Gibson Society, Inc.
2016-2017 Annual Report
October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to you, our members, friends, and donors, for supporting the Gibson House during fiscal year 2016-2017. This was a period of growth and productivity for the museum, with the introduction of updated programming, new personnel, and initiatives meant to enhance the visitor experience.

Among the year's highlights:

*The museum continued to attract visitors from across the U.S. and around the globe. We were pleased to note a combined increase in visitorship and program attendance of 18 percent over the previous fiscal year, as the museum's active online presence heightens awareness of its unique offerings.

*We remained a significant resource for students and scholars from the Boston area and beyond. In addition to welcoming classes from the Art Guild, the Boston Architectural College, Boston College, Fisher College, Mass College of Art, North Bennett St. School, Simmons College, Suffolk University, and Wentworth Institute of Technology, we hosted interns from Emmanuel and Scripps Colleges as well as the Winterthur Museum, the country's leading institution of American decorative arts.

*We presented entertaining and educational programs on subjects ranging from Victorian mourning customs to reading the interiors in Edith Wharton’s *House of Mirth*, and offered special tours on the museum's paintings, servant life, and family and work, the latter in conjunction with our Boston House Museum Alliance colleagues. We
participated in Smithsonian Museum Day and International Women's Day, and welcomed neighbors at our Halloween and Holiday Open Houses. We also raised the roof at our Fifth Annual Repeal Day celebration.

*At our Annual Benefit, held at the Chilton Club, we honored Suffolk University historian Robert Allison for his wonderful dedication to increasing awareness of and enthusiasm for Boston history. All proceeds supported the museum's mission of preservation, education, and outreach.

*Thanks to generous donors, in particular Diane Gipson, we raised the final funds needed for our red carpet replacement project. We also received a generous gift from Gibson family descendant and museum supporter Rosamond Warren Allen that will enable us to reproduce the blue carpet in the second-floor family room.

*After an extensive search, we hired the talented Meghan Gelardi Holmes to replace retiring curator of twenty-five years, Wendy Swanton. The museum has greatly benefited under Wendy’s guidance and is now poised to head in new directions.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity and your part in ensuring our continued success. Thank you, as always, for your friendship and support!

Sincerely,

Michelle Coughlin
Museum Administrator

TRIP ADVISOR
REVIEWS
"I had the best time at the Gibson House Museum. The tour guide was super-friendly and knowledgeable. The house itself is charming [and] well preserved and there is so much to see....If you love history and museums, then you will enjoy this tour.... Highly recommend!"
Reviewed April 2018

"It really is a beautiful house and the tour guide was fantastic! If you love history and the Victorian era, this is the perfect tour for you. It really is like stepping into a time machine. Great museum!"
Reviewed May 2017

"Step back in time as you enter this house. Everything looks like the owner just stepped out. Simply amazing tour. See what it was like to live in 1860. Full of antiques, a must see."
Reviewed May 2016

"A really interesting hour spent with a great guide looking all around a house still furnished with genuine furniture and items from [the] mid 19[th] c[entury]. The kitchen alone is a treasure trove, with cookware and utensils. Excellent."
Reviewed July 2015

Board members celebrate the installation of the museum's new bench last fall. Front row, from left: David Hocker, Lorraine Hanley, Ruth Ann Kupfer, and Susan Ashbrook. Back row, from left: Edward Gordon, Jackie Blombach, President Samuel H. Duncan, Frances Duffly, Laurie Thomas, and Jacob Barry. (Missing: Lorie Komlyn and Kitty Winter.)

Treasurer's Report
Lorraine Hanley
The Gibson House ended fiscal year 2016-2017 with a surplus of $7,493, the highest surplus the museum has seen in nearly a decade. Marketing and community engagement efforts by museum staff and board members continued to pay off, as museum admissions reached an all time high, earning $18,525. Our strong revenue was due to generous donations from visitors, friends, and board members, which totaled $32,225 in unrestricted funds. The 2017 annual benefit at the Chilton Club garnered an additional $37,345 for museum operations and special curatorial projects. Another $10,000 of income was generated from the sale of letters written by Harriet Beecher Stowe held by the museum. As the letters were not accessioned in the museum's collection, they were sold to the Stowe Center in Connecticut for preservation in their archives.

