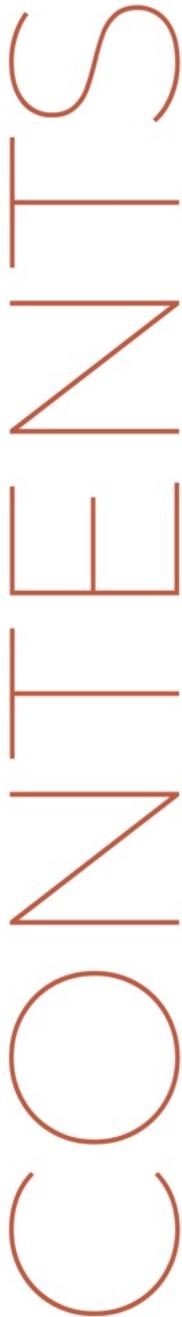


SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST

Annual Report

2025

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NON PROFIT CULTURE STOCKBRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Cultivating the Next Generation of Preservation Leaders

This past year at the Springfield Preservation Trust has been defined by growth—of community, partnerships, and collective commitment to our mission.

As we do each year, we welcomed new leaders and volunteers while challenging ourselves to think boldly about the future of preservation. We are actively cultivating the next generation of preservationists. For the first time in our organization's history, we partnered with Springfield Technical Community College to develop a series of meaningful internships with tangible outcomes for both students and our nonprofit. Together, we enhanced archival resources, launched a new winter lecture, and expanded our web and print content. As we move into 2026, this collaboration continues to create career-shaping opportunities for students while strengthening our institutional capacity.

Our educational programming and community engagement efforts expanded significantly, fueled by dedicated committee work and a deeply engaged Board of Directors. The newly instated Membership Committee, in particular, energized our outreach through community tabling, member engagement initiatives, and an infectious enthusiasm that strengthened connections across Springfield.

Looking ahead, we are focused on closing the remaining funding gap for the Stockbridge rehabilitation project while advancing multiple archive digitization initiatives that will broaden public access to Springfield's rich history. Additionally, we will maintain visibility through media outreach and engagement.

Thank you for being part of this work. By engaging new voices and strengthening community partnerships, we continue preserving our shared past to secure a vibrant and enduring future.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Connected through Community

This year has been characterized by strong community engagement and partnership. As the Springfield Preservation Trust grows into its next chapter of impact—continually passing the baton from veteran Trust leaders to newer leaders with contemporary programming and engagement ideas—we continue to expand our reach in the community.

For starters, we thank all of the volunteers, sponsors, and events hosts who have added to Trust programming this past year. Some of you are ongoing supporters and others stepped up for the first time. Your contributions make our work possible.

This year, we are grateful to have continued and expanded partnerships and programming with the Pan African Historical Museum, Springfield Museums, Springfield Libraries, and Springfield Armory National Historic Site. We are grateful to have received grant funding from MassDevelopment, Community Preservation Act funds, Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism for MA250, Digital Commonwealth/Boston Public Library, and the American Alliance of Museums and National Park Service. Excitingly, we also brought back the Annual Bus Tour, thanks to sponsor Peter Pan Bus Lines, who will sponsor the tour again in 2026. Our work to engage interns also continues with new and growing relationships with the Springfield Technical Community College and United Way of Pioneer Valley.

Our work continues to be community-driven and inspired. Here's to another year of impact!



This year has been all about expanding community partnerships, and you can see it in our programming!

—Erica Swallow,
President

STOCKBRIDGE UPDATE

7-9 Stockbridge Street rehabilitation work and funding advancements



Onward & upward

In 2025, we completed the roof replacement (by MMC Specialty Roofing) and masonry work (by TMR Mason Contractors) for Stockbridge Street, hosting a “block gathering” on November 22nd to showcase the updates. The project, too, received a \$300,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant for structural stabilization.



This year also saw the creation of a Stockbridge Fundraising Advisory Group, tasked with proposing a fundraising plan for the project's funding gap. The group produced a “Stockbridge Restoration Plan” (pictured above, available on the website) and dove into a project pro forma produced with consulting firm M&S Development, with a \$10,000 grant from MassDevelopment. The group will finalize a recommendation in Spring 2026.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

This year, we added multiple new programs to the calendar, while maintaining our typical programming.

