



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



2015 Annual Report

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

A message from the director

A large part of the mission of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is to identify, preserve and interpret the history of the people who have helped make Delaware a place like no other in our nation.

During 2015, for example, we celebrated the life of Samuel D. Burris, an unheralded hero of the Underground Railroad. We also created programs that told the tales of sea captains and the ordinary sailors who served with them; of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of our nation, and of the enslaved people who lived on his plantation; of European settlers and Native people; of leaders in America's struggle for independence and women who struggled for the right to vote.

Through paintings that we conserved in the state's collections, we brought to life the faces of Delaware's governors, military figures and prominent citizens. In the properties that we helped to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, we played our part in preserving the homes and places of worship of Delawareans stretching back more than 100 years. And in our museum displays we explored the ways in which our people played and danced, but also how they mourned the death of a beloved president.

While many of the division's programs rightly focus on Delaware's people throughout history, this annual report is turning the spotlight around to focus on one other valuable group of Delawareans—the employees and volunteers of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs who make our programs and services happen every day. Through their accomplishments and dedicated service, they are truly helping to Save Delaware History!

Tim Slavin
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Artwork and historical objects rescued from Legislative Hall fire

On the afternoon of Oct. 7, 2015, [Legislative Hall](#), Delaware's state capitol building in Dover was struck by a fire that caused significant interior damage to the north side of the historic structure. While the building's heating/air-conditioning system, inside walls, carpets and other features were affected by the fire, their repair or replacement were relatively straightforward affairs. What could not be replaced—or easily repaired—were the nearly 200 historical objects and works of art that were at risk during the blaze. The fact that they were all saved is a testament to the extraordinary efforts of state employees from a wide variety of agencies.



Dover Fire Department responding to the blaze at Legislative Hall.

Those efforts began during the fire itself when Justin King of the Division of Facilities Management removed paintings from the building's walls in order to protect them from exposure to heat and smoke. Once the fire had been quelled, staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs moved into action. As the curator of the [collections](#) of the State of Delaware, the division is responsible for the preservation and management of historical paintings, objects and furniture which are housed in Legislative Hall.

Within hours of the fire, the division assembled a Disaster Recovery Team comprised of individuals drawn from the agency's Business-Administration, CARE, Horticulture, Preservation Maintenance, Preservation and Site Management [teams](#). Members of the Disaster Recovery Team determined that almost all of the collections had been exposed to smoke, but that only one painting was seriously damaged—a 1914 portrait of Revolutionary War Major John Patten by Laussat Richter Rogers that had been blistered by heat exposure. The team then began a ten-week process which included inventory assessment, removal, treatment and return of the collections to Legislative Hall by Dec. 16, 2015.

Based on their on-site assessment, the team decided to move most of the collections to a new location that would provide security, adequate space for the review and cleaning of items by staff and professional conservators, and computer connectivity for the cataloguing of the items in the division's collections-management database. On Oct. 9, an agreement was reached with the City of Dover to utilize the vacated, former site of the Dover Public Library for this purpose. Team members then began working with contractors, information-technology and equipment specialists, and state and city staff members to prepare the library site for the delivery of the collections items. On Oct. 10, team members transferred 145 items from Legislative Hall to the recovery site.



Portrait of Major John Patten damaged in the Legislative Hall fire.

Once the collections items had been safely secured, they needed to be reviewed by professional conservators who were familiar with smoke and fire damage. Team members worked to identify conservators from across the region, and schedules were established to review all 145 works at the library site, as well as more than 20 pieces that remained in Gov. Markell’s Legislative Hall office. The [Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation](#) agreed to review and treat two of the portraits at no charge including the damaged Patten portrait. In addition, the remaining collections were reviewed by three conservators with expertise respectively in works on paper, furniture and frames, and paintings/oils on canvas.

State employees working on the transfer of collections items to the former Dover Public Library. From left: (standing) Tim Slavin, Manny Carrar, Charity Luksha, Edward McWilliams, Cherie Dodge Biron and Ronald Johnson; (seated at center) Gloria Henry, Ann Baker Horsey and Greg Buchman; (front) Ed Gillespie, Carlton Hall and Chris Conley.



