

Paul Revere Memorial Association Annual Report 2025



19 North Square, Boston, Massachusetts

Paul Revere Memorial Association
Annual Report
2025

Nina Zannieri
Executive Director
May 27, 2026

After years of anticipation and planning, the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride and the beginning of the American Revolution in 2025 proved to be all or more than we could have hoped for. While almost everyone knows about Revere's daring ride, little attention is given to the longer term impact of his actions. Unable to return to Boston, the work began for Paul to set the wheels in motion to get his large family out of the city. The Revere's would not return to their home for almost a year. Sharing this ongoing story was also part of our programming.

With the one exception that general visitation at our site did not grow as noticeably as we had hoped; our programs were wonderfully novel and spectacular. Our goal of collaboration around themes that we hoped would capture the relevance of Paul Revere's contributions both in the context of his time and today exceeded our expectations throughout the year. We reached a number of new audiences along with our regular fans and general visitors. Though we had a few special grants, most of our work was covered by our regular operating budget. From a new publication to a community night and from new 250th branded products in our shop to oft-photographed commemorative banners, the staff created and implemented complex and innovative programs throughout a long and exhausting but deeply satisfying year.

It is often said, and it is particularly true in the history museum field; no one does this alone. Our continued success relies on the care and attention of our board, generous supporters, colleagues who enjoy collaboration, trusted contractors, talented reenactors and craftspeople, and of course, our creative and dedicated staff members. We all work together to make sure our historic buildings are cared for, that our visitors experience lively and compelling stories, and that we constantly strive to ensure that Revere's enduring legacy remains relevant.

FINANCE

Even without a major increase in attendance, the Association had a very good year. Key earned income sources (admissions, museum shop and education programs) were up 8% over last year. Driven by the popularity of our many 250th branded items and our new publication, shop sales alone increased by 24%. Also, even with the reductions in rates, interest income continued to be very strong. Clearly earned income remains a dependable segment of our operating budget.

Operating expenses grew slightly over 7%. Part of this was due to the cost of shop inventory and our continued efforts to improve wages and benefits for staff. With operating revenue and support totaling \$2,055,322, and operating expenses of \$1,606,546, we ended the year with a comfortable operating surplus. Endowment growth and capital improvements elevated net assets to over \$19M at year end.

Fundraising

With our robust levels of earned income, it might be tempting, but shortsighted, to discount the importance of fundraising. However, we are committed to raising funds that allow us to complete necessary capital improvements, to reward staff, and develop and sustain new programs.

Perhaps driven by our 250th events, our official Annual Appeal set a new record. We also were fortunate to have a significant matching opportunity in place, which we know makes a huge difference. Contributions totaling \$108,133 were received from 151 individual donors and visitors to the site. Membership dropped a bit, though this may be due to the somewhat idiosyncratic nature of how people renew. Because of the collaborative and complex nature of our 250th programming, we were able to grow in-kind contributions of goods and services to a record of \$41,288.

As has been noted over the years, support from businesses and sponsorships has never been significant or as much of a priority as perhaps it should. However, modest growth over the last few years was amplified in 2025 by two major program sponsorships. Regular contributions from Revere Copper Products, Hub Town Tours, Boston Gift Shop, Child-Genovese Insurance, Union Oyster House, and the Revere Hotel were augmented by \$10,000 for our Revolutionary Concert from the Freedom Trail Foundation's marketing budget and \$5,000 for our Revolutionary Movie Night from Meet Boston.

We used the last \$100,000 operating draw from the \$1M multi-year conditional grant made in 2021 by a local foundation. This foundation also awarded a new grant this year that included \$350,000 for capital improvements and a \$100,000 match for our annual appeal. The Association also *continues* to have critical annual support from a cohort of regular funders. Annual operating grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (general operating support and UP program innovation funds), Lodge of Saint Andrew, Lowell Institute, Society of the Cincinnati, and One Step Forward Educational Foundation provide necessary dollars for our extensive educational programming and other operational expenses. The Freedom Trail Foundation also provides an annual grant to assist with small, but important, preservation efforts including routine maintenance and repairs.

Endowment

The Association has worked hard over many years to establish and grow its board-designated endowment. Because we do not currently rely on a draw to support our operations, we employ an aggressive allocation of 80% stock and 20% cash. Our endowment policy allows for its use as unrestricted operating support when needed, cash to manage capital projects, and opportunity funds that allow us to embark on new ventures and acquire artifacts. In 2025 the value of our investments grew significantly driven by strong interest and dividends, and a positive market. We also transferred \$200,000 from operating cash. By year-end the value of our endowment had increased 19% to \$9,387,294.

ATTENDANCE

Ironically, given all the good news in this report, the one metric that did not grow as anticipated was regular attendance. Though up 4% to 268,424 visitors, we expected more of a bump from the extensive press around our 250th events. Again, pockets of bad weather, the soft international market, and visitor concerns around government shutdowns (these don't impact our operations but do create a perception that things are closed). Still, most Boston attractions were down in 2025 against 2024 so we continue to beat local trends around visitation. As a result, we retained our spot as the 7th busiest museum on the *Boston Business Journal's* list of largest museums in Boston.

Another important element of our audience numbers comes from attendance at off-site programs and access to content on our website and virtual programs. Numbers for youth

and adult groups, whether served on-site or via outreach programs, continued their slow return to pre-pandemic levels. Aside from lectures, virtual programs have never been overly popular as most schools prefer to come to the site or to have the program at their school. While we serve many groups from across the nation, one of our primary audiences is urban school systems in Massachusetts that have limited financial resources. With generous support from a number of funders, we are able to provide free or discounted programs to many of these local youth audiences. Free programs and buses ensured that Revere House programs were enjoyed by 1,194 participants in 43 classes from 18 Boston schools. Though mostly 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes, we served quite a few 1st and 2nd grades, special needs classes, and one 10th grade. Reduced cost offerings provided for Title One schools reached 797 participants in 32 classes, at nine schools in seven different communities. In this category we also provided two virtual programs; one for a school in Lowell and the other for home bound-learners in New York City, which reached 5 classes and 139 participants. Paid outreach programs, a very popular option for schools in the area, were delivered to 62 classes at 15 schools in 11 communities with a total audience of 1,361 people.

Traffic to our various forms of online content grew, driven, we believe, by interest around the 250th anniversary of the Ride. Our website recorded 446,519 users who produced 849,656 page views. In April we set a new record for most users in a single month with 104,720, well exceeding our annual April spike related to the Midnight Ride. Revere House Radio's user numbers doubled over 2024 to 7,695 listeners, and access since inception settled in at just over 21,000 people. Revere Express blog posts were accessed by over 25,000, and the Interactive Midnight Ride Map saw a dramatic increase to 26,725 users. Our education learning site served 6,292 users in its first full year of access.

Many of our programs for the 250th were off site and served well over 40,000 people. Lecture programs at the Concord Museum, Wayside Inn, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Road Scholar lectures, and our annual Lowell lecture series drew 2,100 people in person or via live stream, with thousands more since then who have accessed the recordings. We had 70 people at our Revolutionary Movie Night and 170 people at our Revolutionary Concert. However, the signature event was the reenactment of Revere's April 18th progression from home, to the water front, to Charlestown and off into history, which has been reported to have attracted over 30,000 people at all six discrete program locations combined.

