

Professional Archaeologists of New York City Newsletter

Issue 188 | September 2022

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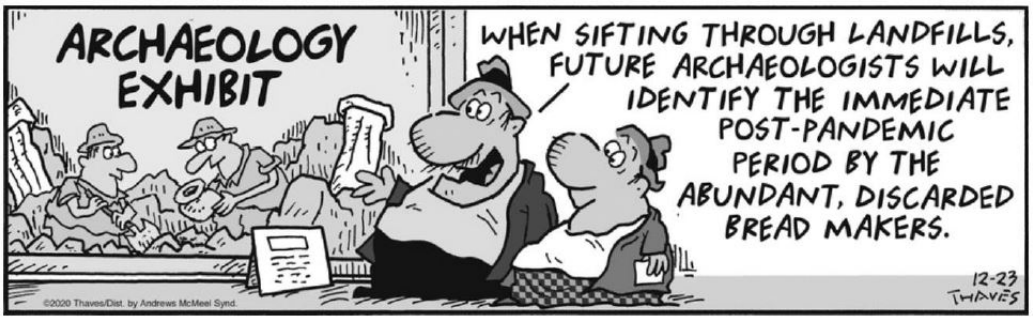


President's Message

Hello PANYC Members,

The summer has flown by, as usual. I was hoping to announce our upcoming meeting would be in person, but logistics prevailed, and we will once again meet via Zoom. Mark your calendars for Tuesday September 20. However, be assured that meeting in-person will be high on the agenda.

In addition to our usual agenda, which includes updates on issues we've discussed at past meetings, we are still looking for volunteers for a number of opportunities should you want to become more engaged with PANYC. The time commitments are what you make of them but can be as little as an hour or so once a year doing LPC public calendar reviews online. If you would like to devote more time and are interested learning more about PANYC, volunteering to participate in the twice-yearly newsletter is a good opportunity. There is always a need for content, and we are currently looking for a guest editor for the spring 2023 issue. Some of the content ideas we've discussed include short pieces about topics such as an artifact of note or interview one of PANYC's founding members. You could dive into our archives for a piece on our history and expand what we already have on our website https://www.panycarchaeology.org/history-of-panyc. Speaking of our website, if you haven't looked at it in a while, please do. It is new and improved and went live earlier this year! Although it's a new look, the context is pretty much the same. If you have any ideas for updates, we're happy to hear them.

As always, feel free to reach out via our email info@panycarchaeology.org with ideas or if you're interested in volunteering. If you're unable to attend meetings, as many are, and we'd still like to hear from you.

I hope to see you all soon.

Well wishes,
Linda Stone
PANYC President (2022-2024)
info@panycarchaeology.org

NEWS AND NOTES

PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Nan A. Rothschild, Amanda Sutphin, H. Arthur Bankoff, and Jessica Striebel MacLean for their recently published volume: Buried Beneath the City: An Archaeological History of New York! This work will be an essential addition to your New York City archaeology library. Please see the book announcement flyer later in the newsletter.

NEWS

The New York Times reported on the recovery of remains of 13 Hessian soldiers killed near Philadelphia in the 1777 Revolutionary War Battle of Red Bank.

Researchers published their findings in the American Journal of Science that radiocarbon testing of samples associated with LSU Campus Mound B, located on the Louisiana State University campus, revealed that its construction began ~11,000 BP, "making Mound B the oldest known and intact manmade (sic) structure in the Americas."

NOTES

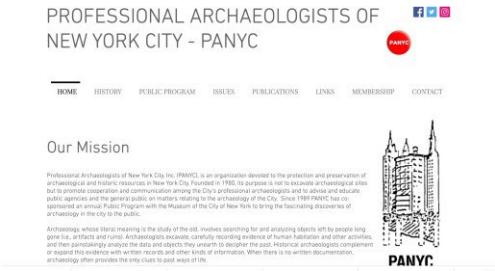
Kelly Britt will be presenting a talk at the L.A. Brennan, Lower Hudson Chapter of NYSAA at the Croton Point Nature Center on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 1 PM entitled "Legacies Are Our Future," about working with the Van Cortlandt Park Collection.

