Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your outstanding support during the museum's 2020-2021 fiscal year. As the pandemic continued, we deeply appreciated your memberships and donations, your attendance at our online programs, and your return to the museum after we reopened in October 2020 (and again in April 2021, after a second mandated closure). Your friendship and generosity have made a world of difference.

We are thrilled to be able to highlight a range of fiscal-year accomplishments that have extended our educational outreach, helped preserve our historic building, and strengthened the museum as an institution:

*Our high-quality online programming continued and ranged from architectural tours to our annual Repeal Day fundraiser to talks on subjects as varied as Victorian women bicyclists, baseball history, nineteenth-century etiquette and customs, period rooms

Gibson Society, Inc.
2020–2021 Annual Report
October 1, 2020–September 30, 2021
and national identity, gay men and the founding of house museums, and the Gibson House and "movie magic." We partnered with colleagues at Boston Design Week and the House Museum Alliance of Downtown Boston, and launched a book club and joint membership program with our friends at the Nichols House Museum.

*With the aid of a $95,000 grant from the City of Boston's Community Preservation Act Fund, we completed critical structural repairs to the building's decayed wood framing and foundation, which will help preserve the museum for generations to come. We were also honored with a $50,000 grant from the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund, which will support our continued work to preserve and interpret the ground-floor servant areas.

*Thanks to the generosity of longtime donor Diane Gipson, we were able to replace the worn carpet in the museum's Red Study with a period reproduction woven on a historic mill in England. And with the kind support of Gibson family descendant Rosamond Warren Allen, we reupholstered the Music Room furniture in a historically appropriate fabric (photo below) and pursued a variety of special projects that helped improve the museum's appearance.

*We welcomed back visitors and tour groups with protocols to keep everyone safe, and offered free admission on Smithsonian Museum Day and at our Holiday Open House. When pandemic conditions allowed, we brought back our in-person Benefit, which raised essential funds for museum operations.

*With the aid of a grant from Mass Humanities, we debuted our new specialty tour, "Upstairs, Downstairs: Domestic Service at the Gibson House," and hosted a panel discussion with historic-house-museum colleagues on "Domestic Staff: Their Worlds, Their Houses, Their Lives: From the Federal Period through the Gilded Age."

*We maintained our ties with local schools and universities, as well as our robust internship program.

*We debuted an online gift shop of products featuring Gibson House images with proceeds to support the museum. (Check it out here!)

We are rightly proud of all we were able to achieve during the most challenging of times, but also recognize how crucial our supporters are to our success. Thank you for helping to make this all possible!

Sincerely,

Michelle Coughlin
Museum Administrator
Newly reupholstered Music Room furniture, generously funded by donor Rosamond Warren Allen. (The cat bed cover, at left, was sewn by talented Office Assistant and Guide Cate Carver.)

**Treasurer's Report, FY 2020-2021**
Submitted by Sam Duncan

The Gibson Society revenue budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was $101,070, and the expense budget was $106,743. We experienced a deficit of $5,673 because of pandemic-related closures. The museum exceeded both revenue and expense budgets. Revenue was higher than expected because of generous donors and conservative budget projections for Benefit revenue. Unforeseen expenses with back courtyard and coal shed problems resulted in higher-than-budgeted expenses. The cost of mitigation was spread across two fiscal years, and the surplus this year will be used to complete the project. Revenues of $137,008, including budgeted draw from endowment, exceeded budgeted income and the spreadsheet shows a surplus of $28,982.

The general unrestricted endowment ended the year with a balance of $556,117. Endowments for guides and curator ended the year with a balance of just under $42,000. The museum was fortunate to receive a $14,100 Payroll Protection Program loan, which turned into a grant as the museum kept staff on payroll during the covered time period.

The museum completed ground-floor work covered by the $95,000 Community Preservation Act grant. In June 2021 we received a $50,000 Mass Cultural Facilities Fund preservation grant, which will need to be matched by June 2023 in order to begin work. The $44,000 Henderson Fund grant for brownstone repair was returned, as the scope of the project has changed and needs to be fine-tuned.