PERSONNEL

Organizations are only as good as their staff team. Our small but resilient crew performs all critical operating functions while also serving as the Association's public face, locally and across the nation, by interacting with our colleagues, professional organizations, and community groups. They set the tone for our efforts to be welcoming and responsive to visitors, email contacts, contractors, and phone inquiries.

David Gain, our still relatively new Curator, has taken over the role of liaison to the Boston House Museum Alliance and is in the process of developing a number of professional networks that match his interests and our needs, such as joining the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists and the FBI Cultural Safeguard Alliance.

Education Director Emily Holmes remains involved with the Cooperstown Graduate Program Alumni Association, is a member of the Place-Based Boston Education Collaborative, the Massachusetts Educators Roundtable, and is active in the New England Museum Association.

Our Research and Adult Program Director, Tegan Kehoe, works with the Suffolk University History Department and GBGH on our annual lecture series, and is the organizational representative to Civic Season, MA Cultural and Academic Partnerships, and Made By Us.

Kristin Peszka, Interpretation and Visitor Services Director, represents the Association at monthly meetings of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Universal Participation cohort and the sites' marketing group convened by the Freedom Trail Foundation. She is the local representative and convener for VEX, a national group of museum visitor services/visitor experience staffers, an active member of the New England Museum Association, and attends Meet Boston networking events.

Executive Director Nina Zannieri is actively involved with a number of local, regional, and professional organizations. She sits on the Board of the Freedom Trail Foundation, as well as on its Executive, Finance and Investment, and Innovation Committees. She is Manager of the Boston Port and Seamen's Aid Society and Chair of the Community Relations Committee, is a member of the Colonial Society Marketing and Program Committee, and sits on advisory committees for the Harvard Museum Studies Program, and the Partnership of the Historic Bostons. She serves on the Executive Leadership Committee of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission's Cultural Institutions Working Group and is a member of the Collective Fundraising Task Force. Nina also serves as a member of the New England Museum Association 911 professional assistance group and is an American Association for State and Local History emeritus council member.

Mehitabel Glenhaber has primary responsibility for membership, mailings, our e-newsletter, website, and computer systems. Katie Burke manages the museum shop, all office and custodial supply procurement, and performs a number of administrative tasks. Both Mehitabel and Katie also assist Emily with education program delivery and reservations and help Tegan with the high school intern program.

Billy Wong, our long-time custodian, does a remarkable job making sure the buildings are tidy and our courtyards and sidewalks swept and shoveled. He has a keen eye and always notices and reports anything that is amiss.

Our amazing part-time staff members perform a range of critical duties including greeting and interacting with visitors, answering the phones, keeping our public spaces tidy, working with school groups, helping with mailings, processing museum shop inventory, assisting with collections management, doing research, and writing blog posts and articles for the *Gazette*. This cohort includes recent graduates, current college and graduate school students, and a few folks who work at other historic sites and museums, or in other fields. Interpretation and Visitor Services Director Kristin Peszka is responsible for hiring, training, and scheduling this essential workforce.

Though on a more limited basis than in the past, Adrienne Turnbull-Reilly and Alex Sheridan, two former full-time staff members, continue to assist with special projects. Adrienne Turnbull-Reilly is the instructor for our NPS-funded summer teacher workshop and helps with Revere House Radio editing. Alex Sheridan continues to work on special administrative and curatorial projects.

PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

As the keepers of Revere's legacy, we have a responsibility to offer a straightforward and balanced picture of his life, successes, and shortcomings. Given the millions of visitors

who have flocked here since the house opened as a museum in 1908, we know that Revere has retained a somewhat amazing level of popular appeal and name recognition. However, during this 250th anniversary year, we felt compelled to bravely ask the question, “Who Cares About the Ride?” which is really, ultimately, “Who Cares About Paul Revere?” The response has been uniformly positive if nuanced. People still feel a connection and do care. Perhaps because we asked in the context of some carefully shaped programs that drew a more diverse audience and showed our willingness to examine critically the man and the myth, we feel more confident than ever, that as we have long believed, Paul Revere has relevance on many levels.

Our general visitorship includes a wide range of people with varying degrees of interest in history and house museums. Some would stay all day and others are just checking the boxes for “sites visited” as they traverse the Freedom Trail. With this in mind, our basic operating model is to meet visitors where they are. We pride ourselves in offering regular, dependable, open hours; flexible self-paced tours; and reasonably priced, uncomplicated ticketing (no reservations or advance tickets) so you can show up when it’s convenient for your schedule.

Tours

Do you like history? Do you like learning? Then this is for you.

Yelp Review
May 2024

An engaging museum with knowledgeable guides who are keen to answer your questions.

Google Review, Daniel
February 2025

Ole Paul was a dude and complete inspiration for every entrepreneur.

Google Review, Joey
December 2025

The museum and the exhibits are amazing. We had a great experience and learned a lot.

Google Review, Vyshnavi
January, 2025

The Revere House is a small urban dwelling nestled in a busy neighborhood that is now known as Boston’s Little Italy. Whether driven by the allure of its most famous resident, Paul Revere, or the charm of a small but interesting home; the site has much to offer. In many ways it is the domestic story, the families that called it home before and after the Reveres, and the everyday experiences that end up being the most compelling. Staff share information about the history of the house from 1680 through its restoration in 1907; how the site reflects change over time in our North End neighborhood and, of course, the life and legacy of Paul Revere.

Youth and School Programs

The staff did a phenomenal job making everything run smoothly and creating an engaging, educational experience for our students. Thanks for making our Boston trip so memorable.

Julia Palmeri and Chris Rota
Tenakill Middle School, Closter, NJ

*Emily does such a great job interacting with and redirecting the students.
The program is fun and educational and we love the costumes.*

Gina Herosian
Outreach program to the Winn Brook School, Belmont

There is no question that our work with school age youth is an essential function. Emily Holmes' Education Department team juggles the demands of scheduling groups, developing new and refreshing standard programs, and actually delivering offerings. Every effort is made to match the students' needs, attention span, and interest with just the right offering, delivered in just the right way. Topics covered include colonial history, the American Revolution, and the history of Boston, and are tied to themes of myth and reality, social history, immigrant history, change over time, and fundamental math and science principles. Our menu of program options is diverse and can be customized. It includes site visits, walking tours, interactive programs and even a curated virtual 3-D tour. While we serve all grade levels from pre-K through 12th, the majority of our school programs serve 2nd-5th graders and align with social studies curriculum standards for those classes.

Through our collaboration with the National Park Service, we were asked to devise a special program for the winners of the America's Field Trip Program. Three students and their parents were treated to a multi-day experience organized by the Boston National Historical Park rangers. Our staff provided a special tour, a presentation about our special "My Dear Girl" letter from Paul Revere to his wife Rachel by David Gain, and an activity around the Revere teenagers and their role helping the family prepare to leave for Watertown during the Siege of Boston.

Though a small portion of our audience, over the years we have made an effort to attract and work with high school students. High school teachers seem to value our willingness to adapt our offerings and seem to particularly value themes related to the immigrant history of the North End. In 2025, teachers from 12 high schools, from near and far, brought over 350 learners to our site.