01

Virtual Lectures

We kicked off the year with three monthly virtual lectures, to engage the community during the colder months:

- Gravestone Symbolism & Carvers, with Derek Strahan (Jan 9)
- 50+ Years of SPT History, with Jim Boone (Feb 13)
- Springfield's Literary Legacy, with Dr. Kate Benson (Mar 13)

02

Second Saturday Tours

Sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council and the Springfield Cultural Council—and co-presented by the Springfield Museums & Springfield Libraries—the 2025 Second Saturday Tour season included the addition of our annual bus tour to kick off festivities, sponsored by Peter Pan Bus Lines:

- Springfield's Historic Libraries (Bus Tour), with Dr. Kate Benson (Apr 12)
- Springfield Central Library, with Maggie Keene/Springfield Libraries (May 10)
- Springfield's Lost Riverfront, with Derek Strahan (Jun 14)
- Underground Railroad Tour, with Sam Bradley & PAHMUSA (Jul 12)
- Rushville, Oldest Craftsman Neighborhood, with Bob McCarroll (Aug 9)
- Springfield Armory Hill Shops, with Carl Steele/Springfield Armory (Sep 13)
- Made in Springfield: Springfield's Industrial Past, with Erica Swallow (Oct 11)

03

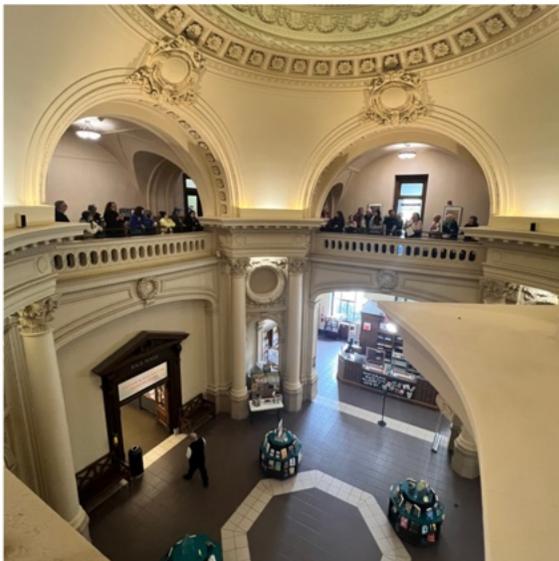
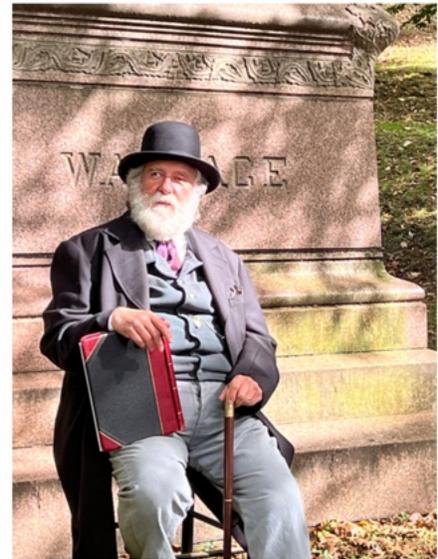
Two "Voices from the Grave" Tours

This year, we offered two separate "Voices from the Grave" tours:

- Heroes of the American Revolution, an MA250 Celebration (May 18)
- Annual Voices from the Grave Cemetery Tour (Oct 19)

Both cemetery tours took place in Springfield Cemetery and featured costumed interpreters with tour groups led by trained docents. *Focus Springfield* filmed both tours, with character stories uploaded to the Springfield Preservation Trust YouTube channel for viewing.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our work is stronger in community.

Each year, we engage the public, local businesses, and city, regional and state leadership in our mission through a calendar of community programming. The 2025 Preservation Awards, Historic Homes Tour, Winter Fundraiser, Garden Party Fundraiser, and Springfield Museums Exhibit provided the backbone our year's work.

01

2025 Preservation Awards

This year's Preservation Awards were held at 52 Summer, thanks to Springfield Performing Arts Venture, a past awardee.

02

Historic Homes Tour

This year's self-guided Historic Homes Tour took place in the McKnight Historic District, featuring five homes.

