



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Historical and Cultural Affairs



Planning for the Future, Striving for Excellence

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Annual Report 2013

A message from the director

2013 was a year in which the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs took stock of its past and boldly charted a new course for the future. For the better part of the year, division staff devoted the time and hard work that were necessary to create a comprehensive strategic plan that strives to preserve Delaware's historical legacy and serve the needs of our audiences through a commitment to the highest standards of integrity and quality. In order to cement that commitment, division staff capped off the strategic-planning process by signing the following Pledge of Excellence:

“The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs pledges that, in fulfillment of our educational mission, we will strive to operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of our abilities and in accordance with our resources.”

This pledge is not an abstract concept that is published in a report and then quickly forgotten. Rather, it resonates in every action that the division undertakes.

It resonates when we provide exciting and informative programming that uplifts the spirits of our audiences.

It rings true when we help to preserve a historic property that might have been lost to the wrecking ball.

It reverberates when we act as responsible stewards of the cultural legacy that we conserve in our collections and historic properties.

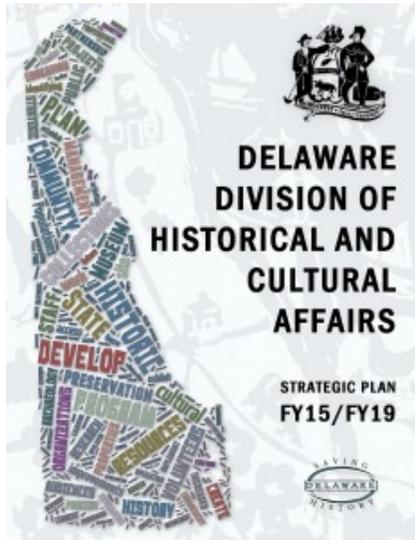
And, it shines brightly in the countless small acts taken by our staff—acts like waking in the middle of the night to respond to an emergency at one of our museums, spending extra time with a visitor to tell a “deeper” story or working with a historical society to help preserve Delaware's local history.

Following is a series of eight vignettes that illustrate the vision and dedicated service of the employees of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs during 2013. We are looking forward to building on that vision and commitment to excellence in the coming years.

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Division releases strategic plan for fiscal years 2015 to 2019

After nearly a year of preparation and writing, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs completed its fiscal year 2015 to 2019 strategic plan in December 2013.



The “Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan FY15/FY19” was developed between May and December 2013 by the agency’s 14-member strategic planning team with consultation and facilitation provided by Max Van Balgooy, president and founder of Engaging Places, LLC. In addition, the division’s entire staff, including volunteers, partners and affiliates, made significant contributions to the development and realization of the plan.

Planning activities included all-staff meetings, small group meetings with a representative cross-section of division staff, and planning-team sessions, augmented by e-surveys which were distributed to staff and partners to collect insights regarding planning-element drafts and objectives.

The more than 2,500 collective hours that were logged during the planning process resulted in the development of a new mission statement and eight core-values that will guide the division in implementing the plan’s five goals, 16 objectives and 63 action items.

In their foreword to the plan, Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock and division director Tim Slavin noted, “This plan represents a consensus of passion and insight that will make the next five years some of the most expansive and engaging in the agency’s forty-four-year history. It prepares staff with the resources and vision to mark fifty years of excellence in 2020 with new standards in service and stewardship that promise to ‘Save Delaware History’ for future generations.”

As a capstone to the planning process, division staff members signed a Pledge of Excellence that committed them to the highest standards of integrity and quality in their service to Delaware’s residents and visitors.