NYAC will host its Fall meeting on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at the New York State Museum Huxley Theater.

The NYAC Nomenclature Committee has released a draft guidance document regarding Referencing Indigenous Communities. The Committee provides thoughtful insights into using more respectful language in our reporting. Please have a look!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

If you are interested in being the NEW newsletter editor for 2022 or would like to take a turn at guest editing the newsletter, please contact PANYC President Linda Stone at lindastone@juno.com.



Hit the PANYC Button-We Have a NEW Website!!!

Thanks to Lynn Rakos for creating and the rest of the website committee-Kelly Britt and Linda Stone-we have a new public face for PANYC.

Any additional photos? Stories? Info you want to share on website? Feel free to email with thoughts to info@panycarchaeology.org

Check out our new website here: www.panycarchaeology.org

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

PANYC General Meeting
via Zoom
14 September 2021, 6:00 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Present: Cantwell, Czerkowicz, Geismar, Juergens, Linn, Martin, McGovern, Meade, Rakos, Rothschild, Spigelman Stone, Wall

President's Report:
Linn reported that she contacted Amanda Sutphin at LPC regarding the emergency work proposed for Hart's Island. She was put in contact with Timothy Frye, LPC's Director of Special Projects. Mr. Frye indicated that there will be archeological monitoring as well as HABS recordation of structures on the island, and LPC will be consulted if archaeological features or artifacts are uncovered. Mr. Frye cc-ed two NYC Parks Department staff, Mitchel Loring and Nicholas Molinari, on his response as the project is under Parks' jurisdiction. It was suggested by the board that Linn reach out to Sybil Young, a historic preservation officer with Parks.

Public Program: Linn will contact MCNY regarding the possibility of a Public Program in the Spring of 2022 in cooperation with the museum. She will suggest that the same program scheduled for 2019 be the theme for 2022, provided all speakers are willing to participate.

Linn brought up a suggestion made by MacLean, who could not attend the meeting, that a memorial for John Vetter be written for the newsletter. All agreed this was a great idea and suggestions were made as to who might be best to write it. Linn will follow up with those who were suggested.

Linn brought up information provided by Britt, who could not attend the meeting, regarding the Flatbush African Burial Ground Coalition, an organization formed in response to proposed development by the city on the site of an African Burial Ground in Flatbush, Brooklyn (https://www.growhousenyc.org/flatbush-african-burial-ground). The organization is opposed to the city's current plan and critical of how the city has engaged with the community. A phase 1A and 1B were undertaken by HPI. An 1855 map shows the burial ground in just a corner of the property. The existence of the map was described in Meade's dissertation, where it is stated that the burial ground may have originally been larger than recorded on the map. The city has convened a "task force" to meet with the community on memorializing the site and constructing public housing there (https://fabgtaskforce.nyc/).

Discussion ensued as to the institutional memory that has been lost in the city regarding the many years and great cost, both social and monetary, associated with the development at the

African Burial Ground in Manhattan, now a National Monument. It was suggested that PANYC write a letter to the city to remind them. It was also discussed that PANYC members may individually want to get involved. A teach-in, with Dr. Michael Blakey, will be held soon and information about it will be provided to PANYC members.

Treasurer's Report:
Meade reported that she received dues, including some back payments, for all but 3 members. We have 46 paid members and our account balance is $5,544.76. She also reported that she scanned all of Spritzer's (our former long-time treasurer) paper files and kept only what we need to legally hold in paper form. Meade was thanked for all her efforts!

Election: Rakos mentioned that elections will be held for 2022. Rakos will determine who on the board can run for reelection, if they wish and who cannot, based on the bylaws. The election process will be discussed in November meeting.

Newsletter: Meade will have the September newsletter out soon. As previously reported, this will be her last one. Meade was thanked by all for her work on producing the newsletter for us! Geismar will reach out, once more, to the City Library to see if they will still archive the PANYC Newsletter.