Collections items in storage at the former Dover Public Library.

In addition to personally cleaning many of the items, the conservators provided team members with training in professional practices so that they could participate in the cleaning process. Together with the photographing and cataloging of the collections items, the cleaning process was completed in three weeks, and all of the works of art were returned to Legislative Hall by Dec. 16 with the exception of the Patten portrait which is still being treated by the Winterthur/University of Delaware program.

The recovery and preservation of the state collections in Legislative Hall was a monumental task that could not have been achieved without the help of countless people from across the region including state employees Justin King and Ronald Johnson of the Division of Facilities Management; Dave Russel and Kevin Wright of the Department of Technology and Information; and the members of the division’s Disaster Recovery Team—Greg Buchman, Marian Carpenter, Manny Carrar, Michael Cinque, Chris Conley, Cherie Dodge Biron, Ed Gillespie, Carlton Hall, Scott Hayes, Gloria Henry, Ann Baker Horsey, Vertie Lee, Charity Luksha, Carlos Maldonado, Gavin Malone, Edward McWilliams, Paul Nasca, Janet Rettig, Suzanne Savery, James Scott and Tim Slavin.



Division director Tim Slavin (left) thanks Justin King for his efforts in saving paintings that were endangered during the Legislative Hall fire.

Gov. Markell pardons Underground Railroad conductor Samuel D. Burris

In a [ceremony](#) held on Nov. 2, 2015 in the courtroom of Dover, Del.'s [Old State House](#), Gov. Jack Markell issued a pardon of [Samuel D. Burris](#), a free black man from the Willow Grove area of Kent County, Del., who was convicted on Nov. 2, 1847 of aiding slaves escaping from their owners. The ceremony took place in the very location where Burris was convicted 168 years ago.



Samuel D. Burris

As a [conductor](#) on the [Underground Railroad](#), Burris is known to have successfully led several enslaved people from Maryland and Delaware to relative freedom in Pennsylvania. In 1847, he was captured and charged in three cases with enticing away slaves. Found guilty in two of the cases, he was fined, sentenced to prison and thereafter sentenced to be sold into servitude. After being purchased for \$500 by a Wilmington abolitionist, he was taken to Philadelphia where he was reunited with family and friends. He continued to work for the abolitionist cause until his death in San Francisco in 1863.

The story of Burris' life and accomplishments might well have been forgotten had it not been for the efforts of Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs staff members including Madeline Dunn who in the 1990s initiated the division's research into Delaware's African-American history and who subsequently developed interpretive programs on that history that are still offered at the division's museums; Beverly Laing, who has been conducting research specifically on Burris since 1996; and Cindy Snyder and Gloria Henry, site supervisors respectively of the New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation, who have been



Surrounded by Burris-family descendants, Gov. Jack Markell holds the document pardoning Samuel D. Burris.



studying the history of African Americans at their sites. Finally, Robin Krawitz, formerly the division's National Register of Historic Places coordinator and currently a Delaware State University professor, conducted extensive research on Burris during her tenure at the division. Krawitz is currently working on a book about Burris that will be published by the Delaware Heritage Commission.

Division historians Beverly Laing (left) and Madeline Dunn conducted extensive research on Samuel D. Burris for several years. Their work helped bring to light the Underground Railroad conductor's life and accomplishments.

Division volunteer Catrena Moore a recipient of a 2015 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award

In a ceremony held at the Dover Downs Hotel on April 21, 2015, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and first lady Carla Markell recognized 10 individuals and four groups as recipients of the [2015 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Awards](#). One of the recipients, Dover High School senior and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs volunteer Catrena Moore, was honored for the more than 100 hours that she contributed as a horticulturalist working on the [redesign of the public garden](#) at [Woodburn](#), the governor's official residence in Dover. Woodburn's garden is managed by the division's Horticulture Team.

As a participant in the plant-sciences technical pathway at Dover High, Moore was interested in honing her skills in horticulture and gaining experience in her chosen field. After initiating contact with the division, she began volunteer service with the Horticulture Team in July 2014, participating in the installation of the re-designed Woodburn garden until it officially opened to the public on Oct. 23, 2014.