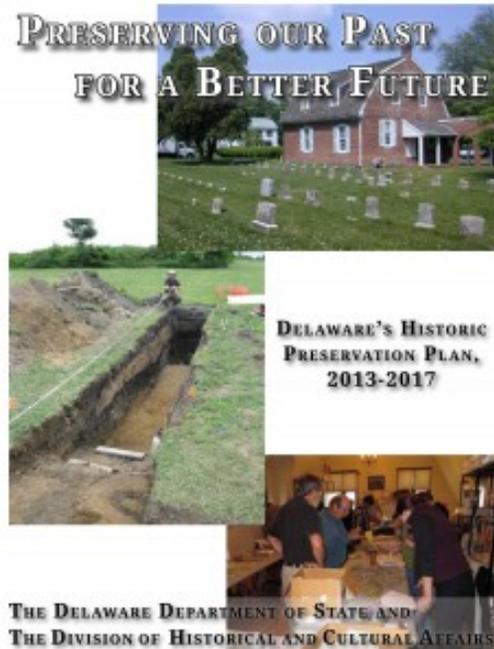
Go to the following to read the [executive summary](#) and the [full plan](#).



Historic-site interpreter Melissa Fitzgerald signing the Pledge of Excellence.

Delaware releases historic preservation plan for 2013 to 2017

On April 16, 2013, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs released “Preserving Our Past for a Better Future: Delaware’s Historic Preservation Plan, 2013–2017.” The plan provides all Delawareans who are passionate about historic preservation with a framework for effective decision-making, for coordinating statewide preservation activities and for communicating statewide preservation policy, goals and values to the preservation constituency, decision-makers and interested parties across the state.



As a requirement for receiving Delaware's annual portion of the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#), administered by the National Park Service, the division is responsible for coordinating the preparation and development of a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan and for updating it at regular intervals. Begun in the winter of 2012, the current plan was written by staff members of the division's [State Historic Preservation Office](#) with extensive input from a committee comprising government and private non-profit preservation professionals and state and local government planners. Additional review, comment and final approval of the plan were supplied by the [Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation](#) which has for many years provided expert guidance and perspective on Delaware's historic preservation needs.

In a letter approving the plan, the National Park Service noted, “Historic resource needs identified in the plan are well grounded in public input and professional analysis. Achievable preservation goals are presented in a way that encourages action by a variety of interests groups across the state. We find ‘Preserving our Past for a Better Future’ to be an excellent statewide plan.”

Go to the following to read the [full document](#).

Buena Vista attendance up by 10.5 percent

[Buena Vista](#), the state conference center administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, hosted 310 events in fiscal year 2013, serving 10,349 guests, a 10.5 percent increase above fiscal year 2012. Called “[the perfect wedding location](#)” in Delaware Bride Magazine’s fall/winter 2013-2014 edition, Buena Vista features “lush grounds, cozy accommodations and luxe décor” that are utilized for a wide variety of functions including business gatherings and government meetings, as well as receptions, parties and celebrations.

Comprised of nearly 250 acres, Buena Vista’s grounds were also the scene of several outdoor-related programs in 2013 including a series of activities presented in partnership with the [Delaware Nature Society](#), and the use of the property as an outdoor classroom by the University of Delaware’s Longwood Graduate Program whose students produced a video on the care of historic trees.

Major improvements that were completed at Buena Vista in 2013 include the implementation of a new reservation system that allows customers to book outdoor rooms and a pavilion in addition to facilities within the mansion house. The new system also enables reservations to be taken for a new conference space that is being established at the Arsenal building in New Castle. Outdoor enhancements include the creation of an accessible pedestrian trail across the property’s grounds as well as significant plantings and other horticultural improvements.



Mansion house at Buena Vista.



Boardwalk section of the Buena Vista pedestrian trail.

Volunteer services increase by 74 percent

The number of hours logged by volunteers working for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs jumped from 2,978 hours in fiscal year 2012 to 5,188 hours in fiscal year 2013—a 74



Volunteers participating in a cleanup of the Christina River at Cooch-Dayett Mills in Newark.

percent increase. Initiated in 2012, the [Volunteer Program](#) assists staff members in addressing the agency's goals of protecting and promoting the First State's historical and cultural legacies. Division volunteers possess a wide array of skills and experience that are utilized in every facet of the agency's activities including assisting with the [Roosevelt Inlet Shipwreck](#) artifact processing, conducting historical research, assisting with the preparation of National Register nominations, processing digital research files, providing floral decorations and assistance with property maintenance, administrative tasks and special events.

