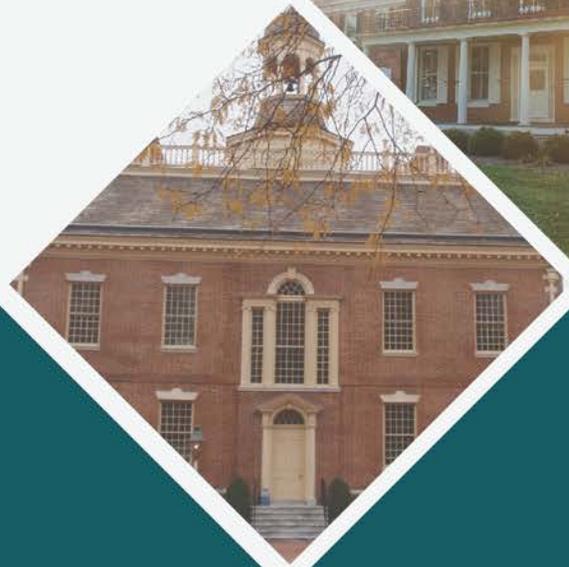


**BUILDING
FOR THE
FUTURE
TO PRESERVE
DELAWARE'S PAST**

**2018
ANNUAL REPORT**



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Building for the Future to Preserve Delaware's Past

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

2018 Annual Report

A message from the director

During 2018, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs advanced on all fronts in its efforts to build a solid infrastructure that will preserve and protect Delaware's irreplaceable cultural legacies for future generations. The groundwork for our 2018 achievements was laid during the seven-year process that culminated in 2017 with our accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums.

As part of the accreditation process, we committed to caring for our museum collections according to the highest professional standards possible. In 2018, we took a giant step toward fulfilling that commitment when ground was broken on a new state-of-the-art curation facility that will, for the first time, house all of the State of Delaware's multi-million-item collections under one roof. We are grateful to Delaware Secretary of State Jeff Bullock for his leadership in helping to make this dream a reality.

At the same time, 2018 was a year in which we continued our commitment to preserving some of the most historic places in the state—most notably, through the state's upcoming acquisition of the Cooch Farm, site of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, the only battle of the American Revolutionary War fought in Delaware—but also through the completion of major capital-improvement projects at Buena Vista, the New Castle Academy and the Fenwick Island Lighthouse keeper's house, among many others.

Finally, 2018 saw the fulfillment of our commitment to creating pro-active preservation strategies for the future through the publication of Delaware's 2018–2022 historic preservation plan which is helping to guide the actions of citizens, organizations and agencies across the state.

Following is a series of eight vignettes that explore more fully our 2018 successes. We are looking forward to building on these achievements in future years.

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Construction of new collections facility underway

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and its predecessors have been stewards of the State of Delaware's archaeological, art and object collections since 1802 when the first collections item—a portrait of George Washington commissioned by the state legislature—was hung in the Senate chamber of the state house. Between then and now, collections within the state's museum system have grown to over 4 million archaeological artifacts and over 90,000 historical objects housed in three Dover-area facilities and at historic sites across the state. These items help to tell Delaware's story and the role that it played in the creation and growth of the nation.



Items from the collections of the State of Delaware. (Left) Sculpture by the noted Wilmington artist Charles Parks. (Right) Portrait of George Washington by Denis A. Volozan, oil on canvas, 1803

Over the years, the acquisition of new collections items has been pushing the division's existing facilities to near capacity. As part of the process by which its museum system was [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#), the division committed to moving all of its collections into one, state-of-the-art facility. Thanks to strong support from the [Delaware Department of State](#), that commitment will soon become a reality.



On Aug. 14, 2018, DGKP Properties broke ground on a 66,000-square-foot facility at a site west of Dover that will be leased to both the division and the [Delaware Department of Insurance](#). The division's portion of the site will become the new home of the state's collections.

Officials participating in the Aug. 14, 2018 ground breaking for the division's new collections facility

Designed according to professional standards advanced by the American Alliance of Museums, the site will greatly improve physical control of the collections through upgraded storage and the latest in fire-suppression, climate-control and security technology.

