

# ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

## ANNUAL REPORT

for

**FISCAL YEAR 2018: JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018**

### I. SUMMARY

For Alexandria Archaeology (AA) and the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC), FY 2017 – 2018 was again dominated by near-daily discoveries made during excavations at EYA’s Robinson Terminal South project on South Union Street. Since the EYA project began work on the full-block, riverside site in 2017, archaeologists have uncovered a rich complex of buildings dating from the 18th through 19th centuries, the homes and businesses of a broad spectrum of Alexandrians from many walks of life. The dig has already offered us a rare, comprehensive look at urban Alexandria’s busy, layered and diverse waterfront and maritime heritage. This year’s discoveries ranged from locating the foundations of an additional warehouse on Duke Street, to the imposing foundations of the iconic, sprawling Pioneer Mill at Duke and the Potomac River, to perhaps the most fascinating find in March: an interwoven wharf structure composed of ships and massive cribbing timbers. Three additional 18th century ships were uncovered there, integrated into what was once the bulkhead of Alexandria’s late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century riverfront “bank out.” This internationally important and rare discovery offers fresh insights into the practical process of banking out the shoreline, and the three well-preserved ship hulls are themselves tantalizing examples of colonial-era American shipbuilding and naval architecture.

The latest discoveries once again brought the city international attention, and, unsurprisingly, again stretched office – and city – resources. News about the ships appeared in major media outlets including The New York Times, The Washington Post, PBS News Hour, and dozens of local news stories as well. The scope of the finds again highlighted Alexandria’s well-organized and careful archaeological code processes, as AA worked closely with EYA’s contracted archaeologists, Thunderbird, as well as EYA management to steward the ongoing documentation and recovery of the ships and over 100,000 associated artifacts. AAC and Alexandria Archaeology are reaching out to a broader academic circle to help start the process of research and interpretation. That process will also reinforce and widen Alexandria’s profile. AAC has worked to help Archaeology find funding, and support its efforts to preserve and interpret these materials. AAC helped organize and staff a massive public event on April 14th, interpreting the archaeology at Robinson Landing and the mission of the AAC to over 3,200 visitors.

These three “new” ships bring Alexandria’s fledgling ghost ship merchant fleet to four, as they join our previously discovered ship from the Hotel Indigo site in 2015, undergoing conservation currently at Texas A&M, College Station. Alexandria Archaeology’s project to conserve the Hotel Indigo ship garnered two grants in FY18, one from the Virginia Association of Museums for \$4000 (as part of Virginia’s Top 10 Most Endangered Artifacts program, and to this, AAC members raised an additional over \$2000 as a show of support) and a matching grant of \$97,117 from the

National Park Service's Maritime Heritage Program. These discoveries and resources have the positive practical effect of starting a wider discussion within OHA and our commission into how to garner wider attention to Alexandria's role, how to present this story, and how to gather funding to support it. For example, AAC established a Ships Committee, which meets twice a month, tasked with making recommendations and helping create a report to Council on the long-term dispositions of the four ships, and is evaluating a range of options, taking into consideration scholar use, public access, community interests, interpretation, display, and budget issues.

Yet, as our annual report for FY 2016-17 underscored, the ongoing waterfront discoveries also amplify the role of the commission and its three-fold mission of preservation, education, and advocacy for Alexandria's archaeological and historic resources, as advanced by the City of Alexandria Strategic Plan. They galvanized AAC advocacy with Alexandria City Council (Council), not only for funding for conservation of current and future discoveries, but also for the creation of a maritime heritage facility that would include highlighting the ships, Carlyle and Hooe warehouse (the former being the site of Alexandria's first brewery), and other artifacts from the waterfront.

The time has come to craft a comprehensive, professional plan implementing the Waterfront History Plan included in the Waterfront Plan approved by Council in 2012, and included in the City's Strategic Plan in 2017. Since 2012, the City has made little progress in realizing the goals of the history plan, and the conservation of the boat and other materials underscores the urgency of implementing the plan and with a maritime center facility as a focus and anchor for the City's waterfront history assets. For these reasons, AAC's goals for the coming year reflect pursuing both funding needs for Archaeology, and for a plan to implement the History Plan. In April, AAC reconstituted its "committee of the whole" Waterfront History Plan Implementation Group, which was source and author of the original History Plan, and invited HARC (Historic Alexandria Resources Commission) members to join. This committee will make concrete recommendations for implementation of the History Plan, and work with OHA, Planning, and DPI staff as well. The committee along with HARC has already made recommendations for history interpretation at Interim King Street Park on the Waterfront, the first City-led interpretive space on the waterfront.

