

# **Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) Annual Report September 2013 to June 2014**

## **Introduction**

HARC advises the City in the preservation of historic sites and buildings, artifacts, and records from loss or deterioration and promotes citizen and tourist use of historic sites and the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

HARC usually meets monthly between September and June. During the past fiscal year, however, the January meeting was cancelled because of a storm, and the April meeting was cancelled when the meeting date coincided with a major religious holiday.

## **HARC priorities**

During the past year, HARC focused on three key areas: the Waterfront Plan, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Draft Management Plan, and the budget for the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA).

### **Implementation of the art/history elements in the City Waterfront Plan**

HARC continues to be concerned about the degree to which the art and history elements of the City's Waterfront Plan will actually be implemented. HARC expressed these concerns in a letter to the City Council. HARC believes that in every part of the process for implementing the Plan, the importance of art and history must be an overriding concern.

### **Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Draft Management Plan**

HARC strongly supports the plan's recommended principles for preserving the park's historic nature and character. HARC plans to send a letter to the City Council supporting the plan in September 2014.

### **Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) budget**

HARC has been very concerned with cuts to OHA's budget in recent years, but is generally pleased with the budget approved by the City Council for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. However, HARC was disappointed by the last-minute decision to eliminate funding for a grants writer. Without this investment, it will be impossible for OHA to diversify its funding sources. In addition, although HARC was pleased with the hiring of a half-time research historian, HARC believes that a full-time position is needed to meet current and future research needs.

## **Other activities**

### HARC members

- took a tour of the city's Archives and Records Center and learned more about plans for expansion and renovation, which HARC supports
- discussed and supported a new project to survey alleys in historic Old Town
- heard a presentation by ACVA president and CEO Patricia Washington (and currently HARC member) on the new City marketing plan and how history fits into this plan
- heard a presentation on changes in the design guidelines for the Parker Gray Historic District as well as a City project to develop a residential pattern book for Del Ray and other measures intended to help preserve historic structures in that neighborhood.

## **HARC elections**

HARC held elections for officers in September 2013, at which time HARC decided to hold annual elections at the June meeting. In September, the following were elected: Bill Hendrickson, chair, Tal Day, vice chair, Carolyn Meza, secretary. In June 2014, the following were elected: Bill Hendrickson, chair, Tal Day, vice chair, and Elliot Bell-Krasner, secretary.