Despite—and perhaps because of—the challenges of a pandemic, social, economic, and political unrest; the need for greater racial equity in all we do; and ongoing teardown/infill redevelopment pressures; community stewardship means more now than ever before. Guided by the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, the Conservancy continued to serve as an educational center and leading advocate for the history, architecture, and open space of Chestnut Hill and surrounding communities in the Wissahickon watershed. Several notable preservation successes included averting demolition of a significant part of the “Keystone estate” and continuing to advise neighbors on next possible steps. 208 Rex Avenue, provisionally protected since 2017 “in review” by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, began moving toward ultimate designation. Quiet work to preserve the Shipley White House also progressed and became more public. And efforts to facilitate preservation in Springfield Township resulted in the preservation Ordinance and Historical Commission now in place. The Architectural Hall of Fame added 5 properties to that distinguished list at a fabulous December 2019 gala, and several significant preservation projects were recognized with 2019 Preservation Awards.

The Conservancy continued to hold 48 easements preserving 19 historic buildings and conserving over 100 acres of privately-held watershed land and trees. This innovative, accredited Conservation and Easements Program, managed in partnership with Friends of the Wissahickon, continued strong in spite of reduced staffing for half of the year. Newly-adopted virtual meeting tools especially benefitted this program, facilitating better communications in spite of reduced staffing for half of the year. Newly-adopted virtual meeting tools especially benefitted this program, facilitating better communications in spite of reduced staffing for half of the year.

The Archives assisted hundreds of researchers in person when possible and also online. Donations to the Archives continued steadily, and more than 540 volunteer hours were spent cataloging photos and transcribing oral histories. Images were posted weekly via social media, and several local articles were written highlighting aspects of Chestnut Hill and history of community. As an archive of our social history, the Conservancy documented how the community has experienced and responded to the year’s challenges.

The Conservancy presented its third annual Night of Lights public exhibition pre-pandemic in October 2019, welcoming hundreds to stroll a Germantown Avenue commercial corridor vibrantly transformed with projected photos and films from the Archives, architectural lighting, live music, interactive elements, and an expanded opportunity for the public to record oral histories. Committed to continuing this exhibition during the pandemic, the Conservancy began planning the fourth (2020) exhibition in Spring 2020, retaining core elements, adding innovative virtual content, and encouraging physical distancing.

Some planned events and public programs were cancelled, but more were creatively reimagined for virtual presentation. In addition, during the earliest and most isolated days of the pandemic this spring, the Conservancy created “History at Home,” crafting and sending out free activities several times each week. This included narrated history-themed slideshow videos, educational content, a monthly “Bloom Where You Are Planted” view into all things green, as well as educational information and games.

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FISCAL YEAR 2020  
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE  
CATALYST $5,000+  
Carolyn Adams & John Meigs  
Walter Bowman Properties, LTD  
Victoria & George H. Coates, Jr.  
Jessie Deming & Robert Boyer  
Karen & Ed Del.Vector  
Gene & Charles Dilles  
Thomas Ginnequin & Christopher Koenen  
Emilie & Peter Lapham  
Pascal Andry-Master  
Susan & Robert Peck  
Alan & Brian Roberts  
Rita & Lawrence Salva  
Carol & Joseph B. Van Sciver, III  
Laura & David Thayer  
Sandy & Robert Thomas  
Claire & John Selendick  
Nancy & Rand Williams

PRESESERVATIONIST $2,500+  
Ann Clink & John Link  
Nane & Jay Flaherty  
Irma & Christopher Fralic  
Shirley Hanson  
Monika Hennemers & Stephen Heimann  
Gretchen Ingersoll

HISTORY $1,250+  
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Wendy & Christopher Bentley  
Martha & Ronald Cohen  
Linda Corson  
Nicholas DeRosa & Donald Ratchford  
John & Dina Dursen  
Kerri Flaherty  
Alexandra Edsall & Robert Victor  
C. Nancy & Michael Mann  
Susan & Robert Fleming  
Steven Gendler  
Peggy & Rich Greenawalt  
Mary Jane & Eric Greenwood  
Patricia & David Holveck  
Natalie & Ralph Hirshorn  
Pamela & James H. Hill, Jr.  
Lucy & Lee Grundahl  
Richard & Judy Halpern  
Joyce & David Halpern  
Nancy & Jon Halterman  
Debra Rodgers & Paul Meyer  
Lara & Michael Karp

SUSTAINERS  
Anonymous  
Donors to giving programs such as the Endowment Campaign  
several hundred

DONORS IN MEMORY OF  
Catherine & John Affleck  
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Mary & Lawrence Walsh  
William Heinenmers & Jeffrey Dupigny  
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Carol & Joseph B. Van Sciver, III  
Nancy J. & Randolph Williams  
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SPECIAL EVENT HOSTS/  
IN-KIND GIFTS [ABOVE $250]  
Karen & Ed DelVector  
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Sarah & Theodore Lodge  
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Mary Zell  
Earl & Albert Zimmermann

HOUSEHOLD & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS  
We want to warmly thank all the several hundred members at these levels. You are our essential support base.

DONORS TO OTHER CONSERVANCY PROGRAMS [ABOVE $250]  
Donors to programs such as the Endowment Campaign and Architectural Programs are listed in recipients only, specific to the program and online. Your extraordinary generosity is deeply appreciated by everyone involved. Thank you, so much.