03

Winter & Garden Party Fundraisers

The "Victorian Winter Wonderland" Winter Fundraiser took place at the Loomis-Wesson House (220 Maple Street), thanks to Angelene Huang, and the "Flora & Fauna" Garden Party was hosted at the Barney Carriage House in Forest Park.

04

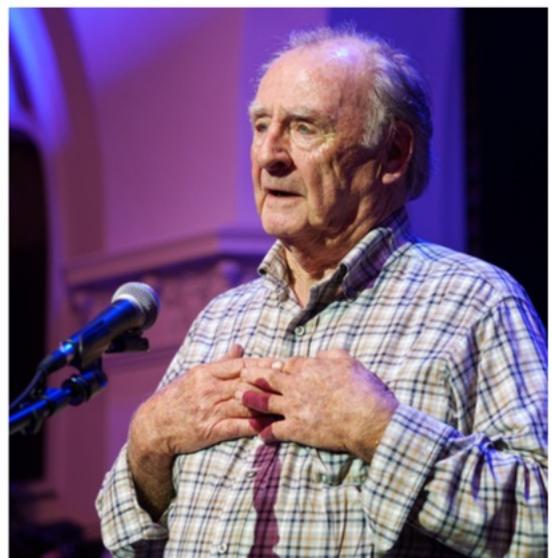
Springfield Museums Exhibit

We developed a Springfield Museums' exhibit to highlight the 2025 Preservation Awards honorees.

05

Other Offerings

We also engaged the community through our 2025 Annual Meeting, annual City of Homes' calendar, and booths at the Mattoon Street Arts Festival, Forest Park's Illumination Night, McKnight's Block Party, & UnitedWay VolunteerConnect Fair.





Our Springfield Museums exhibition featured the 2025 Springfield Preservation Trust Awards, given annually to highlight the efforts of private individuals and businesses who have enhanced Springfield's housing stock of historic properties.





ADVOCACY MILESTONES

Each year, Springfield Preservation Trust identifies its "Most Endangered Historic Resources List," along with a "Watch List."

We monitor properties for deed changes and on-site activity, and also communicate with owners or potential buyers/developers when possible. While keeping tabs on properties, we also actively advocate at City Hall and the Springfield Historical Commission for preservation measures.

ADVOCACY	ACTIVITY	OUTCOME
Campanile (The Municipal Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination to Preservation Massachusetts (PM) Most Endangered List • Distributed press releases • Communicated with City official 	<p>Property added to PM statewide endangered list</p> <p>Secured media coverage in <i>The Republican / MassLive</i></p>
2025 SPT Most Endangered List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced the list • Distributed press releases • Monitored deeds • Tracked statuses via owner communications • Added 37 George Street midyear due to fire; assisted homeowner in finding resources 	<p>Secured media coverage</p> <p>37 George Street received \$300K off-cycle CPA grant for roof replacement</p> <p>Underwood Building removed due to Raipher Pellegrino's active restoration</p>
New Construction Guidelines for Building in Historic Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple letters to Springfield Historical Commission (SHC) regarding specific proposals • Continual advocacy for production of guidelines 	<p>Successfully influenced architectural design of multiple new construction homes in McKnight and Forest Park</p>
77 Maple Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy on state and local levels against new owner destruction of historic elements 	<p>Engaged Mass Historical Commission in exercising its interior and exterior preservation restrictions</p>

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

Our historical & archival resource digitization continues to grow each year.

The Trust works to collect and digitize historical and archival resources regarding Springfield's built environment. The Springfield Preservation Trust has taken on an effort to digitally scan the city's Works Progress Administration images, a collection of every building in the city circa 1938-39. This year, we worked with Archival & Marketing Design Intern Devon McDaniel to write a scope of work for finalizing the production. We have scanned roughly 20% of the collection to date, with 80% to go. We have a grant application out to finish this work. This project is ongoing, with digitized images available by street on our website.

Most recently, the Trust is working to digitize more than 2,000 historic Springfield postcards, in partnership with Digital Commonwealth and the Boston Public Library, with funding from donor John Zebb, and postcard contributions from Jim Boone and John Zebb. Metadata was collected by Devon McDaniel, with leadership and assistance from Marilyn Sutin, Jim Boone, John Zebb, Paul J. Meagher, Ralph Slate, and Erica Swallow. This archive should be made available to the public in Spring/Summer 2026.

