

# MIDTOWN ACTION COUNCIL



2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

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# 01 | FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

2017 marked a milestone for the Midtown Action Council (MAC) as we reached our 40th year of continuous operation. To celebrate this achievement, we present a brief history of the origins of MAC in honor of past, present, and future members:

*The origins of MAC began in April of 1976 when the late Marianne Faust recruited a group of conscientious residents, businesses, and property owners to form the Midtown Square Action Committee. Passionate about the City of Harrisburg and its potential coming out of the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, Marianne led the group to develop and serve as a steward of the Harrisburg neighborhood beginning to be called “Midtown”.*

*As this group continued to engage the community and grow the organization, MAC created and adopted formal Bylaws and a Constitution on November 14, 1977 and voted to officially change its name to the Midtown Square Action Council at the general meeting held on December 12, 1977. This formally defined boundaries for the “Midtown Square” as Forster to Verbeke Streets and Front to Third Streets and established membership for all residents within the Midtown Square and any non-resident that owns property located within the Midtown Square.*

*This moment also served as an important milestone as MAC was one of the first neighborhood organizations, its only predecessor being the Bellevue Park Association, which has been that neighborhood’s homeowner association from its 1909 beginning, with various legal, governance, and real estate responsibilities.*

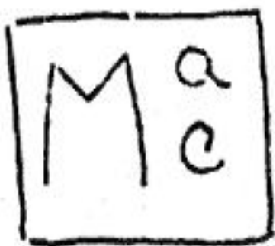
*One of the early leaders of MAC, as it was commonly known (even many years before a vote of the membership in 2016 to formally remove “Square” from the name), was the late David Hoffman, among many who lived on Green, Penn, Boas, Cumberland and other streets in the neighborhood. At the time, the neighborhood was transitioning from a classic urban working-*

# 01 | FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

*class neighborhood, with many elderly long-time residents and a lot fewer cars than today.*

*Early initiatives of MAC included playing a lead role in getting the City of Harrisburg to establish the residential parking permit system, as well as a major endeavor to plant street trees in the early 1980s. Other endeavors have included an annual neighborhood sidewalk sale in May that continues to this day, and occasional street parties and festivals. After the “new old-fashioned” street lamps were installed in the 1980s, for many years a MAC volunteer crew decorated them with garland and red bows each holiday season. An annual dinner, free to all neighbors, has been organized and cooked by volunteers, either at the Second City Church or at the Salvation Army, followed by the MAC membership annual meeting.*

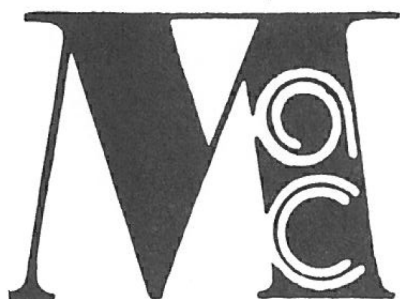
*Today, MAC continues to build upon the successful work completed by our forward-thinking predecessors with community events and improvement projects. With more than 40 years of dedication by our friends and neighbors, MAC will continue to support the slice of Harrisburg that we all call home.*



1976 - 1977



1990 - 2016



1977 - 1989



2016 - PRESENT

## 02 | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....JONATHAN HENDRICKSON  
VICE PRESIDENT.....KURT KNAUS  
SECRETARY/TREASURER.....DAN FULTON  
ASSISTANT TREASURER.....JOHN TRAYNOR

### 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN BIRCHER	KURT KNAUS	STEPHEN REED
DAN FULTON	DAVID MADSEN	JOHN TRAYNOR
JONATHAN HENDRICKSON	DAVID MORRISON	NICOLE WAHBY

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### 2018 OFFICER NOMINEES

PRESIDENT.....JOHN TRAYNOR  
VICE PRESIDENT.....KURT KNAUS  
SECRETARY/TREASURER.....DAN FULTON  
ASSISTANT TREASURER.....JONATHAN HENDRICKSON

### 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

JOHN BIRCHER	KURT KNAUS	STEPHEN REED
DAN FULTON	DAVID MADSEN	JOHN TRAYNOR
JONATHAN HENDRICKSON	DAVID MORRISON	NICOLE WAHBY

### GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROJECT

MAC is among three Midtown groups, including Friends of Midtown and Historic Harrisburg Association, that have combined forces to clean up graffiti and tags on properties throughout the Historic Midtown neighborhood. This year, the initiative has successfully completed the following accomplishments:

- Established a graffiti removal task force
- Acquired industrial-strength graffiti removal equipment and materials



- Provided graffiti removal training to volunteers and property owners
- Supported graffiti removal efforts at more than a dozen properties, including numerous private residences, businesses, the Susquehanna Art Museum, and Kunkel Plaza at Front and State Streets





### WIRELESS SECURITY CAMERA NETWORK EXTENSION PROJECT

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) awarded a grant to MAC in the amount of \$15,000 to support its initiative to extend the wireless video surveillance system operated by Dauphin County and the City of Harrisburg to the Historic Midtown neighborhood. With this grant award and other fundraising efforts, MAC is able to procure all necessary products and services to:

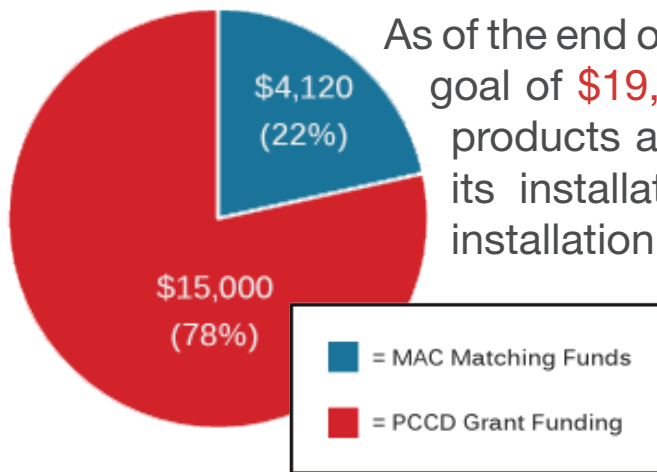
1. Extend the existing Wireless Camera System Infrastructure to the corner of Forster and Second Streets in Midtown
2. Install a Wireless Camera facing north on Second Street
3. Program the Wireless Camera to integrate into the existing system for real-time surveillance by the Harrisburg Bureau of Police
4. Set the stage for future wireless cameras throughout the Historic Midtown neighborhood

We anticipate completion of the project by the end of February 2018.

Stay tuned for more exciting details!

