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Connecticut's future is in our hands.

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WHY IS PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT'S WORK IMPORTANT?

We're fighting for our past. Because it's also our future.

THIS HISTORIC HOUSE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

A meticulous example of Colonial architecture, it stands three stories tall and has a hundred stories to tell.

THIS MILL IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

A dazzling brick and concrete beauty that held last century's craftsmen will make handsome digs for next generation entrepreneurs.

THIS PARK IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

Located in the heart of a city, all roads meet here. The home of Saturday's farmer's market and the day's unofficial news.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

No longer should affordable mean soulless. Old buildings can find new purpose as homes rich with history and character.

TOURISM IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

Connecticut's historic charm draws so many to our state, bringing $16B in revenue and millions of satisfied smiles.

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

Re-using well-made buildings is good today and even better for tomorrow.

Connecticut is worth fighting for.

Yet the truth is, too many of the places that matter to us are at risk. Unprotected. Languishing as they wait for someone to see their potential. Those in decay, with no plan for their future, are threatened by the wrecking ball. They need protectors to keep them safe and standing tall.

At Preservation Connecticut, we believe it's worth fighting for our historic places. Most were built to last, and they have, as anchors of our communities where we come together to work, live and play. They're greener and smarter than new construction. And, they've been around for generations. Shouldn't we find ways to re-build, restore and re-use them vs. tearing them down and starting over? We think so.

We urgently need you to join this fight. There are places all over our state ready and waiting to find new life as affordable housing, schools, libraries, community centers and urban squares. All across Connecticut, we work with neighbors, smart innovators, developers, architects and historians creating our future. But we need you and your investment to help us win the fight.

The quality of our lives in this state depends on how well we fight for the things that matter to us.

Together we are improving Connecticut's future by caring for our past. Let's build a place we cherish and want to leave for our next generation. We think that's worth fighting for.

About us

For over four decades, Preservation Connecticut, formerly known as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, has been protecting the places that matter to the people of Connecticut. A nonprofit organization, established by a special act of the State Legislature in 1975, we preserve, protect and promote the buildings, sites and landscapes that are a beloved part of our heritage and a vital part of our future.

Every day, we're investing in our communities, supporting our neighbors' urgent preservation efforts, educating owners and lobbying for more preservation-friendly policies. We're helping to give historic industrial buildings new life as restaurants, work and living spaces filled with unique character. We're collaborating to reinvigorate downtown hubs that attract both locals and new tourists. We're encouraging reusing places where people can afford and want to live. We're reimagining landscapes and working farms to be spaces where people rejuvenate and celebrate.

In the face of increasing development and environmental pressures, we're keeping preservation front and center.

WE'RE FIGHTING TO SOLVE PRESERVATION CHALLENGES ACROSS OUR STATE.

Last year, our field-based Circuit Riders gave on-site assistance for 250 projects across 87 communities, helping our neighbors rehabilitate and reuse the places they care about.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR GOOD PRESERVATION POLICY.

We've defended the state historic tax credit and fought for The Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, making adaptive re-use economically feasible and transforming large scale buildings and downtowns.

WE'RE FIGHTING SO EVERYONE'S VOICE CAN BE HEARD.

Our neighbors know best what places and spaces are important to them. So, we provide the guidance, tools and training to make their voices louder.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING HARD FOR OUR FUTURE.

We bring neighbors, universities, local organizations and development stakeholders together to learn and connect, while providing financial and technical assistance for community planning, stewardship and professional consulting.

WE OFFER EXCITING EVENTS AND INSPIRING CONTENT.

We host Open House Talks to imagine the future for historic places and events to share exciting ideas from the worlds of art, architecture, culture, and sustainable innovation.

WE KEEP OUR PRESERVATION HEROES AND HISTORIC PLACES IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

We award preservation heroes, to showcase their time and investment promoting historic buildings, barns, mills and industrial sites, early town greens and local historic districts.

To learn more, please review the enclosed documents on Demonstrating our Impact and Challenges and Opportunities.

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Revitalizing Connecticut.

ONE PROJECT AT A TIME.