In fiscal year 2016-2017 the museum only used 20% ($2,645) of budgeted endowment draw. With the exception of maintenance costs, museum operating expenses were in line with budget forecasts. Maintenance overrun was largely due to a necessary pipe replacement for the fire safety system.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the museum had approximately $410,000 in its endowment. The museum has four endowment accounts, the largest of which is unrestricted with approximately $364,700. The other three accounts are restricted as funds designated for the Curator, Tour Guides, and Special Projects. The Gibson House Museum ended the year on strong financial footing, and we will continue to work toward increasing its financial stability.

The Gibson House Museum would like to thank the following supporters:

**Contributors**

**1859 Club**  
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry  
Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman  
Jacqueline D. Blombach and Michael A. Duca  
Sheila and Charles Donahue  
Frances and Thomas C. Duffy  
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan  
Nelson S. Gifford
Donors for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Dr. F. Towne Allen
Robert J. Allison
Judith A. Alukonis
Malina Amand
Louise Todd Ambler
Peter Ambler
Elizabeth Ames
Judith Anderson
Lianne and T. K. Ankner
A. Smoki Bacon
Mardges Bacon
Eileen Bagley
Charles Bahne
Nancy Baler
Kathleen Barrett
Desiree and Jacob Barry
Barbara A. Bean
Charles Beauregard
Catherine Bishop
Susan and Mark Bradley
James Brogioli
Rebecca Brooks
Judith Bevis and Ronald Brooks
Patricia Buddenhagen
James C. Buttrick
Elizabeth Chace-Marino
Sally Cheffy
Susan Cole
Lorna Condon
Paul M. Connolly
Robert Costello
Francine and Bill Crawford
Marie Crocetti
Paula Daher
Rupert Davis
Robert Davison
Anne Devereaux
Robert B. Dimnick
Carl Doebler
Richard Doring
Laura M. and James Alleyn Duncan
Tripp Evans
M. Colleen Farrissey
Robert Fisk
Timothy Fitzgerald
Laura Fitzmaurice
William M. Fowler Jr.
Barbara and Stuart Freeland
Frieda Garcia
Ernestine Gianelly
Jane and Jerold A. Gnazzo
Sara and Barry Goldberg
Edward W. Gordon
Karl Grinnell
Richard Griswold
Anne Groves
Lorraine Hanley and Grayson Allen
Stephen Hannigan
Donna Harshman
Nancy and Thomas High
Thomas Holty
Katherine B. Howe
Craig Hughes
Kim L. Hunter
Elizabeth B. Johnson
Mary A. Kane
Marilyn Kearney
Dorothy Kenney
Juliana Boyd Kim
Lorie K. Komlyn
Robert Krim
Rosanne Kumins
Mimi and Paul LaCamera
Joan Christison Lagay
Sandra Levine
Kathryn Liede
Frederic Lincoln
James Lundy
James Mahoney
Joseph Mari
Jane Whitney Marshall
Mary Martin
Rosemary McAndrew and Bruce Hamilton
John Barry McDonald
David Meehan
Maureen Meister
Elizabeth Mellett
Sharon Miller
Phoebe Milliken
Mary Ann and Dr. Richard Morrill
Susan and Anthony Morris
Rene Morrissette
Carl Nold
Melissa Norton
Jeffery Perilli
Loumona Petroff
Margaret Pokorny
Louisa Popkin
Patricia Quinn
Joseph Richard
Margaret E. Richardson
Kenneth Roberts
Dr. Mark Rockoff
Robert B. Severy
Margaret and Peter M. Sherin
Barry Solar
Nancy and Joel Solomon
Matthew L. Somers
Carlos A. Soto-Chaves
Judith Stackpole
Jeanne Stanton
Patricia Sullivan
Anne Swanson
Wendy Swanton
Joseph Sypek
Jolinda and William Taylor
M. K. Terrell
Mark Thompson
Susan and Keith Tornheim
Thomas Townsend
Ngaire Underhill
Susan Vrotos
Martha Walz
Stephanie Warburg
Alexander Webb III
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Wilmerding
Katherine B. Winter
Janet and William Younker
Linda Zukowski

