



The Preservationist

SPRING 2012

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

What is Creative Placemaking?



A new challenge for the preservation world and an exciting new challenge for New London Landmarks. The concept enlarges our world. It expands preservation from saving individual buildings and honoring historic buildings or neighborhoods with listings on the National Register of Historic Places, to finding new ways to revitalize historic neighborhoods with the active support of the people who live there. With the added participation of the arts community. For New London's vigorous arts community this new collaboration is effective and exciting!

Thanks to a grant of \$100,000 from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development, (DECD), Office of the Arts, we are embarked on a year-long project to get to know the people who live and work in the Riverside Park/Hodges Square neighborhood and enlist their support to plan improvements to the area that will be both social and physical.

This is key to what creative placemaking is all about—we want the neighbors to participate in the ideas and planning process. What would they like to see in their neighborhood? What needs to be done in Riverside Park to make it a vital piece of their community? What ideas do the business owners in Hodges Square have for improving economic activity? What physical improvements would make the area more attractive? What new services would increase business with the neighborhood which includes the Coast Guard Academy and Connecticut College?

We will begin to answer these questions this summer as we hold six great SATURDAY ART JAMS in the park. These Saturday events are designed with two goals. We want to introduce Riverside Park to families throughout New London. It is a beautiful site for picnics and other activities that will be explored during these arts days. We also want to meet with the neighbors and get to know them and their families through fun, arts based activities that include painting murals, performing in short plays, using movement to explore the nature of the park with parades, dance, sculpture. There will be a bit of serious math, nature study and appreciation of this unique park as well. (See story on page 3)

The project continues through the fall and winter with more serious activities ranging from visits to the Lyman Allyn, the Coast Guard Academy and Connecticut College to meeting in homes and Winthrop School to learn more from the neighbors about what they would like to see in their park, neighborhood and business center.

Continued on page 5

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The Preservationist

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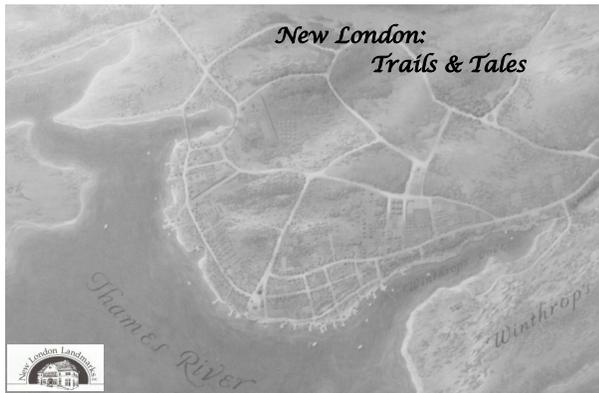
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Kane Borden



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NEW LONDON CONNECTICUT: TRAILS & TALES



Wraparound cover for the Guidebook is the map on the wall at City Hall. The book measures 8 1/2 x 11 and will also be on our web site where people can download their own copy.

Landmarks is writing a new guidebook that will be available in July for OpSail visitors and all who come to the city with an interest in our history. *New London: Trails & Tales* encourages visitors to explore the city, beginning on the Parade Plaza. It highlights historic places and events to tell our story from the founding by John Winthrop, Jr. in 1646 through ship building, the West Indies trade, the Revolution and burning of New London, up to today with City Canvasses and Fort Trumbull State Park. It encourages visitors to enjoy our art galleries, restaurants and shops without specifically naming them. It is not a restaurant and/or shopping guide; it complements Main Street's excellent guide.

Trails & Tales leads visitors through downtown and encourages them to continue exploring up to the Antientest Buriall Ground and on to Williams Park. In the other direction the guide tours the Coit Street Historic District, the Hempstead Houses, Shaw Mansion and shows the way to Fort Trumbull State Park. Copies for distribution will be given to each of the historic sites listed in the book. It is intended for exactly the audience the State Tourism Department is targeting with their new historic theme: CONNECTICUT, *Still Revolutionary!*

