

# MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLIC PROGRAM SERIES

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*In Partnership with Greater Portland Landmarks*

## **(Re) Designing the Greater Portland Landscape: Issues in Contemporary Design and Development**

This public program series is designed to encourage residents of Greater Portland to notice, appreciate, and consider the landscape that we inhabit. It will provide an immersion in historic and contemporary issues, and help participants become better informed stewards of the landscape of the Greater Portland area. The series will achieve this through case studies and rigorous discussion of specific sites and current development and infrastructure projects. The approach to each project reflects aesthetic principles, community values, economic realities, and the city's identity and heritage.

All programs will be held at Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress Street, Portland. Suggested donation: \$10 (\$5 for MHS/GPL members)

## PROGRAMS AND DATES

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7PM

### **Public Parks: Care and Cultivation of Fort Williams Park**

Fort Williams, a town-owned park in Cape Elizabeth, is one of Greater Portland's gems. A former military base and home to Portland Head Light, one of the most iconic and oft-visited lighthouses in North America, the seaside park is one of the region's favorite and most heavily-used recreation sites, drawing visitors of diverse interests, incomes, and backgrounds. The cost of maintaining the park and providing access is significant, though. Current initiatives seek to find sustainable funding models, preserve the park's history, character, and architecture, and to define and provide appropriate visitor amenities. Efforts to maintain the ruins of the Goddard Mansion, to establish a new arboretum, and to keep access to the park free to individual visitors all reflect evolving ideas about the uses of public landscapes and the values brought to their design. **Moderator:** Terrence DeWan, Landscape Architect

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 7PM

### **Downtown Corridors: Franklin and Spring Streets**

Downtown corridors move us through and help define Portland's urban landscape. Roadways like Congress and State Streets connect, bisect, and/or bypass neighborhoods. These corridors are defined by architecture, travel patterns, business and residential development, pedestrian routes, and landscape features. But certain corridors—like Franklin and Spring Streets—are the source of much dissatisfaction. Efforts to modernize and streamline traffic flow through the city in the 1960s and '70s disrupted neighborhoods, demolished buildings, and fundamentally altered the historic feel of parts of the city. What are our options moving forward? Stakeholders will share their ideas, discuss current initiatives, and consider what future development along these routes might look like. **Moderator:** Alan Stearns, Executive Director, Royal River Conservation Trust

*Continued*

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 7PM

### **Gateways to Portland: Rebuilding Veterans and Martin's Point Bridges**

The bridges and roadways that connect Portland to the interstate and surrounding communities play an essential role in the life of the city and are a defining characteristic of its landscape. They carry thousands of vehicles every day to and from surrounding towns and further points. They function as both critical thoroughfares and gateways to the city's downtown. Two of Portland's most important and heavily trafficked bridges—Veterans Memorial Bridge which connects the city to I-295 and South Portland, and the Martin's Point Bridge which provides a commuter link to Falmouth—are currently being rebuilt. Both projects have mobilized diverse stakeholders, and raise practical issues ranging from cost to traffic efficiency, social issues like the impact on local neighbors, and conceptual issues such as how the design of a bridge or roadway heralds entry into a city. **Moderator:** Sally Oldham, Greater Portland Landmarks

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 7PM

### **On the Waterfront: Heritage, Re-use, and Economic Development**

Development and use of the waterfront is an ongoing policy balancing act, and has significant implications for Portland's economic development, harborside landscape, and the city's identity and heritage. Within recent years, major projects have included the construction of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and new hotels, the development of Ocean Gateway and other maritime infrastructure, and the effort to put significant structures like Cumberland Cold Storage back into active use. Other important sites—including the Portland Company complex and Maine State Pier—are works in progress. The waterfront will remain a subject of perpetual interest, opportunity, and concern. Please join us to learn about the issues that the city, developers, business and property owners, fishermen and lobstermen, preservationists, and city residents face and think about when they consider development along the waterfront. **Moderator:** Michael Brennan, City of Portland Mayor

## MORE INFORMATION

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For details about these and other MHS programs, please visit us online at [www.MaineHistory.org/programs](http://www.MaineHistory.org/programs)

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