As a second phase of the "Historic Springfield Postcard Archive" project, the Trust is assisting the Springfield Museums with digitizing all of its 2,000-3,000 historic postcards in the same manner.

Both archives will be made available on the Digital Commonwealth website. SPT's archive will have a landing page on springfieldpreservation.org.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our generous supporters.

SPONSORS & DONORS

Bob McCarroll
Le Chateau Douillet
Springfield Commonwealth Academy
Springfield Performing Arts Ventures
Mallory Portraits
DIF Design
Erica Swallow
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Valentine Mansion
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The Carriage House at the Barney Estate
The Mark Twain House & Museum
MGM Springfield
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Brendon Morcer
Elizabeth Samay
Katherine Prewitt
Emily Hannoush
Bill Kelliher
Brian Sheehy
Al Nardi
Mahan Slate Roofing
Streamline Commercial Management
Hope & Fred Lewis
Maple Street Rowhouses, LLC

Springfield Symphony Orchestra
John Perry
Springfield Museums
Forest Park Zoo
Spirit of Springfield
Dan Sheehy
Marilyn Sutin
Maureen Richard
Mayor Domenic Sarno
Thomas O'Neil
Springfield Performing Arts Ventures
Cecy Perry
Kira Holmes
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art
Sixteen Acres Garden Center
Paul J. Meagher
Jamie Gray
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Student Prince Cafe & The Fort
White Lion Brewing Company
Carlee Santaniello
Bryan McFarland
Derek Strahan
Hope Lewis
Nadim's Downtown
Mediterranean Grill
Storowton Tavern & Carriage House
Longmeadow Historical Society
Carol Mattingly
Liz Santos
Mason Wright Senior Living
McKnight Neighborhood Association
Metro Center Association
Mulvey Realty Corporation

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ITALIANATE (\$120)

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Vana Nespor

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Shannon Cavanaugh
Sharilyn Cox
Susan Raschi
Tamara Cabey
Tonya McFall
Trevor Smith
Veronique Conus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(Continued)

LEGACY SPONSORS

We extend special and ongoing gratitude to our legacy sponsors, who are no longer with us, but bequeathed gifts to the Trust through their wills, memorial donations, and/or establishment of charitable funds.

Hilton Abbott
Donald Champion

Robert Holbrook
George Pooler

Edward Sims

If you would like to discuss setting up a legacy fund, memorial donation, or will bequeathment, please reach out to advocacy@springfieldpreservation.org.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erica Swallow, *President*
James 'Sean' Johnson, *Exec. VP*
Hope Lewis, *Treasurer*
Mike Stevens, *Secretary*
Bob McCarroll, *Officer-at-Large*
Nathan Andary
Katherine Anderson Benson
Jim Boone

Nels Frye
Ken Hays
Fred Lewis
Robert Louder
Tonya McFall
Jennifer Rao
Marilyn Sutin

2025 COMMITTEES

Advocacy (Chair, Jim Boone)
Community Events (Chair, Robert Louder)
Educational Programs (Chair, Katherine Anderson Benson)
Membership (Chair, Nathan Andary)
Photographic Archiving (Chair, Marilyn Sutin)
Stockbridge Rehabilitation (Chair, James 'Sean' Johnson)

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Melvin Edwards, Stephen Davis, Angelene Huang, Bryan McFarland, Paul J. Meagher, Vana Nespov, Kathy Post, Derek Strahan

STAFF & CONSULTANTS

Kira Holmes, *Advocacy & Community Engagement Director*
Devon McDaniel, *Archival & Marketing Design Intern*
Jayden Bermudez, *Educational Programming & Instructional Intern*

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Looking to get more involved in the Springfield Preservation Trust?

Become a Member.

SPT relies on the support of our members through annual dues. These funds help us continue our advocacy and community outreach work. Support SPT by becoming a member today: springfieldpreservation.org/membership

Volunteer at an Event.

We have multiple opportunities throughout the year for members to volunteer, including through leading walking tours, hosting virtual lectures, staffing event booths, or contributing their talents in other ways. Email us (below) to discuss your interests!

Serve as a Board Member.

Get more deeply involved by joining the Board of Directors or executive team. The Board meets monthly and sets the stage for programming and strategic focus.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to preserve and protect Springfield's historic properties.

CONTACT

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Preservation Trust

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