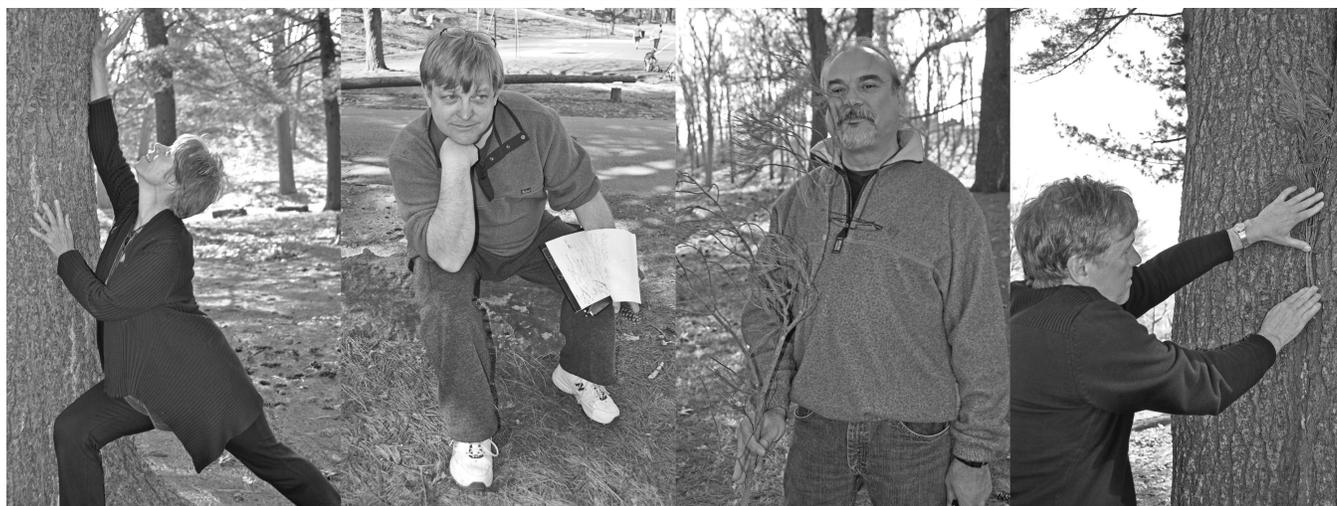
CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN HODGES SQUARE

In a more serious side of the project, another team of artists—Landscape Designers—business advocates—”social” artists, will study the businesses in Hodges Square, meet with business owners to learn their views on how this small, neighborhood business center can become a more vital center serving the needs of the whole community.

This team of creative and professional people will work together reviewing and studying the whole neighborhood to make specific recommendations for future planning and development. Art Costa of Re-New London Council is leading the business survey and analysis of the area. Peter Miniutti, Director of UConn's Community Research and Design Collaborative, with his graduate student Madeline Schad, will continue their work which began several years ago with the Re-Connect New London study and Charrette. Brian Kent of Kent/Frost Landscape Architects adds a strong design sense to the team and an important aspect of their work will be landscaping and façade improvement recommendations for Hodges Square—extending to the highway and up the steeply pitched hills to the historic neighborhood.

The whole project will take place during the next year with a final celebration in June 2013.





L'Ana Burton

Derron Wood

Roger Tremblay

Mark Patnode

SATURDAY ART JAMS IN RIVERSIDE PARK

*All day activities in Riverside Park
Each day has a theme and offers unexpected chances to
explore & express new ideas:
Arts activities for all ages - bring the whole family -
bring a picnic lunch - explore Riverside Park*

Arts Projects, Performances, Exploration, Games, Engaging the community – the Park – the Neighborhood – Hodges Square with Parades, Dancing in the Streets, Moving Murals painted by participants - ending with a “Big Bang” on August 18. Don't miss out – join the joy!

DERRON WOOD, FLOCK THEATRE – JULY 14

All encompassing events for all ages. Become a character in *Arap Sang & the Cranes* . . . create a mouse mask . . . “How do they move?” . . . Parade with the Pied Pipers. *Bubbles & Giant Puppets & More*

L'ANA BURTON – JULY 21

Explore the Park with Movement! Dance and Motion follows the wind and the trees as L'Ana pulls the history of the park from her dance toolbox. All ages will be surprised as they share site-specific dances with all who gather in the park.

ELIZABETH TYLER, SCULPTOR – JULY 28

Creating wholeness in three dimensions with all manner of objects begins a morning of discovery. . . find and connect with nature. . . with the neighborhood. . . and devise objects in 3 dimensions reflecting diversity in this beautiful park.

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Painting flows through the park with Mark's “Moving Murals & Banners”. Blank canvases fill with color and life as he encourages all ages to find self-expression with color on canvas.

