



Greenwich Historical Society Debuts Expanded Campus October 6

COS COB, CONN. — Greenwich Historical Society's boldly reimagined campus will open October 6, showcasing a dramatically transformed campus that will enable the Historical Society to welcome more visitors, exhibit more of its collections, enrich its education and preservation programs and share with a wider audience the national significance of this pivotal Southern New England suburb.

The reimagined campus is home to the circa 1730 National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, which was built as a home for prosperous merchants and later gained recognition as the site of one of America's earliest American Impressionist art colonies. Trailblazing American Impressionists such as Childe Hassam, John Henry Twachtman, J. Alden Weir and Elmer MacRae were part of the Cos Cob art colony that gathered at the Holley boarding house 1890–1920.

The expanded Greenwich Historical Society will now feature a nationally accredited museum, library and archives, café, store and

restored Impressionist-era gardens. A former railroad hotel, and subsequently Toby's Tavern, has been meticulously restored to its early Twentieth Century appearance by award-winning historical preservation architectural firm David Scott Parker Architects, who also designed new state-of-the-art museum galleries. The inaugural exhibition in the new museum will be "History Is..." where visitors will be prompted to think about how their place in history evolves from childhood to adulthood, reflecting on the fact that we live through different eras that connect us to the past and to the future. It will examine some of the many possible ways that history can be interpreted, employing objects and images from the Historical Society's collections. Other exhibits will include "The Cos Cob Art Colony," "Highlights of Greenwich History," "Treasures from the Collections" and a film titled *Our Place in History*.

The reimagined campus will help the Historical Society



Rendering of the reimagined Greenwich Historical Society campus opening October 6, courtesy David Scott Parker Architects.

share the countless stories of this unique community to shine an even greater spotlight on the national importance of the Cos Cob art colony and the many noteworthy contributions of Greenwich residents through the centuries.

"The Historical Society's grand opening will usher in an exciting new phase in our 87-year history and the proud

378-year history of Greenwich. Our larger, more accessible campus enables us to showcase a much broader collection of art, archival materials and digital collections to give visitors a better understanding of how Greenwich was, and continues to be, intertwined with the nation's larger narrative. We will be able to engage the public in a much richer exploration of

our cultural heritage and encourage active participation in the preservation of our history through dynamic cultural and educational programs that will strengthen our connection to the past, to each other and to the future," says Debra Mecky, the historical society's executive director and CEO.

"Our dramatically reimagined and expanded campus is a dream come true. The unwavering generosity of the community throughout our three-year capital campaign has made it possible for the Historical Society to enter the national stage and take its place as one of America's great historical institutions," says Peter Malkin, chairman of the Reimagine the Campus Capital Campaign.

In addition to the state-of-the-art museum galleries, highlights of the new campus include a curated museum store and artists café at the Toby building that will present exhibitions by some of Greenwich's talented artists; and an accessible library and archives for researchers, journalists, homeowners, genealogists and others to discover more than 40,000 items that document Greenwich's rich cultural heritage. The Impressionist-era flower and fruit and vegetable gardens will be restored according to historical documentation, and the new campus will provide more green space for outdoor events and children's programming. Dynamic programming will make Greenwich's history engaging, relevant and participatory through tours, lectures, educational programs and events for all ages while providing better access for welcoming the community, including expanded parking, an elevator and a leveling of the terrain for full ADA accessibility and maximum efficiency.

The Greenwich Historical Society is at 47 Strickland Road. For additional information, www.greenwichhistory.org or 203-869-6899.



Rendering of the view from the Greenwich Historical Society's lower parking lot showing the restored Toby's in the foreground with the new museum and library and archives building behind; next to Toby's is the Storehouse administrative building and on the far right, the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House. Rendering courtesy David Scott Parker Architects.



A historic photo of the former Railroad Hotel and Toby's Saloon, which the Greenwich Historical Society restored to become the entrance to its new museum. Toby's houses a new café and museum store. Next to Toby's is the 1805 Storehouse, which has served as a post office, store and the location for the historical society's exhibitions; it is now administrative offices. Exhibitions are located in the new museum building, which is attached to the restored Toby's building. Photo courtesy Greenwich Historical Society.



A historic photo of Toby's Saloon and the 1805 Storehouse, which has served as a post office, store, and the location for the historical society's exhibitions; it is now administrative offices. Photo courtesy Greenwich Historical Society.



"Toby's Cos Cob, October 31, 1915" by Childe Hassam, etching, Greenwich Historical Society. Gift of Mr and Mrs Hugh B. Vanderbilt, 1997.