



Newsletter

January 2025

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New Year, New Office
1328 Florida Avenue NW, 2nd Floor



Manhattan Laundry, Street View, courtesy of the National Park Service (HABS Survey).

At the start of the new year, DC Preservation League moved into a new office space at [Manhattan Laundry](#), located at 1328 Florida Avenue NW. The historic property includes three separate buildings connected by two different enclosed bridges, the oldest of which was built in 1877 and the newest in 1936. DCPL is located on the west side of the complex, in the building pictured above.

Whether you stop by for a meeting with a staff member, or drop in to volunteer at our new photo archive, we look forward to seeing you in DCPL's new space soon!

Remembering David Bonderman (1942-2024):
Author of DC's Long-Standing Preservation Law



David Bonderman (1942-2024), photo courtesy of Bonderman Family, TPG, Wildcat Capital Management and the Seattle Kraken.

Contributed by Carol (Bickley) Aten, Founding Board Member and three-time President of Don't Tear It Down

Don't Tear It Down (DTID, the predecessor to the DC Preservation League) was incredibly lucky when David Bonderman became our pro bono attorney. Our early incorporation and other legal matters were originally handled by a wonderful colleague of David's at Arnold & Porter, but early on, David became our counsel. What a godsend!

David was one of those people who just exuded vitality—brilliant, energetic, quick, witty, creative, passionate, and strategic. As DTID's pro bono counsel and vice president for 10 years (1972-1982), he was a key player in making DTID credible, effective and formidable. He fought for the Willard Hotel, the Old Post Office, the Franklin School, the old Riggs Bank Building, and Red Lion Row among other threatened buildings. He was a wizard at using the law to help advance the cause of preservation. I recall him magically getting a temporary restraining order on a weekend to stop a demolition. I also remember one evening after our board meeting ended, following David back to Arnold & Porter (where they had a 24-hour typing pool!) to get some legal filing that he had dashed off typed up for submittal.

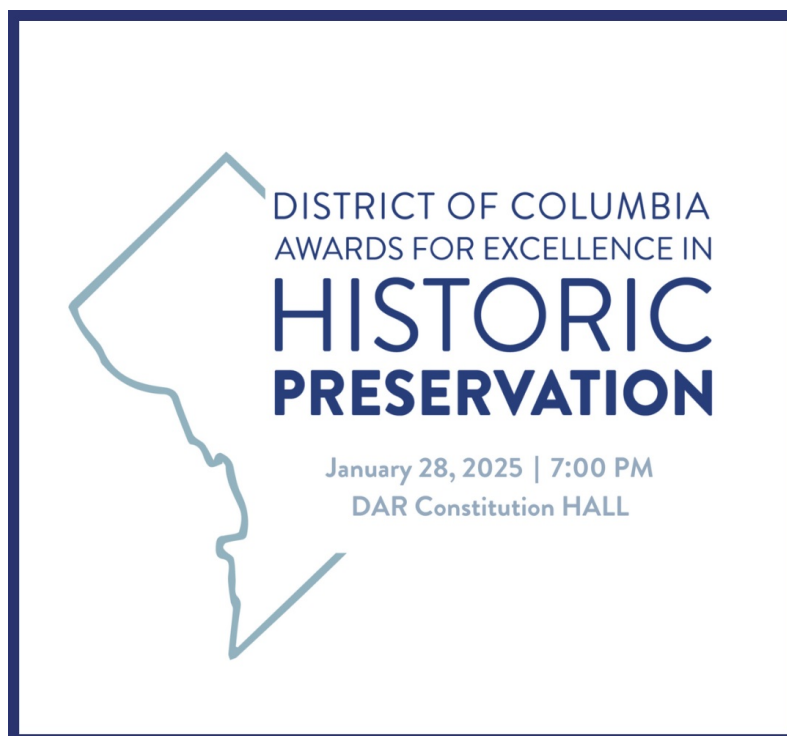
However, his most important and strategic accomplishment was drafting DC's historic preservation ordinance that the DC Council enacted virtually unchanged in 1978. That law was a model for other cities and has been foundational to preserving our city's historic heritage.

