



## **HSF ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD, ENJOYS LECTURE BY NATIONAL TRUST LEADER DURING ANNUAL MEETING**

**SAVANNAH, GA – TUESDAY, NOV. 9, 2021** – During Tuesday’s 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Savannah Repertory Theatre, Historic Savannah Foundation proudly announced its new slate of Executive Officers and welcomed new Board of Trustees members, unveiled its annual report and provided an organizational update, reporting on the Revolving Fund and Davenport House Museum as well. When business had been attended to, the meeting attendees turned their attention to the event’s primary attraction, a presentation on “The Optimism of Preservation” by Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Afterward, guests enjoyed a light reception in the Davenport House’s garden.

The new slate of Executive Officers is comprised of Chairman Austin Hill, Vice Chairman Cody Tharpe, Treasurer Michael McLeod, Secretary Gaye Reese, Parliamentarian Gregori S. Anderson and immediate past Chairman Josh Brooks. These Executive Officers join additional HSF board members Melinda Allen, Sam Carroll, Andy Dyer, Louisa Morris, Brent Watts and Brad Whitfield.

Two new members will help the existing board lead the organization in the upcoming year: Brandy Davenport and Rebecca Fenwick.

Brandy Davenport is CEO of Savannah Construction & Preservation. She grew up in Texas and received her degree from Texas Tech University in English and History. Brandy and her husband, Eric Davenport a graduate of SCAD and preservation major, moved to Savannah in 2012 with their three children. In 2015 they helped to form Savannah Construction & Preservation. A general contract firm that specializes in preservation. Brandy is a member of many organizations in Savannah and the state of Georgia that help to support preservation. She most recently served as the 2021 Gala Chair for Historic Savannah Foundation.

Fenwick is a principal at Ethos Preservation where she specializes in community engagement, historical research, and documentation. Over the course of her career, she has served as author of numerous historic tax incentives and grant applications, design guidelines, preservation plans, and National Register nominations. Prior, she worked for a local architect for five years and before that, as a

preservationist for a municipal Main Street program. Fenwick is a graduate of the preservation programs at the University of Mary Washington and the University of Kentucky.

“HSF is delighted to welcome these talented, knowledgeable individuals to our exceptional Board of Trustees,” said HSF President and CEO Sue Adler. “These new members will become a vital part of our organization’s continued growth.”

In addition to announcing board updates, HSF staff provided reports on finances, construction progress on the Murray C. Perlman & Wayne C. Spear Preservation Center, and new programming – such as the upcoming Pioneers in Preservation series, which begins Thursday. Adler also brought the audience up to speed on Revolving Fund developments – including the fact that the fund has saved four properties in the past year – and the Davenport House Museum, which will soon house a new Urban Enslaved Exhibit in its ground floor. The museum has flourished in the past year and half, following a brief closure due to COVID-19. Since reopening, the house has closely followed all recommended pandemic health and safety protocols.

Following the community reports, as part of the Louise Laretti Lecture Series, Malone-France captivated the meeting attendees as she drew on her impressive experience with managing historic sites, organizations, and projects to impart her message on preservation. Prior to assuming her current role, Malone-France served as the senior vice president for historic sites at the National Trust, leading its portfolio of 28 historic sites around the country. Her tenure included the creation of a dedicated fund to support historic gardens and landscapes at National Trust Historic Sites and the successful completion of a \$21 million campaign to address critical capital projects across the portfolio of sites.

Also, during the Annual Meeting, HSF launched its end-of-year fundraising campaign, which includes a unique twist thanks to an innovative new format. The campaign is a peer-to-peer fundraiser, which allows those who support the effort to personally donate and help raise additional money by becoming an individual fundraiser. Throughout November and December, HSF supporters can use the organization's peer-to-peer fundraising toolkit at [www.justgiving.com/campaign/HSF2021](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/HSF2021) to donate, start their own fundraising pages and spread the word among their own contacts to help HSF continue its progress and growth into 2022.

New HSF Board Chairman Austin Hill closed out the meeting by thanking outgoing board Chairman Josh Brooks, who was presented with a gift as a token of the organization’s gratitude for his service.

Following the meeting, guests moved to the nearby Davenport House Museum garden for a reception featuring light refreshments.

Historic Savannah Foundation, a leading nonprofit preservation and cultural institution, saves buildings, places, and stories that define Savannah's past, present and future. Following its formation in 1955, the nonprofit organization started a Revolving Fund to save endangered historic properties – now totaling over 400 buildings – throughout several Savannah local historic districts. HSF is committed to continuing to build capacity within HSF's operations, secure new financial resources, improve HSF's image and visibility, and increase public policy efforts to protect Savannah's historic districts.

For more information about Historic Savannah Foundation, please visit [www.myHSF.org](http://www.myHSF.org) or call 912-233-7787.

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