Catrena Moore (center) with Delaware first lady Carla Markell and Gov. Jack Markell at the 2015 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Awards ceremony on April 21, 2015.

By all accounts, her contributions to the project were outstanding. According to Rachel Wootten, the division's [Volunteer Program](#) coordinator, "Every task assigned to Catrena, whether it be mulching, installing perennials or bulbs, or simply watering plants was done with a sense of pride." Thomas Ratay, who was at the time a member of the Horticulture Team noted that Moore was "extremely helpful and her eye for detail is impeccable. ... She saved valuable man hours by completing large portions of the bulb installation, along with constantly and consistently pulling weeds and watering plants. With her help we were able to complete the entire installation of the garden on time." Summing up Moore's service, division director Tim Slavin noted that she "was a star among our many volunteers. She was reliable, dependable, and professional, and her presence added much value to our Woodburn Public Garden project." Moore is now a freshman at Delaware State University majoring in horticulture.

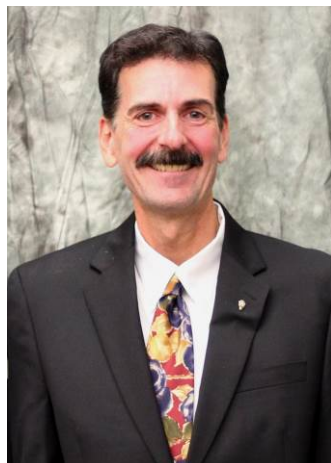


Redesigned parterre garden at Woodburn.

Division's Edward McWilliams earns Management Development Certificate

In a commencement ceremony held on Oct. 22, 2015, Edward McWilliams, manager of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs' Collections, Affiliates, Research and Exhibits (CARE) Team, was awarded the [Management Development Certificate](#) from the state of Delaware's Office of Statewide Training and Organizational Development.

The Management Development Certificate was created in the fall of 2003. Since that time 72 state employees have enrolled in the program which offers supervisors and managers statewide a comprehensive and progressive series of developmental opportunities to continually improve their performance. McWilliams joins the ranks of a very elite group of only seven state employees to graduate from this challenging program.



Edward McWilliams

As his certificate project, McWilliams led an inter-organization partnership that created "[Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800–1980](#)," an exhibit that explored the state's black community, its faith experiences and its contributions to the development of religion in the United States. On display at the Delaware History Museum in Wilmington, the exhibit was created by the museum's curatorial staff, which researched and wrote the exhibit narrative and organized loans of exhibited objects; and the CARE team which designed, fabricated and installed the exhibit. In September 2014, the exhibit was the recipient of the American Association for State and Local History's prestigious [History in Progress Award](#).

McWilliams will utilize the skills and experience gained through the certificate program to enhance his management of the CARE Team which is responsible for the care and control of the state's collections of museum objects, archaeological artifacts, works of art and archival materials; administration of the Affiliates Program which creates partnerships with history- and heritage-based organizations throughout Delaware to develop joint programs and exhibits including the potential loaning of items from the state's collections; conducting and sponsoring a wide spectrum of archaeological and historical research and making significant portions of research materials available to the public, particularly through the use of electronic mediums; and the research and design of traditional gallery- and online-exhibits.

CARE Team accomplishments during 2015 include the emergency treatment of artwork and historical objects from Legislative Hall that were affected by the Oct. 7, 2015 fire; consultation with, and design of exhibits at, the Laurel- and Bethel-Heritage museums and the Seaford Museum; and creation of the [displays](#) "Delaware Mourns Lincoln: A Demonstration of Love and Sorrow" at The Old State House and "Discovering Delaware's Maritime Past" at the [Zwaanendael Museum](#). Finally, the CARE Team, working with volunteer [Carolyn Apple](#), created "World War II Through the Lens of William D. Willis," a photographic display that can be viewed both [online](#) and in-person at Legislative Hall.



Johnson Victrola Museum volunteers are recipients of Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards

In a ceremony held at the Dover Downs Hotel on Oct. 6, 2015, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell recognized 22 individuals and groups as recipients of the [2015 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards](#). One group of recipients, the volunteer staff of the Johnson Victrola Museum, was honored in the program's Arts and Culture category.