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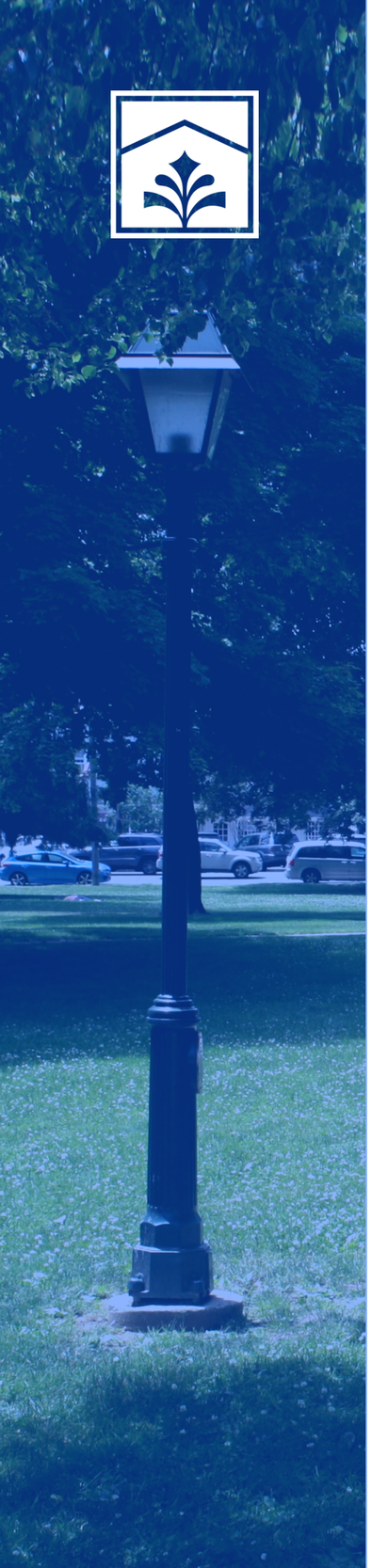

Demonstrating Our Impact

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION 3
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES 4
AFFORDABLE HOUSING 5
RENEWABLE ENERGY SAVINGS 6
POLICY CHANGE 7
TAX CREDITS 8

Highlights of our most recent projects

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DEMONSTRATING

Our Impact

Neighborhood Revitalization

PROJECT

Hillside National Register Historic District, Waterbury

NEED

Reinvigorate a downtown lower income neighborhood in a historic district.

IMPACT

In a diverse neighborhood with almost 400 notable buildings, residents and organizational partners joined together to rehabilitate vacant and derelict houses to create a new affordable housing model that allows ownership and rental opportunities. This model is now used more widely in other neighborhoods across the city.

OUR ROLE

We provided a bridge loan to help kickstart the rehabilitation of the houses along with helping to facilitate the Historic Homes Tax Credit process.

Connected Communities

PROJECT

Canaan Institutional Baptist Church, Norwalk

NEED

Provide capital for deferred maintenance church building.

IMPACT

The funds helped to renew a space used for soup kitchens, community blood drives, AA meetings, children's programs and more – protecting a place that is the heart of the community.

OUR ROLE

We provided technical assistance and grant money for specific maintenance and repair needs so that congregation can direct already scarce money toward its mission.

Affordable Housing

PROJECT

Reid & Hughes Department Store, Norwich

NEED

Preserve and reimagine the last surviving downtown department store for a new mixed-use future in order to keep an important historic district intact.

IMPACT

The rehab will ultimately result in affordable apartments -- some reserved for veterans -- and retail spaces to bring economic development to a needed area.

OUR ROLE

We provided a low-interest loan to the Women's Institute, an affordable housing development organization, for the emergency stabilization of the building.

Renewable Energy Savings

PROJECT

Preservation Connecticut headquarters, 1827 Eli Whitney Boarding House, Hamden

NEED

Energy upgrade and demonstrate a model for sustainability in historic properties.

IMPACT

The installation of solar panels transitioned our building to an efficient energy source while setting a precedent for green historic buildings.

OUR ROLE

Collaborating with SHPO and the Regional Water Authority to determine appropriate placement of solar array within the National Register district, we chose to install rooftop solar panels as a way to show that modern, sustainable technology can be used on historic buildings..

Policy Change

PROJECT

"Historic and Green: A New Climate Agenda,"
University of Connecticut Conference

NEED

Convene diverse stakeholders to boost advocacy and think about the future of preservation legislation relative to sustainability.

IMPACT

A gathering of nearly 200 attorneys, planners, preservationists, environmentalists, students, and legislators to seriously discuss how Connecticut can become a leader in forging common ground between preservation and environmental efforts.

OUR ROLE

We sponsored the conference and are now working with staff, board and partners to implement the outlined ideas from attendees.

Tax Credits

PROJECT

Mills: Making Places of Connecticut, a statewide survey of historic industrial places

NEED

Recognize Connecticut's remarkable industrial heritage and highlight places suitable for adaptive reuse.

IMPACT

Staff created an interactive website that lets developers identify properties for rehab into housing (often low-income), retail, offices, and other uses. Our staff helps with technical matters, networking and the tax credit process.

OUR ROLE

With funding from the State Historic Preservation Office, we completed this comprehensive statewide survey. We maintain the widely used website and assist developers in finding a historic building that will be best for their needs.

PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT'S
RECENT PROJECTS

We need your help to keep fighting for historically important, sustainable projects like these all over our state.

BRISTOL

A 1916 school that served newly-arrived immigrant families has new life as Bingham Place Apartments for seniors. Preservation Connecticut's technical assistance and tax credit guidance helped make this affordable and welcoming senior housing possible. Former students joined us at the ribbon cutting and were delighted to see the original classrooms made modern with energy-saving solar and geothermal systems.

NEW LONDON

Preservation Connecticut's Vibrant Communities Initiative grant helped to reinvigorate New London's downtown. Stopping the needless destruction of two historic structures on the National Register was a big victory. Stirring momentum for revitalization - and an active, exciting commercial district - was even more gratifying. There's more opportunities across the state for community planning grants like this. So far, we've worked with 10 communities, but more have asked for help and need your support.

WATERFORD

Seaside Sanitorium is a state-owned park filled with magnificent yet decaying buildings with no immediate plan for rehab. Despite its spot on the National Register, its future is far from guaranteed. Preservation Connecticut is rallying neighbors, identifying developers and advocating for legal protection – all to reimagine this park as a jewel of the community. With your help, we can save Seaside and rescue other vacant public buildings all over our state.

MORRIS

Our Historic Barns of Connecticut program granted money to private owners to maintain and repair historic barns. One family's fourth generation farm was reinvigorated as an event space rich with character. The result is a working farm and a thriving community center. Connecticut has many more small family farms that are ready for your smart investment in a new and sustainable business model.

Preservation is good for Connecticut's economy.

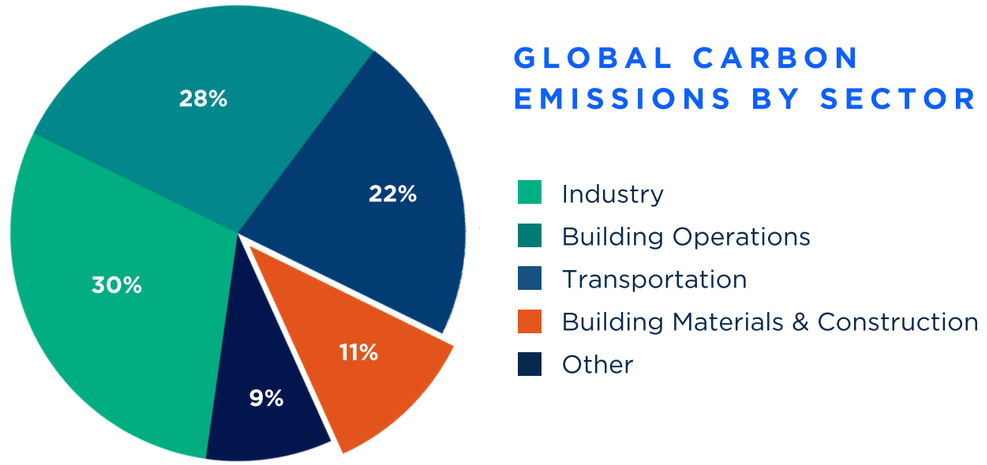
It generates 6,000 jobs – and nearly half a billion dollars for Connecticut each decade. Our historic heritage brings millions of tourists to our state, and $16B in revenue every year.

OF EVERY $100 INVESTED,

$83 ENDS UP IN THE POCKETS OF WORKERS.

Preservation is often more efficient than new construction.

43% of carbon emissions and 39% of energy use. New buildings – even sustainably built – take 10 to 80 years to recoup energy outlays from the construction process. (Architecture 2030, Preservation GreenLab)



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Our future depends on you.

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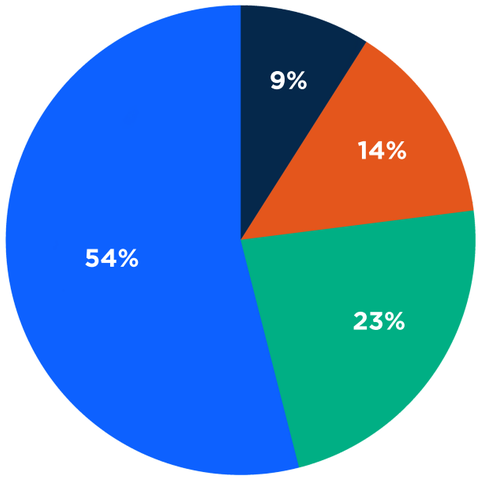
What Is Different Now? What are the Challenges?

