

Progress on our Vision

In 2008, the vision was to create a “Full Service” organization to further the historic preservation movement in Buffalo and its region. An ambitious list of objectives was set forth. As shown below, remarkable progress has been made in just two years. These objectives also illustrate PBN’s strategy for furthering historic preservation’s potential for the betterment of our region.

Developing Professional Expertise

- Hired an executive director with over 35 years experience working with preservation organizations at the local, regional and national level.
- Engaged as Preservation Specialist a preservation architect with more than 30 years experience restoring historic buildings, including eight years working with the state historic preservation office.
- Developed a cadre of volunteers with hundreds of years experience in architectural history, historic preservation, neighborhood revival, development, and much more.

Creating Alliances and Partnerships

- Qualified to be a Local Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and was named host organization for the 2011 National Preservation Conference.
- Initiated the Partners in the Field program, with our preservation specialist serving in a shared position with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide historic preservation services throughout a seven county region.
- Worked closely with the Preservation League of New York State and the State Historic Preservation Office dealing with key issues in our region and conducting workshops on preservation techniques.
- Obtained grants from the Oishei, Baird, Marks and Western New York foundations, plus support from Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the New York State Council on the Arts, to advance preservation in our region.
- Joined with the CVB to promote the 2011 Conference and premiered the promotional video, *Buffalo~This Place Matters* at the 2010 Preservation Conference in Austin, Texas.
- Worked with civic and cultural institutions throughout the Buffalo region (see below).

Providing Preservation Leadership and Advice

- Closely reviewed a plan to revive the Statler Building, and called upon public officials and civic leaders to rally around this sound, innovative approach.
- Identified exemplary projects, organizations and individuals that have advanced historic preservation in our region. Honored them at well-attended Awards Luncheons.
- Conducted workshops on key topics for special audiences: Reusing Upper Floors, Sustainability, Preservation Commissions, Neighborhood Renewal, plus a series of workshops on rehabilitation tax credits, including the state’s new historic tax credit for homeowners (including a workshop cosponsored with the Allentown Association).

- Identified Willert Park/AD Price Courts as a historic resource and, in a rare reversal, obtained a designation from the State Historic Preservation Office that this 1939 public housing project is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Serving as an Advocate for Historic Resources.

- Provided significant input to the Buffalo Preservation Board and the Niagara Historic Preservation Commission on situations as diverse as new construction in an historic district, the landmarking of key buildings, and the proposed replacement of wooden windows with vinyl replacements.
- Advised public officials on the structural integrity of several historic buildings, including a building in Buffalo's Cobblestone District, a fire damaged building in Dunkirk and a tornado damaged train depot in Mayville.
- Continued to work to protect the neighborhood that will be adversely impacted by the proposed expansion of the Peace Bridge plaza.

Fostering Job Opportunities related to Preservation

An arena where we have just begun, though we are encouraging homeowners via a flier and workshops to capitalize on the 20% state tax credit for rehabilitation in qualified historic districts.

Expanding and Sharing Knowledge of Historic Resources

- Completed a cultural resource survey in the North Prospect Hill neighborhood.
- Worked with LISC on the Cold Springs/Masten Survey, and are now partnering with the Nash House on east side research (the Willert Park/AD Price Courts).

Conducting Heritage Education Efforts

Buffalo Tours is thriving, conducting in 2009 more tours than ever before; already serving even more people in 2010, with a longer season full of weekend tours and new events.

- Launched the Delaware Neighborhood Tour of Homes to much acclaim, cosponsored with the TR Site.
- Identified how our tours for K-12 students meet curriculum needs and provided tours for more 1,000 students, including elementary, secondary and college students.
- Initiated in 2009 and continued in 2010 a unique joint effort to train volunteers to become docents not just for Buffalo Tours but for other cultural institutions as well.
- Used our expertise in tours and preservation issues as a basis for planning the 2011 National Preservation Conference.

Addressing Other Community Needs

Historic preservation has useful neighborhood and village revitalization strategies and we are investigating how we can best employ them.

Building a Preservation Constituency

- Saw our membership grow to over 1,100 families and individuals.
- Treated our members to exciting events at Buffalo City Hall (2009), the Delaware Avenue Baptist Church (2009), the Electric Tower (2010), and the Riviera Theatre (2010) while keeping members informed about a myriad of tours and activities through our newsletter, e-newsletter, website and member emails.
- Served over 10,000 people so far in 2010 through Buffalo Tours and PBN lectures and events, exposing more persons than ever before to our area's wonderful historic resources.