In preparation for the move, the division conducted a physical inventory of all the collections housed in its three existing facilities. Performed between January 2017 and August 2018, the inventory was conducted by consultants from Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance (AECOM) working under the supervision of the division's [Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits](#) (CARE) Team. The project included the inspection, photographing and bar coding of objects in the collections, and the entry of the resulting data into the division's [PastPerfect](#) collections-management software system. The process provided a strong foundation for moving and re-populating the collections at the new facility.



Native-American artifacts from the archaeological collections of the State of Delaware

Although substantial work still needs to be completed on the new building, the end is now in sight. Barring unforeseen delays, the division anticipates completing the move of the collections to the new facility by the end of 2019.



Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Director Tim Slavin and Deputy Director Suzanne Savery posing with members of the CARE Team on July 6, 2018 at the future site of the division's new collections facility. (From rear left) Edward McWilliams, Paul Nasca, Bradley Dotson, Ed Larrivee and Slavin. (From front left) Savery, Ann Baker Horsey, Laura Walsh and Michael Cinque

State acquires historic Cooch's Bridge property

In a ceremony on Dec. 7, 2018 at the historic Cooch home south of Newark, Del., officials from the Delaware Department of State joined members of the Cooch family to announce plans for the State of Delaware to acquire the home and surrounding property at the heart of the Cooch's Bridge battlefield, site of the only major engagement of the American Revolutionary War fought in the state.



In addition to providing a new public resource for future generations of Delawareans to learn the story of the battle, the acquisition of the site will also allow for continued archaeological study of the property in an effort to locate the unmarked graves of some two dozen American soldiers who gave their lives there.

The Cooch House and property

The agreement is the latest illustration of the Cooch family's ongoing commitment to preserving the rich history of their lands, acquired by Thomas Cooch in 1746 and held in the family for nine generations since. The acquisition includes the historic Cooch home, its adjacent outbuildings and 10 acres of surrounding property.

"We as Delawareans are so fortunate to have such a variety of fascinating and beautiful historical sites up and down our state, and we should be proud of all the effort and cooperation that has allowed us to preserve another quintessential piece of our state's history here at Cooch's Bridge," said Delaware Secretary of State [Jeff Bullock](#). "I want to thank all the partners that came together to make this possible, with particular gratitude to Dick Cooch and Anne Cooch Doran for choosing to share this site with their fellow citizens."



Delaware Secretary of State Jeff Bullock shakes hands with Richard R. Cooch at the Dec. 7, 2018 event celebrating the transfer of the Cooch property to the State of Delaware. (From left) Bullock, Anne Cooch Doran, Richard R. Cooch and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Director Tim Slavin

The property will be purchased using \$875,000 from the [Delaware Open Space Council](#), plus \$200,000 from the Crystal Trust and \$25,000 from the Marmot Foundation (both independent, private philanthropic organizations based in Delaware). Twenty percent of the sale proceeds will be donated by the Cooch family to the Cooch's Bridge Historic District Fund administered by the [Delaware Community Foundation](#). The fund, established by Edward W. Cooch, Jr., helps support maintenance and preservation efforts at the site.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, which will administer the property, plans to develop, with community input, a long-term vision for how the Cooch site, as well as the state-owned [Cooch-Dayett Mills](#) located across Christina Creek, will be interpreted and made accessible to the public.

As part of its vision for the property, the division organized an archaeological investigation during the summer of 2018 with the goal of identifying potential locations of approximately two dozen American soldiers who were buried on the Cooch farm after the battle. Together with a team of archaeologists from Indiana University of Pennsylvania who conducted on-site testing using [ground-penetrating radar](#), the division identified several areas on the property that will now be examined more thoroughly through archaeological excavation.