Delaware awarded \$1 million in grants for historic properties damaged by Hurricane Sandy

On Dec. 4, 2013, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs received notification from the National Park Service that the state had been awarded \$1 million in federal funds to be re-granted to Delaware historic properties that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The division's State Historic Preservation Office had prepared and submitted an application for the funds in the spring of 2013 and will administer the grant-application process during the winter and spring of 2014.



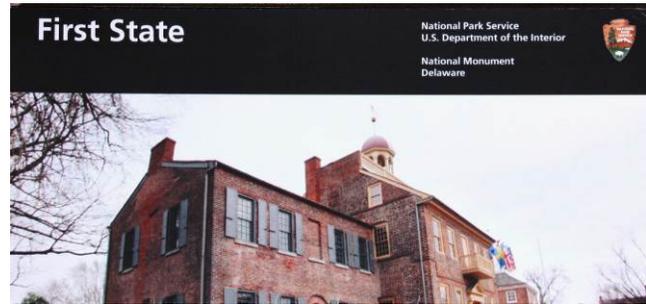
Satellite image of Hurricane Sandy bearing down on the East Coast of the United States.

Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grants for Historic Properties are funded under the [Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013](#), a \$50.7 billion package of disaster assistance largely focused on responding to the effects of the destructive hurricane which struck the East Coast of the United States in late October 2012. The hurricane prompted major disaster declarations in the District of Columbia and 12 states, including Delaware. As part of the act, Congress appropriated \$50 million to cover the costs of preserving and/or rehabilitating historic properties damaged by the storm.

Go the following for complete information on [Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grants for Historic Properties](#).

First State National Monument becomes a reality

On March 25, 2013, President Obama signed proclamations establishing five new national monuments including the [First State National Monument](#), the 400th unit of the national park system and the first to be located in the state of Delaware. The monument explores Delaware's rich history including its Native American roots; early settlement by Dutch, Swedish, Finnish and English colonists; its participation in America's struggle for independence; its distinction as the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution; and its roles in religious freedom, the Underground Railroad, school desegregation and pioneering efforts in conservation and open space.



The First State National Monument is comprised of three historic areas including the Dover Green, the New Castle Court House complex (including the court house, Green and Sheriff's House); and the Woodlawn property in the Brandywine Valley. The monument is managed by the National Park Service with headquarters in the Sheriff's House. Formerly owned by the state of Delaware and administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Sheriff's House was transferred to the federal government as part of the process of creating the national monument. The New Castle Court House and New Castle Green continue to be owned by the state and administered by the division.



Vice President Joe Biden speaking at the ceremony celebrating the creation of the First State National Monument. Listening are (from left) then Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, New Castle Mayor Donald Reese and Sen. Tom Carper.

The naming of the monument was celebrated on March 26, 2013 with a ceremony in front of the Sheriff's House attended by Vice President Joe Biden, then Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Sen. Tom Carper, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, New Castle Mayor Donald Reese and many others.

Delaware celebrates the 375th anniversary of the founding of the first Swedish settlement in America

On May 11, 2013, Delaware welcomed King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, together with Finland's Speaker of the Parliament Eero Heinäluoma, to a Jubilee Day celebration marking the 375th anniversary of the establishment of the first Swedish settlement in America. The day-long celebration featured a luncheon at the Buena Vista mansion south of New Castle, Del. and a series of activities in Wilmington highlighted by a landing ceremony at the [Fort Christina National Historic Landmark](#). The site, located on the city's Seventh Street Peninsula, marks the approximate location where a group of Swedish and Finnish colonists from the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip landed on a natural wharf of rocks in 1638. Fort Christina, named after the then 12-year-old queen of Sweden, was built somewhere nearby.



Dignitaries, led by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (foreground left) and Principal Chief Dennis Coker of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, walk to Old Swedes Church after the landing ceremony at the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark. Pictured in the 2nd row are (from left) Spiritual Leader Terry Sammons of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, Principal Chief Mark Gould of the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation, Queen Silvia of Sweden, Satu Siitonen-Heinäluoma and Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Eero Heinäluoma (partially obscured). Behind Queen Silvia are Delaware first lady Carla Markell and Gov. Jack Markell (partially obscured).

