

ALL ABOUT THE ADOPT-A-MONUMENT CITYWIDE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

UPDATED OCTOBER 2019

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Totals (1992-2018)

25 Monuments adopted

31 Adopters

How do I adopt a monument?

Contact Johns W. Hopkins, Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage, at 410.332.9992 or hopkins@baltimoreheritage.org to voice your interest in adopting a monument. We'll discuss monuments available for adoption and ask you to make a commitment to support the maintenance work on that monument annually for three to five years.

For how long can I adopt a monument?

You are asked to adopt a monument for three to five years. However, the majority of adopters have adopted their chosen monument for many more years--some for over twenty years.

How do I make my contribution?

You will receive an annual letter in the fall that includes program updates and a form to mail with your contribution. Please return your contribution by December 31 or April 15.

Are my contributions tax deductible?

Your contribution is 100% tax deductible. Baltimore Heritage will send a letter for your records.

What does my contribution cover?

Your contribution covers the maintenance of the bronze on your chosen monument. The bronze may be only one component of the monument you chose, but it is the treatment of the bronze that your contribution covers. The bronze will be washed with water and a mild detergent, then given a hot wax treatment followed by a cold wax treatment to protect the bronze from the elements. This wax treatment should be done annually to prevent such deterioration that would eventually necessitate costly and extensive cleaning and repatination.

PAST ADOPTERS (1992 – 2019)

- Walters Art Museum (Seated Lion)
- Peabody Institute/JHU (George Peabody Monument)
- Harry L. Gladding Foundation (Severn Teackle Wallis Monument)
- Suzi Cordish (The Naiäd)
- Amalie Rothschild (The Naiäd)
- Annie E. Casey Foundation (Sea Urchin)
- Nick Staffa (Sea Urchin)
- Sandy Sparks (Sea Urchin)
- The Time Group (Lafayette Monument)
- Laura and Barrett Freedlander (War and Peace)
- SM+P Architects (War and Peace)
- Walter Schamu (Peace)
- Richter, Cornbrooks & Gribble (Force and Order)
- Charlesmead Foundation (Order)
- Agora Publishing (Boy and Turtle Fountain)
- Peabody Court Hotel (Military Courage)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (Roger B. Taney by William Rinehart)
- W.B. Doner Co. (John Eager Howard Monument)
- Cindy and Tom Kelly (On the Trail)
- Anonymous (Lee and Jackson)
- Liza Bailey (John Hopkins Monument)
- John Dorsey (Sam Smith Monument)
- Bob Armacost (Sam Smith Monument)
- Hannah Byron (O'Donnell Monument)
- Middendorf Foundation (Negro Soldier)
- University of Baltimore (Edgar Allan Poe Monument)
- Helen and Bill Passano (Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument)
- Navigant Consulting Inc. (John Mifflin Hood Monument)
- St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Luther Monument)
- Augsburg Lutheran Home of Maryland, Inc. (Luther Monument)
- Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA (Luther Monument)
- Mary S. Cooper (Wallace Monument)

PROGRAM HISTORY

In 1991 Kathleen Kotarba, the executive director of the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), hired Cindy Kelly, a public art consultant, to survey and document every piece of outdoor sculpture in the city. At the end of that survey, CHAP sponsored a symposium on public art as a way to celebrate the sculpture all across Baltimore. During this symposium, it was pointed out that the city budget for the conservation and

maintenance of these artworks had not been increased in ten years, and as a result neighbors in Mount Vernon Place encouraged CHAP to initiate an Adopt-A-Monument program for the bronzes in the four squares. Within a few months Kotarba and Kelly got all those bronzes adopted. The new program was well underway by 1992 and has since expanded citywide.

Sandy Sparks has supported this program from its early days. While Executive Director of the Midtown Community Benefits District and the Midtown Community Fund, she managed the contributions for Mt. Vernon Place monuments contributed to the Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association. When she left Midtown in 2002, Kelly and Sparks moved the adoption program to the newly formed Friends of Mount Vernon Place, where both were board members. In 2007, as the program grew with adoptions across the city, the fund was moved to the Baltimore Community Foundation where Kelly and Sparks were fund advisors.

Today Kelly and Sparks, now joined by former CHAP director Kathleen Kotarba, manage the program in partnership with Baltimore Heritage. The goal is to increase the number of adopters so that CHAP can continue caring for the city's historic bronzes as it has done since Kotarba initiated a conservation and maintenance program in 1982. Steve Tatti was the sculpture conservator then and continues to maintain the monuments adopted through the program.

Over the past 26 years, 31 private citizens, institutions, foundations and businesses have adopted 25 different monuments. Sometimes the organization or institution chose a sculpture because of its proximity to the sculpture, like the Boy and Turtle Fountain adopted by Agora Publishing or Military Courage adopted by the Peabody Hotel. Sometimes there was a family connection to the monument, like the Captain O'Donnell monument in Canton; and other times the sculpture was just appreciated for its beauty or for its historical significance.

There are dozens of sculptures and monuments that remain to be adopted. Smaller sculptures include the Naiad in Mount Vernon Place; Chapin Harris, the father of modern dentistry who is credited with the founding of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, the first college of its kind that became the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, at the edge of Wyman Park; the Star Spangled Banner monument in Patterson Park; and the John Mifflin Hood in Preston Gardens. Hood was president of the Western Maryland Railroad, which he transformed from a debt-ridden railroad into a successful one that Baltimore City had invested in, receiving \$8 million dollars from its sale in time to rebuild the city after the Great Fire of 1904.

One of the beauties of adopting a monument is that you learn about a particular slice of Baltimore history and that knowledge connects you to Baltimore in a very magical way – like nothing else can. **Please join us in this citywide partnership by making a pledge to support your monument for three to five years**, which will ensure that these extraordinarily beautiful and historically rich monuments continue to be well maintained.