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Math origami? Polyhedra? Fractal Trees? Well . . . learn about repeating patterns . . . seek and find and learn to create the amazing patterns found in nature . . . and gain a new insight to mathematics.

THE BIG BANG – AUGUST 18

The final day brings all activities together in one giant festival of all the arts projects that have been on-going through the summer . . . then add some flash-mob dances . . . some Street Parades . . . some Moving Murals . . . a Giant Puppet or two . . . and celebrate all that has been created together. . .

2012 MEMBERSHIPS (AS OF MAY 24, 2012)

If you haven't renewed your membership . . . Or are thinking of becoming a N L Landmarks Member, "Join Today!" and support all our activities for those who live, work and visit our historic city by the sea.

Individual Membership

Mary Beth Baker
Bruce Baratz, Baratz Realty
Joseph & Nancy Baude
Vincentia Belbruno
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Marion Bodde
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Robert Richter
Peter Roper

Herbert Ryan
Daniel Shemet
Marian Shilstone
Marie Spencer
Preston Whiteway
Martha Williams

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Barbara M. Dixon & Donald McKay
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Nick & Karen Fischer
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Gay Myers & Lance Mayer
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Helen Sandalls & Roger Beers

Pat & Todd Schaefer
Sherburne & James Stidfole
Ruth & Robert Sussler
Abigail Van Slyck & Mitch Favreau
John & Joan Wiles
Melvin Woody
Barbara Zabel & Thomas Couser

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Stephen Joncus
Jerry Olsen & Vivian Stanley
Colin J. Revill
Quinn Sayles
William & Donna Stamm
Richard Virgin

Patron

Frederick & Kathleen Barrett
Lloyd & Sandy Beachy
Jerry Brophy
Nancy Cole
Catherine Fosnot
Richard & Heather Grigsby
Brian Kent
Carl Stoner
Barbara Timken
Eugene & Rodi York

Business Membership

Yankee Remodeler
Chelsea Groton Bank

FUN IN RIVERSIDE PARK



MEET NEW BOARD MEMBERS: ALLYSON LUBS & QUINN SAYLES

Two new members who have recently joined the board of New London Landmarks bring with them valuable skills and passionate interests in history and historic preservation.



Quinn Sayles is a recent graduate of the Univ. of Connecticut with a major in art history. Her interest in historic preservation began when she took a class on American architecture that focused on an intensive case study of New London. She came to understand that in terms of

architectural history the town itself is a valuable asset and that the buildings themselves are a part of the community, with a certain set of "rights" of their own.

After graduation, Quinn worked at Mystic Seaport in the collections and research department, working in the ships plans archive. She took graduate studies in maritime history at the Munson Institute in Mystic.

Quinn left the Seaport in 2009 to work for a private foundation/family office where they work closely with the development departments at institutions such as the Smithsonian and MOMA. Quinn says that "...my work at the Foundation has given me another view of the non-profit world. I've gone from an organization that receives grants to an organization that awards them. It's interesting to see both sides of the coin."



Allyson Lubs is a 4th grade teacher at the West Broad Street School in Pawcatuck. She has her undergraduate degree in Geography and Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education.

She is passionate about teaching children, particularly in the field of geography and American history. Allyson was awarded the National Council for Geography Education's K-12 Excellence in Education Award for 2012. She has also worked at the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat and at the Connecticut River Museum.

Allyson says "I was interested in joining the board because it is a great opportunity to be a part of a passionate group of people who believe that the preservation of New London is important, which I believe also!"

Her skills and her commitment to teaching will be especially valuable in developing programs as a member of the New London Landmarks education committee. She is especially interested in promoting the hands-on approach to learning.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN THE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD



Development in this neighborhood next to Riverside Park began in the 1850s when William Starr hired Ebenezer and Thomas Williams to lay out Crystal Avenue, Lewis Street,

Eastern Avenue, Adelaide Street and Central Avenue. When the first railroad bridge was constructed in 1889 it began a period of growth in the city and what was farm land quickly became building lots. The area was colonized by railroad employees and many emigrants from Central Europe. Shipbuilding continued and the beautiful Long Island steamships were at the height of their popularity. The sharply sloping hills greatly influenced the building lots and the popularity of Riverside Park in the early 1900s made this a very desirable neighborhood.

With the ideas we hope to acquire from today's residents in the area we plan to recommend a variety of small improvements—sidewalks, street lighting, perhaps some landscaping and façade improvement assistance to restore a sense of place and pride in this historic neighborhood.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SANDRA KERSTEN CHALK

A lively “Hello” to all Landmarks members and friends!

