



Annual Report

2019-2020



ABOVE: Partners Network members tour the American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Partners Network Spring Meeting, April 2018. Photo by Paul Muller.

COVER: David Preziosi, Executive Director of Preservation Dallas, gives a tour of the organization's headquarters at the Partners Network Spring Meeting in Dallas, Texas, April 2019. Photo by Bonnie McDonald.

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A Message from the Chair

Dear Partners and Friends:

Since we last met in April of 2019, in Dallas, Texas, at the Spring Partners Retreat, the world, and arguably, our lives and our field, have undergone monumental change. One of the National Preservation Partners Network's (Partners Network) most vital services is providing opportunities for peer networking and information sharing. The way many of us interact has shifted from in-person to virtual convenings. Though our planned April 2020 Spring Retreat in Ashville, North Carolina, was postponed, we hope you've kept in touch and taken advantage of our virtual training opportunities to remain connected with your colleagues.



Photo credit: Landmarks Illinois.

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I'm pleased to share with you the Partners Network's first written annual report. I couldn't be prouder of our organization's accomplishments. Launching a new national organization is a major endeavor requiring considerable time and know how to implement policies, systems, and programs ensuring effective operations. Our volunteer board members, with the vital support of Program Director Rebecca Harris, have made incredible strides in laying a solid foundation to serve the Partners well and for our continued organizational development. I thank my board peers for their dedicated service to the Partners Network amidst running their own, or consulting for, nonprofit organizations. Our collective appreciation is also bestowed upon Rebecca for her exceptional management of all facets of this growing organization.

While we look forward to a new year, in the pages that follow is a summary of what we have accomplished together from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. From a robust offering of virtual programs to launching needed digital affinity group convenings, we embraced the opportunity provided by the pandemic to rethink how we gather. We're moving ahead in the current fiscal year to explore next steps in the five priority areas identified by the Partners at our 2019 Denver convening: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Housing; Preservation Trades Training; and Relevancy. More on that to come in your monthly e-newsletters and on the Partners Network Slack channel.

We thank our members and supporters who helped this work possible. You embolden us to continuously evaluate better ways to foster and serve the preservation organizations that comprise our movement. Thank you and we look forward to connecting with you in the coming year.

All the best to you,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald
Chair, Board of Directors

Building a Strong Foundation

Our Mission and History

This being the National Preservation Partners Network's (Partners Network) first written annual report, it is appropriate to review the foundations of our work, including our mission and organizational history.

Mission

The Partners Network advances the growth and effectiveness of the organized preservation movement through communication, education, training, and a common advocacy agenda.

History

The National Preservation Partners Network (Partners Network) is the outcome of nearly two years of discussion amongst preservation leaders, stakeholders, and funders from across the country to establish an independent organization to lead and advance the growth and effectiveness of the organized preservation movement.

The creation of this independent organization of, and for, member organizations encapsulates the evolution of the organized preservation movement in the United States. Many of the robust network of local, regional, and state historic preservation and allied organizations that work effectively across the nation were encouraged and strengthened by the support and leadership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). The NTHP worked with and supported state and local preservation organizations for more than forty years, first through its Membership Organization Program, then through the Statewide and Local Partners Program.

In 2015, discussions began on forming a new independent organization based on the Statewide and Local Partners Program model. It became apparent that the number, capacity, and strength of the individual partner organizations had grown and that the preservation community would be well-served by an independent organization of peers that could directly design and deliver needed programs and services, foster communication, and promote collective advocacy. At the 2017 Spring Meeting in Seattle, a new structure for a partners network debuted, the National Preservation Partners Network. From there the organization grew, was officially incorporated on July 1, 2018, and awarded 501(c)(3) certification by the Internal Revenue Service on July 3, 2019. This collaborative effort of supporting all preservation organizations increases efficiency and strengthens both members and the larger preservation movement. Our network of partners shares the beliefs and principles that preservation is about preserving places that consider, represent, and engage this diverse nation.