Operated by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) utilizes authentic phonograph machines, recordings, trademarks, objects and paintings to tell the story of Delaware's native son, Eldridge Reeves Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company and a pioneer in the development of the sound-recording industry.

In August 2009, the museum began operating on a reduced schedule due to reductions in the state budget resulting from the nation-wide economic recession that began in late 2008. In order



Volunteer staff of the Johnson Victrola Museum honored at the 2015 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards ceremony. From left: Howard Fulcher, Arnold Leftwich, Jim Schilling and Gov. Jack Markell. Laura Herbin and David Perlmutter were unable to attend the ceremony.

to extend operating hours, the division initiated a recruitment campaign in March 2011 to attract and train volunteers who would assist existing interpretive staff in operating the museum. A group of almost 20 volunteers, comprised of both retirees and working professionals with an interest in music and the sound-recording industry, was recruited and trained to serve as museum docents. While many of those original volunteers dropped out, two members—Fulcher and Leftwich—helped the museum expand to a four-day-per-week operating schedule in May 2011.

Since then the core group of volunteers (Herbin, Perlmutter and Schilling joined in 2012) contributed more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service, not only assisting the museum staff in greeting visitors and leading guided tours, but also in taking on special projects that go above and beyond the call of duty.

According to their award nomination, submitted by Rachel Wootten, coordinator of the division's Volunteer Program:

Highlights of their service include Arnold developing and creating a customized guest registry for the museum. He also created a DVD of the 2nd floor of the museum for visitors who are unable to climb the stairs. This DVD includes his original photographs accompanied

by music. ... Johnson Victrola Museum interpreters frequently use [the DVD] to share the 2nd floor experience with visitors who would be unable to experience it first-hand. Laura has committed to working eight-hour shifts—when a normal scheduled volunteer shift is four hours. James consistently keeps the grounds of Museum Square clean, something he takes pride in, and has also attended volunteer fairs on behalf of the division's Volunteer Program.



Johnson Victrola Museum volunteers: (From left) David Perlmutter, Howard Fulcher, Laura Herbin, Arnold Leftwich and Jim Schilling.

David's long-term commitment, along with the others, is refreshing in the volunteer world. David has also attended volunteer fairs on behalf of the division. Howard consistently uses his photography skills for division special events and is also active in programming. Most recently, he put on a program ... about the jazz great Fats Waller ... and also serves on the division's Community Engagement Committee.



As part of his comments about all of the winners of the 2015 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards, Gov. Markell noted, "These volunteers recognize that it's not about them. It's about the people they serve. ... They not only illustrate the growing ethic of volunteerism in our state, but they contribute to a stronger and healthier Delaware."

Exhibited items at the Johnson Victrola Museum.

Division's Ed Gillespie named Delaware Department of State Employee of the Year

During a [Department of State](#) employee-recognition ceremony held in Dover's Old State House on March 3, 2015, Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock presented the department's 2014 Employee of the Year award to Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs physical-plant maintenance supervisor Ed Gillespie.



Ed Gillespie (center) holding his Delaware Department of State Employee of the Year award. Flanking Gillespie are (left) Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey W. Bullock and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Director Tim Slavin.

According to the nomination letter, submitted by one of his co-workers, Gillespie's "work ethic and positive attitude, even during emergency situations, has been an example to his team." In May 2014, the division's physical-plant maintenance superintendent went out on extended medical leave and Gillespie stepped into the breach by accepting leadership of the Preservation Maintenance Team. During that time, Gillespie not only made sure that daily work assignments were completed and emergencies situations addressed, he also found time to mentor two new employees in electrical and heating-venting-air-conditioning procedures.

On multiple occasions, Gillespie has worked into the night and on weekends when emergencies have arisen at division-administered sites. During a single period, he was confronted with concurrent electrical emergencies at the Johnson Victrola Museum and at Woodburn: The Governor's Residence. In a deliberate and clear-headed manner, Gillespie took control of the situation, supervising contractors and making sure that repair work was completed properly. His quick reaction and calm leadership helped protect the buildings and the people who use them.

Commenting on Gillespie's actions, Bullock noted, "Ed took extraordinary care to calmly handle both situations, going above and beyond his required duties, to make sure that both problems were sufficiently solved before calling it a day. It was because of his actions, as well as the positivity his presence brings to his team, that he was honored as this year's Employee of the Year for the Department of State."