About the Battle of Cooch's Bridge

In late summer 1777, Gen. George Washington dispatched a unit of light infantry to a key choke-point on the main road from Baltimore to Philadelphia: Cooch's Bridge over the Christina Creek just south of Newark, Del. Intent on scouting the British forces and delaying their advance through Delaware and into Pennsylvania, Washington knew that the men he sent to Cooch's Bridge would be outnumbered, but he also knew they could put up a substantial fight. On Sept. 3, after several hours of heavy fighting, the Continentals and militia, low on ammunition, were forced to retreat. Some two dozen American soldiers gave their lives in the battle. Their sacrifice affirmed that Washington and the American Army would strongly contest the British advance to Philadelphia.



Battle of Cooch's Bridge monument in front of the entrance to the Cooch property

Capital improvements help preserve Delaware history

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs conducted an extensive series of capital-improvement projects at division-owned historic sites during 2018. Working in partnership with the [Division of Facilities Management](#), the division completed projects at some of the most historic properties in the state including [Robinson House](#) in Claymont; Reith Hall in Dover; the Fenwick Island Lighthouse keeper's house; the Academy, Buena Vista and the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) in New Castle; and [Belmont Hall](#) and the Lindens in Smyrna.

In addition to a wide range of preservation work conducted in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's [standards for rehabilitating historic buildings](#), projects included disabled-access improvements; improved drainage; exterior conservation; roof replacements; interior painting; landscape enhancements; and mechanical, electrical and plumbing efficiencies.

Following are three snapshots of capital-improvement projects completed in 2018:

◆ Phase III master plan projects for Buena Vista

Project begun in June 2017. Completed in November 2018

Located at 661 S. Dupont Highway south of New Castle, the main section of the [Buena Vista](#) mansion was built between 1845 and 1847 by John M. Clayton, United States secretary of state from 1849 to 1850 under presidents Taylor and Fillmore, and United States senator from 1829 to 1836, 1845 to 1849, and 1853 until his death in 1856. The home later became the residence of C. Douglass Buck, governor of Delaware from 1929 to 1937 and United States senator from 1942 to 1948. Buena Vista and its grounds were donated to the state by the Buck family in 1965 and now serve as a conference/event center administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.



Buena Vista mansion house



Restored brick stable at Buena Vista

Improvements included restoration and renovation of the circa 1825 brick stable as a support building for the pole-shed event pavilion; library woodwork repair; upgrading of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system; shift to a new water line in the mansion house; repairs to the greenhouse; and conversion of a section of the property's garage to serve as a storage location in support of conference center functions.

◆ **Replacement of the New Castle Academy roof**
Project begun in April 2018. Completed in June 2018

Located at 31 E. Third St., the New Castle Academy was built in 1799 according to a design by Peter Crowding, a Philadelphia master builder. It served as a public school until 1930 when the New Castle High School was built. The property is currently leased to [Immanuel Episcopal Church](#) which utilizes it for many church-related and community activities.

Improvements included [replacement of the building's existing wood-shingle roof](#) with a new wood-shingle roof; replacement of existing roof hatches and flashing; and installation of an elastomeric coating on a metal section of the roof.



New Castle Academy with new roof

◆ **Phase I exterior restoration of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse keeper's house**
Project begun in May 2018. Completed in late-autumn 2018



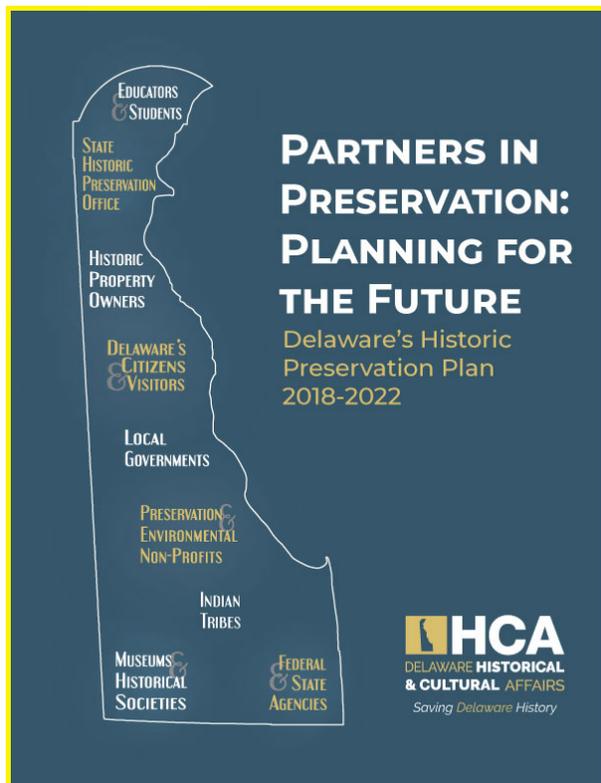
Fenwick Island Lighthouse keeper's house during the restoration process

