Dear Friends,

Thanks to your gracious support, the Gibson House managed to survive—and even thrive—during what may have been the most challenging fiscal year in the Museum's six-decade history. When we had to cancel our 2020 Benefit due to the pandemic, you generously donated the cost of your sponsorships and ticket purchases. While the Museum's doors remained closed for months on end, you supported us by renewing your memberships, donating to our Annual Appeal, and attending our virtual programs. You sustained us, too, with your kind words and goodwill, letting us know how much the Gibson House means to you and how important you believe it is to Boston's historical landscape. With your help, we were able to accomplish a range of significant goals during the most uncertain of times:

*We pivoted to virtual programming, offering successful presentations on topics ranging from "Elements of the Victorian Table" to "Interpreting Queer History at the Gibson House" to "The Struggle for Freedom: Patriots of Color at Bunker Hill." Pre-pandemic special events
included a trip to the Gibson family's former summer home in Nahant, the annual Repeal Day celebration, and participation in Boston's "Little Women Day," a highlight of which was Orchard House Executive Director Jan Turnquist's portrayal of Louisa May Alcott. Our programming partners over the year included such area institutions as the Boston House Museum Alliance, the National Park Service, Wheelock Family Theatre, and the Nahant Historical Society.

*We launched major restoration projects. With the aid of a $95,000 grant from the City of Boston's Community Preservation Funds, we began critical structural repairs to the building's decayed wood framing and foundation, work that will help preserve the Museum for generations to come.

*We installed a historically accurate reproduction carpet in the Museum's Library, the funding of which was led by longtime Museum supporter Rosamond Warren Allen. We also continued to inventory, digitize, and conserve the Museum's vast and eclectic collections.

*With the aid of a grant from Mass Humanities, we were able to more deeply research the lives of the Gibson family servants and the Museum's servant spaces, ultimately developing a new specialty tour, "Upstairs, Downstairs: Domestic Service at the Gibson House."

*We maintained our ties with local schools and universities, offering virtual class tours and keeping our internship program going strong, albeit remotely. Students we hosted from Smith College and UMass Amherst gained hands-on experience designing a timely outdoor micro-exhibition, "1920: The Gibsons' New Normal."

Thank you for helping us make all of this possible. These days we value your friendship more than ever.

Sincerely,

Michelle Coughlin
Museum Administrator
The Gibson House Museum's annual budget for fiscal 2019-2020 was $107,000. The Museum ended the fiscal year with a budget deficit of $4,563, but only $7,890 was drawn from the endowment against a budgeted amount of $15,785 (50%). This provided a modest $3,332 repayment to the endowment against deficit funds drawn in previous years. Revenue was 92% and expenses were 95% of the budget.

Unrestricted endowment balance at the end of the fiscal year was $503,000. It is a goal to pay back deficit spending and grow the endowment to where it was prior to the period when annual deficit was unmitigated. Endowment goal is to reach a point where the Museum is sustainable without reliance on generous donations to cover operating expenses.

The pandemic made this a difficult year because the Museum was closed to tours for seven months. Closure limited revenue from tours to the first five months of the year and a few small private tours and rentals. The annual Benefit was also canceled, but most sponsors and ticket holders did not request refunds, and catering and venue rental were saved, so net revenue from the Benefit was actually higher than the previous year by about $7,000.

Museum programming was also limited for much of the year, but Museum staff were creative with virtual programs and managed to approach the budget revenue target (99%).

Expenses were not far off the budget, because the Museum chose to keep all employees on payroll for most of the year. This was important because the staff managed to plan and deliver virtual programs almost every month, and because recruiting and training staff takes considerable effort.

The Museum received a $95,000 Community Preservation Funds award to help underwrite critical structural repairs to the building's decayed wood framing and foundation, and a $5,300 Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Project Grant to support a new interpretive project, "Women at Work: The World of 'Domestics' in Victorian Boston."
List of Donors

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Orchard House Executive Director Jan Turnquist portrays Louisa May Alcott.

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Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry for Library carpet
Dr. F. Towne Allen for Library carpet
Sheila Donahue for Benefit musicians
Frances Duffly for Boston Preservation Alliance membership
Samuel H. Duncan for Gibson House bookstore books
Diane Gipson for restoration
NVIDIA Corp. Employee Giving Program for Samuel H. Duncan
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Please consider donating to our Annual Appeal

The Gibson House has initiated its 2021 Annual Appeal; won't you consider making a donation? Every dollar makes a difference. Donations may be made online (link below) or by mail to the museum at 137 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116. Those interested in Planned Giving should contact us at info@thegibsonhouse.org.

Thank you, as always, for your friendship and support!

Donate

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.

Learn more at www.thegibsonhouse.org.
Contact us at info@thegibsonhouse.org.
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