



# **Annual Report 2012**

Building Partnerships

# PHMC as a Steward, Advocate and Teacher

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The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) traces its history to nearly one century ago, when appointees formally organized the Pennsylvania Historical Commission (PHC) at their first meeting in Philadelphia in 1914. Three decades later, in 1945, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania expanded the commission’s role and it was renamed the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to reflect its new responsibilities and duties. PHC acquired its first historic site shortly after its creation and today PHMC is responsible for forty historic sites and museums. Fourteen of these attractions are administered by PHMC; twenty-six are managed by partner organizations, although they remain the property of the commonwealth and a stewardship responsibility of PHMC. More than two dozen historic sites and museums, representing both groups, make up the Pennsylvania Trails of History®. Such partnerships enable PHMC to serve as steward, advocate, and teacher.

PHMC also partners with local, regional, state, and national organizations and agencies on a wide range of public program and activities, including the installation of the perennially popular state historical markers; the publication of relevant educational and interpretive material in print and online; the designation of buildings, structures, sites and objects as historic; the certification of older and historic buildings and structures for federal tax credits; and the safeguarding of permanently valuable records and papers entrusted to the care of the Pennsylvania State Archives. PHMC’s partners include local and county historical societies, museums, colleges and universities, libraries, convention and visitors bureaus, historic preservation groups, conservation agencies and individuals and institutions committed to preserving our vast historical and cultural assets.

PHMC serves as both an advocate and teacher by actively engaging and encouraging dialogue through social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, YouTube and Flickr, as well as a recently launched mobile website and Quick Response (QR) codes.

Governed by a board of appointed commissioners, the agency currently employs 177 individuals through commonwealth service and by nonprofit support groups. By partnering with these local groups of volunteers and supporters, PHMC is able to maintain the historic buildings and structures and continue many of its award-winning programs and services. The commission encourages the general public, both residents and visitors, to explore its historic properties and rich repositories as well as participate in programs designed to protect and share Pennsylvania’s rich historic legacy.

PHMC’s programs, services and initiatives are administered by five bureaus: Historic Sites and Museums, State Museum, Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania State Archives and Management Services.

# Pennsylvania State Archives

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## Mission Statement

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission works in partnerships to preserve the commonwealth's natural and cultural heritage as a steward, teacher and advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and the nation.

## Vision Statement

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission enriches people's lives by helping them to understand the Keystone State's past, to appreciate the present and to envision the future by making research, objects and artifacts, documents and related educational and interpretive materials available through both traditional and advanced, state-of-the-art venues.

## Commissioners

Andrew E. Masich, Chairman  
John A. Barbour  
Karen Dougherty Buchholz  
Susan M. Corbett  
Jim Ferlo, Senator  
William V. Lewis Jr.  
Robert F. Matzie, Representative  
Ann Moran  
Scott A. Petri, Representative  
Frederick C. Powell  
Richard M. Sand  
Joseph B. Scarnati III, Senator  
Jean Craige Pepper Victor

Ronald J. Tomalis, Secretary of Education, ex officio

At the April 23, 2012, meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical and Commission members voted to change the name of the Bureau of Archives and History to the Bureau of the Pennsylvania State Archives. The bureau had held its archives and history moniker since March 31, 1967, several weeks over forty-five years, nearly half of its existence. Although functioning as the commonwealth's archives since its creation as the Division of Public Records in the State Library in April 1903, the word archives first entered the program's title in 1967, and now "state archives" does so in 2012. In part this change reflects the reduced scope of the bureau's activities, having lost the History Division and Publications and Sales Division and their numerous programs. In fact, the bureau which once had more historians and editors than archivists now has none of the former. (Although many PHMC staff members hold history degrees, PHMC as a whole employs no staff classified as historians following a series of retirements and furloughs during the past three years.) More importantly, the name change will enhance the identity of the State Archives and what it does, performing an essential function common to all state governments.

As part of the preparation of PHMC's strategic plan for 2012–2015, the Pennsylvania State Archives drafted a formal mission statement:

*The Pennsylvania State Archives collects, preserves and makes available government records and manuscripts which document the history of the commonwealth. The State Archives provides public access to records essential to an open and transparent government and assists local and state government entities in managing their permanent records. The State Archives through these records helps thousands of researchers each year to discover and learn about their heritage.*

During this past year many thousands of records were accessioned, conserved, described and ultimately accessed. These ongoing activities are quantified below along with descriptions of the numerous special projects, training, and programs carried out by the highly dedicated and professional staff of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

- The State Archives accessioned 683 cubic feet (2,050,710 pages) of state and local government records, 42 cubic feet (126,000 pages) of manuscript materials and 319 rolls of microfilm containing nearly 460,000 images.
- The State Records Center accessioned 24,239 cubic feet of state records and disposed of, or transferred, 17,580 cubic feet while responding to 19,133 requests for information from agencies. Staff reviewed 119 state records retention and disposition schedules of various state agencies which were being added, deleted or amended.
- The State Archives website received a total of 263,878 visits (132,018 for the Archives Records Information Access System, or ARIAS, and 131,860 for Archives) and 1,615,599 page views (1,274,970 for ARIAS and 330,629 for Archives). Approximately 53.5 percent of the visits resulted from searches launched through

Google and similar external search engines, and overall traffic increased by 13 percent for visits and 27 percent for page views over the previous fiscal year. In addition to routine updates and expansions, descriptive finding aids for 688 new record series were added to the site.