Partners gather in April 2019, before a lunch in the restored barn at the Opal Lawrence Historical Park in Mesquite, Texas. Historic Mesquite, Inc., is headquartered in the park, at the Noah Range Farmhouse. Photo credit: Rebecca Harris.

Investing in Organizational Development

During the past year, the board and volunteer members of the six board committees invested time and energy into ensuring a strong organizational foundation. While this work was not necessarily exciting to report, it was critical to the long-term success of the Partners Network. This year we invested in the following areas related to organizational development:

Administrative

- Received official 501(c)3 status from the Internal Revenue Service.
- Secured an official Partners Network phone number: (781) 491-2082.
- Subscribed to Donor Perfect for our membership database and Zoom for virtual meetings.

Communications

- Continued to revise and grow the prespartners.org website, adding a section for pandemic-related resources.
- Maintained an organizational Facebook page and distributed a monthly electronic newsletter.
- Continued to advance Slack as a communication platform for members.

Governance

- Formalized a Board nomination process.
- Drafted and ratified an Advocacy Policy for the Partners Network, with a focus on issues of national impact.

Membership

- Created new membership categories to encourage emerging organizations to join, as well as a means for friends of the network to join. We also adopted a hardship category to allow organizations to stay connected while weathering financial or other difficulties.

Resource Development

- Applied for, and received, funding support from The 1772 Foundation for operations, as well as for Revolving Fund Convening work.

Providing Training and Convenings

The core of our mission is communication, education, and training, and this year we endeavored to provide a variety of opportunities for these kinds of convenings. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought a swift end to in-person trainings, the Partners Network quickly pivoted to virtual convenings. While the pandemic has brought significant challenges, it has also brought the opportunity to reach more people with timely, relevant content at no cost to Partners, thanks in part to the generous support of our foundation and corporate donors. Below is a summary of convenings this fiscal year.

- Fall Meeting, Denver, Colorado—October 2019, in coordination with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *PastForward* conference. At this meeting, participants collectively identified five priority areas on which to focus during the next few years.

Providing Training and Convenings (continued)

- Hosted a series of peer-moderated regional conference calls in March and April 2020 to provide organizations an opportunity to share and communicate in response to the emerging pandemic.
- Planned a spring Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, for April 2020, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic, with the hope of rescheduling for April 2021.
- The planned Revolving Fund Convening, also slated for April 2020, in Asheville, was converted to a virtual gathering on April 28, with more than eighty participants. This was followed by a second virtual convening in May that focused on easements, with more than forty participants.
- The success of these digital meetings emboldened the Partners Network to establish regular topical virtual programming. Two tracks were created, one tailored for revolving fund organizations and one for preservation organizations. Planned topics include working with Main Street, historic farms, financial planning, transition of historic sites, climate change, equity and social justice, and more. Program updates and registration are available on prespartners.org.
- Finally, in the spirit of convening, we instituted peer-moderated affinity group calls for various cohorts, including Big Cities, Statewide Preservation Organizations, Organizations with Historic Sites/Museums, New Executive Directors, and various organizational sizes. These calls provide an occasion for groups with similar interests, challenges, and resources to share, connect, and support each other.



Partners gathered from all over the country in Denver for the Fall Meeting, which was held in collaboration with *PastForward* in October 2019. We were treated to a special morning at Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre for the closing plenary. Photo credit: Rebecca Harris.

Advocating

Our mission is implemented through advocacy, offering a unified voice of more than 80 members to support historic preservation-related issues with national impact. This year, efforts focused on federal funding related to pandemic relief and the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit. For example, we:

- Added our name to a sign-on letter with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers in support of federal funding for historic preservation (April 2020).
- Submitted an advocacy letter in support of including funding for historic preservation as part of the coronavirus-related federal funding efforts (May 2020).
- Added our name to a sign-on letter with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in support of federal funding for historic preservation (May 2020).