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO EDIT THE NEWSLETTER! There are now just two per year, in September and March. If you are interested, please let someone on the board know. If you are considering volunteering and have questions on what it entails Meade is happy to answer them.

Website: Rakos reported it is closer than ever to completion She conducted additional research on past public programs and the awardees of PANYC's two awards as well as obtained the last two newsletters she was missing to complete the full suite of documents.

Wall mentioned that some items of interest may not be getting out to the membership. Forming a "google groups" kind of platform so that all PANYC members can submit items of interest and announcements was discussed. If formed, all members will be added, and they can request individually to be removed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Stone brought up a request for support of the nomination of Dr. Sara Bronin to be Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. After real-time online research about Dr. Bronin and discussion, Stone entered PANYC's support into the online form.

Rakos mentioned that an email had been sent to PANYC regarding a Programmatic Agreement for HUD-funded projects in NY state. She noted that the PA addresses projects that would have little chance to effect archeological resources.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom. The

meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.
Minutes prepared by: Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

PANYC General Meeting

via Zoom

11 November 2021, 6:30 PM

Present: Linn, Stone, George, Cantwell, MacLean, Britt, Meade, Geismar, Crossland, Czerkowicz, McGovern, Rothschild, Wall

President's Report:

Conference House Park was landmarked in July.

Linn contacted Sybil Young of Parks about what's planned for Hart Island. Some historic buildings will be demolished and we want to make sure archaeology is considered in the site's development. She said that all protocols were followed properly, but Parks hasn't sent out an RFP yet (as of October). Geismar will follow up with Sybil Young about the RFP.

Linn contacted MCNY about Public Program. They would like to host, but still are not sure how in-person events will work in the Spring. Linn will get back to them with list of participants once she determines who is still willing to do so.

The website is ready to go live once it's optimized for mobile and an email issue is worked out. Stone and Britt elaborated on the issues. Britt said Godaddy sent a message saying our email address is about to expire. She will reach out to Rakos about this and the email transfer issue.

This issue of the newsletter is Meade's last as editor. Thanks were given for her many years of editorship. Nobody has volunteered to take over the newsletter. Linn asked if anyone was interested in guest editing. Britt said she would do an issue if we don't find someone else.

Linn announced it is election time and she would like to form a committee. Linn, as current president, is a member, and MacLean and Rothschild volunteered to serve as the two additional members required by our bylaws.

Treasurer's Report:

Meade reports the current balance is $5572.78. Almost everyone is current in dues. Only 1 person is in arrears and 2 have not yet paid for 2021.

Committee Reports

Awards: Rothschild asks membership to start thinking about nominations for the Salwen Prize and the Non-Archaeologist Award. She will see if Schuldenrein is still on the committee. Rothschild will send a notice asking for nominations soon.

Met. Chapter: Linn reported that last night's presentation by McGovern was very engaging and well received. MacLean said NYSAA will continue with shared virtual meetings every 6 weeks. McGovern's talk was recorded and the link will be shared soon.

NYAC: McGovern reported the NYAC meeting is this Saturday virtually. She posted the Zoom link in the chat.

New Business:
George reported that Jason DeLeon's interactive art exhibit on the migration crisis at the southern border is at Fordham Lincoln Center through late-November or December. He has written an ethnography about this issue.

Linn reported Rachel Kiddey has a digital project about Middle East and North Africa migration

Next meeting - Wednesday January 19, 2022

Annual Meeting - Wednesday March 23, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Linda Stone, PANYC President-Elect for Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

PANYC General Membership
Meeting via Zoom
23 March 2022, 6:30PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:30PM.

Present: Britt, Cantwell, Clark, Czerkowicz, Geismar, Juergens, Linn, MacLean, Martin, Meade, Rakos, Spigelman, Stone, Wall

President's Report:

Elections: Only 15 ballots were received. There was one 3-way tie. Linn spoke with the individuals to see if they wanted to hold a runoff at the meeting. Two kindly bowed out of the running.