Located at the intersection of 146th St. and Lighthouse Lane in Fenwick Island, the [Fenwick Island Lighthouse](#) was built in 1858 to protect shipping from the Fenwick sand shoals that extend several miles out from the Delaware coast. [Improvements to the keeper's house](#) included the removal of modern additions, reconstruction of an earlier porch, construction of new wooden steps and landings, replacement of existing windows, and repair of miscellaneous wood trim and wood-shingle siding.

Delaware releases historic preservation plan for 2018–2022

On Aug. 23, 2018, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs released “[Partners in Preservation: Planning for the Future—Delaware’s Historic Preservation Plan, 2018–2022](#)” which provides a guide for citizens, organizations and agencies working together to preserve Delaware’s heritage for the future. The plan outlines six broad goals for the next five years, and suggests specific strategies and actions that can help achieve those goals. The plan encourages advocates to be informed, share resources and take action. Notably, the plan emphasizes the importance of potential partners that could assist in this work, and encourages building on common interests among a variety of stakeholders.

The preservation plan focuses on developing tools and information needed to help guide growth and change in ways that sustain and enhance the state's character and quality of life. In this work, the plan complements [Delaware Strategies for State Policies and Spending](#), developed by the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination to coordinate land-use decision-making, as well as other statewide and local planning efforts.



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 August 2016, the new plan was written by members of the division’s [State Historic Preservation Office](#) working with consultant [Heritage Strategies](#), and with input from preservation professionals, non-profit organizations and the public. Additional review, comment and final approval of the plan were supplied by the National Park Service, as well as the [Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation](#) which provides guidance and perspective on Delaware’s historic preservation issues.

Division sponsors 234 special events and exhibits

The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' five museums, the Buena Vista conference/event center; and the agency's affiliate, lease and partner sites sponsored 234 special events and exhibits during fiscal year 2018. These activities, attended by 195,201 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 2018:

- ◆ **Running of the Mill**, a monthly program at Abbott's Mill in Milford in which visitors discovered the power of water as it drives machines that grind grain into flour
- ◆ **Rededication of the Johnson Victrola Museum**, an April 7 celebration of the museum's 50th anniversary and its re-dedication of 50 more years of service to the Dover community
- ◆ **"A Sailor's Life for Me,"** the 7th annual maritime celebration that took place at downtown Lewes locations including the Zwaanendael Museum from May 25 to 27
- ◆ **Wilmington Pirate Festival**, a day-long series of activities on July 7 at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard and Fort Christina National Historic Landmark in Wilmington featuring pirate-themed ship tours, demonstrations, games, crafts, live music and face painting
- ◆ **"Movie Night on the Lawn,"** a family-friendly evening on Aug. 4 at Buena Vista located south of New Castle. Activities included screening of the film "Jumanji" plus live music, food trucks, lawn games and a photo booth
- ◆ **"The Empty Glass: Sherlock Holmes Comes to Dover,"** a theatrical performance on Aug. 18 at The Old State House in which Sherlock Holmes embarks on a journey to Delaware's capital city where he and Dr. Watson attempt to solve the grisly murder case of "The Empty Glass." Based on an actual Dover court case
- ◆ **"18th Century Trades Day,"** a daylong series of activities at Dover's John Dickinson Plantation on Oct. 13 including preserving food in the smokehouse, dyeing cloth, weaving a rug on a loom and making bricks out of clay
- ◆ **"William Penn Day,"** a series of programs held at the New Castle Court House Museum on Oct. 27 that commemorated the 336th anniversary of Penn's disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World



Historic-site interpreter Jennifer Dunham demonstrating how fabric was dyed in the 1700s. The activity was featured during the "18th Century Trades Day" at the John Dickinson Plantation on Oct. 13, 2018.