Curator Meghan Gelardi Holmes gives a tour to the school-age Boston Explorers. (Photo courtesy of Sakura Tomizawa)

List of Donors

Contributors

1859 Club
Dr. F. Towne Allen
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry
Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman
BackBayHouses.org/Nancy and Thomas High
Nancy Baler
Lindsay Leard Coolidge and Charles A. Coolidge III
Jacqueline D. Blombach and Michael A. Duca
Sheila and Charles Donahue
Frances and Thomas Duffly
John Duncan
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Linda and Todd Gernes
Diane Gipson
Reed Gochberg and James Dorer
Edward W. Gordon
Ward Hamilton
David R. Hocker
Ruth Ann Kupfer
Judith and Christopher Leich
Kerry Miles
Estate of Phoebe Milliken
Mary Hammond Norton
Nancy and Dr. James Schibanoff
Lauren Thomas and Peter Der Manuelian
Katherine B. Winter
Good times were had at the September 2021 Benefit, which had a "Roaring Twenties" theme.

**Donors for Fiscal Year 2020–2021**

Susan Adams Family Fund  
Deborah Aikman  
Judith A. Alukonis  
William M. Ames  
John Anderson  
Naomi Axelrod  
Mardges Bacon  
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Sally Cheffy  
Susan Chiappisi  
Phyllis Chrisman  
Joan and Frank Christison-Lagay  
Anna Clarke  
Clary and Company  
Hannah Cohen  
Erica Cohn  
Walter Colby  
Claire Corcoran  
Frances Cramb  
Francine and Bill Crawford
Dressed in vintage style, this couple had their engagement photos taken at the museum.

**Raffle Donors**
Jackie Blombach  
Peter Der Manuelian  
Frances Duffy  
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan  
A Friend of the Gibson House Museum  
Linda and Todd Gernes  
Mary Ethel Grady/Willow and Urn Antiques  
David Hocker  
Lorie Komlyn  
Ruth Ann Kupfer  
Kerry Miles  
Old Schwamb Mill  
Perring Family  
Ryan & Wood Distilleries  
Emily Schick  
Small Pleasures on Newbury Street

**Donors in Recognition**
Mary Hammond Norton, in honor of Samuel H. Duncan

**Designated Donations/Matching Gifts**
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry for Music Room furniture reupholstery and specialty projects  
Bank of America employee matching grant for Kerry Miles
Frances Duffly for Boston Preservation Alliance membership
Diane Gipson for restoration
Graham Holdings employee matching grant for Linda Gernes
Ruth Ann Kupfer for Zoom account
NVIDIA Corp. employee matching grant for Samuel H. Duncan
Vertex Pharmaceuticals employee matching grant for James Dorer
Walker Foundation matching grant for Herbert Motley

**In-Kind Services**
Fisher College, for snow removal and lawn maintenance
Jim Hood, Jim Hood Design, for Benefit invitation design
Carlos A. Soto-Chaves, and Garden Club of the Back Bay, for exterior floral plantings

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**Museum Open Hours**
Tours are offered Thursday at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00 p.m. and Friday through Sunday at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. You can book our regular tour, *At Home with the Gibsons*, or our specialty tour, *Upstairs, Downstairs: Domestic Service at the Gibson House*, [here](https://example.com).

In honor of Pride Month, we'll be offering our *Charlie Gibson's Queer Boston* tour at various times in June. You can [register here](https://example.com).

*Photo above by John Woolf*

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**Please support the Gibson House Museum**
There are many ways to support the museum’s mission of education and preservation; all are greatly appreciated. Please consider the following (links in list):

* Donate
* Renew your membership
* Shop at our online gift store
* Link your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile

If you would like to discuss Planned Giving options, please contact us at 617-267-6338 or info@thegibsonhouse.org.

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The Gibson House Museum is a private, nonprofit house museum in Boston's historic Back Bay neighborhood. The home served as residence to three generations of Gibson family members and their household staff between 1859 and 1954. The museum’s four floors of period rooms, including the original kitchen, are a time capsule of domestic life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Visitors experience the house through guided tours that interpret class and culture through the stories and objects of the people who lived and worked there.