Public Program: Linn reported that MCNY has delayed the public program once more. A key staff member is out sick which is affecting the spring programming schedule for the teacher's training program, which is the audience MCNY was gearing our program to this year. Linn reached out to Frances Rosenfeld, Director Public Programs, to see if there was an opportunity for a program

through her office. Rosenfeld apologized that MCNY could not accommodate our program this year but is open to an event at another time of year.

Treasurers' Report:

Meade presented the annual report which includes both 2020 and 2021 as it included the transition from Spritzer to Meade. Almost everyone in arrears has now paid. There is $6,295.35 in PANYC's account. The Treasure's report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Cantwell reported that the committee, consisting of herself, Rothschild (Chair) and Schuldenrein, has decided on an awardee. It is the Bowery Residents' Committee. Meade nominated the organization as they went above and beyond in their recognition of an African burial ground that had once been located on a property in Inwood they purchased to build a shelter. They not only conducted an archaeological investigation but worked closely with the descendant community. MacLean inquired if there was an award for archaeologists who contribute beyond the normal workload and might warrant recognition. It was discussed that such an award could be developed. However, this led to a discussion on highlighting people and their work in the newsletter (see Newsletter, below). Also discussed was the fact that awardees since the pandemic began have not been recognized. Their nominations may be included in the newsletter.

Newsletter: Britt is the guest editor for the spring newsletter. She is still looking for memories and/or photographs of Diane Dallal. It was suggested that a bibliography of Diane's work be included. MacLean agreed to compile such a document. Please send titles to include to MacLean.

The idea of having "spotlight" features in the newsletter on a PANYC member and on an intriguing artifact was met with enthusiasm. It was suggested that a committee be formed to follow up on this idea and to cajole people to write such features. It was noted that with just 2 newsletters a year this means only 2 people and 2 artifacts annually. Wall indicated that she would consider chairing this committee.

We still need a Newsletter Editor. But a volunteer guest editor for the September edition would be welcomed.

Membership: The board recommended Ryan Clark for membership. Clark was put into a "break-out room," while the membership voted on his application. His application and resume were shared via the chat function and Stone read Clark's statement from his application. All members in attendance voted for Clark's membership. He was readmitted to the main "room" and welcomed into PANYC.

Website: Britt reported that the website is close to going live. Hosting, domain and email will be

switched to WIX. Updates can be readily made to the website. Once launched, edits and photographs will still be welcomed by the committee.

Old Business: Should we continue our meetings remotely or go back to in-person? All agreed to have May's meeting online but to hold off on a decision about September's meeting. Geismar and Stone asked Linn if the Bard Graduate Center was still an option for in-person meetings. Linn indicated yes, barring any covid restrictions in place at the time.

New Business:
Election results:
President: Linda Stone
President-elect: Jessica MacLean (who noted that due to conflicts with her employment she cannot take over the role of president)
Treasurer: Elizabeth Meade
Secretary: Matthew Spigelman
Board:
Camille Czerkowicz
Lizzie Martin
Lynn Rakos
Matt Reilly
Nan Rothschild
Meredith Linn, past-President

Stone thanked Linn for her years of service as President during strange and trying times. She also thanked the out-going board.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30PM.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.
Minutes prepared by: Lynn Rakos, PANYC Secretary

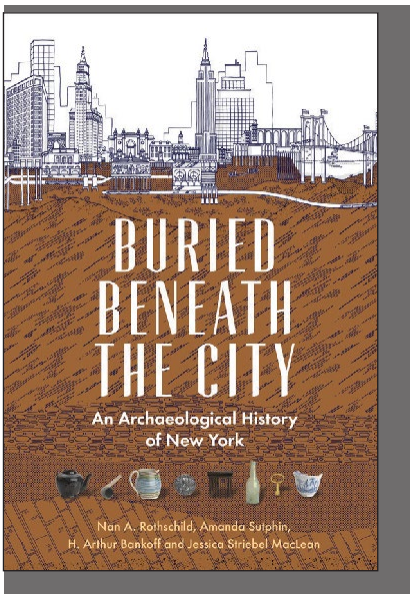
CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE HERE!!