- Staff guaranteed the permanent preservation of historically valuable records by micro-filming 299 volumes and two cubic feet of local government records, 98 volumes and 32.5 cubic feet of state government records (82,103 images), and 2,822 images of manuscripts.
- Additional preservation was undertaken by depositing 10,974 rolls of security microfilm and 1,153 aperture cards into the Security Microfilm Storage Program (17,126,153 images).
- Staff trained or gave presentations to 1,443 individuals on various archives and records management topics, including the Enterprise Records Management System, Archives without Tears, Pennsylvania's Electronic Archives, Fortifying RIM Strategies, e-Records Management and E-Mail, genealogical records in the archives, new records coordinator training, vital records, and county and municipal retention schedules. In addition, Archivist Aaron McWilliams appeared on Harrisburg PBS radio station WITF's "Smart Talk" speaking about the genealogical resources in the archives. The very popular basic archives training, Archives without Tears, received an Institutional Award of Merit from PA Museums in 2011.
- Ten interns and eleven continuing volunteers made significant contributions to the work of the State Archives.
- The Electronic Archives was implemented in the spring of 2011 with the incorporation of Governor Edward G. Rendell's digital photographs and digital videos. The Digital Archives and Records Division staff provided metadata descriptions for 306 digital videos and 5,799 digital still photos, created 137 finding aid entries and inventoried 467 press documents (press releases, media advisories, etc.) while converting 260 of same to archival format in preparation for ingest. In addition, 656 Governor Thomas J. "Tom" Ridge and Governor Mark S. Schweiker analog video tapes were converted to digital and added to the e-Archives system accompanied by specially created descriptive metadata and finding aids for each.
- On December 15, 2011, Governor Tom Corbett signed Senate Bill 361 which opened to the public and transferred to the State Archives from the Department of Health death certificates more than 50 years old and birth certificates more than 105 years old. The records became available February 13, 2012, and have been immensely popular with genealogists and others, keeping staff extremely busy filling requests.
- The conservation of the Pennsylvania Civil War Muster Rolls was completed after seven years and at a total cost of more than \$1.2 million. Comprising more than 2,500 mustering-out rolls for all regiments and emergency brigades raised in Pennsylvania during the American Civil War, these records are among the most popular housed at the Pennsylvania State Archives. With a combination of a Save America's Treasures grant and state funding, the rolls were cleaned, repaired, de-acidified and encapsulated at either the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia or by well-trained staff at the State Archives.
- With the help of a \$166,298 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the 18-month Basic Processing project has been completed. Two project archivists were hired to assist four staff archivists with the processing of the voluminous backlog of unprocessed archival records. More than 11,500 cubic feet of backlogged records were processed, comprising 1,300 records series. Archivists also identified more than 3,500 cubic feet of records that were duplicative or not pertinent to the collecting mission and have been formally de-accessioned by the Archives Collections Committee, creating much needed storage space in the Archives storage tower.

- Complete information down to the series description level, for all Record Groups was converted into an archival transfer master format and MARAC catalog format. Subsequently, in cooperation with the State Library, all complete series descriptions were made available through the State Library's online catalog which outputs to two worldwide bibliographic databases, OCLC and WorldCAT.
- Archivist Richard C. Saylor received an American Association for State and Local History Award of Merit Award on September 16, 2011, for authoring *Soldiers to Governors: Pennsylvania's Civil War Veterans Who Became State Leaders*, published by PHMC.

# The State Museum of Pennsylvania

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The Bureau of the State Museum provides multidisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs on the commonwealth's prehistory, history, science, industry, technology, natural history and art at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located adjacent to the State Capitol in downtown Harrisburg. With more than 100,000 square feet of gallery space, it is among the largest museums in the state. The museum, which preserves five million objects and artifacts, welcomes more than 100,000 individuals yearly, including school students, families and walk-in visitors as a gateway to the state Capitol. Its mission is to tell the story of Pennsylvania's human and natural histories.

The bureau's Curatorial Services Division is responsible for the stewardship of more than five million objects and specimens in the permanent collections of the museum. The collections include fine and decorative arts; military, industrial, political and transportation history objects; icons of Pennsylvania Pop Culture; geological, zoological, paleontological and botanical specimens; and an enormous collection of archaeological artifacts. In addition, the Collections Management Section is responsible for all aspects of managing collection records and for monitoring loans, deaccessioning and risk management for the non-archival collections of PHMC, including 250,000 objects assigned to the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums for exhibit at the two dozen historic sites and museums along the Pennsylvania Trails of History®.

