**Historic Huguenot Street Adds Expertise to Its Governing Body**

NEW PALTZ, NY (January 30, 2024) -- Historic Huguenot Street’s Board of Trustees has elected two individuals with valuable expertise to its ranks.

April M. Beisaw is a North American archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. There she teaches courses on archaeology, Native American cultures, museum ethics, haunted heritage, skeletal anatomy, and forensic anthropology. April's archaeology focuses on community and contemporary approaches, working with the people whose sites and artifacts can provide new insights into contemporary social issues. She has authored two books.

Richard J. Smith of Pine Bush, New York is a respected member of the Orange County business and civic community. He helped establish a community health center in Pine Bush, and has served as town councilman, county legislator, and school board member. He was a founder and past president of the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, and is a Director at Wallkill Valley Federal Savings and Loan. RJ sold his real estate business yet continues on as a broker with his own dedicated team.

HHS Board Chair Mary Etta Schneider noted, “April and RJ bring unique perspectives and talents that will contribute to the realization of several ambitious and critical initiatives at the museum in the coming months and years. We are so appreciative of their willingness to serve.”

Beisaw and Smith join Schneider, James Cotter, Alicia DeMarco, Peter Deyoe, Judith Hernstadt, Carol Johnson, Rief Kanan, Vals Osborne, John Sorlie, and Laura Washington in service of the National Historic Landmark District’s preservation and educational mission.

**About Historic Huguenot Street**

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street (HHS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to preserving a pre-Revolutionary Hudson Valley settlement and engaging diverse audiences in the exploration of America's multicultural past, in order to understand the historical forces that have shaped America. As an educational institution founded by the town’s French-speaking Protestant descendants and chartered by the University of the State of New York Department of Education, HHS explores the lives of the early European colonists, honors the region’s Indigenous people, and acknowledges the enslaved and disenfranchised peoples who built this place. Today, HHS is recognized as an innovative museum and community gathering place, providing visitors with an inclusive presentation of our shared past. For more information visit [www.huguenotstreet.org](http://www.huguenotstreet.org).
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Sarah LevyMarketing & Communications Coordinatormedia@huguenotstreet.org(845) 255-1660 Ext. 102