As part of the landing ceremony, dignitaries—who also included Princess Madeleine of Sweden; Swedish Ambassador to the United States Jonas Hafstrom; Mayor Johan Persson of Kalmar, Sweden; Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and first lady Carla Markell; Sen. Tom Carper; Rep. John Carney and Wilmington Mayor Dennis Williams—sailed from Wilmington's Dravo Plaza to the landmark site aboard a modern replica of the [Kalmar Nyckel](#). Accompanied by singing and drumming by members of the Nanticoke-Lenape Drum Team, the dignitaries were welcomed at the landing site by a Native-American delegation including Principal Chief Dennis Coker and Spiritual Leader Terry Sammons of the [Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) and Principal Chief Mark Gould of the [Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Tribal Nation](#). Lenne Lenape people were living in the Delaware Valley at the time of the colonists' arrival.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, the dignitaries, led by King Carl XVI Gustaf and Chief Coker, walked to [Holy Trinity \(Old Swedes\) Church National Historic Landmark](#) for a private ceremony and tour. The church, which was completed in 1699 by the descendants of the original Fort Christina settlers, is one of the oldest structures in the United States still in use as a house of worship. Later that evening, the dignitaries attended a dinner at Wilmington's Chase Center on the Riverfront where they were joined by Vice President Joe Biden.

Jubilee Day events were hosted by a broad spectrum of organizations led by the [New Sweden Alliance](#). As the administrator of both the Fort Christina National Historic Landmark and Buena Vista, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs played an important role in the planning and implementation of the event.

Division museums feature 216 special events and exhibits

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [six museums of the state of Delaware](#) presented 216 special events and exhibits during 2013. These activities, attended by nearly 91,000 people, helped inform both state residents and out-of-state visitors about Delaware's unique contributions to the history and culture of the United States.

Following is a sampling of some of the activities presented in 2013:

- ◆ "Delaware Styles: The 18th Century," a fashion extravaganza at The Old State House in Dover featuring "Dyeing to Dress," a program exploring how to dye fabrics; "From Pockets to Petticoats," an exploration of 18th-century women's clothing; and "Who's Wearing the Pants: Breeches to Trousers," a program on men's fashion between 1770 and 1810.
- ◆ [Lecture/tours of His Majesty's Sloop DeBraak](#) at Lewes' Zwaanendael Museum featured a lecture on the British warship that was capsized and lost off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798, followed by a trip to the hull facility in nearby Cape Henlopen State Park for a curator-led tour of the surviving section of the ship's hull. Attendance for the lecture tours increased by 38 percent in 2013.

*Artistic rendition of the capsizing of the DeBraak
by Peggy Kane, 1990.*



- ◆ "Speakeasy," a musical presentation by DonDel productions in which Dover's Johnson Victrola Museum was transformed into a speakeasy (minus the alcohol) featuring 1920s smooth blues.
- ◆ "A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation" featuring a day of food, entertainment and hands-on activities from colonial trades to hearth cooking at the Dover home of the "Penman of the Revolution."
- ◆ "[An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)," a new exhibit that opened at Dover's First State Heritage Park Visitor Center and Galleries in October 2013. The exhibit explores the First State's role in the fight against slavery by showcasing the actions of two Delawareans—Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris—who followed their consciences rather than what they viewed as the unjust laws of the state and nation.



Cast of "The Trial of William Penn."

- ◆ "William Penn Day," a series of programs at the New Castle Court House Museum commemorating Penn's disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World. Activities included a reenactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual in which Penn received possession of New Castle and a 12-mile circle of land surrounding it, and "The Trial of William Penn," a historical play exploring Penn's trial on religious freedom and the rights of English subjects under the law.

Looking forward

In addition to its ongoing programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be engaged in several significant projects during 2014. Most notably, the division will begin the process of implementing the goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan and state historic-preservation plan that were written in 2013. Full implementation of these plans will take place over the next five years.