Gillespie has served as the division's physical-plant maintenance supervisor since April 2014. Prior to that time, he served for 10 years as a physical-plant maintenance mechanic.

The Delaware Department of State's employee recognition program provides department employees with opportunities to be recognized for significant contributions, individual achievements and exceptional overall performance attained through their daily work and/or community service.

Division implements recognition program for employees and volunteers

In response to the staff-development objective identified in its strategic plan, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs has implemented a recognition program that highlights the accomplishments and years/hours of service of permanent and casual/seasonal employees and volunteers/interns. The purpose of the program is to boost morale, pride and group dynamics by blurring the boundaries between the different types of division staff and by creating a positive community atmosphere within the agency.

The categories of recognition include **Service Awards** for permanent and casual/seasonal employees based on years of service, and for volunteers and interns based on hours of service. In addition, five **Integrity Awards** were created in the following categories:

Biggest Impact Awards presented to employees and volunteers who have created a significant and lasting impact on the division and the public; *Extra Mile Awards* presented to employees and volunteers who have given extra effort towards a division project; *Newcomer Awards* presented to the most influential new employee or volunteer; *Lifetime Achievement Awards* presented to a celebrated long-time employee or volunteer who has an accomplished résumé; and *Professional Achievement Awards* presented to an employee or volunteer who has made significant professional progress.

The division began implementing the program in 2015 with recognition activities conducted as part of all-staff meetings on [March 30](#), [Sept. 21](#) and [Dec. 14](#). Employees and volunteers who were honored during the year include the following:

- ◆ Employee Service Awards to Madeline Dunn for 40 years of service, Alice Guerrant (35 years), Dan Davis (30 years), Beverly Laing and Nena Todd (25 years) and Tim Slavin (20 years)
- ◆ Volunteer Service Awards to Carolyn Apple for 233.25 volunteer hours, Kent Slavin (196 hours), Laura Herbin (106.75 hours), Juliann McNelia (104.25 hours), Jim Schilling (98.75 hours), David Perlmutter (57.25 hours) and Larry Watkins (35.5 hours).
- ◆ Biggest Impact Awards to Michael Cinque and Alan Roth; and the American Association of Museums Accreditation Team and the staff of the Zwaanendael Museum.
- ◆ Extra Mile Awards to Carolyn Apple, Ryan Cardwell, Michael Cinque, Dan Davis, Tammy Dayton, Charity Luksha, Thomas Pulmano, Jan Rettig and Rachel Wootten; and the Business Services Team and the Johnson Victrola Museum volunteers.
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award to Sally Shorey.



Members of the Business Services Team holding their Extra Mile Awards. (From left) Rachel Wootten, Dianna Harris, Dominique Martucci, Jan Rettig, Cherie Dodge Biron and Tammy Dayton.

Progress continues on accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

During 2015, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs made significant progress in its multi-year effort to receive [accreditation](#) from the American Alliance of Museums, a process that has helped improve the division's management of the State of Delaware's [five museums](#) and three collections-curation facilities. As the museum field's mark of distinction, accreditation offers high profile, peer-based validation of a museum's operations and impact. It also increases a museum's credibility and value to funders, policy makers, community and peers; and is a powerful tool to leverage change and facilitate loans between institutions. The division has been participating in the accreditation process since 2011, completing the [Core Documents Verification](#) component in 2014.



Champion Museums. Nurture Excellence.

One of the requirements of accreditation is the evaluation of museums against the alliance's 38 [Characteristics of Excellence](#) which help to define best practices in the museum field. These characteristics are outlined in the following seven broad categories: Public Trust and Accountability, Mission and Planning, Leadership and Organizational Structure, Collections Stewardship, Education and Interpretation, Financial Stability, and Facilities and Risk Management.

In 2015, the division's American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Team completed an 80-page self-study report that evaluated all state-museum operations according to the seven categories. On Nov. 17 and 18, 2015, reviewers from the alliance visited Delaware, touring the division's museums and collections facilities, and meeting with staff members. Overall, the

reviewers were pleased with the division and its programs, noting the agency's "great work, amazing staff and terrific collection."