The Curatorial Division was decimated by furloughs and retirements over the last three years, and the division, which had 21 employees in fiscal year 2009–2010, was reduced 13 to manage the vast collections in fiscal year 2011–2012. Chief curatorial positions in community and domestic life, industrial and military history and fine arts were eliminated from the museum's complement.

The museum, with partner organizations, served and engaged a diverse audience during the 2011–2012 fiscal year with a variety of exhibits, programs, educational activities and special events focusing on Pennsylvania's rich human and natural histories.

During this fiscal year the museum undertook a number of initiatives, including the following:

- An Inventory Pilot Project was initiated to conduct a complete inventory of the museum's Fine Arts Collection and record the time it takes to complete the various steps of the process. This collection was selected because it is a relatively small part of the holdings, has a reliable database and is one of the most requested collections for loans and photographic reproductions.
- The State Museum has been undergoing a transformation, cleaning, painting, installing new carpeting, upgrading several areas of the museum and displaying objects and artifacts in available and secure areas. As part of this project, staff collected original furnishings dating to 1964 for use during the museum's fiftieth anniversary in 2014.
- "Art of the State" is the most important, longest running exhibit series (45 consecutive years) to be installed in the State Museum. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council and The State Museum, with 1,834 artworks submitted for the 2012 juried show by 680 Pennsylvania artists. Of these entries, 129 works by 118 artists from 33 counties were selected. Awards were presented at the opening ceremony hosted by the museum on Saturday, June 16, 2012.

- In June 2011 the museum began the second year of a three-year agreement to loan gallery space to the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) while SAM pursues funding for a new gallery and headquarters. With the lack of curators in the State Museum's fine arts department, this partnership benefits the museum by curating and mounting a series of six exhibits of contemporary art through 2013.
- The State Museum Store is now managed through a new partnership of the museum and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation to more align merchandise with the museum's collections and audiences, particularly school groups. A professional retail consultant was engaged to develop a business plan for the new retail operation, which included recommendations for store design, relocation and products. In its first ten months of operation, the new store, which opened on September 18, 2011, generated sales that more than doubled the figures for the same period during the previous year.
- The State Museum continues to play an important role with the programs and collections displayed at the Governor's Residence. Many of the furnishings and artwork in the residence are drawn from the collections of The State Museum and the conservation and management of these objects are the responsibility of the curatorial staff. Flooding in September 2011 required the basement and first floor of the residence to be completely evacuated, and a team from the museum and Pennsylvania Department of General Services directed the removal and reinstallation of furnishings and works of art.
- The staff installed an exhibit of works by Harrisburg artist Nick Ruggieri (1908–1996) at the Governor's Residence in 2011. Museum staff processed, packed and transported paintings to the residence selected by First Lady Susan M. Corbett from a recently donated collection. The staff also assisted with training volunteer docents and presenting programs on the paintings during special events at the residence.
- The museum partnered with the Pennsylvania State Archives, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, National Geographic, U.S. Army War College Foundation for Education and PHMC's Bureau for Historic Preservation to present Charter Week programming in March 2012. The annual program commemorates the signing of Pennsylvania's charter to William Penn by King Charles II in March 1681. To highlight Charter Week, winning entries of the 2012 National History Day in Pennsylvania competition were displayed in the Museum's Idea Zone, the National Geographic Giant Map of North America was exhibited in the changing exhibit gallery, and a number of local preservation groups and historical organizations mounted displays in Memorial Hall.
- The bureau partnered with PHMC's Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Civil War 150 and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to provide a significant PHMC presence at the 2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show. The museum highlighted the agency's 2012 theme, "The Land of Penn and Plenty: Bringing History to the Table," with an exhibit and artifacts interpreting Pennsylvania's Native American foodways and its traditional display of a hand-hewn log canoe. Staffed by the museum's archaeology section and volunteers from the Pennsylvania Archeological Society, the display interpreted food production, storage and preparation by Pennsylvania's prehistoric inhabitants.
- The Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) project, begun in the winter of 2011, was all but completed by the end of June 2012. The project combined a number of energy saving components in the work, amounting to more than \$6 million in improvements and upgrades to the building complex. Public and private partners were the Pennsylvania Department of General Services and Schneider Electric.