For many years, the State of Connecticut has underwritten most of our operating and programming budget, with the remaining funds coming from a mix of membership and private gifts from individuals, foundations, and fees for services. Businesses were also a small part of the support matrix. With the government responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to have the support of people who share our love for Connecticut's historic heritage and want to invest in our state's future.

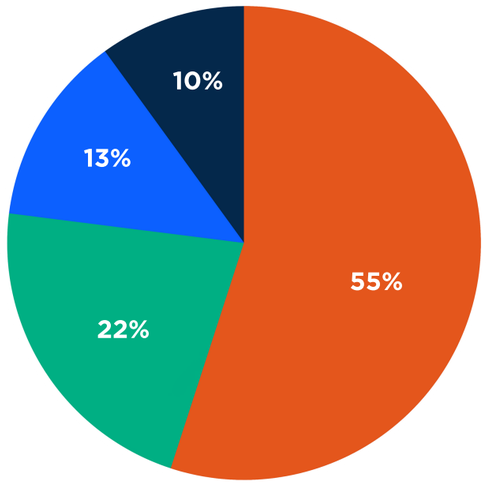
Preservation Connecticut underwent a Strategic Planning process in 2017. Since then, we've made great progress by strengthening board governance, launching a new web site, changing the organization name and undertaking a significant effort to build fundraising and marketing capabilities. These efforts support our mission to build the kind of sustainable future that's only possible when we embrace the past.

Where Funds Come From and How They Are Used



OPERATING REVENUE

- Government
- Foundations
- Individuals
- Fees



OPERATING EXPENSES

- Program Services
- Grants
- Development / Fundraising
- Administration

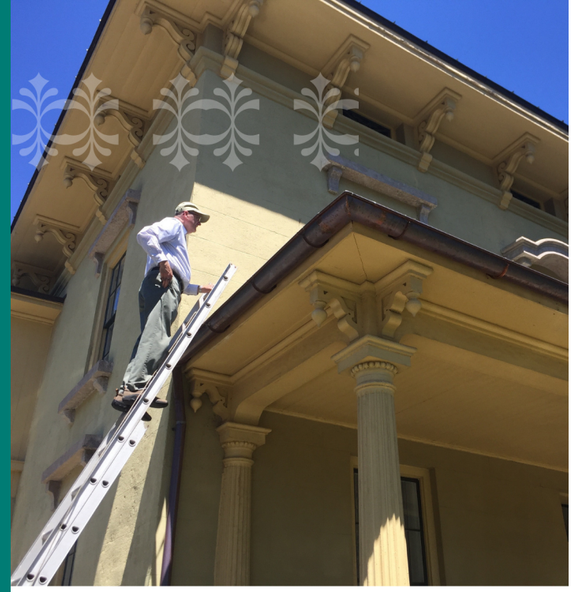
How can you help?

So many historic places are ready for their new future but need your help right now. Historic buildings, industrial mills and rural barns need repair and rehabilitation to stand tall once again. Historic districts, like New London, are on their way to being high energy neighborhoods fueling our economy. But our State government's fiscal crisis will drastically reduce funding that's needed to do this work.

That's why your help matters more than ever.

We need like-minded advocates for preservation and smart re-use. Your voice can help our neighbors make better policies and win preservation battles in court. And your investment will fund both urgent on-the-ground efforts and future plans for sustainable growth,

We can't prepare for Connecticut's future without you. We need your voice. We need your investment.



ENDANGERED PROPERTIES FUND

We frequently learn of historic places in immediate danger of demolition. Every one of these is an urgent call to action, as the tragic truth is that once these treasures are gone, they're gone forever. We dispatch our Circuit Riders to the scene, investigate the building's historic significance and draw up a plan. The Endangered Properties Fund allows us to meet these needs, so we can respond quickly with proven rapid response activities like legal action, national register nominations and stabilizations. Donors of at least $5,000 will be recognized for one year in all media related to the project, Preservation Connecticut News and annual reporting.

ENGAGEMENT CHAMPIONS FUND

We must get the word out that historic preservation is necessary for Connecticut's long term prosperity. This requires more investment in marketing and development to build successful partnerships between preservationists, developers, green innovators and community planners. The Engagement Champions Fund will help stakeholders see and support preservation as one of the best bets for Connecticut's strong economy and sustainable future. Donors of at least $5,000 will be recognized for one year in newsletters and brochures, in a feature in Connecticut Preservation News and annual reporting.

Please see the enclosed Ways of Giving document.
We are eager to talk with you and hear your thoughts.

Please contact:

Jordan Sorensen

DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

jsorensen@preservationct.org

203-562-6312 Ext. 4

Jane Montanaro

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

jmontanaro@preservationct.org

203-562-6312 Ext. 1