

History on the Rocks: Gadsby's Historic Ice Well

The Endginning

After 51 days, gallons of water, and a whole lot of guessing our journey has come to an end. Sixty-three hundred pounds of ice have transformed into water. A Marylander is the happy winner of bling. Cleanup has begun, the web cam will soon be removed and the ice well will be returned to its normal interpretive state. However it has been changed forever. This crazy project the brain child of many and the hallucinations of some has brought renewed awareness to the ice well. We see this each day as tourists enjoy Alexandria in the spring, walking by and peering into the window. School children on tour think the ice well is, I quote, "my favorite part."

However, this is not really the end, but the beginning. The phrase "it's a marathon, not a sprint" certainly could be apply to this project. However, instead of 26.2, we should change it to a relay. The baton has been passed to the last runner. You.

We have a little under \$250,000 left to raise. Yes, that is a large pile of money, but in the grand scheme of things, not so bad. Over the past three years, we have been able to fund 57% of the total project costs through the hard efforts of our friends group, the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, plus grants received, donations given, and events attended.



Put a fork in it...it is done.

So in this last stretch, we have an exciting opportunity to kick it into high gear. The first weekend of May is the launch of a three-day fundraising + engagement-a-thon. Participating organizations all across the city will be in friendly competition with each other to help raise awareness of issues and raise needed funds. Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, in partnership with the Museum, has been invited to participate this inaugural year.

But it goes beyond dollars, it is really about people. People supporting people. People telling the world I care about this. Yes, the organization who has the most donors at the end of the three days wins \$5,000, but we will all win much more mobilized force for good. So history geeks unite, donate, tell your friends and help us reach our goal of \$250K! For every dollar that is donated, it will be a match to our "Save American's Treasures Grant", the only federal bricks-and mortar grant program that funds historic preservation and cultural heritage projects which has officially been zeroed out by Congress and the White House but yet is funded through the Historic Preservation Fund which is funded by off shore oil drilling so really will have no effect on the budget but I digress. It has funded the preservation of the Star Spangled Banner, Rosa Park's Bus, Thomas Edison's Invention Factory, and the City Tavern Historic Ice Well. So your \$10 is really \$20.

Therefore as the cheerleader for this last leg of the race, I will continue to blog and pass along interesting tidbits along the way. We still have guest bloggers ready to inspire and entertain. And when we all cross that finish line together, may we have a tall, refreshing, ice cold beverage waiting for us!

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