In FY 2018 the AAC celebrated its forty-third anniversary in February 2018 and the twenty-eighth anniversary of City's passage of the Archaeological Protection Code the previous November. The commission worked throughout the year to address a wide range of archaeological developments, projects, and opportunities. It reacted quickly and responsively to Alexandria Archaeology needs, and collaborated with staff in long term strategic planning. AAC has been following the progress of the entire waterfront plan via our participation on the Waterfront Commission. The AAC also continued to participate in the development of the Fort Ward Interpretive Plan. AAC continues to be the primary public commission supporting the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial and African American heritage in the City.

In other areas, the AAC closely followed the Section 106 process along with other concurring parties for the Ramsey Homes redevelopment project. This consultation resulted in the selection and preservation (and future interpretation and display) of key exemplars of the prefabricated materials that contributed to the architectural significance of these homes.

The AAC has been instrumental in other OHA planning areas including the development new OHA strategic plan by facilitating community input that addresses the goals of historical authenticity and historic preservation. It continues to support the other arts and history related City commissions, and participates in comprehensive efforts to survey, document, and interpret historic materials and fabric. For example, it supported City efforts to acquire and preserve the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. AAC also participated in the Combined Sewer System Stakeholders Group, advising them on the potential archaeological implications of various options considered and general preservation issues.

AAC would like to thank Council for its support of Archaeology's important mission in our city, and looks forward to working closely with Council and staff as we rediscover and celebrate our city and its place in the American story.

**In pursuit of achieving AAC's long-range goals, the Commission continues to use as its guiding principles the City of Alexandria Strategic Plan.** The AAC will pursue and support, in particular, Strategic Plan action items including: commemorating and interpreting Alexandria's role in WWI; continuing preservation of the historic ships and other artifacts from Alexandria's waterfront; and begin planning for the historic interpretation of our unique maritime heritage along the waterfront, including the exhibition of the ships, warehouse, and other artifacts. The members have agreed to retain the four goals originally developed in FY12 involving (1) People - Alexandria Archaeology staffing, volunteers, and the history community; (2) Archaeology Museum/ Lab/ Education Center/ Storage; (3) Resource Management - funding and resources; and (4) Archaeology, History, and Preservation. Archaeology Staff were once again invited to provide input into the formation of objectives under each main goal. The AAC's Strategic Plan continues to look to the future of Archaeology in Alexandria. The AAC also coordinated with Alexandria Archaeology and Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) staff to update the Alexandria Archaeology Work Plan, which details the various projects and missions that Alexandria Archaeology seeks to accomplish in the near future. The AAC will once again use this comprehensive work plan as a guide and resource for upcoming advocacy. The AAC is grateful for this unified effort between the Commission and City Staff.

The AAC continued its tradition of outreach into communities across the city, holding some meetings outside our museum facility at the Torpedo Factory. This year, the commission undertook a walkabout in Del Ray, highlighting historic fabric and architecture with Historic Preservation Staff from the Office of Planning and Zoning. Others outreach tours included Freedom House and Ramsey Homes.

## **II. AAC ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED/PARTICIPATED IN FY2018**

The Archaeological Commission pursued a variety of activities during FY2018. These activities are set forth below and are organized within headings taken from the AAC's Strategic Plan.

### **A. GOAL I - PEOPLE**

**AAC Membership:** The Commission elected officers in September 2017. Elizabeth McCall as Chair, Ivy Whitlatch as Vice Chair, and Ann Davin as Secretary. There was one resignation

(Rebecca Seigel, Planning District II) and two new members were appointed (Esther White, Planning District II, and Richard Owens, Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA)). City Council approved a change to the bylaws shifting the designation of a member of the Chamber of Commerce to a member of the business community (currently vacant, but with an applicant this fall). There is still a vacancy for the representative from the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage. We are actively recruiting new members.