- A Community Relations and Outreach Officer position was added to the Education and Outreach Division one year ago to revitalize the volunteer and intern programs at the museum, resulting in the recruitment of nearly 30 new volunteers who were assigned duties in various divisions and are monitored by staff. In addition, four summer interns were engaged to work at the museum.
- The Friends of the State Museum board reorganized last summer, and the new president attended PHMC's Council of Associate Presidents in March. The board sponsored a table at PHMC's Volunteer of the Year luncheon in April. Board members and committees are examining ways to enhance the museum's affiliate membership experience by sponsoring State Museum affiliate membership activities in cooperation with staff and the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation.
- The Education and Outreach Division developed two summer day camps, one that featured Paleontology for students ages 8 to 9 and one for students ages 10 to 11. The camps provided more than 30 students with the opportunity to learn about fossils, participate in a simulated dig, and visit and work in the museum's Dino Lab, where genuine fossils are cleaned and processed.
- In July 2011 the museum began partnering with Harrisburg's popular "3rd in the Burg," an event that showcases art galleries and related venues during the evening hours on the third Friday of the month.
- To stimulate dialogue in the galleries, museum staff created a program associated with the "Art of the State" exhibit entitled "Artists Conversations," pairing exhibiting artists with show jurors and museum officials to share their perspectives on the exhibition. Three programs featuring award recipients and other artists were offered on Sunday afternoons
- The Education and Outreach Division recruited a team of art docents. In May 2012 six of these volunteers began a weekly series of trainings and behind-the-scenes experiences with staff and guests presenters. They gave regularly scheduled free tours every week commencing with the opening of "Art of the State."
- To engage the large state employee workforce in Harrisburg, the museum offered free "Learn at Lunchtime" admission on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. from June 20 through August 31, 2012. Special gallery tours were scheduled, including guided tours of "Art of the State."
- In partnership with several organizations, The State Museum directed an innovative program where students actually were mentored to teach and present to other students. More than 3,000 visitors, including 548 fourth-grade students from the Harrisburg School District, participated in the "National Geographic Giant Map of North America" exhibit, on view from February 22 through March 15. Ten SciTech High students were trained as docents for the exhibit and each received a Kindle for their efforts through grant from Penn National Insurance.
- Beginning June 20 and continuing through summer, staff and volunteers gave a reading of one of the books in Pennsylvania's popular "One Book, Every Young Child" series. A museum volunteer read a book each Wednesday in Curiosity Connection followed by a brief related activity.
- On April 22, 2012, Commissioner William V. Lewis Jr. presented an illustrated lecture on the Pennsylvania survivors of the April 1912 sinking of the White Star passenger liner RMS *Titanic*. Several relatives of *Titanic* survivors from northeastern Pennsylvania area helped present the stories of those who lived and those who went down with the ill-fated ship.
- The museum presented "Making it Better: Folk Arts in Pennsylvania Today," an exhibit on loan from the Erie Art Museum, beginning November 20. The exhibit featured more than 30 master artists representing a wide array of traditions including Sudanese dance, Vietnamese funerary portraits, Italian bobbin lace, stone fences and hand crafted musical instruments.
- In partnership with the Pennsylvania Alliance for Geographic Education and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, the museum exhibited and interpreted the National Geographic Giant Map of North America from February 22 through March 15, 2012. On this 26' x 35' map, visitors had the opportunity to traverse the continent from Alaska's Aleutian Islands to the Panama Canal and from Iceland to Baja in their stocking feet. To complement the interactive map created to promote geographic literacy, large-scale historic maps of Pennsylvania from the collections of the Pennsylvania State Archives were also exhibited.
- The Archaeology Section continued its investigation of Fort Hunter, the site of a French and Indian War fortification north of Harrisburg, for the fourth consecutive year. An exhibit based on the staff's research and excavation was installed to observe National Archaeology Month in October 2011. Nearly one hundred artifacts are exhibited, accompanied by photographs of the work in progress. The exhibit is designed to showcase additional items recovered at the site in the future.
- The museum hosted a number of events, including Harrisburg Gallery Walk, September 18, 2011; Hispanic Heritage Celebration and Reception, October 12, 2011; Great Pumpkin Day, October 22, 2011; Annual Pennsylvania Archaeology Conference, November 5-6, 2011; PARWYN performances and luncheon, December 10, 2011; Noon Year's Eve Celebration, December 29, 2011; Black History Celebration, February 9, 2012; and Charter Day, March 11, 2012, which drew more than 1,200 visitors.
- The museum welcomed employees of eight state agencies and their children on Take Your Child to Work Day, Thursday, April 26, 2012. Enjoying free admission, an estimated 400 guests met curators, educators, staff and volunteers stationed throughout the galleries who offered presentations on the commonwealth's cultural and natural heritage. Many guests also attended special Planetarium screenings throughout the day.

# Historic Sites and Museums

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During this fiscal year PHMC's Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums (BHSM) achieved stability from the deep economic downturn of three years ago. Visitation at most historic sites and museums is again increasing. Several significant capital projects were completed on infrastructure and several others were begun. Maintenance of the bureau's 471 structures was a daily endeavor. The former directly administered properties that joined the Placed Property Program began to find new partners and blaze paths to success. The new Placed Property Program Administrator opened a network of communication, inviting sites to become part of the Council of Associate Presidents and to attend board-building programs sponsored by BHSM throughout the commonwealth. The electronic point-of-sale admission system became routine in its second full year of operation. New resource management features were added by year's end. Social Media played a larger role through each season by gaining friends and fans and spreading the word about programs, special activities, events and exhibits. Mobile Apps, which help direct visitors to the sites through Global Positioning Systems (GPS), have become standard operating procedure for media campaigns directed by PHMC. Most historic sites and museums maintain active Facebook, Twitter and similar social media accounts, as well as active blogs through their individual websites. The bureau represents all that is good and new in public-private partnerships through its decades of practice, new experience and its commitment to meet the challenge of preserving and presenting the commonwealth's history to a changing public.