Raffle Donors
Michael A. Duca
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Friends of the Gibson House Museum
The Garden Club of the Back Bay and Jacqueline D. Blombach
Edward. W. Gordon
Mary Ethel Grady/Willow and Urn Antiques
Miss Kitty
Paula Metcalf Lazar
Peabody Essex Museum and a Friend of the Gibson House Museum
Emily Shick
Taj Boston and Lauren Thomas
Katherine B. Winter

Donors in Recognition
In honor of Robert J. Allison, from
   College of Arts and Sciences, Suffolk University
   History Department, Suffolk University
In memory of Dr. Henry Allen, from
   Laura M. and James Alleyn Duncan
In honor of Samuel H. Duncan, from
   Mary Hammond Norton
In memory of Alexander K. Severy, to be used for coat of arms repair, from Robert B. Severy

Designated Donations/Matching Gifts
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry for Museum Assistant
Dr. F. Towne Allen for Museum Assistant
Back Bay Hardware for front yard bench
Jacqueline D. Blombach for Benefit flowers
Boston Redevelopment Authority Prudential Center Community
Benefits grant for front yard bench
Sheila Donahue for Benefit musicians
Frances Duffly for purchase of card table
Lorraine Hanley for purchase of guidebooks
Ruth Ann Kupfer for Museum Assistant, and for office air
conditioners
NVIDIA Corp. Employee Giving Program for Samuel H. Duncan
Ryan & Wood Distilleries for Repeal Day donations

In-Kind Services
Fisher College, for snow removal and lawn maintenance
Janet Younker and Carlos A. Soto-Chaves, Garden Club of the Back
Bay, for exterior floral plantings

Restricted Donations
For replacement of carpets:
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry
Ahna Wayne Aposhian
Jacqueline D. Blombach
Robert B. Dimmick
Sheila and Charles Donahue
Samuel H. and Nancy Jane Duncan
Diane Gipson
Lorraine Hanley
Donna Harshman
Barbara Hughey
Kathryn Liede
Rene Morrissette and Joseph Richard
Anne Swanson
John Wolfarth

For curatorship fund:
Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman
Sheila and Charles Donahue
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Frances Duffly
Cindy and Robert Goodof
Katherine B. Howe
Barbara Hughey
Judith and Christopher Leich
David Meehan
Loumona Petroff

Endowments
For guides fund endowment:
Frances Duffly
Cindy and Robert Goodof
Kenneth Roberts
Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Levels:

**Individual** $50
One museum guest pass, free or reduced admission to most programs sponsored by the Gibson House Museum, newsletter, and e-mails of upcoming events

**Family/Dual** $75
Same as above with two guest passes

**Friend** $250
Same as above with four guest passes and a private tour for four

**Sustainer** $500
Same as above with six guest passes and a private tour for six

**1859 Club** $1,000
Same as above and an invitation to a private outing created for this level of membership

**Student** (18-25) $25
Free or reduced admission to most programs sponsored by the Gibson House Museum

The museum is a nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make payment to: The Gibson Society, Inc.,
137 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116

617.267.6338
info@thegibsonhouse.org
The Gibson House Museum is an authentic Victorian row house located at 137 Beacon Street. Built in 1859, it is one of Back Bay’s earliest houses and stands as the historic house museum of the Back Bay. The Museum is open to the public and preserved as a time capsule of the daily life of a well-to-do Back Bay Boston family and its domestic staff. The Gibson House Museum is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places.