**Commission Collaboration and Partnership:** The AAC continues to work closely with other commissions and City departments on areas of common focus and shared significance. As a concurring party lead by AAC member Seth Tinkham, the AAC continues to dedicate extensive energy on the public Section 106 process for Ramsey Homes redevelopment, helping to refine the mitigation strategies in addition to the archaeological work, and will continue to serve as the project moves forward. Recognizing the importance of effective solutions to environmental impacts caused by stormwater and the potential archaeological impacts of these solutions, the AAC remains an active member the Combined Sewer System public process led by Vice Chair Ivy Whitlatch. Finally, the AAC continues to spearhead the efforts of an ad hoc committee on developing an African American Waterfront Heritage Trail led by Chair Indy McCall and including members of HARC, Arts Commission, City staff, and members of the community as well as Councilmember John Chapman, the outcome of which will serve as a template for future collaborations.

AAC has permanent representation on HARC and the Waterfront Commission, which allows this family of commission to work closely together on shared goals.

In April, the AAC backed fundraising efforts to support the conservation of the 18th-century ship uncovered at the Hotel Indigo site. FOAA organized another Save Our Ship fundraising event as part of Alexandria's Spring2Action campaign. In all, more than \$11,000 was raised through the leadership of FOAA supported by AAC.

**Ben Brenman Awards:** The AAC selected two recipients for the 2017 Awards, which were presented by the Mayor and City Council in October. The recipients were: for Outstanding Professional Volunteer, Anna Lynch, and for Outstanding Preservation Vision, Bill Dickinson. Anna Lynch was posthumously recognized for her nearly 30-year dedication to researching, interpreting, and preserving Alexandria's history and exciting generations of school children about their local history through archaeology-based lessons; for filling an important gap in our knowledge of a vital part of the city's history with her three volume *Compendium of Early African Americans in Alexandria, VA*, published by Alexandria Archaeology; and for her engaging style and depth of knowledge that affected how so many visitors experienced Alexandria's rich history and archaeology. The AAC recognized Bill Dickinson for his role in facilitating the City's acquisition of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, one of the earliest surviving homes in the city and possibly the least altered 18<sup>th</sup>-century home in Northern Virginia; for his innovative approach to securing grant funding to purchase the house and grounds which will be used in perpetuity as a historic site, pocket garden and park, new open space, and represents the preservation of a nationally significant architectural and cultural resource for residents and visitors; and for his dedication to enriching the historic and cultural fabric of Alexandria.

**Volunteer Hours:** In FY2018, Alexandria Archaeology was fortunate to receive outstanding support and enthusiasm from the community as evidenced by the 4841 volunteer hours that were logged during that time span, with a total of 131 different volunteers contributing their energy and efforts to our cause. The AAC totaled 358.5 of these hours in its commitment to review, advise, and advocate to Council for the many important occurrences of archaeological discovery and areas of historic importance throughout the city of Alexandria. The AAC is mindful that these devoted volunteers are gracious and invested enough in Alexandria's historic preservation to contribute so significantly. The challenge of adequate staffing within Alexandria Archaeology and the Office of Historic Alexandria continues to be of paramount importance, as the ability to contribute to the technical aspects of such work would provide a substantial benefit to archaeology in our city.

## **B. GOAL II - MUSEUM, LAB, EDUCATION CENTER, STORAGE**

**Staff Presentations:** As part of its strategic planning process, each year AAC invites staff members to present topics throughout the year. This year, presentations covered the conservation of the warehouse and ship materials from the Hotel Indigo site, excavations at Robinson Terminal South, fundraising challenges, museum space renovation, Fort Ward, Freedom House, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Ramsey Homes, and Interim King Street Park. Discussions revolved around the impact of archeology on the city, the draw for visitors, growth of the program, and educational potential. Future needs of Alexandria Archaeology were discussed to include staffing and improvements to the museum, office, and lab facilities. The Commission also explored the effect of development on archaeology and preservation within the city. An essential goal of the AAC is the continuous education and up-to-date awareness of City archaeological activity. Specific topics which have arisen as a result of this process, such as the necessity of public education and awareness, are discussed in greater detail below. These presentations offer the commission a better and deeper understanding of the operations, challenges and discoveries of the City's archaeological work, and the significantly strengthens the AAC's ability to advise Council and recommend specific courses of action to the City of Alexandria.