In 2025, not only did we again work with Suffolk University by hosting the students attending their two-week residential summer institute for high school students, we also debuted our own program. As we have done in the past, we provided the Suffolk group with a comfortable place to have lunch, gave them a focused guided tour of the Revere House, and David shared some interesting collections items with them. Nina and David then lead a question and answer session about careers in history and the challenges of doing public history at museums. By contrast, our high school program was a weeklong experience taught by Tegan, Mehitabel, Julia and David. The eight students who participated were introduced to the operation of a historic site and museum, learned about how we engage with the general public, visited other local sites, and completed an exercise that involved choosing an object from our collection and writing its museum label. One student shared, "I really enjoyed the internship. Thanks for being great hosts." Both of these programs address one of our institutional goals, which is to encourage students to consider careers in public history and museums.

Adult Programs

Each year we create and deliver our own adult programs and also respond to requests for programs, both on and off-site, that come from university classes, teachers, patriot groups, other museums, and VIPs. These offerings are managed by Tegan Kehoe and

Emily Holmes, who work with other senior staff members to ensure that each group receives a customized experience.

We were thrilled to work with our colleagues at the Pursuit of History, a national organization that engages adults in conversation about history and connects them with historic sites. They host an annual History Camp in Boston and run a series of special in-depth small-group gatherings around specific timely themes. In August they staged, *The Siege and Liberation of Boston*, immediately in advance of History Camp. The program included a day in Charlestown and a day in the North End. Our day kicked off with a full group orientation by John Bell and Nina at the Mariners House. Then the group was treated to three sessions in rotation: a focused tour of the Revere House, a living history offering by Mehitabel in the guise of Hannah Mather, and a showing and discussion around our “My Dear Girl” letter. Our presentations collectively shared the experiences of the Revere family and other residents of North Square from the immediate aftermath of the outbreak of the war through the end of the siege in March of 1776. The 43 attendees then reconvened at the Mariners House for lunch before heading off on a North End walking tour, which was followed by tours of Old North Church and Copp’s Hill Burying Ground. The day ended back at the Mariners House for a talk by John Bell about General George Washington and his time stationed in Cambridge. Based on the overwhelmingly positive audience and staff response, there is no doubt that intensive, immersive history experiences for engaged adults create a very special dynamic for attendees and presenters alike.

Our long-standing collaboration with the Road Scholar program is another example of this kind of premium adult programming. Each year in the spring and fall, we provide eight sessions to enthusiastic and highly motivated adult learners who always enjoy our program, which includes a tour of the Revere House, a formal lecture, and a Revere-focused North End walking tour. As with the Pursuit of History program, we rely on our partnership with the staff at the Mariners House who provide the lecture space, the option of a catered lunch or one prepared in their kitchen, and a talk about the history of their building and the Boston Port and Seamen’s Aid Society.

Many local professors regularly bring their classes for focused tours. Our longest standing and perhaps closest relationship, both literally and figuratively, is with North Bennet Street School, a nationally-recognized trade school right up the street. Steve O’Shaughnessy has brought his Preservation Carpentry students here for decades for detailed architectural tours of both the Revere and Hichborn Houses. Brock Leiendecker, who also teaches at NBSS, brings his traditional building and historic preservation students from Boston Architectural College. Other college groups included Wentworth Institute, University of New Haven, Rutgers, LeMoyne College, Oklahoma State, Southern Hampshire College, Lubbock Christian University, High Point University, Bowling Green State University, Boston University, and Harvard Kennedy School.

Not surprisingly, senior staff were in heavy demand to provide lectures and serve on panels due to an uptick in requests from other organizations. Special Midnight Ride themed talks were given, in some cases in person and others virtually, at the New Hampshire Historical Society’s Annual Meeting, the Westborough Public Library, the Belmont Historical Society with the Belmont Public Library, and the Chief Taughannock DAR Chapter in Ithaca, NY.

In 2025 interest in private tours from family or other special groups grew. We crafted custom experiences and, in some cases, charged a premium fee for seven “VIP” groups. We hosted the Harvard Club, Harvard Retirees, a delegation from Dublin interested in establishing a heritage trail in their city, a meeting and tour for the Paul Revere Chapter and the Tea Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and offered

training for staff from the National Parks of Boston, Hub Town Tours, Boston Duck Tours, and Meet Boston Visitor Center.

Programs for Teachers

Teachers have long been an essential target audience. Interactions with this audience regularly include developing relationships with teachers who bring classes every year and can be enticed to serve as advisors during program development; offering an annual collaborative summer workshop; and working with other groups that bring teachers to Boston and ask us to provide an offering.

After many successful years of offering a weeklong experience, a number of factors conspired to cause the Place-Based Boston partnership to rethink its annual summer teacher workshop. The goals remained the same, but we moved to a two-day program in early August. This proved to be enormously popular and drove our participation up significantly to 25 teachers.

“America 250: Supporting Teaching and Learning” was designed to introduce themes related to the 250th and to expose participants to the wide range of programs and resources available at each of the Place-Based Boston partner sites. Three key themes (We the People, Call to Action, and Power of Place) were reflected in the activities each day along with engagement opportunities designed to allow museum educators and local teachers to interact. The program is presented by the educators at National Parks of Boston and partner sites including USS Constitution Museum, Revolutionary Spaces (Old South Meeting House and the Old State House), the Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and the Museum of African American History. Teachers have the option of receiving ALC/PDP credit from the school district or graduate credit through Dominican University of California.

Our staff was approached by two national teacher training programs looking to collaborate. As a result, we offered a special walking tour for 47 teachers participating in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's “Seminar on Colonial America and the American Revolution” and participated in the American Battlefield Trust Virtual Teacher Institute in July. It was great to have the chance to expose this very engaged group of educators to our program offerings and resources. Also, as a service to our local schools, Emily attended the annual Boston New Educator Resource Fair held at Boston University.

Our interactive web-based teacher and classroom resource *Paul Revere's Life: A Learning Resource*, reached close to 6,300 users in its first full year. Some of this growth may have been a direct result of efforts to more actively promote this educational tool. A number of marketing pieces were developed to help introduce this resource to a wider audience, including a poster on our membership table in the Revere Room and a book mark that is given to teacher groups and visitors along with more prominent placement on the home page of our website.

Our statistics reveal spikes that show use by an entire class or grade. The most popular sections continue to be the Midnight Ride, the timeline, family, and political voice. Designed for use by teachers and students in the classroom, it includes a variety of educational tools including timelines, key museum objects, primary sources with written and audio transcriptions, helpful teaching aids, and additional resources. Many of the documents and a few of the objects have a much longer dwell time, which again speaks to thoughtful use and elevated interest. Staff often suggest the resource to learners of all ages and people working on projects related to Revere and his legacy.

Special Lectures/Programs

The year kicked off with a program at the Concord Museum as part of their Forum Series. “The Man, the Myth, and the Legacy: Will The Real Paul Revere Please Stand Up?” featured a conversation with Nina and Rob Martello moderated by Allison Shilling. It was well attended, enthusiastically received, and led to requests from other groups for related programs.

In March, as a way to honor and examine Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s role in shaping our memory of the Midnight Ride and Revere’s legacy, we developed a program in collaboration with the Wayside Inn in Sudbury. “A Fireside Chat with Paul Revere” was a lighthearted look at how Paul Revere might have reacted to the factual inaccuracies in the poem, while likely enjoying the fame it brought him. After gathering over light refreshments, Michael Lepage, our incomparable Paul Revere, entertained a packed house with his spirited review of the poem, egged on by Tegan’s queries about key sections of the poem.

