

Publicite

Spring/Summer 2020

Like so many other organizations and businesses, the Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve has been affected by the COVID situation, but we are still here and doing what we can to preserve our history. Here is what has been going on:

Guibourd House Delays Opening

Normally we open the House to tourists on April 1st, but with the pandemic, we opened the season the last week of May by offering free tours of the garden, and with the docents giving bullet point short presentations on the House, which remained closed until the second week of June. We were one of the first historic properties to open to the public, while maintaining social distancing and the docents wearing masks.

Historic Portrait Joins Valle Relatives in GV House

One of your benefits of membership in the Foundation is free admission to the Guibourd House. If you haven't been in the House for a while, we invite you to stop by and see the portrait of Melanie Jarrot, compliments of a donation by Foundation member, Anita Dunford, of Florida, hanging proudly in the dining room.

Guibourd Garden Participates in Local and Historic St. Louis Events

Even though the French Festival and Jour de Fete have been cancelled for this year, the weekend of Aug 14 & 15, we welcomed guests to the Guibourd House and garden. On Friday, Aug 14, we hosted an open house from 4-6pm as part of the "Ste. Genevieve Showcase" event. The following day, Historic St. Louis presented "Landscapes of Summertime Past", and as a participant, we offered tea and lemonade in the garden for visitors. There have been a few changes in the outside appearance. Thanks to Board member Skip Weiler, the front porch has been updated with fresh paint, Mark Grither has repaired the damaged front porch railing, and the side yard has been cleared of the bushes, and been replaced with lilies and hostas donated by Bob Browne.

Grants Received

Even though the pandemic has caused an upheaval in normal operations, we have received several grants this year. In February, we received a \$15,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation of Providence, Rhode Island, for a feasibility study concerning a project to preserve and restore some of Ste. Genevieve's neglected properties in the historic district. At the suggestion of the City, we will be working in conjunction with the SEMO Regional Planning Commission to determine the scope and financial ramifications of such a project. If the results of the study are promising, and additional grant funds can be obtained, this could prove to be an excellent way to expand the mission of the Foundation. Being able to offer low or no-cost loans to property owners to make prescribed historically accurate repairs, and/or outright purchase of some of these properties are ways that this could be accomplished through this grant. Our members can expect to receive an emailed survey from SEMO Regional Planning with an explanation of, and seeking input on, this restoration project.

In May, President Sara was notified that we were also approved for a \$5,000 grant from the Missouri Humanities Council. This grant could, and will be applied toward operating expenses.

We were also approved for participation in the Payroll Protection Plan, which allowed us to open the House when we did and make our payroll.

History Conference and Spirit Reunion

An in-person History Conference is not in the cards this year. There is more of a chance of having the Spirit Reunion since it would be an outside event, however, as it is somewhat connected to Rural Heritage Days, we are awaiting decision on whether the City cancels that event. Bottom line for events this year, if it's not financially viable for the effort and especially health risk, then it's probably prudent to cancel.

Board Welcomes Newest Members

The Board would like to welcome Becky Millinger, Deb Cambron, and Mark Buchheit as the three newest members of the Board. Becky's term will be through July of 2023, while Deb will be fulfilling Roger Greminger's term, who is stepping down due to health concerns, and Mark will be fulfilling Brian Craft's term, both ending in July 2021. Lauren Moore, who has re-located to Florida, has also stepped down from the Board, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank all three for their past service.

Other Board Bits

Several Board meetings had to be cancelled or have virtual options, but here are some of the other highlights:

- Committee to develop long range planning for the Guibourd House formed

- Foundation to purchase historic El Camino Real road signs

- Annual Meeting and Board Election Postponed