David perhaps outgrew us, but he didn't forget us. In 1983, he moved to Texas as Chief Operating Officer of the Bass Group and was later a co-founder of the Texas Pacific Group (now TPG). He became a billionaire; co-founder and co-owner of the Seattle Kraken NHL team; a member of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society; a board member of the World Wildlife Fund, the American Himalayan Foundation, and the Grand Canyon Trust; and a board member of numerous corporate entities. Yet I know he fondly remembered his time with our feisty group. He was a continued supporter of the DC Preservation League and attended our 45th and 50th Anniversary Celebrations. It was a joy to see him there.

David passed away in December 2024 at age 82. He is remembered by me and his preservation colleagues with fondness, admiration, and gratitude. The unique beauty and historic fabric of Washington, DC are part of his legacy.

DC Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | DAR Constitution Hall
7:00 PM - Awards Ceremony
Reception to Follow



Join the DC Preservation League at the District of Columbia Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation! This widely-anticipated community event will be hosted by the [Daughters of the American Revolution at DAR Constitution Hall](#).

The awards will be presented in the following categories: Design and Construction, Stewardship, the State Historic Preservation Officer's Award, and the Historic Preservation Review Board Chair's Award.

[Register Here](#)

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NOTE: Please register only if you plan to attend. This is an in-person event and will not be live-streamed. A recording of the program will be made available following the event.

This event is free & open to the public. Attire is business casual.

Preservation Initiatives Grant Program

2025 Application Now Open Through March 7, 2025



The [Preservation Initiatives Grant Program's 2025 application](#) is now open through Friday, March 7, 2025. This grant program, administered by the DC Preservation League, provides matching grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations for preservation planning, research, outreach and education, and bricks and mortar projects related to historic and cultural sites. These grants are intended to help stimulate public discussion, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, make technical expertise accessible, and encourage partnerships.

The program is supported by two separate funding sources and is focused on specific areas of the District: Brightwood Car Barn (Ward 4) and Virginia Avenue Tunnel (Area of Potential Effects in Southeast Washington).

Two more online grants workshops are scheduled for early 2025: February 6th and February 18th. Please click below to register. If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Burt, DCPL's Community Outreach and Grants Manager, at zach@dcpreservation.org.

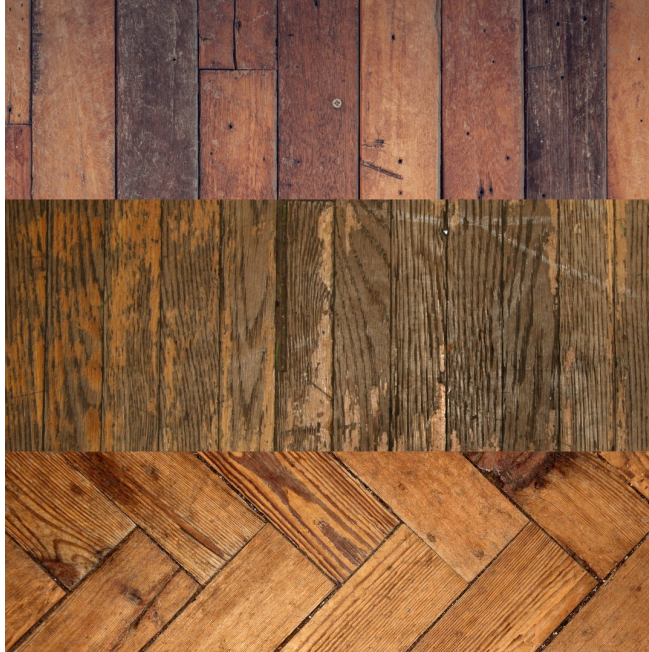
[Preservation Initiatives Grant Program](#)

[2025 Grant Application](#)

[Grants Workshops Registration](#)

So You Bought A Historic House...*Now What?* Preservation Treatments & Materials In Your Home

Friday, January 24, 2025, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Virtual, Zoom



Composite photo of various flooring materials, Open Source Material.

Historic properties can be intimidating to homeowners. This presentation is meant to empower attendees with information about common materials in DC properties, typical failure methods, and preservation treatments. Expert Naomi Ryan will walk attendees through common roofing and building materials, and options for preservation treatments. Bring your restoration questions and get helpful answers!

This event is free and open to the public. Please register online to receive the Zoom link in your inbox.

[Register Here](#)

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