**Torpedo Factory Art Center and Archaeology Museum:** As a stakeholder and steward of historic fabric, the AAC remains interested in the future of the Torpedo Factory and plans to continue to participate in the process. AAC is concerned about ensuring the viability of the Torpedo Factory as an important magnet in the City.

Also in line with Goal II of the Strategic Plan, the AAC is committed to updating our museum in the Torpedo Factory to further attract visitors and enhance their experience, and discussions have focused around various substantive measures to help. Museum visitation remains high, highlighting the role of the museum as a waterfront and Torpedo Factory destination. The number of visitors to the City's nine historical museums and sites in FY2018 totaled 222,430. Visitors to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum accounted for 22% of this total, with our annual visitation number at 49,022. In order to sustain and improve upon this growth, it is urgent that the City address areas of need and long-term neglect in this free yet highly visible City museum. Beyond addressing the aging and failing museum, staff office, artifact storage space, and public research infrastructure, the AAC suggests that the City proceed with a museum redesign and update, the first in decades. Not only must we replace dated exhibits, we must maximize the efficiency of our current space as well improve the accessibility of all exhibits. The AAC seeks to meet the growing

needs of the well-documented and rising interest in our city's historical and archaeological resources. It also seeks to increase Alexandria Archaeology's operating the space on the waterfront, perhaps one of the most visible of the city's history interactions with the public, and the focus of sharing new discoveries with residents and visitors.

### **C. GOAL III - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Budget Advocacy:** The AAC extends its thanks to the Mayor and City Council regarding the outcome of the FY2019 City Budget Process. In particular, the historic ship continues as the focus of a great deal of our fundraising efforts this past year, in concert with Council's work. The Council quickly supported funding the initial stages of conservation, a process that will take at least five years. The Commission welcomed the annual addition of \$50,000 to the Alexandria Archaeology budget as a contingency to support a highly visible series of significant discoveries. The AAC advocates for ongoing City funding to ensure that the ship project will be carried out to completion with an exhibit and interpretation of the ship on the waterfront when conservation is completed. The Commission is already working with FOAA to support this goal.

The AAC remains vigilant over and concerned about the waterfront development process. The commission maintains that the current piecemeal approach, parcel by parcel as developed and in isolation, cannot foster an enriching experience for residents and visitors nor does it convey the excitement about Alexandria our city deserves. That enthusiasm has been the hallmark of our city for decades. Instead, the City should finally implement the comprehensive the waterfront history interpretation design that it already approved in 2012, and which integrates history and art into the full length of the continuous waterfront. The ships provide an anchor for such an historical interpretation, but it also points to the urgent need to plan now for its physical exhibition on the waterfront as a key focus. The remains of John Carlyle's warehouse will return to Alexandria from the conservation in 2021 and the Hotel Indigo ship will be close behind in 2022. Now is the time to begin planning the development of this unified interpretive plan, especially as the recently discovered colonial-era warehouse and ship will also be important features displayed on our waterfront. For these reason, the AAC asks Council to appropriate funds for a comprehensive interpretive waterfront history plan and its implementation.

The 2018 budget did not include the fundraising and development position that the AAC considers so important to the sustainability of the high standards of the City's museums and collections, as well as the continued need for special projects such as the ship's conservation and the newly acquired Murray-Dick-Fawcett house. The AAC will continue its advocacy for funding this role. Given the wide range of funding challenges for OHA and Archaeology, AAC urges Council to include the fundraising and development position OHA also requested last year. We think this position could be leveraged to alleviate budget shortfalls in the future.

Financing the Archaeology Museum's improvement and re-design remains an ever-present consideration for the AAC. While a redesign of the museum was funded in 2015 and continued through FY2016, no funds were allocated to implement this design. The AAC will advocate for funding to complete museum improvements in stages over the next few fiscal years.

The AAC thanks Council for allocating funds for interpretive planning and associated archaeology at Fort Ward, but recognizes that additional CIP (Capital Improvement Project) funds will be needed to implement the plans in future years.