Our Members and Supporters

As an organization of and for our members, the Partners Network would not be what it is without our members and supporters. We thank them for their support, their participation, and their contributions to their colleagues. Below is a list of members as of June 30, 2020.

Members

Arizona Preservation Foundation
Baltimore Heritage, Inc.
Boston Preservation Alliance
California Preservation Foundation
Cherokee County Historical Society
Cincinnati Preservation Association
Cleveland Restoration Society
Colorado Historical Foundation
Columbus Landmarks Foundation
The Conservation Society of San Antonio
Cornerstones, Inc.
DC Preservation League
DeFuniak Springs Landmarks, Inc.
Ms. Nancy Finegood
Friends of Gilgal Sculpture Garden
Garden District Association
Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation
Greater Portland Landmarks
Guam Preservation Trust
Heritage Ohio
Historic Augusta, Inc.
Historic Beaufort Foundation
Historic Boston, Incorporated
Historic Charleston Foundation
Historic Denver, Inc.
Historic Fort Worth, Inc.
Historic Hawaii Foundation
Historic Macon Foundation
Historic Mesquite, Inc.
Historic Natchez Foundation
Historic Seattle
Indiana Landmarks
Knox Heritage, Inc.
The Landmark Society of Western New York
Landmarks Illinois
The L'Enfant Trust
Los Angeles Conservancy
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation
Main Street America
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance
Mississippi Heritage Trust
Montana Preservation Alliance
Ms. Cindy Olnick
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
National Trust for Historic Preservation
New York Landmarks Conservancy
Palmetto Trust (Preservation South Carolina)
Pawtucket Preservation Society
Preservation Action
Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
Preservation Alliance of West Virginia
Preservation Austin
Preservation Buffalo Niagara
Preservation Dallas
Preservation Greensboro, Inc.
Preservation Kentucky
Preservation League of New York State
Preservation Maryland
Preservation North Carolina
Preservation Oklahoma
Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans
Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County
Preservation Society of Pawtucket
Preserve Arkansas
Preserve Louisiana
Preserve Rhode Island
Preserve the 'Burg
Providence Preservation Society
Quapaw Quarter Association
Restore Oregon
RETHOS: Places Reimagined
San Francisco Heritage
Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation
Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation
The Slave Dwelling Project
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE)

Foundation and Corporate Supporters

The 1772 Foundation
GBX Group

Leadership and Committees

The success of the organization is thanks to the strong leadership of our working board and committees. Our current Board of Directors includes:

Bonnie McDonald, Chair, Landmarks Illinois
Nicholas Redding, Vice Chair, Preservation Maryland
Nancy Finegood, Treasurer, Nancy Finegood Consulting
Jessie Fisher, Secretary, Preservation Buffalo-Niagara
Ethiel Garlington, At-Large, Historic Macon Foundation
Samantha Bosshart, Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation
Danielle Del Sol, Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans
Linda Dishman, Los Angeles Conservancy

Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Erik Hein, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
Kirk Huffaker, Friends of Gilgal Sculpture Garden
Fairleigh Jackson, Preserve Louisiana
Kji Kelly, Historic Seattle
Renee Kuhlman, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Annie Levinsky, Historic Denver
Bruce MacDougal, Preservation Action
Joseph McGill, Jr., The Slave Dwelling Project
Joseph Quinata, Guam Preservation Trust
Lindsey Wallace, Main Street America

We also want to thank the following former board members who completed their service during the year:

Daniel G. Carey, Historic Savannah Foundation
Douglas Gasek, RETHOS: Places Reimagined
Erin D. A. Kelly, Preservation Massachusetts

Cayla Lewis, Preservation Oklahoma
Barbara Pahl, National Trust for Historic Preservation

The work of the organization is largely carried out by dedicated volunteer members of the following six organizational committees. They dedicate numerous hours to ensuring the organization serves the needs of its members and to keep us looking forward. All members in good standing are eligible to be part of a committee. Please reach out to any board member if you are interested in learning more.