Our annual Lowell Lecture series also focused on the relevance of Revere and the Midnight Ride for today’s audiences. The series was hybrid, with in-person talks hosted by Suffolk University’s History Department in Sargent Hall, with marketing, technical support for live streaming, and recordings provided by GBH’s Forum Network staff. “Whose Midnight Ride? Reflections on the 250th Anniversary of the Famous Ride” also included partnerships with Old North Illuminated, Lexington Historical Society, Evanston History Center at the Charles Gates Dawes House in Evanston, Illinois, and Made by Us.

Our first speaker, local historian J.L. Bell, explored the stories - some true, some based in embellished fact, and some made of whole cloth - around other riders linked to April of 1775. His talk, “Lost and Legendary Riders,” provided a fascinating look at how memory becomes fact and fact becomes legend. William Dawes Shulz, a Dawes descendant and New York journalist and tour guide, shared his sense of why William Dawes should be remembered and why, perhaps, he is so often overlooked. “William Dawes’ Midnight Ride” proved to be an interesting, if somewhat uneven, talk. In an effort to test Revere’s relevance with a range of diverse audiences, the panel entitled “Who Cares About the Midnight Ride” was instructive and reassuring. Dr. Noelle Trent, President of the Museum of African American History, did a stellar job moderating the session, which included Ahsante Bean, a creator and storytelling strategist, Dr. Eileen Ka-May Cheng, a professor of history at Sarah Lawrence College, and Kerry Dunne, the History and Social Studies department head for Lexington High School. They were able to share how high school and college students and other diverse audiences relate to the story of the Midnight Ride and Paul Revere as an historical character. “Who Was Paul Revere, Really?” proved the perfect finale to the series. Nina moderated a discussion with Revere biographers Rob Martello and Jayne Triber. Dr. Martello is a professor of the History of Science and Technology at Olin College of Engineering and Dr. Triber is an independent scholar. It was a warm, lively, and engaging exchange amongst three people who appreciate Revere and his legacy, while approaching him through surprisingly different lenses.

No assessment of the relevance and legacy of Paul Revere would be complete without a discussion of the role the Masonic Order played in his life and networks. So we asked Steven Bullock, Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, to share his extensive expertise on the topic. His October talk, “Within the compass of good citizens’: Paul Revere’s Masonic Journey,” was co-sponsored by and hosted at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington. As a special treat, Hilary Anderson Stelling, Director of Collections and Exhibits at the museum, installed a temporary display of Revere crafted jewels and certificates from their collection.

During Civic Season staff tested out an after-hours program that focused on the challenges faced by the Revere family during the Siege of Boston. Twenty-five people enjoyed a guided tour of the Revere House followed by a group discussion.

Family Programs/School Vacation Week/Special Events

The best part was a demonstration of spinning yarn. The process was extremely educational and the presenter was very knowledgeable and confident in her skill.

Google Review, Ken
May 2025

Our special family program season now begins with a few offerings during the school vacation weeks in February and March, expands in April, and then continues on Saturdays and other special days from May through October and one weekend in December. Many of the programs cross-promoted with annual city, regional, or national celebrations such as Patriots' Day, Evacuation Day, Preservation Month in May, Harborfest (Boston's 4th of July celebration), and Massachusetts Archaeology Month in October.

This year we debuted a new program entitled "Witness to Revolution: Meet Hannah Mather, North Square Neighbor of the Revere Family." Visitors had a chance to hear from Hannah (portrayed by our Program Assistant Mehitabel Glenhaber) who shares her experiences coming of age in the tumultuous years leading up to the American Revolution. Hands-on tours of the Revere House designed for children were also staged at specific times during the vacation week.

April of 2025 presented a unique opportunity for a major collaboration around the Midnight Ride with a truly amazing commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Revere's departure from Boston on April 18, 1775. It was both surprising and heart-warming to have thousands of people crammed into North Square waiting for Paul Revere to depart his home. The throng followed him onto Hanover Street where the crowds in the Prado (including Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, and Mayor Wu) joined in to escort Revere to the Coast Guard Station where his team of rowers was poised to get him across the Charles to the Navy Yard. Once across Revere was greeted by the Commander of the USS *Constitution* and a contingent of sailors who saw him safely to City Square. With a borrowed horse at the ready and after a secret change of Paul Revere's to a National Lancer, with crowds cheering, he rode off into history.

While our program at the Revere House "Paul Revere Bids Farewell," featuring Rachel and Paul discussing their last moments together before his perhaps most dangerous mission, was intimate and poignant, the rest of the evening was more celebratory. It was an evening of fife and drum, lantern making, historical talks, plays, a drone show, and politicians. It was, in its way, a rousing salute to all those who rode that night to alert the countryside, as well as those who would take up arms and fight from the earliest battles of the Revolution until its conclusion. Also, and most importantly, it was a reminder of the power of history: its relevance and its economic impact.

This event would not have been possible without a slew of partners including the National Parks of Boston, Old North Illuminated, Old North Church, Charlestown Preservation Society, Hull Lifesaving Museum, USS *Constitution*, USS Constitution Museum, US Coast Guard, Boston Harbor Now, DCR, Freedom Trail Foundation, National Lancers, the City of Boston, and Boston Public Safety and Police. Programs like this are thanks to the hard work of all the partners who met and planned for months, the performers and presenters, all who visit the Paul Revere House or gathered in North

Square, those who sponsored and supported our work, and, mostly to the great staff here who worked so long and so hard on this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Beyond our major event, additional programs were staged throughout the school vacation week. A full slate of offerings included staff-led talks about the Midnight Ride; Diane Lent as Paul Revere's daughter, Harriet; Judith Kalaora as Rachel Revere sharing anecdotes about her husband's activities in April of 1775; a drop-in make your own postcard program inspired by flowers and herbs in our gardens; Henry Cooke, as Hopetill Bradley, telling of the conditions faced by militia members in 1775; Michael Lepage back in the guise of Paul Revere; a drop-in colonial kid's corner with colonial garb to wear and quill pen writing to try; and lively tunes performed by the young musicians with Colonial William Diamond Fife and Drum Corp.

During the rest of the season, we featured a wonderful array of musical performances, costumed reenactors, craft demonstrations, book signings, and staff-led presentations. One of our favorite reenactors, Mike Lepage, who in addition to his portrayal of Paul Revere, is also comfortable sharing his take on a number of other interesting colonial figures, such as Daniel Leonard, a Loyalist lawyer, and John Adams, the well-known Patriot lawyer and politician. Captain Amasa Soper's Company shared how local farmers, printers, and tailors volunteered to defend Boston harbor after the siege of the city ended in 1776. Diane Lent, who recently noted "I love doing this," brings Paul Revere's daughter Harriet to life as she recounts her memories of her father's dramatic life, tales about her siblings, and growing up in the North End.

Craft demonstrations introduce visitors to the ingenuity and creativity apparent in the creation of everyday and special items in the 18th century. Some of our favorite craftspeople presented throughout the season. R.P. Hale charms the crowd with his fascinating paper marbling demonstration. Henry Cooke showed the work of a tailor in both repairing a garment and making a new one; Zoe Lawson fascinated visitors with her knowledge of spinning and weaving; Nancy Dick-Atkinson shared the art of decorative gilding; and Rebecca Audette offered a lace making demonstration. New this year was Sharon Mehrman, furniture maker and historian, who discussed the practical and decorative aspects of woodworking, and Native American craftsperson Jennifer Lee, who explained the traditional and practical significance of using readily available bark as a material to make baskets, mats, and even canoes.