Email: info@panycarchaeology.org

Buried Beneath the City

An Archaeological History of New York

Nan A. Rothschild, Amanda Sutphin, H. Arthur Bankoff, and Jessica Striebel MacLean



Bits and pieces of the lives led long before the age of skyscrapers are scattered throughout New York City, found in backyards, construction sites, street beds, and parks. Indigenous tools used thousands of years ago; wine jugs from a seventeenth-century tavern; a teapot from Seneca Village, the nineteenth-century Black settlement displaced by Central Park; raspberry seeds sown in backyard Brooklyn gardens—these everyday objects are windows into the city's forgotten history.

Buried Beneath the City uses urban archaeology to retell the history of New York, from the deeper layers of the past to the topsoil of recent events. The book explores the ever-evolving city and the day-to-day world of its residents through artifacts, from the first traces of Indigenous societies more than ten thousand years ago to the detritus of Dutch and English colonization and through to the burgeoning city's transformation into the modern metropolis. It demonstrates how the archaeological record often goes beyond written history by preserving mundane things—details of everyday life that are beneath the notice of the documentary record. These artifacts reveal the density, diversity, and creativity of a city perpetually tearing up its foundations to rebuild itself. Lavishly illustrated with images of objects excavated in the city, *Buried Beneath the City* is at once an archaeological history of New York City and an introduction to urban archaeology.

NAN A. ROTHSCHILD is an urban social archaeologist who was Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College and is adjunct professor at Columbia University.

AMANDA SUTPHIN is the director of archaeology at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and manages the NYC Archaeological Repository: The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center.

H. ARTHUR BANKOFF is the advisor to the chair for archaeology at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and is a professor emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at Brooklyn College, City University of New York.

JESSICA STRIEBEL MACLEAN is an urban archaeologist at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the NYC Archaeological Repository.

THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. It is responsible for protecting New York City's architecturally, historically, and culturally significant buildings and sites by granting them landmark or historic district status and regulating them after designation.

"What a fascinating and inspiring book! Exploring thousands of years of New York City's ecological, material, and social history, Buried Beneath the City shows us not only what we can learn from the material leavings of the past but also how archaeologists work to make sense of this evidence."

—Elizabeth Blackmar, coauthor of *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park*

"This beautiful book demonstrates how much is available to recover from beneath our feet in New York City. The authors guide us sure-handedly through the pre-twentieth century collision of cultures that still affects our world today."

—Leslie M. Harris, author of *In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863*

"*Buried Beneath the City* unearths a new vista, the remains of the days before Europeans arrived and of lost quotidian life since. Take a revealing self-guided underground expedition through material evidence that sheds light on the periods and people neglected by the documentary record."

—Sam Roberts, author of *A History of New York in 101 Objects*

"This is a terrific book, one well worthy of reading. Writing a book accessible to all readers, the authors present the complexities and the unique contributions of archaeological excavation and thorough research on the recovered artifacts to our understanding of the panorama of human occupation of a living city. I applaud the authors for their success."

—Martha Zierden, coauthor of *Charleston: An Archeology of Life in a Coastal Community*

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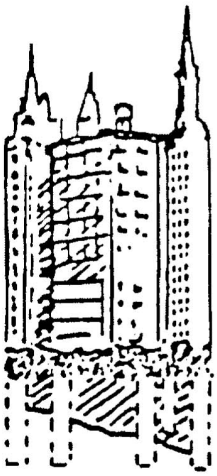
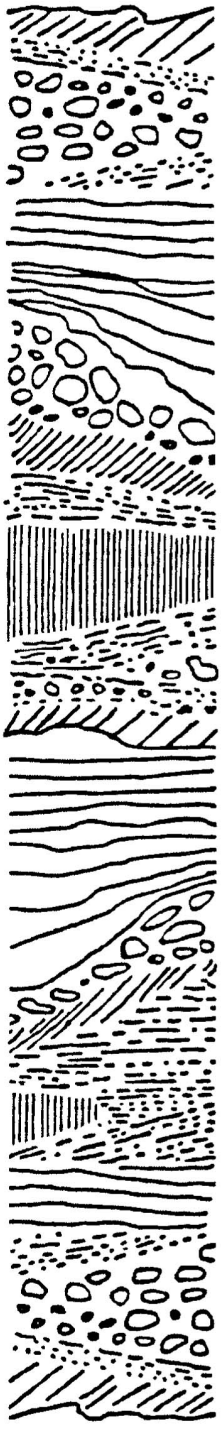