- New site administrators were appointed at Old Economy Village, Ambridge, Beaver County; Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Galeton, Potter County; and Eckley Miners' Village, Weatherly, Luzerne County.
- A new site administrator for PHMC's Placed Property Program was appointed to the bureau office.
- The geothermal project at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg, Lancaster County, with more than 400 deep wells used to heat and cool the massive Railroaders' Hall, was completed.
- The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum re-created a birch still and made it operational, distilling essential birch oil for traditional soft beverages and folk medicine samples.
- The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton, Lackawanna County, completed its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) capital project.
- Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused extensive damage at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Washington Crossing Historic Park, Washington Crossing, Bucks County; Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Lancaster, Lancaster County.
- The Erie Maritime Museum, Erie, Erie County, hosted a gala reception by the Consulate General of Canada. Community leaders met and shared economic goals and history to prepare for the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The museum opened an exhibit "On the Great Lakes: The Coast Guard in Action," which included selections from the National U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Art Program, illustrating USCG activities on America's inland seas.

- Contracts were awarded and work began on Eckley Miners' Village and Washington Crossing Historic Park Waste Water Treatment Plant capital projects.
- The third capital project to restore Eckley Miners' Village historic houses concluded in 2011. The project, which reconstructed foundations, roofs and siding, will ensure that the character and setting for this significant anthracite region patch town will continue for generations.
- The roof replacement projects at Warrior Run Church, Warrior Run, Northumberland County, and the Robert Futon Birthplace, near Quarryville, Lancaster County, both placed properties, were completed.
- The renovation and new fire and security system projects at Old Chester Courthouse, Chester, Delaware County, a placed property, was completed.
- Eckley Miners' Village inaugurated a military tribute event in July 2011. The event focused on World War II and included military reenactments, speeches and a USO-themed show.
- The New Paths Project to restore visitor pathways supported by a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant at Pennsbury Manor, Morrisville, Bucks County, was completed.
- A municipal sewer connection at Somerset Historical Center, Somerset, Somerset County, was completed.
- BHSM held 8 training sessions at its historic sites and museums in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association for Nonprofit Organizations on board development, governance and best practices.
- Special programming during this past fiscal year increased attendance and participation: Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum held its most successful Herb and Garden Faire to date; the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum's "Arts on Fire" at the Scranton Iron Furnaces attracted dramatically increased attendance; and Washington Crossing Historic Park's Brewfest exceeded previous gate attendance and revenue.
- The Brandywine Battlefield Task Force conducted two public meetings to gain input about an American Battlefield Protection Grant awarded by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, for the development of a preservation plan for PHMC's Brandywine Battlefield, Chadds Ford, Delaware County. The Visitor Center exhibit was reinstalled upon receipt of an Annual Program Agreement with the Friends of the Brandywine Battlefield.

# Historic Preservation

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Over the next five years the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is undertaking an unprecedented approach to preserving the commonwealth's historic resources, which is explained in the new five-year historic preservation plan for 2012–2017, *Building Better Communities: The Preservation of Place in Pennsylvania*, approved by the National Park Service and released by PHMC in June 2012.

In the process of developing the plan, PHMC's Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) staff learned much about what the citizens of Pennsylvania value about their communities. The terms appreciate, value, community authenticity and collaboration were heard repeatedly. BHP also learned historic preservation should not be defined and/or confined by bureaucratic perceptions, but promoted as an integral tool in the community revitalization toolbox.

What BHP staff recognized about people and their community values was confirmed by a parallel study undertaken by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) when it was developing its five-year Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. DCNR garnered similar commentary: people do not differentiate in their appreciation of natural and historic resources. These two resources together make Pennsylvania so special—the mountains, rivers and farms that surround and provide a beautiful setting for historic downtowns, neighborhoods and rural communities.

This new approach to historic preservation is more on the order of “whole” place thinking and is reflected in a new vision for the commonwealth's 2012-2017 plan:

- Pennsylvanians will appreciate the significant contribution that history makes in forming the character of their communities and landscape.
- Communities will take action to respect their history and identify and protect their assets in ways that add value to local environments and sustain their unique authenticity of place.
- By working tougher, Pennsylvanians can maintain and enhance their cultural and natural resources and make the commonwealth a desirable place to call home, conduct business and explore.

In order to fulfill this vision, the plan's Action Agenda identifies five major goals with related objectives and action steps:

1. Increase preservation planning at the local level;
2. Expand and strengthen state and federal partnerships;
3. Bolster the efforts of preservation advocates and partners;
4. Identify, recruit and engage new audiences; and
5. Administer an effective and proactive statewide historic preservation program.

The plan is not solely the result of work by the staff in the Bureau for Historic Preservation; it's a product that benefited enormously from a partnership with the public whose participation was invaluable. The result is a pragmatic plan in which people at all levels can see their concerns being acknowledged and find ways to participate in their resolution. The plan also recommends a host of ways to become involved. (To read the plan in its entirety, visit [www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp).)