During the heart of the season, on some of our busiest days, visitors enjoy taking in a concert as they wait to enter the Revere House. Amongst the musicians who regularly get toes tapping and shoulders swaying are Al Petty and Deirdre Sweeney, who portray itinerant musicians playing popular dance tunes on penny whistle, flute and fife; Patriot Fife and Drum; and award-winning musician David Neiman, on the hammered dulcimer.

To fill out the schedule we always love to provide staff with the opportunity to present short talks on the Midnight Ride or other interesting and timely topics. The Association is fortunate to own some very special collections items, which lend themselves to public interaction, and can easily be safely shared in our Revere Room. One such item and a crowd favorite is our wonderful letter from Paul to Rachel that we call the "My Dear Girl" letter. Our curator David has presented this several times. For visitors it's a rare chance to see Revere's signature and to hear his words in a letter that offers a glimpse of the nature of his close and warm relationship with his wife and children. Personal letters from and to Revere family members in the 18th century are extremely uncommon so this artifact is a real treasure that we love to share.

While book signings are always fun, this year we were thrilled to be able to host two chances to meet Cortney Skinner, historian and illustrator of the Association's newest publication, *Paul Revere's Ride: An Illustrated History*. As an illustrator, his autograph

almost always includes a small additional sketch as a special treat. One of the best moments was watching Cortney interact and share “trade secrets” with a little girl who brought along the illustrated history book that she also recently completed.

The 250th also seemed the perfect time to experiment with what were, for us, some new types of programming. “A Revolutionary Movie Night” proved to be a great collaboration with the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park, for an evening that featured the legacies of four American icons: Paul Revere, Thomas Edison, Esther Forbes and Walt Disney. Though it was an unseasonably cold evening, a good crowd gathered for music by our friends from the William Diamond Fife and Drum Corp and free screenings of Thomas Edison’s silent short movie “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” and the iconic Disney classic “Johnny Tremain”. Our movie night was sponsored by Meet Boston and featured popcorn from Joe’s Waterfront and drinks from Spindrift.

The final event of our 250th commemoration turned out to be, in some ways, the most magical and heart-warming. Operating as Crescendo Productions, Michael Maler, a former staff member and colleague, provided the insight, experience, and contacts necessary to develop this kind of performance. “A Revolutionary Concert: The Man, the Myth, and the Music” was held in a magnificent space, Converse Hall in the Tremont Temple, on the evening of November 13th. The program featured an original composition by Massachusetts’ poet laureate, Regie Gibson, period-inspired music played by some of Boston’s most talented musicians, and tunes written to honor the legacy of Revere and his iconic Midnight Ride.

The evening opened with a sweet rendition of Yankee Doodle by the young violinists from City Strings United, directed by Bithyah Israel. A chamber group featuring Adriane Post and Tara Hagle on violin, Renee Hemsing on viola, and Guy Fishman, on cello played a selection of pieces that were popular in the colonies in 1775 and also favored by the Tories. They ended with William Billings’ “Chester”, which celebrated both this still well-known tune and Revere’s work engraving a song book for Billings. Josiah Reibstein and the Hubtones (vocals by Robbie Pate, Joey Thieman on piano & trumpet, Josiah Reibstein on bass, and David Andrew Moore on drums) completed the musical portion of the evening with 19th-and 20th- century tunes based on sheet music from our collection. Not only did Regie do a masterful job as MC, but his spoken word homage to Revere with his stunning new work, “Dear Paul Revere or Forge, Shape, Shine!” was the highlight of the evening. We are confident that this work will stand alongside Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s iconic poem as yet another way to experience and appreciate the deep and important legacy of Paul Revere.

In December, we invited our friends the Steinhagens to reprise their popular two-day residency featuring demonstrations of redware pottery making and fiber arts alongside a display of items for sale. Visitors enjoy watching Erich throw pots on the wheel while Janice spins sheep’s wool and flax into yarn. Their ample supply of finished items allowed our visitors to purchase very special holiday gifts.

Museum Shop

The shop has an interesting selection. I highly recommend planning a visit.

Google Review
January, 2025

Our museum shop stands out for its unique blend of books, souvenirs, and well-crafted gift items, many of which are exclusive products developed by us. It has become clear over the years that our policy of cross training all our staff is especially useful in the

shop, where visitors often seek the answer to a Revere-related question or questions about our 1835 building itself. Staff can process the visitor's order while answering a question.

With the departure of Julia Sullivan, Katie Burke took up the task of managing the shop and didn't miss a beat. A number of new 250th branded items were added to our offerings and they did amazingly well, both through website and in-person purchases. We also were thrilled by the success of our new publication, *Paul Revere's Ride: An Illustrated History*. For the first time, gross sales exceeded \$300,000, an increase of 24% over last year.

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

During 2025, as we navigated the often uneven terrain created by major commemorations, our commitment to accuracy was never more important. Led by Tegan Kehoe, senior staff, interpretive staff, and interns all play a role in the critical research that ensures our educational programs, collections, publications, and interactions with media are supported by carefully crafted research.

The Association has a long and proud history of supporting research and publications, both its own and of other scholars. To that end, as a result of our work over many years with silver experts, we approached the Massachusetts Historical Society with an offer to fund the digitization of the record books from Revere's silver shop. Nancy Heywood jumped at the chance to make this treasure trove of valuable information on his business dealings more accessible. Research areas abound, including details about clients, products and repairs, workforce, materials, alliances with other craftsmen, and production of other engraved items such as prints and billheads. We hope that making this effort will spur further study of his shop output, not only by decorative arts scholars but also labor and economic historians and may even lead to the digitization of all the Revere Family Papers.

A full cohort of interns in 2025 included Anna Iademarco from Tufts, Mitali Krishnamurthy from Boston University, Michelle McCue from Suffolk University, and Lisi Breen from Simmons College. Our program fosters research and writing skills, while also providing work experience and exposure to all the operations of a mid-sized historic site. This year's interns examined 18th-century urban gardens, the life of Deborah Sampson, and the impact of the Siege of Boston on women and children, and helped to revitalize our immigrant history school program.

As articles are selected for publication in the *Revere House Gazette*, we are alert to the fact that this work not only informs in the moment, but may well become an oft requested source via back issues. As one reader noted, "I find the articles interesting and engaging," testimony to their enduring popularity. Articles covering a wide range of topics are authored by senior staff, interns, and, on occasion, outside scholars. In 2025 the main articles included: "Reverabilia: Making Meaning and Merchandise from Revere's Legacy," by Tegan Kehoe; "The Deane Winthrop House: A Case Study in Tree-Ring Dating," by former interpreter and current doctoral candidate at the University of Missouri, Marc Callis; "From the Files of the Answer Man: Five Questions About Paul Revere Asked and Answered," an homage to the late Patrick Leehey with commentary by Tegan Kehoe; and "A 'Wonder of all Fruits' and Other Produce: Kitchen Gardens in Colonial New England", by intern and Boston University student, Mitali Krishnamurthy. The *Gazette* also serves to alert readers to upcoming programs as well as opportunities to make a donation, become a member, or renew their membership.

Tegan and Mehitabel participated in a special program, sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History, aimed at improving history content on Wikipedia. The training introduced them to the nuances of the content review process and each created a new page for an underrepresented topic.

To continue our work on uncovering additional information about African Americans in Boston, we selected Dr. William Fahey, who is the President of Thomas Moore College, as our 2025 research fellow. In particular, he has been exploring the role New England military officers played in changing George Washington's views on the matter of participation by people of color as soldiers in the war. In Boston, the valor of black soldiers - especially at Bunker Hill - was conveyed to the General, and had an impact, along with the work of Prince Hall.