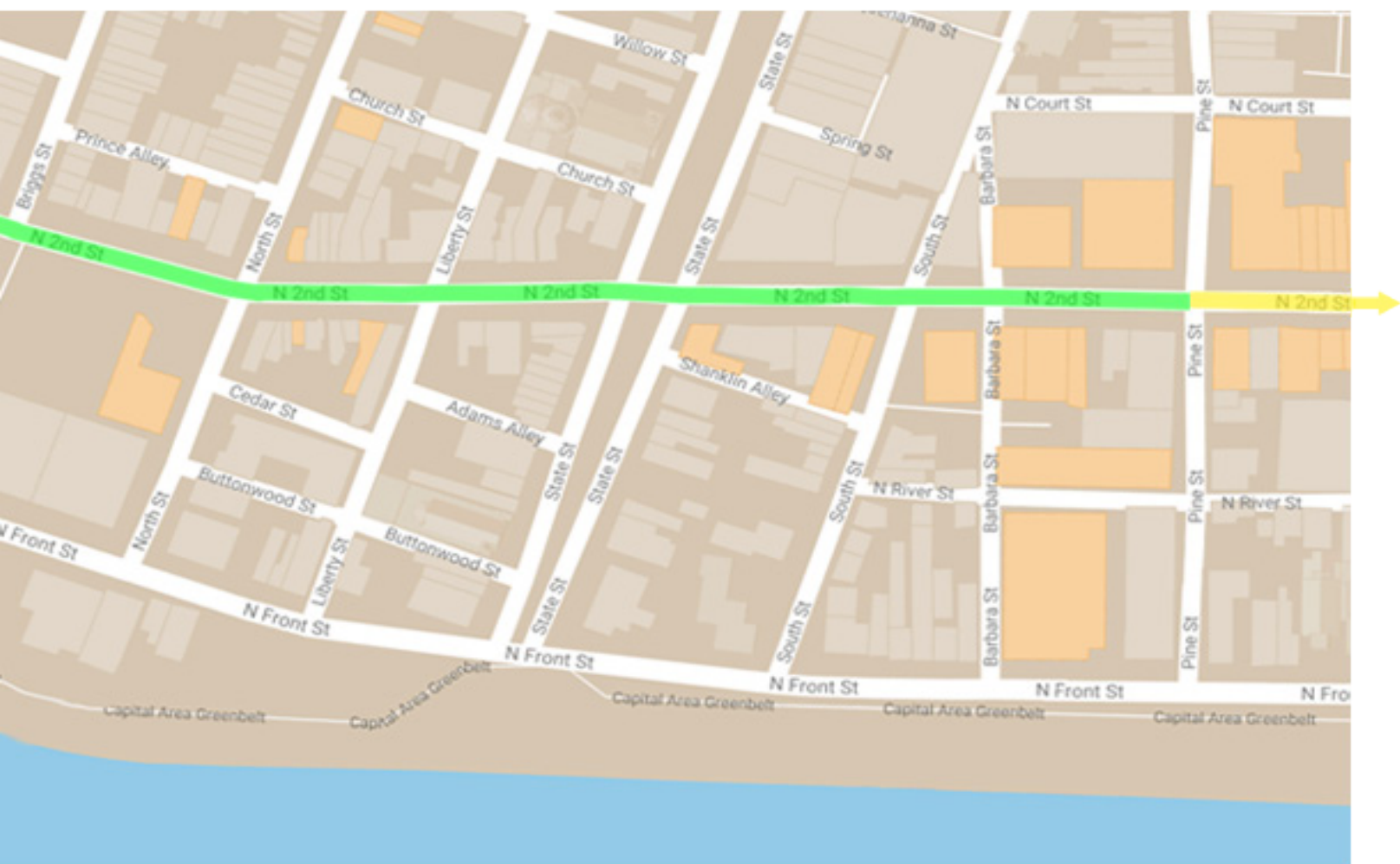






As of the end of 2017, MAC has surpassed its fundraising goal of **\$19,120** to make the purchase of all required products and services and is currently working with its installation vendor and the City to coordinate installation and configuration tasks. In addition to the grant funding from PCCD, MAC received more than **\$9,000** in donations from local residents and businesses. All funds raised above our goal will be used to procure

additional cameras after completing the initial extension project.



## HISTORIC MARKER REVITALIZATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Also in 2017, MAC partnered with the Historic Harrisburg Association (HHA) and the City of Harrisburg to launch the Historic Marker Revitalization and Expansion (HMRE) Project. The HMRE Project is a four-phased project designed to revitalize existing City-owned historic markers throughout the City of Harrisburg and develop a plan for strategic growth and expansion of the Harrisburg History Outdoor Exhibit System program. Currently, the team has completed Phases One and Two and is fundraising for Phases Three and Four. Recently, MAC led the team in applying for a Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant and hopes to receive an award in March 2018.

### Broad Street Market



The Broad Street Market consists of the oldest continuously operated market houses in the United States. By the advent of the Civil War, Harrisburg began to develop north of North Street onto the newly subdivided lands of William Verbeke, John Forster and John Fox. This growth generated the demand for a new farmers market, in addition to the original markets situated in the middle of Market Square since the end of the 18th Century. Thus was formed The West Harrisburg Market Company which in 1860 erected this stone market house at the head of Broad Street, or Verbeke Street, along the emerging artery of N. Third Street. From this intersection would rise a thriving business district anchored by the Broad Street Market.



1900 postcard view of the stone market house.



C.1890 view of brick market house from Fulton Street looking west.



Frame shed addition to stone market house in 1975 just prior to its demolition for central plaza area improvements.

The Harrisburg History Project Commissioned by Mayor Stephen R. Reed

### Historic Midtown Market District



Just prior to the Civil War, Harrisburg's northern development reached only as far as North Street, although its northern boundary extended to Herr Street under an annexation to the original Borough in 1838. In 1860, Harrisburg was incorporated as a City with its newly annexed territory extending all the way to Maclay Street. That same year, as neighborhoods were expanding up to Verbeke Street, the original stone building of the Broad Street Market opened. The Market became the catalyst to the growth and development of N. Third Street and to its subsequent urbanization as a secondary business district to that of the downtown. By the early 20th Century, the District sported movie theaters, department stores, a host of restaurants and general retail shops. It was a central destination for celebrations and events. The District was particularly enhanced by the construction at 1224 N. Third Street of the six-story Commercial Bank Building in 1908, later to become the Furlow Building.