In partnership with Preservation Pennsylvania, BHP released an extremely important document during this fiscal year, *The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation Activities in Pennsylvania*. The report clearly documented that historic preservation projects have significant, positive impacts throughout the commonwealth on property values, downtown revitalization, tourism activity, job creation and tax revenues. A companion document, developed from data analyzed from the economic impact study, *Policy Recommendations to Strengthen the Power of Preservation*, makes a strong case for investment in historic preservation programs. (To read the documents, go to [www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp).)

Many people may not be aware that road building can have significant adverse impacts on historic resources. During the past year BHP has become involved with a Long Range Planning Partnership with Metropolitan (MPO) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) to assist them with a streamlined approach for incorporating historic and archaeological resources into their Long Range Transportation Plans. The bureau piloted the partnership with the Lancaster County MPO in FY 2011–2012. Since the partnership was launched in March 2011, there have been several regions which have sought the bureau's assistance. Partners include Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Lebanon MPO, and the Centre Regional Planning Agency. This planning effort provided an opportunity for the public to be engaged. Part of BHP's role in this partnership has been to facilitate meetings of stake to gauge the public's interests and concerns with transportation projects and their possible effects on historic properties.

The long sought-after state tax credit act for rehabilitation of historic properties was signed by Governor Tom Corbett on June 30, 2012. PHMC, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will develop the program's guidelines. The program is initially limited to \$3 million annually with an individual project cap of \$500,000.

Cultural and historic resources in the commonwealth are found nearly everywhere and are not isolated; in fact, most are located in or near places where citizens live, work, visit, and invest their time and energy. From the earliest migration of inhabitants during the Ice Age to the continual arrival of new inhabitants in the 21st century, the influence of each of these groups is reflected in the Keystone State's architecture, the arrangement of public spaces and parks, on working landscapes, in industrial processes and along trails and transportation routes. The traditions and modern lifestyles of our citizens also reveal important facts about Pennsylvania's past.

Throughout this fiscal year, the bureau has deployed its many programs and staff in partnerships with all types of individuals, organizations and institutions to preserve what is considered important. Highlights of some of those efforts include:

- One-third of BHP staff is responsible for consulting on state and federal projects to determine their potential for adverse impacts on historic properties. They consult on both above- and below-ground resources. During this reporting period, the bureau reviewed 4,413 separate projects which involved nearly 6,500 separate pieces of correspondence. These figures do not include in-person, onsite and/or telephone consultations.
- PHMC sponsored two award categories at the annual statewide Historic Preservation Awards Program. Bob Jaeger, president of Partners for Sacred Places, Philadelphia, received the Visionary in Historic Preservation Award. Partners provides programs and services that value and respect the spirituality and faith of all congregations that open their doors to the community. The Pennsylvania Grand Review Hallowed Grounds Project received the 2011 annual PHMC theme award for programs and activities developed to honor the preservation of Pennsylvania's African American Heritage.

- In celebration of PHMC’s annual 2012 theme, “The Land of Penn and Plenty: Bringing History to the Table,” the state historical marker program made a novel debut at the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in January 2012, presenting the story of some of Pennsylvania’s fascinating agricultural and culinary history as told through the markers. Twenty-two faux markers created an “agricultural history trail” through the exposition buildings and were complemented by an educational booklet/scavenger hunt guide for families and school groups.
- The bureau launched a website chronicling the history of suburban development in Pennsylvania which provides information to help researchers in their efforts to document these resources.
- Eight historic preservation plans were completed with the assistance of BHP’s historic preservation community coordinators. The plans were funded, in part, through Preserve America, a federal grant awarded to PHMC; additional state funds from DCED and local contributions by various partners leveraged the federal funding.
- The Cultural Resources Geographic System Program (CRGIS) completed 22 customized reports for members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Caucus that were personally delivered to their offices in Washington, D.C. during the annual “Day on the Hill” sponsored by the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action and the National Alliance for Preservation Commissions. These reports summarized the achievements of preservation activities in Pennsylvania authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act and supported by National Park Service grants.

## PHMC Strategic Planning

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The legal responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) are defined by the Pennsylvania History Code, as amended, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHMC’s primary duties include (but are not limited to):

- the conservation of Pennsylvania’s historical and natural heritage;
- the preservation of public records, historic documents and objects of historic interest; and
- the identification, restoration, and preservation of architecturally and historically significant sites and structures.

Dramatic reductions in state funding for PHMC in the years of 2008 through 2010 resulted in a staggering 50 percent reduction in staff positions and severely hindered the ability of PHMC to continue to operate in the same manner as it had previously. A new direction was needed. With the appointment of a new Commission chair, a number of new commissioners and a new executive director in fall 2011, PHMC initiated a strategic planning process. Several fundamental assumptions underlie the process.

### Planning Assumptions

- The strategic plan is based on a vision of where PHMC should be in 2020.
- Realistically the plan’s strategies and tactics will be limited to the period from 2012 through 2015.
- The plan assumes continued and predictable state funding at the 2012 levels and does not require a return to higher levels.
- The plan assumes that additional capital and project funding will be needed to achieve the buildings and collection digitization goals.
- The plan assumes that sustainable growth in the future will require increased earned income and increased private, foundation and corporate support.
- The plan assumes PHMC can operate with improved efficiency with the cooperation of other state agencies.
- PHMC’s Bureau of Historic Preservation and the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums each have completed a new strategic plan in 2012 and they are compatible with and will be merged into the PHMC plan.

