

Become a

# KEEPER OF THE COLUMNS



*Your investment of time and treasure helps ensure the Wornall/Majors House Museums make a lasting difference in the city where we live.*

From school children's field trips to events and exhibits, the Wornall/Majors House Museums broke a lot of records last year. We are so excited to provide the community with even more opportunities to engage with and preserve the Museums in 2017, and we hope you are, too. Whether you're new to the Museums or an old friend, we have an easy way for you to help preserve some of Kansas City's most treasured possessions: by joining our compassionate group of sustaining annual givers, the Keepers of the Columns.

The Keepers of the Columns are very important to the Wornall/Majors House Museums. In fact, by making an annual tax-deductible contribution of \$1,000 or more, the "Keepers" are the backbone that sustains our work. These generous folks are more than just kind, they're also practical thinkers. They know that annual pledges allow us to spend less time fundraising and more time preserving the Museums.



John Wornall House



Alexander Majors House

## WHO WE ARE

The Wornall/Majors House Museums manages two of Kansas City's most significant and dynamic historic structures: the John Wornall House and Alexander Majors House.

Operations of the two museums merged in 2011 to form one non-profit organization that preserves and protects these antebellum landmarks for the enjoyment and preservation of the Kansas City community for years to come. Both houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and proudly stand as two of the oldest preserved homes in Kansas City. Today the houses serve as prominent institutions of learning and exploration of our cultural and historical heritage by providing critical educational and community opportunities to more than 5,000 people every year.

**Keepers of the Columns help ensure the Museums stay strong and vibrant.**



## HOW DO THE HOUSE MUSEUMS SERVE TODAY'S YOUTH AND ADULTS?

By design, the House Museums are more than part of our city and country's past. With a mission to "bring history to life through innovative, hands-on programs and experiences," the Houses live and breathe as two of the region's most unique and dynamic learning environments.

**Youth Development and Education:** More than 2,000 children visit the Museums annually on school field trips and after-school activities sponsored by Scouts and youth organizations. Summer camps provide week-long experiences. Trained, energetic interpreters bring history to life, helping children learn through hands-on activities such as ink making, rope making, butter churning, blacksmithing demonstrations and open hearth cooking. Children learn to appreciate local history and develop a deeper understanding of the American Civil War through interaction with costumed interpreters, Civil War reenactors, gifted storytellers, and volunteers passionate about youth education. In 2016, 2,100 children attended school field trips to the Museums, creating a record breaking attendance of over 31% from the previous year.



**Exhibits and Adult Learning:** Several thousand adults participate in activities at the House Museums annually, including battle reenactments, Civil War-era gardening and cooking demonstrations, readings and presentations, book signings and more. Special exhibits and programs delivered in partnership with, for example, Freedom's Frontier, inform and engage participants from across our region.



Field Trips



Public & Private Tours



Living History



Summer Camp



Dinners & Cocktail Parties



Seasonal Events

## ARE THE WORNALL/MAJORS HOUSE MUSEUMS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR MY CHARITABLE DOLLARS?

Yes! Since the merger of the John Wornall and Alexander Majors Houses in January 2011, the Museums have achieved an average annual operating budget of \$250,000. Importantly, the board and staff have worked to generate a balance of developed and earned revenue to avoid overdependence on any one source. But we need your help to continue our momentum. Keepers can be confident about their donations and will be in good company as supporters of the Wornall/Majors House Museums.

- **Earned Income:** We make our assets work to support our mission. The Museums rent a barn on the grounds of the Alexander Majors house for corporate meetings, nonprofit events and weddings and generate an average of \$70,000 annually. Special event revenue is also increasing—it is projected to be \$50,000 in 2017.
- **Individual and Foundation Support:** Annual memberships and individual donations are expected to reach \$57,000 in 2017. The Museums are also earning the support of a growing number of foundations and new individual donors, with gifts ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Our 2016 funder roster included the William T. Kemper Foundation, Bank of America, the Kearney Wornall Foundation (UMB, Trustee), Sunderland Foundation, and the Harvey Family Foundation. Following a bequest from the estate of Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph in 2016, the organization will further diversify its funding with a new planned giving program.
- **Capital Revenue:** We successfully conducted a \$350,000 campaign in 2013 to rebuild the foundation and front façade of the John Wornall House, badly damaged during the droughts of 2011 and 2012.

## HOW WILL MY GIFT BE USED?

As a Keeper of the Columns, your gift will have a real-time, real-world impact on the Museums' programs and the people we serve by providing general sustaining support for historic preservation efforts like a new Learning Landscape and Wood Restoration.

- **Learning Landscape:** With gifts from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Bank of America and Ford and Christine Maurer, a master plan for the use of the grounds at the Wornall House has been developed. This plan for a "Learning Landscape" includes historically appropriate plants, an exposed cistern, hands-on activities and program guides, and improved lighting and signage. The implementation of this plan will adapt our traditional learning opportunities to compete with the modern needs of other current educational offerings in our area. Your pledge could help finalize this as a learning destination for students and the entire community.
- **Wood Restoration:** As a Keeper, you understand the importance of preserving our cultural heritage and are at the center of our preservation efforts. Your support for the critical and urgent need for exterior wood restoration of the Majors House will ensure it remains a dynamic structure that serves our community by providing a variety of educational and community opportunities. Estimated costs for this project are \$76,000. The House Museums have successfully raised 80%. Your gift as a Keeper could help us reach this funding goal.



## HOW WILL MY GIFT BE RECOGNIZED?

Gifts are fully tax-deductible, and donors will receive prompt acknowledgement of their pledge payments. Donors will be recognized through on-site signage, on the Wornall/Majors website, and in regular newsletters and reports. Keepers will also be acknowledged during a special, annual "Keepers only" reception.

## SIGN ME UP AS A KEEPER OF THE COLUMNS!

*Your pledge makes a difference.*

And it will be used wisely. Please use the enclosed form to choose your giving level and return it to us in the envelope provided. Please also feel free to log on to [wornallmajors.org](http://wornallmajors.org) and use your credit card to make your pledge.

For questions or comments, we encourage you to contact Kerrie Nichols, Executive Director, at [director@wornallmajors.org](mailto:director@wornallmajors.org) or 816-444-1858.

*THANK YOU!*



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[www.wornallmajors.org](http://www.wornallmajors.org)  
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