

May 2009

Name
Business
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear XXXXX,

It is my pleasure to tell you about the work of *Preservation Buffalo Niagara* and to invite you to join us. As we are still in our first year, you have an opportunity to become a charter member of our still 'new' organization.

Preservation Buffalo Niagara was born in October 2008 when the members of the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier and the Preservation Coalition of Erie County unanimously voted to come together as one membership, approved new bylaws and elected a new Board of Trustees.

Historic preservation has been the key to revitalization in many older American cities, whose preservationists have been able to develop an array of proven tools. Preservation works best in cities where its principles are so deeply rooted that conservatory efforts are initiated and supported by a variety of public, civic and private organizations and individuals. Our goal for *Preservation Buffalo Niagara* is to create a sustainable professional organization that encourages the advancement of preservation efforts throughout Buffalo and our region.

We are off to a wonderful start!

The utilization of multiple year funding from key local foundations has made it possible for *Preservation Buffalo Niagara* to expand the preservation and education work already in progress in addition to launching new programs and events. To date, we have received grant awards of \$497,500 and our search for an executive director is underway. We have also attracted Henry McCartney, long-term director of Rochester's acclaimed preservation organization, to serve as our Interim Executive Director.

Here is a snapshot summary of our accomplishments since our ambitious launch:
Our first official act was the successful effort to become a Local Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, joining a national network of 112 preservation

organizations. The most significant achievement benefiting our city was escorting New York Times architecture critic Nicolai Ouroussoff around Buffalo, and ultimately receiving his affirmation that our city's architecture is of great importance and every care should be taken to revive it in its original form — His wonderful article appeared in the New York Times November 14th, 2008 with more than a dozen stunning photos of Buffalo. Our most significant preservation effort was a letter we signed in concert with the National Trust and the Preservation League of New York State regarding the proposed Peace Bridge Plaza Expansion, stating that the mandated analysis of preservation impacts was flawed by an inadequate summary of alternatives.

Our first new project is for a cultural resource survey—a grant from the Preservation League enabled us to hire architectural historians to perform a survey of the North Prospect Hill neighborhood. Our 2009 Awards program identified exemplary projects in both Erie and Niagara Counties. Our first national grant will allow us to employ a Preservation Specialist whose main priority will be integrating preservation programs and techniques within communities throughout our 7-county region. Our first regional effort was co-sponsoring a conference on historic preservation in Medina.

Let's build on our assets and tackle our challenges

Too many of our houses are abandoned and our neighborhoods are in distress. When our executive director is in place, we will start a strategic planning process to identify effective ways our organization can help address these issues. We will be using the research obtained from successful ideas from across the country as well as implementing concepts from our own wide knowledge base. I look forward to hearing from you and all our members as we undertake this important process.

Our opportunities are very compelling, as Buffalo is among the relatively small number of cities, cities like Savannah, Charleston, Galveston, and Providence, rewarded with a unique wealth of architectural assets in sufficient quality to attract tourists to its community. So, one of our goals is to have Buffalo's historic preservation movement play an increasingly significant role in the economic life of our city. And as a bonus - those who live here can explore new ways to enjoy our architecture.

We are committed to the development and maintenance of effective coalitions. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Preservation League of New York State and the historic preservation bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have all agreed to provide support and assistance to help us become an effective resource for communities throughout our region.

Recently the National Trust for Historic Preservation reminded us that preservation is also an important part of the environmental movement, as the greenest building is an existing building. Tremendous energy is already embodied within our homes, buildings and the city's infrastructure. Our older neighborhoods are located near jobs and mass

~ *These Places Matter - Can you imagine Buffalo without them?* ~

Coit House Roycroft Inn Guaranty Building Central Terminal Buffalo City Hall Kleinhans Music Hall Allentown
Grain Elevators Olmsted Parks Old Post Office Richardson Complex Albright Knox Historical Society Building
Darwin Martin House The Museum District The Lighthouse Our Churches Our Schools Our Neighborhoods

~ *Help us save places that matter to you* ~

transit, thereby offering a more sustainable lifestyle. Working to keep our existing homes and neighborhoods vibrant in addition to keeping Buffalo a livable historic place is an important way to work for better climate and energy independence.

Our support is growing

It has been very gratifying for me to see so many people join our effort. The response to Preservation Buffalo Niagara has been remarkable, and we now have over 650 families and individual members.

I look forward to having you as a member. We need your support and I believe you will enjoy being part of our organization. By joining during our first year, you will become a charter member of *Preservation Buffalo Niagara*. We will also send you \$20 in “Buffalo Tour Bucks” for you to take a tour with a friend or participate in a future event. Every year you will be invited to a special event for members. And please consider joining as a Patron member; we will soon be organizing a reception in an historic home for our Patron members.

Can there be a better, more important cause?

We need to build an effective preservation movement—starting today! In less than three years, the 2011 National Preservation Conference will bring thousands of preservation leaders and architecture aficionados to Buffalo. I am very confident that they will enjoy our city’s landmarks, historic parks and neighborhoods. But we need to start working now to be able to show them a Buffalo that is a living, improving laboratory. We may not have overcome every challenge, but with your help and preservation’s tool box, we will be able to show that historic preservation is indeed improving our city and region.

I look forward to welcoming you as a charter member of *Preservation Buffalo Niagara*.

Sincerely,

Catherine Schweitzer
Chair, Board of Trustees
Preservation Buffalo Niagara

PS. Please use the enclosed envelope and reply card to respond today. You are needed! All new members will receive \$20 in “Buffalo Tour Bucks” and be invited to our next members’ event. Patron members will be invited to a reception in an historic home.

The Next Generation Will Inherit Only What We Save Today.