## Brief Overview of PHMC in 2012: Operations and Challenges

PHMC operates through five Bureaus and each offers a variety of programs and services.

The Commission provides archaeological, preservation and educational services in all 67 counties and has facilities in 27 counties. The facilities of the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums number 464 buildings totaling 1,292,617 square feet. on 3,504 acres of land. The Harrisburg facilities of PHMC total an additional 535,110 square feet.

Through its diverse facilities and programs PHMC serves approximately one million visitors each year. PHMC is the steward of the largest collection of Pennsylvania materials in the Commonwealth. The collections include more than 4.5 million objects and specimens, 70,000 cubic feet (220 million pages) of archival material and 233,726 cubic feet of records in the State Records Center. Although these numbers indicate PHMC is an expansive and diverse operation, total support from the Commonwealth represents less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the Commonwealth's budget.

PHMC's largest needs presently are: to gain intellectual control over collections; to improve stewardship collections and facilities; to provide adequate staffing; to secure adequate financial resources; to build a stronger base of private support; and, to reduce many obstacles to efficient operations.

## A Vision for 2020

In 2020 PHMC museums, archives, historic sites and the State Historic Preservation Office (assigned to PHMC's Bureau for Historic Preservation) will approach the issues of collections stewardship, scope, accessibility, interpretation and programs in ways that differ fundamentally from the traditional practices of the past several decades. Major changes will include improved electronic systems for collections management and interpretation, a more modular approach to exhibit production and new ways of defining, using and providing access to museum collections. Trends indicate that independent and undirected learning will replace the linear experience provided today at many museums and historic sites.

Galleries and historic sites and museums will exhibit PHMC's most significant objects and artifacts and provide independent access for each visitor by smartphones, tablets, location-based devices and tools yet to be invented. PHMC sites and museums will no longer change entire exhibitions every 20 to 40 years but will continually refresh exhibits with frequent updates and new modules. New interpretations can be quickly added to keep exhibits relevant to contemporary issues. Multiple interpretations will be available at any time to multiple users.

Online access will dramatically increase public awareness and use of PHMC collections and programs. The entire catalogue of collections will be accessible online by the general public, scholars, students and other organizations and institutions, among them historic sites, museums, libraries, history centers, colleges and universities, archives and local, county and regional historic societies. Collection storage will be better organized and will meet all professional standards for security and conservation.

Improved branding, cross marketing and aggressive programming will build a much larger membership base for PHMC and its operating partners.

Increased private support will supplement stable public support but the competition for private funding will be even greater than today. These shifts must be recognized and reflected in the program and services PHMC provides in 2020.

## Goals and Strategies: 2020

### I. Collections

- Gain greater intellectual control over all collections;
- Refine and focus collections to reduce duplication;
- Develop plan to implement an electronic records archives;
- Increase public accessibility through digitization and online access;
- Increase loans and distribute state owned collections to better serve the Commonwealth;
- Achieve greater rationalization and efficiency in collections storage; and
- Improve stewardship of all collections, including historic structures.

### II. Facilities

- Reduce deferred maintenance at PHMC's historic sites and museums;
- Provide collections and archival storage that meet the highest professional standards for environment, security, operational efficiency and overall stewardship; and
- Recondition and upgrade PHMC's Capitol Complex facilities (The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Archives and Commonwealth Keystone Building) into an integrated, efficiently utilized facility while respecting the architectural significance of the mid-century modern design of the original State Museum and Archives Complex.

### III. Finances

- Ensure that all placed historic sites are managed by strong partner organizations;
- Increase Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) capacity to raise substantial support for PHMC from private, corporate, foundation and government sources;
- Restore grants to non-PHMC museums, historic sites and archives;
- Expand historic preservation grants program;
- Grow PHF membership statewide; and
- Maintain and grow federal and state support for preservation programs.

#### IV. Leadership and Partnership

- Restore PHMC leadership position in the professional museum, preservation and archive communities in Pennsylvania and the nation;
- Build partnerships to allow PHMC to accomplish more with limited funding, increase PHMC's appeal to many potential donors, and attract new audiences; and
- Strengthen PHMC's historic preservation leadership with state agencies.

#### V. Organizational Efficiency

- Enhance PHMC efficiency and productivity to become a model state agency and a model of public private partnerships and collaborations.

#### V. Marketing and Communication

- Elevate PHMC and its component brands to be among the most recognized tourist assets in the Commonwealth; and
- Promote and market history, natural history, preservation and heritage tourism throughout the State.

## Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation

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The Pennsylvania Heritage Society formally changed its name to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation (PHF) on July 1, 2012, to better reflect its mission as a partner to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) by supporting the agency through membership, fundraising and sales.