N. Third Street in 1915 looking north with the Commercial Bank Building at left.

First a bank on the ground floor, and later a "Five and Ten," the structure was an early mid-rise, with fashionable upper story apartments, one of the first luxury apartment

buildings to be erected in the City. Although the District suffered from neglect and resulting removal of substandard buildings in the 1970's, the area has now emerged in budding renewal bordered by contemporary, upscale town homes and the Old Midtown and Fox Ridge Historic Districts.



1915 postcard view looking south on N. Third Street with Broad Street Market at left.

Celebratory arches adorn the intersection of N. Third and Verbeke Streets during "Old Home Week" in 1905.



The Harrisburg History Project Commissioned by Mayor Stephen R. Reed

Phase	Status
<b>Phase 1: Current Stock Installation</b> <p>The City of Harrisburg completed installation of its current stock of replacement marker tops. The City estimates that it replaced approximately 30% of the 113 historic markers located throughout the City.</p>	✓
<b>Phase 2: Assessment</b> <p>After installation of existing stock, the team inventoried and examined current City-owned historic marker locations, signage, and pedestals to document locations where historic markers are missing, in need of repair, in need of replacement, or in need of content updates.</p>	✓
<b>Phase 3: Procurement and Installation</b> <p>Based on the outcomes of Phase 2, HHA will perform research and update historic marker content and procure necessary signage and pedestals to revitalize the identified historic markers. All procured items will be shipped to the City warehouse and installed by the City upon receipt.</p>	\$
<b>Phase 4: Historic Marker Expansion</b> <p>After revitalizing existing historic markers throughout the City, MAC and HHA will develop a plan for strategic growth and expansion of the Harrisburg History Outdoor Exhibit System. This includes performing historic research, eliciting community input from residents and neighborhood groups, and presenting a strategic plan to the City for review and approval.</p>	\$

✓ = Complete | \$ = Fundraising



## 2017 ANNUAL DINNER - JANUARY 2017



## PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM - AUGUST 2017

MAC coordinated a community input forum between residents of Midtown and Captain Olivera from the Harrisburg Bureau of Police that took place on August 14, 2017 at the Historic Harrisburg Association Historic Resource Center. The event served as an open forum to discuss public safety issues and solutions within the Midtown community.





## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 2017





MAC's Wireless Security Camera Network Extension Project was featured by several local news outlets in the Summer of 2017:

## TELEVISION

- WHTM-TV 27 (ABC): <http://abc27.com/2017/08/08/midtown-to-install-first-of-many-security-cameras/>
- WPMT-TV 43 (FOX): <http://fox43.com/2017/08/09/surveillance-cameras-coming-to-midtown-harrisburg/>
- WHP-TV 21 (CBS): <http://local21news.com/news/local/council-gets-grant-to-put-up-security-camera-in-midtown>
- WGAL-TV 8 (NBC): <https://www.facebook.com/PorchaJohnsonWGAL/posts/2004398423176953>

## MAGAZINES

- TheBurg: <https://theburgnews.com/news/camera-ready-funding-secured-for-first-midtown-security-camera>



We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their contributions to MAC in 2017:

### ORGANIZATIONS

AUCHINCLOSS FAMILY FUND  
OF THE FOUNDATION FOR  
ENHANCING COMMUNITIES (TFEC)

DER HARRISBURG MANNERCHOR

HARRISBURG MIDTOWN ARTS  
CENTER

HISTORIC HARRISBURG  
ASSOCIATION

NSW EVENTS

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON  
CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

WILLIAM PENN SOCIAL  
ASSOCIATION

### INDIVIDUALS

JOHN BIRCHER

DAN FULTON

JONATHAN HENDRICKSON

DAVID HOFFMAN

EDWARD JAROCH

DAVID MADSEN

DAVID MORRISON

KURT KNAUS

BERNIE PUPO

STEPHEN REED

STEPHEN RZONCA

JOE SOLOMON

CAROL TOOKER

JOHN TRAYNOR

NICOLE WAHBY