Dr. Ryan Bachman's wonderful work last year produced a very popular blog with an interactive map and online resource, as well as a Revere House Radio podcast, "Mapping Black North Enders, 1780-1810." Due to the great interest in his findings, we asked him to do some additional work to uncover more stories about Revere's black neighbors. Kyera Singleton, the Executive Director of the Royall House and Slave Quarters, reached out to share how much she learned from and appreciated Ryan's work. Liz Weaver, who is working with the Friends of Boston Harborwalk and Boston Harbor Now on interpretive signage for locations along the Harbor adjacent to the North End, noted "Ryan's work on your website is quite extraordinary."

Many years in the making, in June our newest publication *Paul Revere's Ride: An Illustrated History*, finally rolled off the presses. A special 250th effort, this masterfully illustrated book lets you ride along with Revere on that fateful night. One visitor who wrote to us to share what a great and informative visit they had to the House also noted "I'm thoroughly enjoying the copy of your new publication which I purchased during my visit." This very special book uses Revere's own words as the narrative for an evocative set of deeply detailed and heavily researched original illustrations. In a manner that aligns with our standards, Cortney Skinner, master illustrator, walks you through his thought process as well as the myriad challenges of drawing the past. Cortney worked on and refined the illustrations over many years and consulted with other experts in the fields of historic clothing, architecture, Revolutionary War history, local history, and of course the staff here! In addition, this book would not have been possible without the financial support and expertise in publishing of board member Ben Edwards.

COLLECTIONS/CURATORIAL/EXHIBITS

Our collections and our buildings are at the center of the visitor experience. David Gain jumped right in and began to get a handle on our collection and welcomed the opportunity to take a more active role in the monitoring and maintenance of our largest objects – our three historic buildings.

Of the thirty-five items added to the collection this year, the majority were ephemera, including several postcards, postal first day covers, and items related to Revere-named or related businesses. Also added was a wonderful commemorative plate featuring an image of Grant Wood's fanciful 1931 painting, "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," and a beer glass with the 250th logo given out at taverns in Charlestown during this year's April commemoration of the Ride program.

We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to convert several long term loans to acquisitions. In 2018, with our expanded exhibit space in the Visitor Center, we were able to accept the loan of three business receipts dated 1804-1805 that record transactions between Colonel Revere and members of the Shepherd family. All record materials being

hauled from Boston to the mill property in Canton and then back again during the years that the copper mill was being developed. This year, the owner Andy Vitek generously agreed to donate them.

We were also thrilled to acquire, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the gift of the 1699 press cupboard that has been on loan to us for seventy-five years. Originally exhibited in the Hichborn House, since the 1980s the piece has proudly graced the Hall in the Revere House, which is furnished to reflect the occupancy of the home's first owners, the Howards. The cupboard, attributed to a New England maker based on elements of style, is a functional and beautiful piece that has now found its forever home.

Though our main exhibit cases in the Visitor Center feature semi-permanent displays on Revere's businesses and the Midnight Ride, the small case in the Revere House is generally used to highlight themes related to important moments in time or very special Revere-related items. This year we crafted a 250th themed exhibit that looked at how Revere's networks helped shape his actions before, during and after the war. This allowed us to remind visitors of the critical role Revere played in keeping the memory of the Boston Massacre alive, both through his famous Boston Massacre print and then an illumination in the front windows of his North Square home on the one-year anniversary of the event. We also continued to display two ceramic pitchers, on loan from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, made for the Boston Charitable Mechanic Association and used during Paul Revere's tenure as President. We also had a short term loan of a ladle that Revere made for the Lodge of Saint Andrew as a way to highlight the importance of the Masonic Order in the American Revolution. Finally this case offers an opportunity for visitors to examine personal artifacts such as his set of eyeglasses and other items that are rotated on and off display.

OUR PROPERTIES

Historic buildings like ours present a challenging mix of old structures fitted with a range of new and aging systems, all of which need thoughtful routine maintenance and sometimes special attention. They are also the containers for collections on permanent display. In order to keep an eye on our buildings, their systems, and the precious items they contain, we have always actively monitored them for signs of trouble: leaks, odd sounds, unusual smells, and the ever instructive "has that always looked that way" or "is that normal water or new water" observations. Recently, our curator set up a new and improved monitoring system that will more routinely gather data on temperature, relative humidity, radon, and known water infiltration. He also is taking on some of the management of regular inspections and cyclical maintenance of fire and HVAC systems, the elevator, all roofs and gutters, alarm systems, sewage ejectors, and sump pumps. This ensures proper operation and allows us to get ahead of issues.

Due to our involvement with the Boston Green Ribbon Commission, we have added climate action planning to our long-term preservation efforts. One of the first steps outlined in our Climate Action Plan was to identify a consultant to prepare a climate risk assessment for our three properties. GreenerU has begun the process and will have a report ready in 2026. The report will help us better understand the relative risks our buildings face from sea level rise, ground water infiltration, storm water backing up through combined storm and sewer lines, rising temperatures, periods of unusually cold or stormy weather, increased levels of precipitation, and episodes of high wind. This study will also suggest mitigation measures that will be used to inform decisions about future restoration repairs to our buildings as well as system upgrades and replacements. We also are following the North End Climate Alliance's work on potential impact to the community from sea level rise and storm surge, and the priorities outlined in the Climate Action Plan under development by the City.

In advance of the 250th the Association received a grant to freshen up our entrance that involved repairing the entrance gate posts, replacing and repositioning all the padlock hasps, replacing the interior track lights, the ceiling light and fan, and the exterior lights with LED fixtures, and repainting the ticket booth. Mystic Custom Fabrication ed us design and install updated booth signage, new courtyard signs for the exit and handicapped ramps, and made new standing directional signs.

Southeast Painting did extensive touch-up painting in the public areas of the Visitor Center. When the heated decks outside the Visitor Center failed, Elcon came in to troubleshoot and eventually determined that the sensor embedded in the deck was sensing moisture but was no longer accurately recording temperature. The workaround involved installing a new temperature sensor on the front of the building. LC Anderson identified a number of necessary upgrades to our now 10-year old boiler in the Visitor Center, including a new pressure relief valve, water feeder, backflow preventer and hi-vent. They also replaced the inducer motor on the Hichborn House furnace. Penshorn Roofing did its annual inspection of the Hichborn House slate roof, replaced a number of damaged slates, inspected gutter liners and aprons, and replaced one section of ice melt heating cable.

Having resolved the persistent leak in the Revere House attic in 2024 with chimney and roof work, it was now time to address the rest of the roof and repoint the small rear chimney. Once again scaffolding was erected by Veteran Scaffolding working with Minuteman Building and Preservation as our general contractor. Aniceto Historical Restorations repointed the rear chimney and re-secured its stone top. Olde Mohawk Historic Preservation stripped the old shingles, checked the existing wood deck, installed ice and water shield and cedar breathers, and installed new cedar shakes on the pitched sections of the roof. With relatively mild weather in November and December, we were able to get the work done. We continue to use the ingeniously simple monitoring system devised by John Hecker to detect movement in the roof framing. As with last year's work, it was satisfying to confirm again that even with workmen and scaffolding on the roof, there was no sign of deflection or movement.