Because of their efforts, members of the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Team were awarded the division's Biggest Impact Award during an end-of-the-year success event on Dec. 14, 2015.

Members of the division's American Association of Museums Accreditation Team holding their Biggest Impact awards. From left are Vertie Lee, Gloria Henry, Jan Rettig, Cherie Dodge Biron, Edward McWilliams and Marian Carpenter. Gavin Malone was unavailable for the photo.

Looking forward

During 2016, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will continue to make progress in implementing the goals and objectives identified in its [2015–2019 strategic plan](#). Actions planned include completion of capital improvements at division-administered properties across the state including sites in New Castle and the division’s main office in Dover; progress on receiving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums; implementation of an agency-wide marketing plan; and the sponsorship of programs associated with [Preservation 50](#), the golden anniversary celebration of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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](#).



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.



Senate chamber in The Old State House. Photo by Don Pearse Photographers.

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.



Flower bed on Legislative Mall in Dover created by the division's Horticulture Team.

Appendix

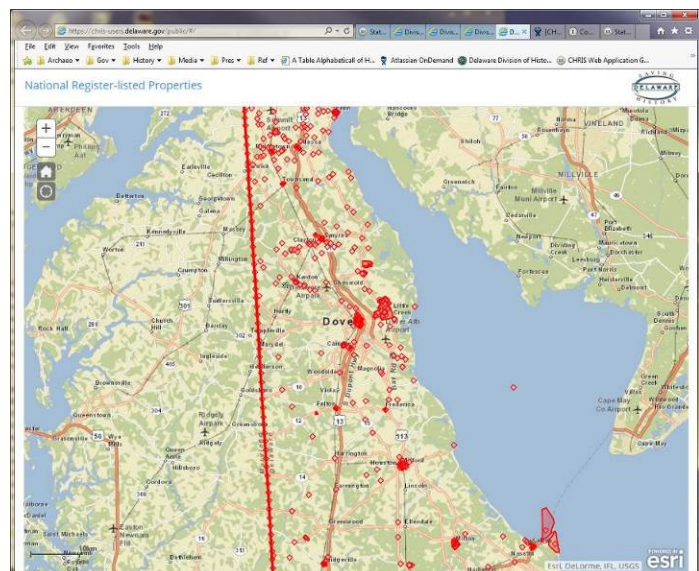
Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs fiscal year 2015 accomplishments

Partnership development

- ◆ The National Park Service added two division sites, the [John Dickinson Plantation](#) and [Fort Christina](#), to the [First State National Historical Park](#), which already includes the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the New Castle Green. This seven-unit park now includes sites in all three counties.
- ◆ Worked with the [Delaware Museum Association](#) in developing the organization’s strategic plan to strengthen service to the state’s museums, galleries and historical societies.
- ◆ Expanded community programs in New Castle with local partners, including the [River Towns Ride and Festival](#), with joint activities held in New Castle and Delaware City. This first-time event drew 1,000 attendees for timed bike races, children’s games, live music, food, and craft vendors. Also joined with New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitors Bureau in expanding the city’s winter-holiday program and welcoming over 2,500 visitors to tour private homes, shop, dine and enjoy sidewalk historical-theater vignettes from Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.”
- ◆ Partnered with Top of the Vine Productions to host an [event expo](#) at the [Buena Vista Conference Center](#) showcasing all aspects of events planning with participation from local businesses.
- ◆ Worked with the [First State Heritage Park](#) and the [Delaware Public Archives](#) to transition management of the [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#) to the Delaware Public Archives. The organizations will work together to provide travel, accommodation and visitor services to residents and tourists visiting Delaware’s capital city.

Improving access

- ◆ Launched the upgraded [Cultural and Historical Resources Information System](#) (CHRIS), featuring increased public access to information on historic properties, a new option to submit updates online, faster approval and upload of new data and better tracking of system use. In its first five months, the system was viewed 4,000 times, and 350 points were added to the online map. This more cost-effective version of CHRIS allows project planners to obtain information online and enables management of the system to be done in-house instead of using a paid vendor.



National Register locations in Delaware as identified in CHRIS.