#### *Pennsylvania Civil War 150*

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is the fiscal agent for the statewide Pennsylvania Civil War 150 collaborative.

#### *Civil War Road Show*

The highlight of this fiscal year was the Civil War Road Show's tour. More than 52,000 individuals have visited the Road Show exhibit since its premier in 2011. The Civil War Road Show tour and associated programming is supported by funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

During fiscal year 2011-2012, the Road Show visited:

- Philadelphia, hosted by Franklin Square and Historic Philadelphia, July 1-4, 2011;
- Easton, hosted by the Northampton County Historical Society, July 8-10;
- Chambersburg, hosted by the Franklin County Historical Society, July 15-17
- Jefferson County Fair, Brookville, hosted by the Jefferson County Historical Society, July 21-24;
- Malvern, hosted by the Chester County Historical Society, July 29-31;
- Kittaning, Armstrong County, hosted by Crawford Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, August 5-7;
- Glen Mills, Delaware County, hosted by the Concord Historical Society, August 12-14;
- York, hosted by the York County Heritage Trust, August 18-22;
- Somerset Historical Center, hosted by the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, August 25-29;
- Meadville, hosted by the Crawford County Civil War Roundtable, September 2-4;

- Clarion, hosted by the Clarion County Historical Society, September 9–11;
- Ephrata, hosted by the Ephrata Public Library, September 17–21;
- Media, Delaware County, hosted by Linnville Orchards, September 24–25;
- Lahaska, Bucks County, hosted by Peddler’s Village, September 30–October 2;
- Pennsylvania Farm Show, Harrisburg, hosted by Pennsylvania Heritage, January 7–14, 2013;
- Pennsylvania Auto Show, Harrisburg, hosted by Pennsylvania Heritage, January 26–29; and
- Kutztown Folk Festival, hosted by the Historical Society of Berks County, June 30–July 8, 2013.

#### *CW150 Merchandise*

PHF staff has worked with 25 Road Show host sites and other museums throughout Pennsylvania to feature custom merchandise created for PACW150. The full line is available at The State Museum Store with most merchandise available at [www.shoppaheritage.com](http://www.shoppaheritage.com).

#### *Teaching American History*

On behalf of PHMC, PHF continued its partnership with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit to provide professional development for K6 teachers from the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) and the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in central Pennsylvania. In June 2012, 28 teachers spent three days in Harrisburg at The State Museum of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Archives learning about the American Revolution and U.S. Constitution. They then traveled to Philadelphia for a two-day field trip. This project is funded by a Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education to CSIU.

#### *Holiday Marketplace*

Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation hosted its annual Holiday Marketplace on November 17–18, 2011. Participants included the State Museum Store, Ephrata Cloister, the Weathervane Shop at Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Pennsbury Manor, Somerset Historical Center, the Pennsylvania Artisan Trails program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee and the State Parks program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Pennsylvania State Credit Union (PSECU) once again sponsored the annual two-day event.

#### *Sales Program*

PHF partners with PHMC for two retail sales venues, the State Museum Store in Harrisburg and [www.shoppaheritage.com](http://www.shoppaheritage.com)

#### *State Museum Store*

A newly redesigned State Museum Store opened on September 16, 2011, as a cooperative venture between The State Museum and Pennsylvania Heritage. This extensively renovated and enlarged retail space features a variety of items to help visitors remember their visit, learn more and share the experience with friends and family.

[www.shoppaheritage.com](http://www.shoppaheritage.com)

PHMC and PHF rebranded their cooperative online store to [www.shoppaheritage.com](http://www.shoppaheritage.com) and re-launched the site in April 2012. The site features all of PHMC’s publication, publications from other state agencies, the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 merchandise and a growing selection of other items from the Pennsylvania Trails of History®. One of the newest items is a reproduction of the 1792 Reading Howell map, the first map of the State of Pennsylvania. The map was reproduced from an original in the collections of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

#### *Other Grant Projects*

PHF continued to work with the State Archives on two projects funded by grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission:

- The Itinerant Archivist project was completed December 31, 2011. Consultant Heather Heckman worked with 5 county governments for two months each to improve their records management programs; and
- The Basic Processing project was completed June 30, 2012. Over 18 months, two Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation employees worked in the State Archives processing more than 10,000 cubic feet of records to make them more accessible to the citizens of Pennsylvania and the nation

Through donations and other funds held at PHF, the State Archives completed its Muster Roll project in 2012. For more information on these three projects, please see the State Archives section of PHMC’s 2011–2012 Annual Report.

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Lockheed Martin, \$80,000  
Comcast, \$11,322

### State Museum Harrisburg Schools Science Project

Penn National Insurance, \$15,779

### Holiday Marketplace Sponsor

PSECU, \$1,500

### PHMC Bureau for Historic Preservation's 2012 Farm Show Historical Marker Project

Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Inc., \$500  
The Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania, \$500

### Other Corporate Donors

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## Grants

Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Leadership Grant

National Historic Publications and Records Commission

Basic Processing Grant  
SNAP Itinerant Archivist

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation

U.S. Department of Education, Teaching American History Grant to Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

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