Advocacy & Education

Greg Galer, Chair	Erik Hein
Marsh Davis	Cindy Heitzman
Linda Dishman	Kji Kelly
Jessie Fisher	Renee Kuhlman
Ethiel Garlington	Bruce MacDougal

Vince Michael
David Preziosi
Lindsey Wallace

Communications

Kirk Huffaker, Co-Chair
Fairleigh Jackson, Co-Chair
Chere Jiusto
Cindy Olnick
Chris Moore

Executive

Bonnie McDonald, Chair
Nicholas Redding
Nancy Finegood
Jessie Fisher
Ethiel Garlington

Finance

Nancy Finegood, Chair
Jacqueline Drayer
Myrick Howard
Kathy Kottaridis
Bonnie McDonald
Catherine Rosset

Governance

Samantha Bosshart, Chair
Michael Bedenbaugh
Sarah Hansen
Kirk Huffaker
Bonnie McDonald
Nicholas Redding

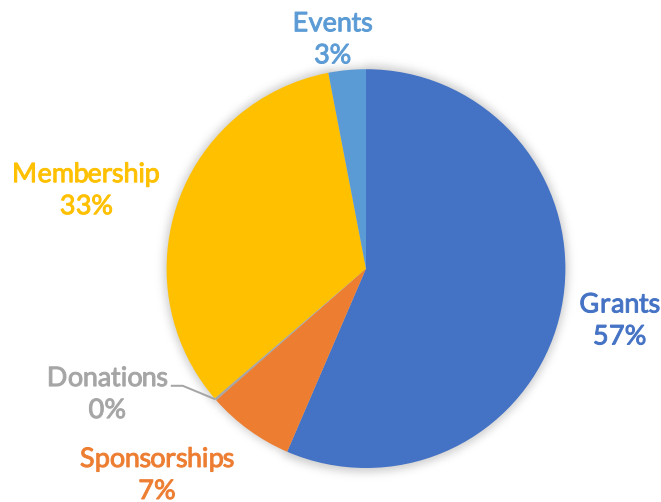
Membership & Development

Annie Levinsky, Chair
Joyce Barrett
Kji Kelly
Renee Kuhlman
Brent Runyon

Financial Report

During the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 20, 2020, the organization had a total income of \$106,251. A significant portion of this (\$60,000) was in the form of a grant from The 1772 Foundation, of which \$40,000 is set aside for a Revolving Fund Convening. The balance of the income was generated by new and renewing memberships, corporate sponsorships, revenue from the Fall Partners Meeting in Denver, Colorado, and donations. Our expenses were \$43,017, with the largest amount to pay for the part-time contract services of Rebecca Harris, Partners Network Program Director, and costs associated with the Spring and Fall Meetings. Overall, the financial position of the organization is steady, despite disruptions in membership and event revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TOTAL INCOME



FY20 Income Statement

INCOME

Grants	\$60,000
Membership	\$35,339
Sponsorships	\$7,500
Education/Meetings	\$3,212
Donations	\$200