Other significant projects that will be undertaken in 2014 will be the completion of the grant-award process for historic properties in the state that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy; and continued progress toward accreditation from the [American Alliance of Museums](#). As part of the accreditation process, the division is required to develop or revise five core documents: a long-range institutional strategic plan, mission statement, collections management policy, code of ethics and a disaster preparedness/emergency response plan. With the development of its 2015–2019 strategic plan and the creation of a new mission statement, the division is well on its way to achieving this goal.

About the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is an agency of the state of Delaware, organized as a division within the Department of State. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage.

The division's diverse array of services includes administration of the State Historic Preservation Office, operation of museums and a conference center, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections and management of historic properties across Delaware. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, a federal agency.

For more information about the division and its programs, visit the agency's [website](#).



Historical and Cultural Affairs

Mission statement

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs serves Delaware residents and visitors by identifying, preserving, and interpreting Delaware history. Our activities foster strong communities, engaged citizens, economic vitality, and a deeper understanding of Delaware's role in world history. We do this in public trust for current and future generations.

Vision

Our audiences are actively engaged in learning (in many ways) and understand how Delaware history is meaningful to their lives.

Our audiences are actively exploring a diversity of historical and cultural perspectives to inform and influence decisions about the future.

Our audiences feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged to question and explore.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is a trustworthy, ethical, and reliable partner with organizations, agencies, and individuals with whom we have common goals.

All division staff and volunteers will consistently make use of each other's knowledge and skills, building professional relationships across teams.

Core values

◆ **Communication**

We are committed to an open, proactive, and thoughtful exchange of information and ideas that promotes trust and understanding in our internal and external relationships.

◆ **Professionalism**

We are committed to conducting ourselves in a professional manner to co-workers, partners, and the public in order to be recognized as a reputable and reliable resource.

◆ **Creativity**

We are committed to supporting innovative thinking and nurturing a creative environment. Our passion for history inspires us to risk taking new approaches.

◆ **Knowledge**

We are committed to the growth and professional development of staff and volunteers in order to ensure that all of our activities are strongly grounded in scholarly research, current and reliable best practices, and relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

◆ **Discourse/dialog**

We are committed to open debate and discourse on subjects relevant to the past, present, and future of Delaware.

◆ **Community involvement**

We are committed to actively listening to, and communicating, collaborating, and partnering with, the community in the development of our programs and services.

◆ **Stewardship**

We are committed to the responsible management of the division's assets, seeking to exceed best practices.

◆ **Cooperation**

We are committed to developing and maintaining trust and respect amongst co-workers, partners, and our audiences to provide a positive and collaborative atmosphere to achieve common goals.

Goals

◆ **Improving access**

We will improve access to our collections, research, and historic places.

◆ **Innovative learning**

We will create and support an innovative learning environment.

◆ **Engaging audiences**

We will strengthen our connections with Delaware residents, organizations, and visitors.

◆ **Enhancing preservation**

We will enhance the preservation and management of our historic properties and collections, and will share our knowledge, experience, and resources to inspire others to value and preserve their cultural assets.

◆ **Achieving excellence**

We will develop a culture of collaboration and respect to optimize our management of organizational resources.

Appendix

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs fiscal year 2013 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ In March 2013, President Obama proclaimed the establishment of the First State National Monument, a unit of the National Park Service composed of five properties including three that are part of the division's New Castle campus. The Park Service unit will bring greater national recognition of Delaware's early settlement and statehood history and its contributions to American history. The partnership included transfer of the Sheriff's House to the Park Service and the creation of easements on the court house and The Green in New Castle that will further enhance preservation of these historically significant assets. The division and the Park Service will engage in cooperative public programming and sharing of assets. This partnership will be formalized in a cooperative agreement and more broadly developed through a general management planning process that includes public input.
- ◆ Worked in partnership with community organizations, the City of Wilmington and the Delaware Department of State to plan, coordinate and implement events related to the 375th anniversary of the arrival of early-17th-century settlers to Delaware and the establishment of New Sweden in the Delaware Valley. The division hosted special events at Buena Vista and Fort Christina National Historic Landmark that included visiting delegations of the Swedish royal family and Finland's parliament.
- ◆ The division's Affiliates Program included nine member-organizations in fiscal year 2013: Middletown Historical Society, Laurel Historical Society, Seaford Historical Society, Bethel Historical Society, Rehoboth Art League, Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware, Overfalls Foundation and the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. These partnerships enable the division to expand opportunities to showcase state collections in areas not served by division-owned properties and help to promote local historical resources. The division assists the affiliates with graphic design, exhibit planning and technical guidance on collections care and management.
- ◆ Focused on the ongoing development of friends groups to support division properties. These groups—Friends of Woodburn, Friends of Belmont Hall, Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, Friends of Prince George's Chapel and the Barefoot Gardeners and New Friends of Fenwick Island Lighthouse—offer increased use, programming, visitation and operational support to the corresponding historic sites.