Under the category of nasty surprises, due to the fact that in the North End we still have combined storm water and sewer lines, we had two sewer back up issues in 2025. A serious blockage in the main sewer line in North Square caused sewage to back up from a floor drain in the Revere House basement. Since we don't currently have any bathrooms, sinks or active waste lines in the building, Boston Water and Sewer agreed the problem was in the main line. They broke up a massive blockage (aka: fatberg) that they could access from the manhole at the bottom of the street. That solved the problem and the basement drain fully cleared. ServPro came in and cleaned and sanitized. They left an industrial dehumidifier to fully dry the area. When they returned to retrieve their equipment they disinfected again. Later that summer we had a situation in the Hichborn House, however this time it was only a strong sewer gas smell, again caused by an issue in the main line that again required attention from Boston Water and Sewer.

In order to identify the location of a clog in the condensation line that serves the HVAC system for the 4th floor of the Visitor Center, we started the process of chasing the lines in the wall and ended up cutting three holes before we successfully found the main line. LC Anderson was then able to use air to force the clog down to the cleanout under the first floor stairs. Since we may need to access this pipe again, we installed a removable access panel.

In addition to their routine annual care of our garden spaces, in the fall the crew from Wisteria and Rose helped us repopulate our assemblage of spring blooming bulbs by planting 30 crocuses, 35 tulips, 30 fritillaries, and 25 Siberian squills. Also, sadly, after a year of low rodent activity we again had to take additional measures to treat numerous

burrows in our gardens. We worked with Modern Pest for the special treatments and continued with our monthly service from Ehrlich.

John Latham, with Brown, Richardson + Rowe, delivered draft construction drawings for our planned rehabilitation of the Hichborn House courtyard. This effort will allow us to open this courtyard to all visitors by making it handicapped accessible, address drainage issues caused by damaged storm water lines, hide unsightly HVAC units, renew garden areas, and add seating. While this construction will likely happen in 2027, we also need a variance related to the placement of railings, which should be accomplished in 2026.

As is clear from this report, repairs, major capital upgrades, and improvements are driven by cyclical timing or issues that arise unexpectedly and become priorities that need to be funded. The Association is fortunate that along with our own unrestricted resources, we have had success obtaining private grants, all of which allow us to forge ahead and get things done. As a result, in 2025, we invested close to \$300,000 in improvements to our facilities.

GOVERNANCE/ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the work of our own Board and relationships with other stakeholders, the Association is an active participant in the wider Boston cultural, preservation, and tourism community. Over the years we have forged and maintained partnerships that often allow us to punch above our weight.

Partnerships/Advocacy

Our work is enhanced by our many key long term partnerships, programmatic collaborations, and professional networks; all of which provide us with access to new audiences, new ideas, common solutions, and a support system of valued colleagues. Also, most non-profits are called upon to engage in advocacy related to government funding and key issues related to legislation or city policies and planning. In 2025 we commented on the initial draft of the Boston Climate Action Plan. Also, in conjunction with our joining the Mayor's Free Family Sundays, Nina gave a special tour to Mayor Wu and her family. She got to interact with our staff and also a number of families who were taking advantage of the new program.

During a meeting with Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michelwitz, to make the case for funding for the 250th anniversary and the upcoming 400th anniversary of Boston, we also discussed tourism trends, MCC operating support, and support for proposed legislation to curb credit card fees and to provide relief from high unemployment insurance rates. We also hosted Wyoming Senator John Barrasso, a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who asked the Park Service to arrange a visit to our site.

As a member of MassCreative, the key advocacy organization tasked with making the case for the importance of funding agencies like Massachusetts Cultural Council locally and NEH and NEA on the federal level, staff regularly respond to action alerts. This work is essential and serves not only the Association but cultural organizations across the Commonwealth.

The Association's longest standing institutional partnerships are with the Freedom Trail Foundation and National Parks of Boston. Since the 1950s, the Foundation has played a central role in determining the number of official sites and the route of the Trail, proposing necessary signage and repairs to the sidewalk, and printing maps and marketing the Trail. The Foundation now also manages the Freedom Trail Players,

costumed guides that do the only official walking tours of the Trail; provides special program support through sponsorships; and makes annual grants to support preservation projects at official Freedom Trail sites.

When the Boston National Historical Park was created in 1974, the Paul Revere House, along with other independently owned and operated historic sites, were chosen for inclusion in the Park. The Park's enabling legislation allows for five-year cooperative agreements that facilitate collaborative programming, protection rangers for daytime and overnight emergency response, and access to funding opportunities through task agreements for special programs and the competitive PMIS system for capital and preservation projects. In these currently challenging times, though funding to support the Place-Based Boston collaborative and annual teacher institute was curtailed, NPS staff continued to work with the Partners on this and other key initiatives.

In addition to the Freedom Trail Foundation, the other Freedom Trail sites, and the National Parks of Boston, the Association maintains alliances with a number of other groups both through formal relationships and programmatically driven opportunities. These groups include the Boston House Museum Alliance, Copper Mill Heritage Site in Canton, the Paul Revere Chapter of the DAR, Boston Preservation Alliance, GBH, Rev250, Embrace Boston, Partnership of Historic Bostons, Boston Green Ribbon Commission, and, of course, our North End neighborhood.

Boston's North End is a wonderfully attractive location that lures visitors from across the nation and around the world. It's teeming with significant historic landmarks, amazing restaurants and bakeries, specialty shops, and boasts a vibrant resident community. Because the Paul Revere House is an important fixture and major draw, we also understand our need to take care to be good citizens of the community and good neighbors. Staff members maintain regular working relationships by supporting and participating in annual local events with community organizations and groups, including the Eliot School, St. John's School, North End Health Center, North Bennet Street School, North End Branch of the BPL, North End Historical Society, North End West End Service Center, North End Music and Performing Arts Center, Mariners House, St. Leonard's Church, Sacred Heart Church, North End Waterfront Residents Association, and the Nazzaro Community Center. Many of these groups now convene under the auspices of the still new North End Historical and Cultural Alliance with the goal of collective action and cross promotion.

After many attempts and disappointments over the years, the North End Historical Society was given a long term lease on a space on Little Prince Street to use to create the long hoped for local history museum. With major support from local restaurateur Frank DePasquale, and leadership from Tom Damiglia, this important community resource now has a home. We continue to provide support and advice to the NEHS as they develop the exhibits and programs for this new location slated to open in the summer of 2026.

Staff have collaborated on programs and shared content and expertise for many years with our colleagues at the Paul Revere Heritage Site, the location of his copper mill operation on the Neponset River in Canton, MA. Nina and Emily again staffed a table in the community tent at their annual Heritage Festival and had an opportunity to connect with John Morton, the new museum director for the site.

Another important partner is the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. Throughout 2025, as an active member of the GRC's Cultural Organization Working Group, we all worked to help organizations understand and achieve the ambitious climate action benchmarks outlined in the City of Boston's Climate Ready Initiative and anticipated in the Boston 2030 Climate Action Plan currently in development. In addition, there are a number of neighborhood, regional, national, and international climate action groups from the

cultural and preservation community that we are working with and following as the museum profession shares informative reports and case studies on this topic.