New exhibits and displays take visitors on a journey into Delaware history

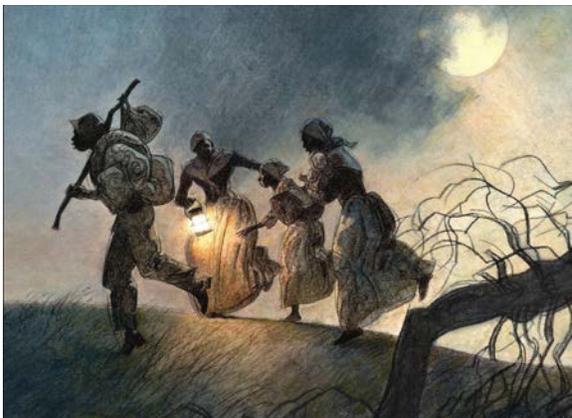
During 2018, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs installed a new exhibit/display in each of Delaware's three counties. Created by the division's Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) team working together with museum staff, each exhibit/display takes visitors on a journey of discovery into a different aspect of the First State's contributions to the history and culture of the United States.



Opening at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes on July 7, "[Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport](#)" explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State emphasizing the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (1832), the Delaware Railroad (1852), the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (1857) and the Queen Anne's Railroad (1896).

New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad excursion train schedule. Published in New Castle, Del., June 1, 1833. From the exhibit, "Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport"

Opening at Legislative Hall in Dover on Nov. 3, "[When Janie Comes Marching Home: Women's Fight to Serve](#)" explores the participation of women in America's armed conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present, and their fight to be allowed to serve their country during wartime.



Opening at the New Castle Court House Museum on Nov. 17, "[The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)" explores Delaware's role in the clandestine network that transported American slaves to freedom including the true journey of the Hawkins family from bondage in Maryland, through Delaware, to freedom in Pennsylvania.

Image from "The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware"

Division volunteer receives a 2018 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award

In a ceremony held at the Dover Downs Hotel on Oct. 24, Delaware Gov. John Carney recognized 23 individuals and groups as recipients of the 2018 [Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards](#). Jason Bakke, a volunteer for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' [Zwaanendael Museum](#), was honored in the awards program's Arts and Culture category for his work in developing programming for the museum and expanding its outreach beyond Lewes into Sussex County.

Following is information on Bakke's contributions that appeared in the 2018 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards program book. The paragraph was written by Kaitlyn Dykes, a former site interpreter at the museum:

Jason Bakke has been volunteering in one capacity or another since the age of 12 for the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes, which commemorates Delaware's first European colony and is a showcase for the Lewes area's maritime, military and social history. Serving the museum as an educator and interpreter, a researcher, a program developer and a performer, Jason has been instrumental in assisting museum staff to expand its outreach beyond Lewes and further into Sussex County. His research for programming is tireless, and he even does some of that work from home without recording his hours. He acts as an educator at special events, runs stations ranging from colonial games to merchant displays, and explains exhibits and provides contextual information to guests. In 2017 alone, Jason volunteered more than 100 hours of service and helped the museum reach and provide education and entertainment to innumerable people.



Jason Bakke receiving his award from Gov. John Carney. (From left) Carney, Bakke and state Rep. Dave Wilson

The Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards, administered by the State Office of Volunteerism, honors the contributions of individuals and groups in Delaware that have made a positive impact in their communities or across the state through service and volunteering. In 2017, 17,815 Delaware adults volunteered their time as part of the [Volunteer Delaware](#) program, contributing more than 700,000 hours of service to nonprofits and community organizations. The value of their service is estimated at more than \$17.4 million.