Stewardship

- ◆ Continued progress toward accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) by establishing the Museum Accreditation Steering Team (MAST). Led by a core committee and supported by five subcommittees with representation from throughout the division in the areas of facilities management, governance, programming, collections and community engagement, MAST bases objectives on recommendations from peer review and professional guidelines to develop or revise five core documents as an important step towards AAM accreditation. These documents include a long-range institutional strategic-plan, mission statement, collections-management policy, code of ethics and a disaster-preparedness/emergency-response plan.

- ◆ Conducted risk assessments at all division museum facilities to aid in the revision of existing disaster plans and hazard-mitigation measures. Resulting recommendations will aid in preparing for potential natural and man-made threats that could compromise division facilities, collections and occupants in coming years.
- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at the division's historic properties throughout the state, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility improvements at Hall House and New Castle Green; designs for ADA improvements at Woodburn and Cooch-Dayett Mills; repair and renovation projects at Fort Christina and Hall House; interior refurbishing of the New Castle Arsenal; exterior-envelope restoration of the Sheriff's House; partial exterior-restoration of the Kirk and Short buildings; landscape and accessibility improvements on the east edge of Dover Green including the installation of 500 pieces of plant material; construction of an accessible pedestrian trail at Buena Vista; bid-package development for exterior improvements at Reith Hall and the Delaware Breakwater East End Lighthouse; a planning study for the Buena Vista stable; Phase I retro-commissioning of the Buena Vista heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; roofing inspections and treatments statewide; and other improvements, repairs and assessments at various properties around the state.
- ◆ Conducted a complete [geographic information system](#) tree inventory at Belmont Hall. This inventory identified each tree on the site; entered each of the site's 460 trees into a global-positioning-system database; and provided a risk assessment and approximate value for each tree, thus enabling the compilation of a long-term management strategy for these assets.
- ◆ In-house trades specialists completed more than 1,600 service requests providing carpentry and plumbing repairs, preservation treatments and special fabrications and finishes to maintain and preserve the division's historic structures.
- ◆ Initiated a special project to transcribe and scan division research-files related to The Old State House for long-term curation and access. This activity is part of an ongoing initiative to improve management of the division's intellectual property.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Library of Congress and representatives of the National Recording Preservation Board, the division began the process of digitizing more than 3,000 rare ethnic recordings from the Eldridge Reeves Johnson Memorial Collection's holdings of Victor Black Label records from the early years of recorded sound. These recordings will be made available for free and unlimited streaming from the Library of Congress' [National Jukebox](#) website.
- ◆ Accessioned several items of historical and artistic value into the state's collections. These included the donation of an oil painting of former Delaware first lady Martha Carper by David Larned; a collection of 200 World War II images taken by a Dover photographer; a collection of Spanish-American War clothing and general-store ephemera from Wyoming, Del; political memorabilia; items from Delaware businesses; hand-made quilts; a Victor Talking Machine; and Victor/Berliner books and memorabilia.
- ◆ Enhanced Buena Vista's new walking trail with a woodland-shade seed mix and the installation of transplanted native tree seedlings. A mixed cottage-garden planting was re-introduced along the wall of the recently renovated Buena Vista pavilion that included hollyhocks and sunflowers. The reintroduction of these plant varieties acknowledges the selections of earlier site residents.
- ◆ Buena Vista's greenhouse provided plant material for division sites statewide, producing approximately 2,500 pieces of plant material with a focus on perennials and woody varieties. In addition, approximately 8,000 flowering bulbs were installed at division properties statewide.

