

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Historic ✨ Authentic ✨ Illuminating

News from the Gibson House



Photo by Mary Prince, Mary Prince Photography


Gibson Society, Inc. 2021–2022 Annual Report October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your interest and engagement over the past fiscal year. You took our tours, attended our virtual programs, celebrated at our Benefit, and provided generous support through your memberships, sponsorships, and donations. You also spread the word about the Gibson House, bringing the museum to the attention of friends and neighbors. We appreciate it all.

We are happy to share with you, as interested stakeholders, the following highlights of the past fiscal year:

*As the world began to emerge from the pandemic, we welcomed back increasing



numbers of visitors with our standard house tour, "At Home with the Gibsons," as well as our specialty tours on servant life, architecture, LGBTQ+ history, and "The World of Little Women." We also debuted a new tour, "The Gibsons in a Global World," exploring nineteenth-century Boston in a global context through the lens of the museum's collections.

*We launched a **new website**, that's both attractive and informative, significantly expanding the museum's outreach.

*We hosted thoughtful and enjoyable programming, ranging from explorations of Victorian fashions and dining customs to a specialty paintings tour, a presentation on vintage baseball, a walking tour of the Gibson family's summertime Nahant neighborhood, and a panel highlighting new research on the Gibson family's links to the Cuban plantation system. In addition, we gathered with our friends and neighbors at our annual Repeal Day fundraiser and Holiday Open House; collaborated with our colleagues in the Boston House Museum Alliance; and participated in Boston Design Week.

*We maintained our strong ties with area colleges and universities: hosting class tours and special behind-the-scenes sessions, providing worthwhile projects for interns, and training college students to become Museum Guides. We offered our guides paid opportunities to learn more about the museum field, while our staff, too, pursued continuing professional enrichment. We were honored when our curator, Meghan Gelardi Holmes, was selected to participate in the prestigious History Leadership Institute sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History.

*We made strides in our ongoing preservation work, reinforcing the masonry in the museum's back courtyard and coal shed and repairing the back-alley fence.

We look forward to building on our successes and sharing them with you. Without your support, they would not be possible.

Sincerely,
Michelle Coughlin
Museum Administrator



Our 2022 Benefit, "Glitter and Gold," honored local preservationists Tom and Nancy High, proprietors of [BackBayHouses.org](https://www.backbayhouses.org).

Treasurer's Report, FY 2021–2022

Submitted by Samuel H. Duncan

By and large, fiscal 2021–2022 was a good year. Revenue was a little less than budgeted, largely because we did not draw from the general endowment fund. To make up the difference, we used the prior year surplus to cover budgeted expenses. Net expenses were \$138,774 against a budget of \$135,327.

The largest factor on the revenue side was board member donations to the Annual Benefit. Revenue from visitors more than met expectations, despite opening for fewer days than planned, and offset lower-than-budgeted revenue from tour groups.

Significant donations to the Hammond Family Curator Fund, and not drawing the budgeted amount from the general endowment, increased the balances held in endowments, and mitigated investment losses due to market volatility. At the end of the year, net holdings in the endowment accounts were down about 9.7%.



List of Donors

Contributors

1859 Club



Dr. F. Towne Allen
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry
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Mary Hammond Norton
Nancy and Dr. James Schibanoff
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Katherine B. Winter



The Suffolk University students of Assistant Professor Katy Lasdow attend a special tour in March 2022.

Donors for Fiscal Year 2021–2022

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Donors in Recognition


Laura and James Alleyn Duncan, in memory of Dr. Henry Allen
Robert Oppenheim, in honor of Nancy and Tom High
Robert B. Severy for paintings restoration, in honor of Samuel H. Duncan
Barbara Thibault, in memory of Bill Pear

Designated Donations/Matching Gifts

Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry for continued Music Room revitalization
Bank of America employee matching grant for Kerry Miles
Frances Duffly for Boston Preservation Alliance membership
Frances Duffly for database research time
Laura and James Alleyn Duncan for Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
John Duncan for Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan for Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
Samuel H. Duncan for database research time
Todd Gernes for educational programming
Diane Gipson for restoration
Edward W. Gordon for Cuba program honoraria
Graham Holdings employee matching grant for Linda Gernes
Kerry Miles for museum database purchase
Mary Hammond Norton to establish Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
NVIDIA Corp. employee matching grant for Samuel H. Duncan
Vertex Pharmaceuticals employee matching grant for James Dorer

2022 Benefit Special Ask for Mass. Cultural Facilities Fund Matching Donations

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Diane Maze
Maryann and John Montrym
Stacey Richards
Robert B. Severy
Laurie Thomas and Peter der Manuelian
Ken Turino

In-Kind Services

Boston Design Week, for assisting with participation fee
Fisher College, for snow and trash removal and lawn maintenance
Jim Hood, Jim Hood Design, for Benefit invitation design
Garden Club of the Back Bay, for exterior floral plantings
Chris Mathias and Ken Turino, for providing Nahant walking tour

Photo below by Mary Prince, Mary Prince Photography



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 one of our specialty tours, including "**Upstairs, Downstairs: Domestic Service at the Gibson House**" or "**Charlie Gibson's Queer Boston,**" [*here*](#).

To book a private tour, please contact [*info@thegibsonhouse.org*](mailto:info@thegibsonhouse.org).

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](#)

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



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.



[Visit Our Website](#)

Gibson House Museum | 137 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116

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