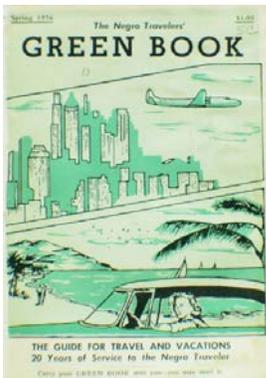
Division employee makes National Trust for Historic Preservation's 40-Under-40 list

Carlton Hall, a cultural preservation specialist and historian with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), earned a place on the inaugural "40 Under 40" list which was unveiled by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) in April.

Hall was honored for his research and presentations about [Delaware listings in the Green Book](#), a segregation-era travel guide for African Americans created by Victor Green and published annually from 1936 through 1966. The Green Book listed hotels, restaurants, service stations, night clubs, barber shops and other establishments across the country where African Americans would be safely welcomed during the days of [Jim Crow](#).



Carlton Hall



Hall is a native of New Castle, a graduate of William Penn High School and now lives in Bear with his wife and three children. He earned a master's degree in historic preservation from Delaware State University in 2013 and began his tenure at SHPO in 2015.

"40 Under 40: People Saving Places" is a new initiative of the non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation, honoring individuals under the age of 40 across the United States who are working to support the mission of historic preservation through fields such as architecture, community activism and business.



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation®**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

Looking forward

In 2019, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be building on the successes of 2018 including the completion of the division's new collections facility and the transfer of all collections items into that site. In addition, the division will be undertaking a master planning process to identify future public uses and programming opportunities at the Cooch's Bridge Historic District; completing capital improvement projects at the Fenwick Island Lighthouse keeper's house, [Hall House](#) in Dover and other state-owned historic properties across the state; and developing a master plan for the [John Dickinson Plantation](#).

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, Department of the Interior, a federal agency.

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



The Kirk/Short Building, a contributing property to the Dover Green Historic District and main office of the Division of 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.



Nipper Corner at the Johnson Victrola Museum

◆ **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.



Formal garden at Woodburn, the Governor's Residence, installed and maintained by the division's Horticulture Team

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 2018 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ Partnered with the [Kalmar Nyckel Foundation](#) and the [First State National Historical Park](#) to offer [summer visitation hours](#) at Fort Christina National Historic Landmark
- ◆ Joined with [First State Heritage Park](#) and the [Friends of Folk](#) to present six free evening concerts at [The Old State House](#)
- ◆ In partnership with the Archaeological Society of Delaware and Dr. Douglas Owsley, division head of physical anthropology for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, unveiled [new findings](#) from a years-long study of the site of Avery's Rest, a Sussex County, Del. homestead first settled by Capt. John Avery and his family in 1674
- ◆ In partnership with the First State Heritage Park and the Dover Public Library, hosted the Association for Living History, Farm, and Agriculture Museum First Person Interpreters Conference
- ◆ Partnered with the [Lenapé Indian Tribe of Delaware](#) to offer a [month-long celebration](#) of the tribe's heritage

Lenapé fancy dancer. The Lenapé Indian Tribe of Delaware partnered with The Old State House to present "First People of the First State: 12,000 Years, 300 Years and One Year" in September 2017



Improving access

- ◆ Utilized Twitter and Instagram to shine a spotlight on items from the State of Delaware's collections that have not been accessible to the public through exhibits and displays
- ◆ Celebrated the [250th anniversary](#) of John Dickinson's "Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania" with the publication of an online exhibit exploring Dickinson's life and the series of essays that he wrote describing Colonial American grievances with the British government
- ◆ Digitized over 16,500 historic property files from paper and microfiche, increasing the accessibility of the information held in the State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Property Research Center