- ◆ Expanded evening program offerings to serve new audiences including development of The Old State House’s History Coffee-Hour lectures, a five-week series of special programs covering various aspects of Delaware history from espionage to country music.
- ◆ Served family audiences with evening lantern tours and hay rides at John Dickinson Plantation and [St. Jones Reserve](#) where participants learned about the St. Jones River and night life on the estuary.
- ◆ Partnered with the First State Heritage Park and the [Friends of Folk](#) to offer four Friday evening concert performances in The Old State House, each filled to capacity.

Innovative learning

- ◆ Supported Delaware State University, the University of Delaware and the National Council on Preservation Education in presenting “Learning from the Reservation: Using the Traditional Cultural Place Perspective for Better Decision Making in a Diverse Cultural Landscape” a conference that brought together nationally-recognized experts and local students to exchange ideas and examples.
- ◆ Partnered with Delaware State University’s [Summer Bridge](#) program to offer incoming freshmen students the opportunity to create a relevant program for each of the division’s Dover museums. The programs, presented to the public, included such topics as Delaware heroes of the Underground Railroad, slavery, manumission, history of recorded sound and early U.S. espionage.
- ◆ Advanced an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration through cultural programs such as the Lenape Homecoming Celebration, developed by the division and the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, featuring a festival event and lectures by Lenape members, anthropologists and agriculturalists.
- ◆ Worked with the [Dover Public Library](#) in hosting the Smithsonian’s travelling exhibition, “[Changing America: the Emancipation Proclamation 1863 and the March on Washington 1963](#)”; held joint programs for adults and children at the library and at sites in downtown Dover; and developed three programs for the library’s Gray Matters senior audience.
- ◆ “[Make a Splash](#),” a partnership of the John Dickinson Plantation, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, Tidewater Utilities, Delaware State Parks, Division of Watershed Stewardship and Envirotech, provided an opportunity for more than 700 students to explore the St. Jones River and the use of water as a natural resource.

Engaging audiences

- ◆ Produced 180 special events, exhibits and displays at the division’s five museums including: [African-American-History-](#) and [Women’s History-Month](#) activities, and programs on [Native-American heritage](#).

John Dickinson Plantation historical interpreters Vertie Lee (left) and Barbara Carrow participated in “A Woman’s World” programs in March 2015 as part of Women’s History Month.



- ◆ Engaged in 158,478 visitor experiences at the division’s museums; First State Heritage Park Welcome Center; Buena Vista Conference Center; and the agency’s affiliate, lease and partner sites. Visitor engagements track the number of opportunities the division had, using various techniques, to share the story of Delaware’s history. They include programs, school tours, special public and private events and exhibits.
- ◆ Published electronically 12 issues of the division’s historic preservation and museums newsletter, posted 97 articles on the division’s [blog](#), saw 4,207 “likes” registered on its seven Facebook sites and increased its [Twitter](#) followers to 934.
- ◆ Expanded Buena Vista’s social media presence to include [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, WeddingWire and Eventective in addition to its [Facebook](#) page. Marketed Buena Vista on WeddingWire’s Delaware’s Intimate Wedding Locations webpage, Clever Wedding Ideas website and on Munaluchi Bridal Magazine’s website. These platforms showcase Buena Vista’s amenities, events and activities; promote the site as an event destination; and engage potential new markets.
- ◆ Mounted “Simple Pleasures: Play and Dance,” at the Zwaanendael Museum, Legislative Hall and The Old State House. The display featured Edwardian and Roaring Twenties fashions reflecting the spirit of the liberated modern woman as depicted in the “Downton Abbey” television series.
- ◆ Displayed “Delaware Mourns Lincoln: A Demonstration of Love and Sorrow” at The Old State House commemorating the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s death and exploring the ways Delawareans mourned his loss.
- ◆ Designed and displayed at Legislative Hall, “Through the Lens of William D. Willis,” a changing display of images from the collection of this Dover native photographed during his World War II military service in Western Europe.
- ◆ Worked with local high school students to bring Delaware history to new audiences including a production of the play, “Independence or the Bayonet: The Life and Times of Caesar Rodney,” directed by and starring students from Caesar Rodney High School and presented at The Old State House.
- ◆ Expanded outreach to Delaware colleges and universities to engage students and alumni in Delaware history. Activities included tours of the Zwaanendael Museum and the [DeBraak](#) hull for Delaware Technical and Community College’s “Roads Scholars,” University of Delaware’s Kent and Sussex county alumni, and Wilmington University alumni as part of their “Wildcat Prowl in Lewes” event.
- ◆ Coordinated the Chautauqua tent show, “[Discovering Delaware’s Maritime Past](#),” with partners in Lewes that brought 1,500 visitors to this unique event mixing education and entertainment. Headlined by re-enactors taking on the personas of celebrated historical figures, Delaware’s maritime past was brought to life with audience members encouraged to interact with the featured characters.



Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theatre portrayed first lady Abigail Adams at the 2015 Chautauqua Tent Shows.

- ◆ Engaged new audiences with diverse opportunities for learning and discourse. Worked with the Division of the Arts to offer a spoken word performance, “The Spring Storm: A Celebration of Spoken Word,” and a presentation by Delaware’s poet laureate.
- ◆ Engaged 1,171 students in a study of the Constitution as part of the annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#). Students learned about Delaware’s role in its writing and ratification as well as the amendment process.

Enhancing preservation

- ◆ Completed capital-improvement projects at the division’s historic properties throughout the state including accessibility improvements at Cooch-Dayett Mills; exterior-envelope improvements at Hall House; roof replacement, cupola repairs and lightning-protection upgrades at New Castle Court House Museum; drainage and framing improvements at the [Old Sussex County Court House](#); drainage improvements at the [Biggs Museum](#); roof replacement at the [Abbott’s Mill](#) tenant house; critical upgrades to building-automation systems at Buena Vista; roof and siding replacement, heating-ventilation-air-conditioning and energy-efficiency upgrades at Darley House; new signage at [Belmont Hall](#); and roofing repairs at the [Milford Museum](#).
- ◆ Listed four properties in the [National Register of Historic Places](#): [Burton-Blackstone-Carey Store](#) (Millsboro), [Union Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church Complex](#) (near Clarksville), [St. Stephen’s Protestant Episcopal Church](#) (Harrington) and [Hebron Methodist Protestant Church and Cemetery](#) (near Georgetown). In addition, the [Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation](#) recommended that four additional property nominations be submitted to the National Park Service for consideration.
- ◆ Awarded all \$5 million of available [State Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) for improvements to 22 historic properties, which included owner-occupied, nonprofit-owned and income-producing properties.
- ◆ Expanded the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program to include eligibility in downtown development districts, and awarded tax credits to a multi-property project under this new program.
- ◆ Received for review and comment 388 new [environmental-review](#) projects that included federal undertakings from U.S. Department of Agriculture, HUD, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the FCC, as well as State Preliminary Land Use Service projects. The division closed 88 percent of these projects.



The roof of the New Castle Court House Museum was replaced in the spring of 2015.

Achieving excellence

- ◆ As a component of the [Continuum of Excellence](#) program developed by the American Alliance of Museums, the division received approval of its five core documents: strategic plan, mission statement, code of ethics, collections policy and disaster preparedness plan. Following this approval, the division completed the alliance's self-study report as part of the professional accreditation process.
- ◆ Division employees and volunteers have been recognized for service through the department's employee of the year program, the Governor's youth volunteer service award program and through participation in a rigorous Management Development Institute professional development certificate course.
- ◆ Established an employee recognition program to pay tribute to division employees and volunteers for outstanding performance, leadership and innovative ideas.
- ◆ Developed and implemented new sustainability procedures for the division's historic structures to avoid adverse effects of increasingly harsh winters.
- ◆ Instituted a vigilant preventative-maintenance program on division-wide heating and cooling systems to make these systems more resilient in the face of temperature extremes and changing climate conditions.

Special services and volunteer initiatives

- ◆ Provided 13,502 hours of volunteer services interpreting the division's 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 of Historic Places nominations, processing digital research files, providing assistance with property maintenance, graphic design, administrative tasks and special events.



Volunteers from Kent County Code Purple staining the entrance stairs to the John Dickinson Plantation's mansion during National Volunteer Week on April 13, 2015.

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