PANYC



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 5, 2022

Paul Edmondson, President and CEO
Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer
Tom Mayes, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Edmondson, Ms. Malone-France, and Mr. Mayes,

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) I am writing about the situation at Montpelier. PANYC supports and echoes your condemnation of the board of The Montpelier Foundation (TMF), who have effectively revoked their shared governance role with the Montpelier Descendant Community (MDC) less than a year after they established this groundbreaking and much applauded common-sense approach to managing and interpreting Montpelier. However, with TMF's recent firing of many senior staff members who were vocal against them and supportive of the structural parity model, it is clear TMF does not get the message. More needs to be done! We urge you, in your role as the property owner, to take more decisive action.

Founded in 1980, PANYC is dedicated to preserving and protecting archaeological resources in New York City and educating the public about our cultural heritage. Our organization advocated for collaboration with the descendant community in the African Burial Project, and we saw the project improve with the inclusion of community voices. This project was a watershed moment for archaeology in the U.S.; it demonstrated that developing relationships and trust with descendant communities is an ethical and moral obligation that also results in better research and project outcomes.

If we've learned any lesson from the African Burial Ground Project, it is that attempting to quiet the voices of those most affected by the work cannot lead to meaningful progress and that inclusivity and community engagement are the best approaches. While these lessons seem lost to TMF, we know the National Trust for Historic Preservation embraces this model. We urge you to find a solution to the current situation even if it means revoking the lease agreement with TMF and moving forward with new stewardship at Montpelier.

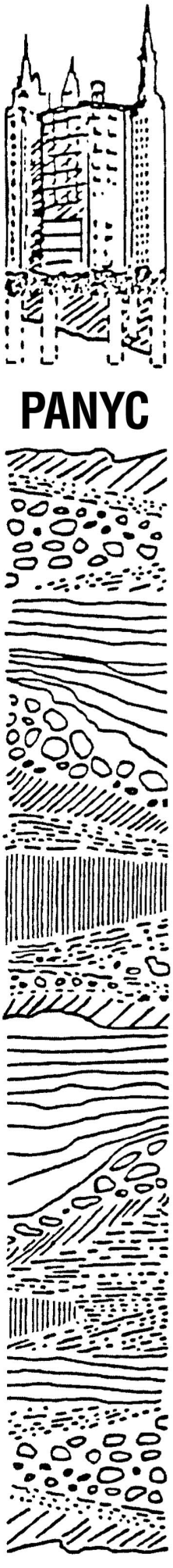
It seems clear that TMF does not intend to reverse its decisions regarding MDC and the fired staff. Your leadership, as Montpelier's owners, is needed to rectify the Montpelier situation and move forward with the MDC. You are the leaders. Please take action now!

Sincerely,

Linda Stone

Linda Stone
PANYC President

cc: Eugene Hickok, Board Chair, The Montpelier Foundation
Roy F. Young, II, President, Chief Executive Officer, The Montpelier Foundation
Greg Werkheiser, Cultural Heritage Partners



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 5, 2022

Eugene Hickok, Board Chair
Roy F. Young, II, President, Chief Executive Officer
The Montpelier Foundation
11350 Constitution Highway
Montpelier Station, VA 22957

Dear Mr. Young and Mr. Kickok,

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) I urge the Montpelier Foundation Board of Directors to reinstate the Montpelier Descendant Community's (MDC) structural parity with The Montpelier Foundation's (TMF) and elect MDC recommended board members to immediately fill open positions. We applauded the shared governance developed by TMF in 2021 as an exemplary model for collaborating with descendant communities. Now we are surprised and disappointed to learn of the Board's recent vote and the subsequent firings of longtime Montpelier employees, including our colleague Matthew Reeves, Director of Archaeology and Landscape Restoration. Your actions seem a shortsighted response to a falsely perceived threat. We urge you and other members of the TMF Board to re-engage with the MDC, to rehire the staff and to support their important collaborations with the descendant community. Doing so will only strengthen Montpelier, a goal you all share.