#### **D. GOAL IV - ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, AND PRESERVATION**

**Alexandria Waterfront Plan/Art History Implementation Plan:** The AAC continued to monitor and participate in the public discussion regarding updates on all Waterfront area plans, developments, legal actions, and decisions. Commission member Ted Pulliam remained the AAC's representative on the Alexandria Waterfront Commission, updating the AAC on the latest designs and progress put forth by the designers and developers, including Olin Studios and EYA.

The AAC renews its commitment to ensuring adherence to the Small Area Plan, as well as to being as informed as possible with respect to the many extensive projects ahead (many of which hold a prospect of significant findings resulting from ground disturbance in the city's most historic areas). With regards to changes in the status of the Robinson Terminal North project, the Commission suggests that Council treat the delay and sale of the property as an opportunity for the City to reevaluate the best public uses of the parcel.

**Freedmen's Cemetery:** The AAC believes it is extremely important to properly maintain, preserve, and interpret Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery. The Commission continues to work with City staff to ensure an interpretive stone is purchased and installed to indicate what the stone pavers mean in the sidewalk and that various and diverse forms of outreach and interpretation of this significant site continue.

**Fort Ward:** After City Council's adoption of the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan in January 2015, the AAC supported the creation of the Fort Ward Interpretive Planning Committee to advise City staff on the interpretive planning process and the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Management Plan Implementation Monitoring Group to oversee the implementation of the management plan, which presented a detailed outline of natural and cultural resource initiatives to help facilitate identification, interpretation, and preservation of historical resources.

**Ramsey Homes:** The AAC serves as a concurring party in the Section 106 mitigation process. The AAC expressed concern with an awkward and confused process and hopes that we as a City can learn from those mistakes to better plan for future similar projects that are on the horizon. The AAC plans to take the lead along with HARC on presenting lessons learned and offering an opportunity and location to discuss best practices in the application of Section 106.

**Public Education and Outreach:** The AAC's Public Education Subcommittee, formed in FY2014 in response to a series of occurrences of unauthorized removal of potentially historic artifacts from private land, continued to pursue its goal of raising awareness regarding historic preservation, and in order to address the shortage of sufficient and readily offered information related to the proper consideration of historic properties and artifacts available. The AAC will work to provide resources promoting a safe and effective understanding of the archaeological process and its importance. The AAC remains committed to public education across all aspects of our community and geographic regions.

**Cemetery Committee:** In July 2014, the AAC voted to form a new subcommittee devoted to overseeing, identifying, and preserving the numerous cemeteries in Alexandria. In 2015-16, the committee researched state and local guidelines and handbooks regarding cemetery preservation and recordkeeping, and began inventorying what cemeteries the City maintains according to existing records. The Commonwealth of Virginia has not instituted formal guidelines or rules for such endeavors, but it does have a cemetery survey form. An initial goal of the Committee was to formulate a set of cemetery preservation guidelines for the City of Alexandria, along with accompanying survey forms. The review of existing survey forms from a variety of states and jurisdictions allowed for an informed basis from which a new Alexandria form was developed. The Cemetery Committee discussed an appendix that allows for the recording of further information, while utilizing the Commonwealth of Virginia form for consistency with other Commonwealth-wide forms and surveys, as well as a gravemarker form also included, will help to highlight specific aspects of the monuments and memorials surveyed (and structured in a fashion to best serve the City’s purposes). In 2017, the Cemetery Committee worked closely with archaeology and City staff to conceptualize and beta-test web-based survey tools that would be most suitable for undertaking a citizen-scientist approach to documenting individual gravestones in City-owned and maintained cemeteries for the purposes of research and preservation. Since then, the focus has shifted as the waterfront redevelopment has captured the time and attention of the AAC, staff, and the public.

### **III. GOALS FOR FY2019**

The AAC’s primary focus in FY2019 is to pursue the substantive implementation of the Waterfront History Plan, approved by City Council in 2012. We view this goal as urgent considering the need to protect, display and interpret Alexandria’s 18th-century ships and other discoveries as a focus along the waterfront. The shrinking conservation window allows time for planning a museum facility to house the ship upon its return, and to highlight Alexandria’s maritime heritage and the American story. FY2019 goals will be to pursue comprehensive waterfront interpretation and a maritime history focal point.

