

The Preservation Society of Columbus

Post Office Box 373
Columbus, Mississippi 39703

September 19, 2019

Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau
Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation
117 3rd Street South
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

Dear Board Members,

We wish to make known the incorporation of the “Preservation Society of Columbus.” The Preservation Society of Columbus is a non-profit corporation created to, among other things, promote, encourage, educate, and advocate for the interest of and preservation of all cultures, neighborhoods, buildings, and sites of historic significance to Columbus and the surrounding cities.

Originally, Pilgrimage was organized and operated by participating owners of historic homes. With unanimous support of the currently active Pilgrimage homeowners, other owners of historic properties, and many significant strategic community partners, the Preservation Society of Columbus seeks to regain the responsibilities of this wonderful annual event. It is the desire of the Preservation Society of Columbus to work together with the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau concerning the 2020 Pilgrimage becoming responsible for the 2021 Pilgrimage and all Pilgrimages thereafter.

We expect all the allocated designated funds of \$117,000 to be transferred to the Preservation Society of Columbus by the end of the first quarter of 2020 to prepare for the first quarter of the 2021 Pilgrimage. The dollar amount was derived directly from expenses on the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation’s 2016 tax return and reflects the Pilgrimage’s share of 24.4 % of administrative fees. The books of the Preservation Society of Columbus will be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant who shall make a written report of his or her audit to the Preservation Society of Columbus and submit a copy of the report to the governing authorities of the City of Columbus and Lowndes County. Tax Exempt (501(c)3) status will be complete and certification made known to the governing bodies before any monies are received.

Mrs. Gaines Gaskin and Mrs. Leigh Imes are the Preservation Society of Columbus' Events Vice Presidents. Please contact them directly concerning the 2020 Pilgrimage at preservecolumbus@gmail.com. Mr. Dick Leike is the Preservation Society of Columbus' President. Please contact him concerning any other topics, which he may address or pass on to the correct chairperson.

Columbus is a fine place to live, work, and visit. The Preservation Society of Columbus intends to enhance the positive qualities of our fair town while never forgetting from whence we came. The Preservation Society of Columbus is excited about this reincarnation of owners operating Pilgrimage and hope that the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation and Columbus- Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau will be as optimistic as we are.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors
The Preservation Society of Columbus
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Dick Leike
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