



HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION TO OBSERVE PRESERVATION MONTH WITH ‘VIRTUAL MAY’ INITIATIVES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

SAVANNAH, GA – April 28, 2020 – Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) announces a new initiative to offer preservation enthusiasts and HSF supporters an alternative way to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month, which is observed every May. HSF usually celebrates this special month with a variety of events, including its prestigious Preservation Awards Luncheon, popular Historic Home Tour and Wine Tasting, fascinating lectures and other functions and gatherings.

This year, HSF is launching “Virtual May” as a way to continue the annual tradition of commemorating Preservation Month, while following government recommendations for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The community is invited to celebrate historic preservation with HSF as they offer a carefully curated array of online opportunities for fans and followers of all ages.

On Wednesday May 6, HSF will launch a program for children with fun and educational activities to encourage an interest in historic preservation for the youngest among us. A children’s drawing contest will be unveiled via HSF’s website and social media with a prize for the winner, who will be announced on June 1, 2020. In addition, coloring sheets from Erica Scales’ children’s book, which is available from Davenport House Museum’s gift shop, around the theme of preservation will be made available to download for children to enjoy. A family friendly walking tour, which can be undertaken while observing social distancing, will also be announced on May 6.

Each Thursday throughout May, HSF will do a special #ThrowbackThursday post to promote a previous Preservation Award winner. When COVID-19 restrictions are fully lifted, HSF does plan to reschedule this year's Preservation Awards dinner later in the year.

On May 15, HSF Revolving Fund Coordinator Ryan Arvay will present a special lecture, via Zoom, on the organization's Revolving Fund, which has long served as a model of these types of programs in historic preservation around the nation. Participants will need to register for the lecture by going to <http://HSFRevolvingFund.rsvpify.com>.

On May 29, HSF will launch a virtual tour of its Davenport House Museum. Online users will get a detailed look inside the museum, which once served as the home of Isaiah Davenport and his family in the 1800s. A narration will provide interesting facts and tales about the house, which was the first structure saved in Savannah by HSF.

"Even though we can't celebrate Preservation Month this year as we usually do, we're excited to present Virtual May and doing all that we can to commemorate historic preservation in a new way – one that will keep everyone safe and healthy," HSF President and CEO Sue Adler said. "We hope Savannah residents will support HSF and participate in many of the interesting and engaging virtual activities we've planned. Together *virtually* we can all celebrate Savannah's rich history."

To learn more about Historic Savannah Foundation, please visit www.myHSF.org.

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