We are embarked on a wonderful new initiative and I hope you will all join us in this new project that connects preservation with the arts community in an innovative project of urban renewal.

It began last year with our effort to save Riverside Park and the belief that the park was a key asset to the historic neighborhood next to the park. With your support we achieved that goal and were face-to-face with the next step...ok, we saved the park, now what?

At just that key moment I learned about a new grant opportunity with the recently re-organized State Department of Economic and Community Development, (DECD) which is also the new home of the State Historic Preservation Office, (SHPO) and the Office of the Arts. They were planning to award significant grants to cities with economic development plans for revitalizing needy neighborhoods with arts projects. I couldn't think of anything more appropriate for New London with the park neighborhood that includes Hodges Square, a small business district and a major gateway to New London . . . this was a great answer to our question.

John Cusano and the Office of the Arts were immediately interested in my proposal—planning and grant writing went forward. The city administration was equally supportive as Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio is especially interested in this neighborhood as a gateway and was a supporter of saving the park. A key ingredient of this project is that it has city support.

The amazing result of NLL's efforts and a totally separate effort from Hygienic Art is that this spring the arts community received \$140,000 for **City Canvasses** and Landmarks received \$100,000 for **Creative Placemaking!** Arts and preservation are making a real difference in New London; bringing in significant funding through grants, beautifying the downtown and bringing new attention to an historic neighborhood that has been ignored ever since the twin bridges and Interstate 95 split the area off from the main part of the city.



His Honor's Lucky Day! Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio found a four-leaf clover in Riverside Park on Neighbor Day.

Neighbor Day, May 20th, was a beautiful day

and a wonderful opening for the summer season in the Park. Giant bubbles were a great hit with all ages. This



was an introduction to our Saturday Art Jams opening on July 14 with Derron Wood and Flock Theatre. This performance-based arts project includes mask making, performance of a short play with many characters and giant puppets—family fun for all ages!



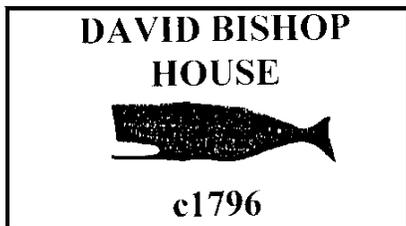
New London Trails & Tales is a wonderful new project that is amazingly appropriate to the new state tourism branding initiative:

CONNECTICUT: Still Revolutionary!

Following the trail from the Parade Plaza all around town reveals New London's history through its historic buildings, streets, parks, churches and neighborhoods, most of them listed with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Grants from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the Dominion Foundation support the book and graphic designer Amy Hannum has worked on both research and graphic design for her Senior Project for Connecticut College.

Historic Plaque Application



If your New London home/building is at least 50 years old, it may qualify to receive an historic marker listing its date and original owner. The information gathered in this process aids in neighborhood preservation efforts.

Our volunteer title researchers study land, tax and water records, historic maps, and city directories to establish your building's first

The researchers welcome any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building you may have. Please allow at least 16—20 weeks for completion of the research and delivery of the durable, hand-lettered, sealed, hardwood plaque.

PLAQUE ADDRESS _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

DAY PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

LEGAL OWNER (IF DIFFERENT) _____

APPROXIMATE DATE PURCHASED BY CURRENT OWNER _____ APPROXIMATE AGE OF PROPERTY _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: YES NO

PRICE OF PLAQUE: \$250.00 Non-member \$235.00 Members Re-Painting a Plaque \$100.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required with this application. Balance is due upon completion.

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMPLETED

**44 Summer Avenue
1888
William Lonergan
A H.o.p.e. Project**

If you have a Landmarks Whale Plaque on your home and it is fading, chipping or wearing away, we can have it restored for a fee to \$100.00.

These are hardwood plaques, hand-painted with the historic information, but we realize they don't last forever.

The program began in 1985 so some of these plaques have been "out in the weather" for many years. Let u know if restoration is in order.



49 Washington Street
Post Office Box 1134
New London, CT 06320

Family Fun for All Ages **SATURDAY ART JAMS IN RIVERSIDE PARK**

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Art and family fun bring all ages together in Riverside Park and our ART JAM SATURDAY’S bring FUN and ART together for an exciting variety of activities!