Innovative learning

- ◆ Presented ArCH (Archaeology, Culture and Heritage) field-day programs which featured hands-on activities focused on Delaware arts, history, archaeology and cultural heritage. The event was coordinated with the Social Studies Coalition and designed to meet [Next Generation science standards](#) and [Common Core state standards](#) for art and history. Participants included over 1,200 students
- ◆ Supported Delaware State University's [Jumpstart Program](#) offered during the summer session for incoming freshman students. Students researched, created and conducted public programs on history-related topics at the John Dickinson Plantation, [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and The Old State House
- ◆ Served 661 students, teachers and chaperones for the "Make a Splash" event at the John Dickinson Plantation in partnership with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
- ◆ Engaged nearly 1,100 students, from 22 schools, in the study of the U.S. Constitution as part of the annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#)

Engaging audiences

- ◆ Increased and expanded person-to-person engagements with a total of 195,201 interactions via school programs, special events, meetings, exhibits and displays at the division's five museums; Buena Vista conference/event center; and historic sites statewide
- ◆ Produced 234 special events, exhibits and displays at the division's five museums; the Buena Vista conference/event center; and the agency's affiliate, lease and partner sites
- ◆ Posted 107 articles on the division's [blog](#), an increase of 41percent over fiscal year 2017; registered 120,684 visitor sessions on its website, an increase of 64 percent; attracted 5,794 "likes" on its six Facebook sites, an increase of 11 percent; and increased [Twitter](#) followers by 15 percent to 1,811
- ◆ Published electronically 12 issues of the division's e-newsletter, a digest of history- and preservation-related articles, calendar of events and links to press articles on relevant subjects. Distributed monthly to 2,137 individuals, the newsletter is distilled from content published in the division's blog, social media, webpage and press releases
- ◆ Presented two public events at Buena Vista: "[Movie Night on the Lawn](#)" and the [spring open house](#)
- ◆ Distributed throughout Delaware promotional rack cards for the state's five museums and for [tours](#) of the hull of His Majesty's Sloop DeBraak
- ◆ Published the division's [2017 annual report](#)
- ◆ Developed a new division logo
- ◆ Created the exhibit, "[New Castle: Three Forts, One Community](#)," at the New Castle Court House Museum
- ◆ Celebrated the [50th anniversary of the founding of the Johnson Victrola Museum](#) culminating with a rededication ceremony attended by Johnson family members, division employees and friends
- ◆ Purchased advertising for the division's museums and programs in Coastal Style Magazine, the Delaware Beachcomber newspaper, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitor's Bureau annual travel guide and Kent County Tourism's 2018/2019 visitor guide



Enhancing preservation

- ◆ Completed “Partners in Preservation: Planning for the Future—Delaware’s Historic Preservation Plan, 2018–2022” which provides a guide for citizens, organizations and agencies working together to preserve Delaware’s heritage for the future
- ◆ Completed a physical inventory of the collections of the State of Delaware to ensure there is a proper accounting of accessioned objects, artworks, furnishings, textiles and other collection categories as well as artifact assemblages in the archaeological collection
- ◆ Transferred [Roosevelt Inlet Shipwreck](#) artifacts from the Archaeology Lab, which had been housed in a temporary facility in Cape Henlopen State Park, to the division’s main collections facilities in Dover
- ◆ [Received \\$190,000](#) from the First State National Historical Park budget for a mix of capital improvements and programmatic activities at the New Castle Court House Museum and The Green in New Castle, the John Dickinson Plantation in Dover and Fort Christina National Historic Landmark in Wilmington
- ◆ Completed Phase III of the master planning process for the Buena Vista conference center including restoration and renovation of the circa 1825 brick stable as a support building for the pole-shed event pavilion; library woodwork repair; upgrading of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system and shift to a new water line in the mansion house; repairs to the greenhouse; and conversion of a section of the property’s garage to serve as a storage location in support of conference center functions
- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at division-owned historic properties throughout the state including elimination of water infiltration at [Hale-Byrnes House](#); replacement of the New Castle Academy and Reith Hall roofs; exterior rehabilitation of the keeper’s house at the Fenwick Island Lighthouse; interior painting at Robinson House and Belmont Hall; exterior conservation of The Lindens; and refurbishing of restrooms at the New Castle Court House Museum
- ◆ Awarded \$6.5 million in [state historic preservation tax credits](#) for improvements to 36 historic properties which included owner-occupied, nonprofit-owned and income-producing properties
- ◆ Reviewed multiple applications for [the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive program](#) which is often used in concert with the state program
- ◆ Re-granted \$53,472 from the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#) to support preservation-related activities conducted by Delaware’s [Certified Local Governments](#)
- ◆ The [Dinker-Irvin Cottage](#) in Bethany Beach was added to the National Register of Historic Places
- ◆ Published a report on the State Historic Preservation Office’s [recent accomplishments](#)