- ◆ Monitored energy usage at division sites, intervened to identify causes and address increases in consumption and tracked energy costs in [Portfolio Manager](#), an online energy management and tracking tool created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Preservation

- ◆ Published “Preserving Our Past for a Better Future” which defines goals and strategies to guide and promote historic-preservation efforts for the next five years.
- ◆ Awarded nearly all of the \$4.5 million available in state historic preservation tax credits for improvements to 16 historic properties which included owner-occupied, non-profit owned and income-producing properties.
- ◆ Received for review and comment 332 new environmental-review projects that included federal undertakings from the U.S. departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development and Education; the Federal Highway Administration; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Communications Commission; as well as State Preliminary Land Use service projects. The division closed 91.5 percent of these projects. The remaining cases, complex and lengthy in nature, are proceeding through stages of activity.
- ◆ To further streamline project review, staff continued negotiations on programmatic agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Community Development Block Grant programs in two counties, and with the Federal Highway Administration and the Delaware Department of Transportation. Completed agreements are expected in fiscal year 2014.
- ◆ Initiated the process for significantly upgrading the [Cultural and Historic Resource Information System](#) (CHRIS), a web-based geographic-information-system application that was initially launched in 2009. Agencies and consulting firms rely on this system for project planning and research. This improvement will replace an outdated and unsupported system; broaden the digital information on historic properties that can be remotely accessed; and allow customers to provide the division with updated information online, thereby increasing efficiency.
- ◆ Added the [David Robbins Homestead](#) near Milton to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the division conducted National Register research workshops in collaboration with Delaware Public Archives in order to assist and encourage property owners to explore their own property history and complete nominations.
- ◆ Prepared and submitted a successful application to the National Park Service for a \$1 million grant to be used for Delaware’s Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Assistance Grants Program.

Research

- ◆ Initiated research, conducted interviews and identified artifacts and objects for use in developing “An Illegal Activity: the Underground Railroad in Delaware,” an exhibit that opened at the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries in October 2013.
- ◆ Continued the War of 1812 site-survey with more than 200 sites identified including associated sites in neighboring states. The sites include extant structures, maritime locations and sites known through archival and documentary sources. The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the physical landscape of the conflict and to provide a fuller understanding of the war, the role Delaware played in the defense of the Delaware Valley and Delawareans’ service to the nation.

Learning community

- ◆ During fiscal year 2013, the division welcomed 86,978 visitors at its museums and galleries, and more than 25,000 people participated in programs and activities sponsored by nonprofit organizations that lease [division-owned historic properties](#). In addition, the division supported the [First State Heritage Park](#) in welcoming 36,589 visitors.
- ◆ Offered teacher in-service training in coordination with the Delaware Teacher Center. 2013 programs concentrated on slavery and manumission, the writing and ratification of the Constitution and contrasting lifestyles of 18th-century residents of the John Dickinson Plantation.
- ◆ Provided an opportunity for Buena Vista to be used as an outdoor classroom by students from the University of Delaware's Longwood Graduate Program who produced a video on the care of historic trees.
- ◆ Enhanced tours of His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak by adding audiovisual equipment in the ship's facility to better highlight important elements of the hull during public presentations, and produced a video to be shown in conjunction with the Zwaanendael Museum's exhibit "[A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World](#)." A total of 314 visitors attended the DeBraak lecture/tours during the 2013 season, an increase of 38 percent over the previous year.
- ◆ In September 2012, the division and the First State Heritage Park hosted a celebration of Delaware's Native American legacy at The Old State House. Entitled "The First People of the First State: A Celebration of Heritage," the program featured a display of Native American artifacts from state collections and demonstrations of Native American crafts and cultural traditions presented by members of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation of New Jersey.
- ◆ The New Castle Court House Museum developed and offered a series of living history programs, music, lectures and other special activities in celebration of the [330th anniversary of the arrival of William Penn](#) in New Castle in 1682.
- ◆ Sponsored [20 special events](#) during March 2013 in celebration of National Women's History Month.
- ◆ In March 2013, the division worked with the Delaware Department of Transportation, First State Heritage Park and community groups to coordinate and offer 10 days of special public programs to commemorate Harriet Tubman Day in Delaware including a music history program and heritage-theater performances at division museums.
- ◆ Installed an exhibit at the Schwartz Center in Dover of works from the [Norma Varisco de García Collection of Hispanic Art](#).
- ◆ Installed the exhibit, "[Dealing in Symbols: Profundity and the Human Figure](#)," at the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries featuring 13 sculptures from the state's collection of works by the noted Delaware artist Charles Parks.
- ◆ In partnership with the Lewes Historical Society, the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lewes, the division coordinated Delaware's [15th annual Chautauqua tent show, "America Takes Flight"](#) which attracted more than 1,500 visitors in June 2013.