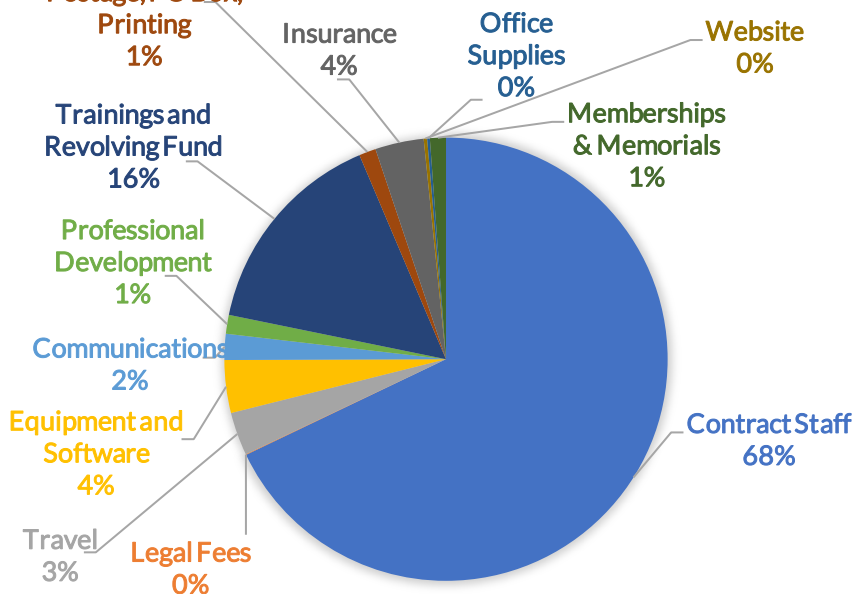
TOTAL **\$106,251**

EXPENSES

Contract Services	\$29,208
Education/Meetings	\$6,628
Computer/Software	\$1,654
Insurance	\$1,526
Travel	\$1,353
Communications	\$816
Professional Development	\$590
Postage & PO Box	\$528
Membership & Memorials	\$500
Website	\$108
Office Supplies	\$84
Legal Fees	\$20
TOTAL	\$43,017
Restricted for Revolving Fund Convening in FY21	\$40,000

NET INCOME **\$23,234**

TOTAL EXPENSES



How You Can Become Part of the Partners Network

Interesting in joining the Partners Network? Simply complete the enrollment form on the next page and return it to Rebecca Harris, Program Director, at rharris@prespartners.org. The Partners Network board members, with input from a cross-section of Partners, adopted a sliding scale of dues based on an organization's annual operating budget. The Partners Network follows an honor system and operates in good faith (*i.e.* no fact-checking 990s). Invoicing is done on a rolling basis, so a membership that is paid in July will be good through June of the following year. We also have several special membership categories noted below. If you have any questions about which membership level is right, please contact Rebecca. Thank you!

Organizational

Non-profit organizations or foundations with preservation as a primary mission or core value. This includes national, statewide, and local organizations of all sizes, including organizations with paid professional staff and organizations managed by volunteers. In this category the member entity is the organization, represented by a designated individual or individuals that serve on the staff or board of the member organization.

Organizational Budget

Annual Operating Budget of \$1m or more

Annual Operating Budget of \$500k to \$999,999

Annual Operating Budget of \$250k to \$499,999

Annual Operating Budget of less than \$250,000

Annual Dues

\$1,500/year

\$1,000/year

\$500/year

\$250/year

Special Membership Categories

Friend

An individual or business engaged in preservation work and interested in supporting the collective goals of the Partners Network. Friend members are most often those who previously worked at preservation non-profits, or have established ties to the preservation movement in a professional or volunteer capacity. (\$125/year)

Introductory

Organizations that are in the early stages of development, including those pursuing 501(c)(3) status, seeking to hire staff or formalize activities focusing on preservation as a core purpose. (FREE for one year)

Hardship

Organizations that desire to participate in the Partners Network but are experiencing financial challenges. Any member in good standing can petition for hardship status, with a reduction of the membership dues to \$125/year for up to a two-year period, with approval by the Partners Network board. (\$125/year, limited to two years)



Membership Enrollment Form

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Membership Category (See definitions on page 10)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardship |

My check will be mailed. (Make checks payable to: National Preservation Partners Network and mail to P.O. Box 2446, Woburn, MA 01888)

Please send me an invoice to pay online with a credit card.

If Organizational, Introductory, or Hardship Membership, please list names and email address of those in the organization who should be added to the email newsletter distribution list and to Slack?

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a board member or serving on a committee?

Committees are open to all members. Please check those you are interested in joining.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy & Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Development Committee |