Founded in 1980, PANYC is dedicated to preserving and protecting archaeological resources in New York City and educating the public about our cultural heritage. Our organization advocated for collaboration with the descendant community in the African Burial Project, and we saw how the project improved with the inclusion of community voices. The project was a watershed moment for archaeology in the U.S.; it demonstrated that developing relationships and trust with descendant communities is an ethical and moral obligation that also results in better research and project outcomes.

We were pleased to see The Montpelier Foundation's groundbreaking Rubric ("Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery at Historic Sites") incorporated the restorative justice lessons of the African Burial Ground Project. These lessons, learned through community engagement, have served all of us well. We encourage the TMF not to forget them. Developing the Rubric was a step forward in reasserting the rights of descendants, an ethical standard that we are writing to affirm, that had established TMF as a praiseworthy leader. Therefore, it was especially disheartening to see TMF dismiss the MDC through their recent vote and then fire employees who spoke out.

PANYC joins the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Montpelier's owner), the museum staff and former staff, and other respected groups in calling on you and the TMF's Board to restore MDC's shared governance role, add MDC recommended board members and rehire staff.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone

Linda Stone
PANYC President

cc: Paul Edmonson, President and CEO National Trust for Historic Preservation
Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer National Trust
Tom Mayes, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel National Trust
Greg Werkheiser, Cultural Heritage Partners

James Madison's MONTPELIER

June 13, 2022

Ms. Linda Stone
President
Professional Archaeologists of New York City

Dear Ms. Stone,

Thank you for sending your strong and thoughtful statement regarding the recent events at Montpelier. I apologize for the delay in this response. Please know that your statement and your support influenced the ultimate outcome.

On May 16, The Montpelier Foundation (Foundation) Board of Directors created a relationship of structural parity with the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC), the independent 501(c)(3) organization that represents a group descended from the enslaved people of the plantation community. This is a milestone in museum and historic site governance, and we are very excited about the opportunities this presents for Montpelier's future.

The new chairman of the Foundation Board is James French, the former founding chair of the MDC. In addition to his deep ancestral connection to Orange County, Mr. French brings expert governance, financial, and entrepreneurial experience to the position. The Foundation Board now consists of 13 members nominated by the MDC, including journalist Soledad O'Brien, Cornell Brooks from the Kennedy School at Harvard, and historian Joshua D. Rothman.

On May 22, the Foundation Board accepted the resignation of President & CEO Roy F. Young II and named me Interim President & CEO. My top priority has been to welcome back the previously terminated and suspended staff. This has been accomplished with the reinstatement of Dr. Matt Reeves, Dr. Mary Furlong Minkoff, Mr. Chris Pasch, and Ms. Christy Moriarty.

On behalf of the entire Montpelier staff, please accept my sincere gratitude for your help in achieving these milestones. Structural parity recognizes that descendant involvement is not enough; cultural institutions have an ethical obligation to create a structured process whereby the organization shares equal decision-making power and authority with those descended from the enslaved communities whose stories they tell. We thank you for your commitment to this, and for your support of Montpelier. The power of professional organizations calling for Montpelier to recommit to respectful collaboration and co-creation with the MDC cannot be understated. It is through your meaningful work and commitment to transformative leadership that we at Montpelier usher in a moment of cultural change.

We have a long road of recovery ahead of us, one that promises the opportunity to expand our research and interpretation to tell broader, richer and more truthful narratives. Montpelier has a very bright future, and I hope you will continue to be a part of our community.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Chew

Elizabeth Chew
Interim President and CEO, Ph.D.