

Foundation kicks off Capital Campaign to secure Battersea for future generations

Published: June 16, 2010

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PETERSBURG - The Battersea Foundation recently kicked off its Securing Battersea: The Capital Campaign 2010/2011 to raise \$1 million. The Battersea Foundation and newly appointed Campaign Chair, J. Tolleison Morriss VI, are seeking private gift, foundation and community support to complete the stabilization efforts under way and move forward with the restoration to preserve and protect Battersea for everyone. Within its five-year plan, Battersea Foundation is committed to investing more than \$5 million to fund the purchase of Battersea, research and development, capital improvements, program support and general operating costs. In the first month of the campaign, the Foundation has already raised \$50,000 toward the \$1 million goal.

Battersea is an important Colonial-era estate that was built in Petersburg on the banks of the Appomattox River for John Banister, first mayor of Petersburg, a Revolutionary delegate, congressman and framer of the Articles of Confederation. It is one of the earliest and finest surviving examples of a five-part, Anglo-Palladian style house in the United States, and is the earliest surviving, fully developed example of this house type in Virginia. The Foundation plans to restore the estate to the 1830s period and use the villa, outbuildings and grounds to host educational workshops, lecture series, concerts, community events and activities.

Significant stabilization work at the property has been completed in the last year, including work to correct and prevent future water infiltration, rebuild the original 1768 chimney and protect the structures from further weather damage. Phase II of the stabilization efforts will begin this summer and will continue through the fall. Phase II stabilization will address stucco replacement, stabilization of the orangerie and fund paint and wall analysis as well as a drainage study.

Campaign Chairman, Tolleison Morriss, commented, "With the stabilization of the structures coming together, the funding to move forward with the restoration plans is immediately necessary as we turn our focus from repairing damage to creating the Battersea we will leave for our children. We have an opportunity as a community that is within our reach."

Morriss is a local business owner and community leader with a long history of service to Petersburg, Chesterfield and the greater Richmond region. He is active on Boards and Committees for the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and the YMCA of Greater Richmond. With long family ties to the community, Morriss also works to protect and promote Petersburg's historic resources and serves on the Board of the Petersburg Foundation and the Blanford Historical Foundation.

Battersea Foundation Executive Director, Tempy Barbru, noted, "Mr. Morriss is well-known for his work throughout the area. He shares our vision for Battersea's future and with his help, we will build on the momentum we've seen around Battersea this past year and show the community what we can all do together."

Battersea Foundation's mission is to preserve historic Battersea and offer educational, artistic and cultural experiences that inform, enrich and inspire the public. The Foundation has planned numerous events this summer and fall to engage the community, both locally and across the region. Upcoming events include the staging of A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of its Leisure and Learning series, Life on the the Lawn, in partnership with Sycamore Rouge. Stargazing and concerts will be held in August, followed by the very popular Antiques Jamboree & Appraisal Fair in September.

In celebration of Archaeology Month in October, the Foundation is planning a special lecture and workshop series with guest speakers, tours and events.

For more information, please visit their website at www.batterseafound.org.

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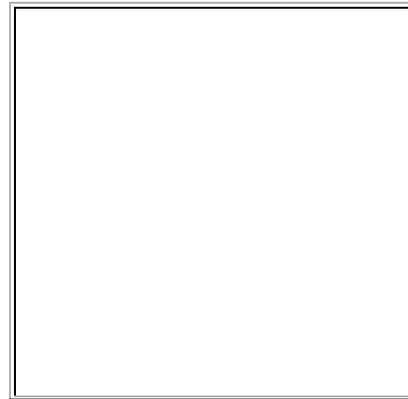
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