#### **I. People**

AAC seeks to increase the professional staffing levels within Alexandria Archaeology.

##### Objectives

1. Advocate for the improvement of staffing levels within Alexandria Archaeology.
  - a. Work with City Council to replace staff as vacancies occur.
  - b. Explore methods to:
    - i. Increase professional staff positions to meet real needs.

- ii. Find alternative funding sources through fundraising, grants, or other methods (see Goal 3).
2. Support better use of volunteers in:
  - a. Museum Staffing
  - b. Research
  - c. Field Work
3. Explore, advocate, and promote cooperative efforts with other historic related Commissions within Alexandria

## **II. Museum, Lab, Education Center, Storage**

AAC seeks to enhance the quality, professionalism, and effectiveness of the museum and its related educational outreach. Alexandria is only one of eight municipal organizations across the country accredited for their museum systems. Our Archaeology Museum and related functions are important parts of that accreditation.

### **Objectives:**

1. Advocate for the maintenance of the current Archaeology Museum, offices, public research space, and artifact storage room in the Torpedo Factory Art Center pending completion of objective 2 below.
  - a. Advocate for funding of renovations to current space and exhibits (needed as interim measure as current museum has not been updated in over 15 years).
2. Explore opportunities for the expansion of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, offices, and storage.
  - a. Advocate for and obtain funding for a professional needs assessment to recommend space requirements, site, exhibits, and funding estimates for new facility.
  - b. Explore, promote, and advocate for space options within the Torpedo Factory Art Center.
  - c. Based upon (a): Explore, promote, and advocate options for an entirely new facility located outside the Torpedo Factory Art Center while stressing the importance of a continued presence in relationship to the Waterfront so that the story of Alexandria can be told through interpretation and explanation of its archaeology.

## **III. Resource Management**

AAC seeks to contain the erosion of Alexandria Archaeology's budget and find ways to improve funding levels for critical programs. Archaeology faces challenges to staffing and programs due to annual budget cuts. The City anticipates further revenue shortfalls, and may well require additional cuts in Archaeology's budget. The recent discoveries along the waterfront point to the need to find secure, long-term funding for preservation, conservation, and interpretation.

Objectives:

1. Continue to advocate for improved funding for the Alexandria Archaeology program from the City, to include a contingency fund to support preservation and conservation of new discoveries in the course of waterfront development.
2. Work with staff and Friend of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA) to explore and initiate alternative funding sources through:
  - a. Fundraising
  - b. Grants
3. Explore new, dedicated funding sources to assist OHA, Archaeology, preservation, and collective interpretation and education efforts through a public-private non-profit partnership in cooperation with HARC and outside organizations.

#### **IV. Archaeology, History, and Preservation**

AAC and Alexandria Archaeology have led efforts in public history and public archeology to improve preservation the City's historical assets, and to interpret the history of Alexandria on the waterfront and elsewhere in the city. AAC shall continue its support of Alexandria Archaeology as a key resource, and to complete the implementation of the Waterfront History Plan it contributed in 2010.

Objectives:

1. Explore and define the future mission and vision of the Alexandria Archaeology.
2. Advocate for funding design development and implementation of a comprehensive Historical Interpretation plan for the Alexandria Waterfront. Advocate for continued funding to conserve and eventually exhibit the ship discovered at Hotel Indigo.
3. Make recommendations for the disposition of ships and other artifacts discovered during excavation of Alexandria's historic waterfront.
4. Explore opportunities for the expansion of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, offices, and storage. (See Goal 2)

5. Advocate for continued and enhanced funding and participate in the future historical interpretation and development of Fort Ward Park.
6. Promote planning for and implementation of future interpretation and preservation of, and education through, the archaeological and historical resources across the city of Alexandria.
7. Promote continued enforcement of the City of Alexandria Archaeology Code.
8. Promote continued collaboration with the Alexandria arts community, including the Torpedo Factory and the Commission for the Arts.

In addition to the Goals and Objectives presented above, the Commission has developed specific action items that are consistent with the Strategic Plan as well as the Work Plan for the Alexandria Archeological program. The Commission will pursue these items as part of its overall mission of preserving the historic and cultural resources of the community.