Promotion and recognition

- ◆ Published the "2012 Annual Report: Building Audiences for Delaware History" which focused on the division's efforts to significantly increase the number of exhibits and special programs offered to Delaware citizens and visitors.

- ◆ Wilmington-based production company Teleduction created "[John Dickinson: Penman of the Revolution](#)," a 22-minute film for television broadcast. The production was sponsored by the Friends of John Dickinson Mansion and aired on WHYI-TV in December 2012.
- ◆ Hosted a tour of the John Dickinson Plantation and Dover sites for travel writers and representatives of the Kent County and Greater Dover Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- ◆ Worked with C-SPAN on [special programs featuring the City of Dover](#). The programs, which aired in July 2013, included visits to the Johnson Victrola Museum and John Dickinson Plantation, and spotlights on authors who have written books about Dover.
- ◆ Enhanced the division's web presence with the addition of a page on [Delaware's Certified Local Government program](#) which provides historic preservation assistance and incentives to eligible local governments.

Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ Volunteers provided 5,188 hours of services interpreting division museums; assisting with the Roosevelt Inlet Shipwreck artifact processing; conducting historical research; assisting with preparation of National Register nominations; processing digital research files; providing floral decorations; and assistance with property maintenance, administrative tasks and special events.
- ◆ The Buena Vista Conference Center hosted 310 events serving 10,349 guests, a 10.5 percent increase over the previous year, generating income of \$72,788. Guests conducted business, discussed policy, engaged in educational programs and enjoyed a variety of special activities.
- ◆ Enhanced technological features at Buena Vista including a new reservation system that allows customers to book outdoor rooms and a pavilion in addition to facilities within the mansion house. The new system also enables reservations to be taken for a new conference space that is being established at the Arsenal building in New Castle. Other technological enhancements included an upgraded telephone system, a new color photocopier, video-conference equipment, an outdoor sound-system and a new portable electric sign-board that allows guests to locate their assigned rooms.
- ◆ Worked with the Rehoboth Art League to complete an inventory and assessment of that organization's collections and to develop an approved collections policy. Provided support for programs related to the organization's 75th anniversary celebration including research for a publication, curation of a special exhibit entitled, "Heritage Artists: Birth of an Art Community," and completion of oral-history interviews with Art League members and artists recalling their experiences with the organization. Provided support for "[Memories of Jack Lewis: Memorial Celebration](#)."
- ◆ Provided exhibit design and fabrication assistance to the Delaware Historical Society for "[Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980](#)," an exhibit showcasing the founding of the African Church in Delaware. The exhibit opened to the public in September 2013.
- ◆ Provided guidance to the Laurel Historical Society on the formation of the Laurel Heritage Museum, housed in the town's historic train station. Guidance included providing information on establishing changing thematic exhibits and rotating collection objects. Since its opening in July 2013, two exhibits have been installed.
- ◆ Created [partnership exhibits](#) at the Bethel, Laurel and Seaford historical societies.
- ◆ Provided publication layout and design support for the Lightship Overfalls' "[The Big Lift and Beyond](#)," a paperback book that tells the story of the preservation of the historic vessel.