

Mission Statement

The Historical Society, Elizabeth NJ Inc (the Society) is a 501c3 non-profit corporation devoted to the research and preservation of the City's history. The organization proposes to research and document past events, places and individuals who played strategic roles in the shaping of the City's social, political and economic landscape throughout the 20th Century.

The Society's mission is two fold: 1) to contribute new knowledge to the basic operation of our city and government and 2) to devise ways of disseminating that knowledge for city residents and the region.

The Society's long-term goals are to make relevant historical information regarding past events and places, illuminate present issues; foster factual context for current and future policy decisions, and design an historical narrative that will strengthen the common ground of the city's many constituencies, including the African American and immigrant populations.

Corporate Information

The Society incorporated in 1999 for the purpose of providing an institutional presence for public history. The Board unanimously felt its first priority should be to bring the African American, immigrant and historical voices of "common" men and women into the history of the City of Elizabeth and the region. The Elizabeth Treasures project came as a consequence of the Board's first strategic plan and decision to use "public" history to affect current and future public policy. The Society is centrally located in midtown Elizabeth, accessible to public transportation, Newark Airport and the regional highway system. Board membership is reflective of the City's Latin/Hispanic immigrant and African American populations. The Society values and is strengthened by its resources, membership, developing relationships with regional organizations and emerging partnerships with entities with similar goals. The Society takes pride in its deep commitment to recording and promoting an inclusive, public history of this City that is truly reflective of the people who live here now and includes the voices of those who lived here in the past. The Society also plans extensive outreach to and establishment of working relationships with those entities (i.e, city, state and county agencies) whose aims assist our own.

Elizabeth Historical Blueway



Members :

American Assn of State and Local History
New Jersey Historical Society Municipal Arts
Society of
New York City Residents
Elizabeth Public Schools
Future City Inc.
Elizabeth Public Library
Elizabeth Rotary International County of
Union

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; ELIZABETH, NJ, INC



Bonnell House Safety and Security



Belcher Ogden House Restoration for Reuse



Resource For City and Regional Group



Areas of Historical Research

Elizabeth Treasures- Community Treasures

This program uses the knowledge and memories of longtime residents to document the lived experience of the City's past and helps us understand the citizen's eye view of Elizabeth's history.

City Treasures

This program studies significant places in the city and its neighborhoods, like the Elizabeth Train Station, Warinanco Park, and Bonnell House as well as distinctive places of worship. The changing ways such places are used define the city's functional priorities.

National Archival Research

Our reconstruction of distinctive neighborhoods-Peterstown, the New Point area, the Train Station community-employs the manuscript of the US Federal Census to document the social and demographic profiles of an area over time.

Virtual Museum

Our website has become a Virtual Museum, where we post excerpts from our oral histories of citizens and the reports of our funded projects. This effort permits immediate dissemination of new knowledge about the city's past and invites citizen comment and participation.

Elizabeth Forum

The Elizabeth Forum is an exciting environment for open communication, debate, and discussion. We have seen topics ranging from diversity to Open Space protection. Our forums are always well attended and engaging. Join us soon, and help to shape the future of Elizabeth and learn about the past.

Bonnell House and Belcher Ogden as a Community Locus

- Both houses have become a model of historical restoration and accessible, secure and adaptive reuse.
- Our Living Memorial shaped by Elizabeth residents becomes a public resource and educational opportunity.
- The Historical Society's comfortable meeting rooms enhance public dialogue of many regional and local organizations. Our parking lot is accessible and secure.

**Hispanic Heritage Month 2019
Hispanic Diaspora**



Four Centuries in a Weekend 2019



**Elizabeth Forum
with Elizabeth Public Schools students**