#### **AAC Strategic Plan Action Foci:**

- Continue to advocate for a sustainable budget in support of a viable archaeological program for the City, and seek new funding sources to support the work of the program.
- Explore establishing a public history and archaeology contingency fund for OHA. This fund could be used to support signage, interpretation of resources, and related needs for management of the cultural resources throughout Alexandria.
- Take active steps to organize efforts that will preserve existing but neglected cemeteries within the city. AAC will develop a problem statement that defines the nature and extent of neglected or orphan cemeteries within the city and possible steps to remediate issues.
- Support actions to reach out and increase awareness in the community, other commissions, and history groups about the cultural resources of the City. These actions could include support of exhibits and museum education, development of additional publications, and appropriate celebrations of the program achievements.
- Support staff on a project specific basis using the skills and interests of members of the AAC as well as others.

#### **IV. RECRUITMENT, LEADERSHIP SELECTION, AND SUCCESSION**

The Archaeological Commission recruits members by referral and the recommendation of sitting members, by advertisement on the City's website, and/or by other City organizations they will represent. In addition, the Archaeological Commission seeks an active presence throughout the city, holding its scheduled meetings at widespread locations to allow the public to learn more of its activities and opportunities. Both commissioners and staff attend historically related events,

presentations, tours, etc., at which they may promote AAC and also service on the Commission. Nominees are encouraged to attend Commission meetings prior to formal application to City Council to help inform them of current issues, and the activities, and makeup of the Commission. The AAC's brochure is distributed and appears on the OHA/Alexandria Archaeology website.

The Archaeological Commission chooses its officers by simple majority vote from among nominees proposed at the September AAC meeting: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. A nominating committee is selected in August and a slate of officers is presented for this vote by the nominating committee in September. Any additional names may be included from the members before the September vote. Individual members may not nominate themselves. Terms are not staggered. The leadership serves a one-year term, and an unexpected vacancy is filled for the remainder of the term. Leaders may serve again at the discretion of the Commission, but must be re-nominated in competition with other nominees and chosen again by simple majority.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair acts in its stead at AAC meetings and representing AAC at other meetings. Individual Commissioners also act in a leadership capacity, heading subcommittees or representing AAC at Council, or at the meetings of other City commissions and organizations. Service on these committees helps prepare Commissioners as future officers of the AAC.

## **V. STRUCTURE OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION**

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on matters relating to the City's archaeological resources and related issues within the city. Included among the AAC's responsibilities are to establish goals and priorities which contribute to the history and heritage of colonial, federal, and historic Alexandria; propose local ordinances and state statutes to the City Council and the City Manager which promote the goals and aims embodied in Ordinance No. 3733; plan, develop, and recommend short-, mid-, and long-term archaeological plans and programs for the City; encourage the integration of archaeological and historical information and site preservation into master plans and development efforts; study and make recommendations to City Council with respect to additional activities involving the City's archaeological program and artifacts; promote the use of the highest professional standards by Alexandria Archaeology staff; and enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States, and the world.

AAC meetings are held every month, on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum and, or at other sites of interest to the Commission. The fourteen (14) members of AAC include five (5) members at large, three (3) citizen members representing each of the City's three planning districts, and six (6) members representing various City organizations.

Elections are held in October of each year. The Commission officers consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Due to changes in membership and elections, persons serving on the Commission may be listed in more than one representative or leadership capacity.

The following people served on the Commission during Fiscal Year 2018:

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

Mark Michael Ludlow  
Ralph Rosenbaum  
Elizabeth (Indy) McCall, Chair  
Edward (Ted) Pulliam  
Jake Hoogland

**PLANNING DISTRICT MEMBERS:**

Planning District I: Ivy Whitlatch, Vice Chair  
Planning District II: Esther White  
Planning District III: Janice Magnuson

**ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Alexandria Association: Ann Davin, Secretary  
Alexandria Historical Society: Georgia (Katy) Cannady  
Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage: OPEN  
Business Community: OPEN  
Friends of Alexandria Archaeology: Richard Owens  
Historic Alexandria Foundation: Seth Tinkham