One of the most important services we provide to the greater Boston community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are our free and low-cost program and admission options. Even with our regular low prices, we understand that cost can still be a deterrent. Teachers at Boston Public Schools and area Title One schools can apply for free and discounted programs and, in some instances, free bus transportation. Through the Card to Culture and Culture Rx programs run by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, we offer a deep discount to residents with EBT cards or ConnectorCare health coverage cards, as well as EBT cards from other states. This year we joined with over 20 other cultural organizations and now participate in the Mayor's Boston Family Days, a program that provides free admission for Boston school students and two guests on the first and second Sundays of each month and selected school vacation weeks.

Media/Public Relations and Marketing

Beginning in 2024 and into 2025, leading up to our April event, numerous outlets requested interviews and access for filming. For a site that generally does not need to engage in a lot of marketing or press management, 2025 was astonishing. The amount of press interest around our April programs was almost more than we could handle. Increasingly, it is hard to tell in what format each "interview" actually appeared: a live broadcast (radio or TV), standalone podcast, internet story, or a combination of several of these methods. This increasingly extensive variety of delivery modes serves to greatly expand the reach of and longevity of each instance of coverage.

Since we have never employed a PR firm, we provide our colleagues at Old North Illuminated with a small grant to work alongside them through their regular firm, Teak. As a result, Nina Zannieri and Nikki Stewart, from Old North, did a lot of interviews as a team. For example, Meet Boston asked us to record for their "Boston Found" podcast, as they hoped to use our April programs as a way to kick off their 250 themed offerings. With filming and an interview in the Paul Revere House in advance of her GBH radio show "Under the Radar," Callie Crossley captured the sounds of the house and interviews with Nina and David Gain. The text version of her program ran under the title, "Meeting the Man Behind the Paul Revere Myth."

The *Regional Review* was one the first outlets to provide a list of all the special April 18th events taking place at our site, on the Prado, on the North End waterfront, Charlestown Navy Yard and Charlestown. Later, the *Post-Gazette* also ran a story covering the April 18th commemorative event.

Brinley Hineman, Senior Editor of Tours and River Cruises for *Travel Weekly*, interviewed us and the staff at Old North. GBH did some filming and audio in advance of doing stories of the 250th for radio and web use. BBC writer Annika Hipple looked at the role of Lexington and Concord in "The Quiet Massachusetts Town that Sparked a Revolution," which included several references to Revere and links to our website. We were honored to have an article that had a prominent placement, front page below the fold, that ran in the traditional print and also digital version of the *New York Times* with a story by Jenna Russell, "After 250 Years, a Midnight Ride Inspires."

Some of the most interesting approaches to the "Ride" story were the ones that looked for slightly different angles, such as the *USA Today* article by Karissa Waddick. "We Rode Along Paul Revere's Route to Sort Myth from Reality, Lone Hero from Legend," explored the many riders that night and how Revere's legacy continues to influence social movements from the Civil War to today. GBH News looked at Revere's role as a propagandist in Ryan Nelson's piece "Were Paul Revere's Political Cartoons More Influential than his Midnight Ride?"

On site we decorated with bunting and unveiled our special 1775-2025 Riding to Revolution banner designed by Cortney Skinner. These colorful enhancements create a favored photo opportunity for visitors. We also had a few requests for permission to use our special 250 logo for a mobile display created by the Hugh Rogers Chapter of the DAR, and for programs that would travel to local schools and libraries during April 2025 created by the Haywood County North Carolina America 250 Committee.

Charlestown Patriot-Bridge ran an article on our concert, “Musical Tribute to Paul Revere to take Place Near Beacon Hill.” It was also covered by the *Boston Globe* in their Boston at a Bargain coverage of free events by Ryan Yau. *The Patriot Ledger* ran information about the concert in Seth Jacobson’s “Things-To-Do” column. Jared Bowen featured Nina and poet laureate Regie Gibson discussing the planned Revolutionary Concert on GBH’s *The Culture Show*.

Though much of our press was due to joint efforts to promote the 250th, more routine interest in the Revere House and our programs continued as a number of blogs and digital editions of newspapers featured our work. Our website, e-newsletters, and social media platforms are used effectively to promote events and drive our annual appeal. Mehitabel manages our website and e-newsletter, while Emily keeps us well positioned with regular Facebook and Bluesky posts. Due to our partnership with the Lowell Institute and their relationship with GBH, our lecture series is actively promoted via GBH’s weekly e-blast, “Good Talks Coming Up.” Other regular media friends include Jordan Rich at WBZ, who faithfully promotes our programs, and our annual April appearance with TRIAD Today Radio out of Winston-Salem, NC.

This Old House included the Paul Revere House in its list of “Famous Historic Homes in Each State,” noting that historic homes provide a timeless snapshot of the past. *CNN Travel* ran as an internet story based on the episode of *Quest’s World of Wonder* shot last year. While it still covered the Ride and Longfellow poem, it was broader based, and actually ran under the title “Exploring the City Where Modern America Was Born.” *Providence Sunday Journal* ran a “Boston for a Day” piece in July that suggested people “Relive the American Revolution through Battlegrounds and Landmarks in Boston” which, despite the title, included Lexington and Concord!

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As we join with our friends throughout the Commonwealth in remembering the early days of our nation, the lack of history literacy presents both an obstacle and an opportunity. As we witnessed in 2025, there is an appetite for history and commemorations. This is good news, but comes with the challenge that we often have to provide many of our visitors with a general outline of American history so they have something to hang the information we are offering on. It can be both frustrating and rewarding to help people have that light bulb moment, when what we really want to do is delve deeply into the complexities of history and, by extension, Revere’s legacy. On the other hand, the many other vehicles we have for sharing all these wonderful facts and stories – education programs, lectures, publications, podcasts, blog posts, and exhibits – offer opportunities to provide more nuanced historical information. For 2026, with our key 250th events concluded, the staff has already begun to shift their focus to our key themes of craft and craft traditions in collaboration with Craft in America; the impact of the Siege of Boston and the anniversary of its culmination in March of 1776 on the Revere family; Revere and the maritime trades to coordinate with Sail Boston; and Revere’s military career during the early years of the Revolution.

Paul Revere Memorial Association
Staff Team

Executive Director
Curator
Interpretation and Visitor Services Director
Education Director
Research and Adult Program Director (Sept)
Special Projects
Program Assistant (until July)
Program Assistant
Program Assistant (August)
Caretaker
Consulting Curator
Consulting Educator

Nina Zannieri
David Gain
Kristin Peszka
Emily Holmes
Tegan Kehoe
Alexandra Powell Sheridan
Julia Sullivan
Mehitabel Glenhaber
Katie Burke
Billy Wong
Edith Steblecki
Adrienne Turnbull-Reilly

Interpreters/Guides

Laila Abbasi
Isabelle Ackerman
Hann Allen
William Allen
Ben Beveridge
Katie Brauckmann
Katie Burke
Colton Chaney
Shane Cudworth
Henry Darrell
Will Fahey
Maria Hagan
Derek Hunter
Anna Iademarco
Linda Jones
Genevieve Kane
Mitali Krishnamurthy
Ellie Lee
Mackenzie Martin
Rosalie McAvoy
Iain McMaster

Cal Mikowski
Willey Miller
Abby Mullins
Julia Norcross
Evan O'Connor
Adam Oberstadt-Petrick
Ryan Ouellette
Alanis Oquendo
Gabriel Pavia Nolla
Gwen Peavey Hunter
Gabe Quealy
Diann Ralph
Laura Rockefeller
Greg Schofield
Jay Shanahan
Cadee Stefani
Katheryn Stovall
Kristen Thompson
Natalie Weiss
Corbin Young

Paul Revere Memorial Association

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