Reith Hall in Dover with newly installed roof

- ◆ Received for review and comment nearly 400 new [environmental-review](#) projects. Over 90% of these reviews have since been completed. The projects included federal undertakings from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Communications Commission, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as state [Preliminary Land Use Service](#) projects
- ◆ Updated and improved the [online map](#) of National Register of Historic Places-listed places in Delaware. The map is a component of the Cultural and Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), a geographic information system on historic properties that are located in the state
- ◆ Established a fee system for the long-term curation of artifact assemblages recovered from archaeological excavations in Delaware
- ◆ Accessioned important items into the collections of the State of Delaware including artifacts from the Avery's Rest archaeological site and the Ship's Tavern district in Wilmington; and quilts and woven coverlets from Kent County
- ◆ Supported efforts that led to the passage of the [Delaware Abandoned Cultural Property Act](#) which allows Delaware museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period had terminated and the lender could not be found
- ◆ The following preservation-related opinion editorials written by division director Tim Slavin were published in Delaware newspapers: "[Here's why Delaware works so hard to preserve its history](#)" in the Wilmington News Journal and "[In Delaware, historic preservation matters](#)" in the Delaware State News
- ◆ Contracted with [Dovetail Cultural Resource Group](#) to conduct an architectural survey of historic properties in small communities along the Delaware River and Bay in order to prepare for major storm events and the prospective effects of climate change

Achieving excellence

- ◆ The division's museum system, which includes five museums and the archaeological and historic-objects collections of the State of Delaware, was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest recognition afforded to museums in the United States. In recognition of this achievement, the Delaware Senate [passed Concurrent Resolution 76](#) and supportive elected officials were photographed at division-owned sites across the state
- ◆ Division architectural historian Kara Briggs [completed the ARCUS Professional Fellowship Program](#) which offers online leadership-development courses and networking opportunities that strengthen the skills of emerging leaders in the cultural heritage and historic preservation movement
- ◆ Division historian Carlton Hall was included in "40 Under 40: People Saving Places," a new initiative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation which recognizes 40 people under the age of 40 who are making a significant impact on protecting America's historic places
- ◆ The Zwaanendaal Museum was voted Best Museum in Sussex County by the readers of Coastal Style magazine



Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ The division's 256 [volunteers](#) provided 12,296 service hours, valued at over \$300,000, interpreting at state museums, installing exhibits, processing artifacts, cataloging collections, completing horticulture inventories, conducting historical research on a wide range of topics, assisting with preparation of National Register nominations, processing digital research files, providing assistance with property maintenance, graphic design, administrative tasks and special events



Volunteers from the Delaware Department of State mulching a tree at the John Dickinson Plantation on April 23, 2018 in celebration of National Volunteer Week.

- ◆ Ashley Smith, a division volunteer and George Washington University student living in Sussex County, worked at the [Sussex County Preservation Planner's office](#) documenting buildings slated for demolition and conducting reviews for proposed developments
- ◆ As part of National Volunteer Week, volunteers from the Delaware Department of State participated in a [spring cleanup](#) at the John Dickinson Plantation

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Front cover photos: (From top) New Castle Court House Museum, Buena Vista, The Old State House, Johnson Victrola Museum, John Dickinson Plantation and the Zwaanendael Museum

Rear cover photo: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs staff members gathered on the front porch of the Buena Vista mansion

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