Ricard Morris Hunt 200

October 14, 2027

Meeting minutes

participants- Mackenzie Austin, Cassandra Earle, Leslie Jones, Lew Keen, Trudy Keen, Tanya Kelley, Nick Kepley, Paul Miller, Kate Patterson, Colleen Pilat, Michael Semenza, Emilia Sywolski, Robert Vitello

1. Leslie Jones welcomed all to the meeting. Lew asked each person to introduce themselves and share their thoughts and questions regarding RMH 200
2. Island Cemetery
    a. Rob Vitello said that they include Hunt on tours and lectures and emphasized that the cemetery is the burial site of Hunt and his descendants.
    b. The cemetery will conduct tours of Hunt family and client graves so as not to conflict with other site tours.
    c. Hunt and Island Cemetery tours will be reformatted into a lecture and presented in the Belmont Chapel. These lectures will take place in the spring and summer of 2027 and are not yet scheduled.
    d. Possibly on Hunt's birthday, October 31st, a family-fun event will take place in the cemetery during the day. It could be a scavenger hunt for children and adults with a birthday party to follow.
    e. Tanya Kelley shared that a descendant of the people who owned Hilltop Cottage stopped in the cemetery office. She will contact them to explore what they may have.
3. Salve Regina University
    a. Michael Semenza shared that they are working on programs.
    b. Tours of Ochre court and student involvement are being considered.
    c. Richard Guy Wilson will be a keynote speaker, and there is potential for a panel discussion followed by a reception in Ochre Court.
    d. Salve will be involved with oral histories and crowdsourcing materials from the public.
    e. The idea of an exhibit is being considered.
4. Paul Miller/ Redwood Library
    a. Paul brought up the idea of sponsors and or participants for RMH 200. Leslie will contact the Friends of the Louvre, Boston Chapter and mentioned the French Heritage Society, the New York Conservancy, Victorian Society in America and the American Institute of Architects.
    b. Paul suggested considering a Halloween Ball.
    c. Paul is likely going to present Hunt's lost or never built structures in Newport at the Redwood Library. (no date yet).
    d. Paul will also look into an exhibit at the Redwood.
5. Newport Art Museum
    a. Emilia Sywolski shared that Mike Franco is set to speak in the Griswold House on October 7th.
    b. The Griswold digital tour that Emilia has created will be promoted
    c. Emilia will bring back to her team the idea of an exhibition emphasizing William Morris Hunt's importance in bringing Richard Morris Hunt to Newport as well as his art.
    d. The museum will consider offering a guided tour of the house.
    e. Emilia offered to host some of the oral history sessions.

6. Cassandra Earle/Discover Newport
    a. Cassandra stated that Discover Newport was very pleased to help support the events.
7. Crowdsourcing
    a. Leslie shared that crowdsourcing turned up a great deal of information and items related to Monumenta and doing a similar call for RMH 200 would be beneficial to the archives and events.
    b. An early 2027 (spring) press release should be sent to start advertising the events and generate crowdsourced materials.
    c. Nick suggested information be published by March 1, 2027. This can be general information about events.
    d. Salve will participate in the crowdsourcing effort.
8. Moving forward
    a. Leslie shared a logo designed by the Preservation Society and everyone was pleased. Preservation Society will prepare the logo and share it with all participating institutions for promotional use.




    b. A sign noting the importance of the current Hotel Viking site would be desirable. Leslie will contact someone at the Viking. Emilia also stated she knew the contact.
    c. Paul suggested creating a Richard Morris Hunt fact sheet to be shared and used by all participating institutions.
    **d. March 1st is a deadline for general program information**
    **e. July 15th is the deadline for events to be publicized.**
    f. Lew will coordinate events as they are submitted and share the updates with everyone.
    g. While October is the focus month for events, events can be scheduled any time in 2027.
    h. Be aware that Saturday, October 2nd is likely the Audrain Concours so not a great day for an event, and October 9th is the Broadway Street Fair.
    i. Additional institutions are welcome to participate. Belcourt could not attend but is interested.
    j. Numerous exhibits can be installed in the city. Potential sites include Salve Regina, Newport Art Museum, Preservation Society, and the Newport Library.
    k. Possibility of declaring in the state or at a city level October 31- Richard Morris Hunt Day.
    l. Potentially involve Rhode Island institutions- RISD, Roger Williams, Preserve Rhode Island (Zach Russell).
    m. The creation of a mission statement was suggested.
    n. Leslie emphasized that the Preservation Society is happy to be in partnership with other institutions but is <u>not</u> the sponsor of all events.

RMH 200 contact list

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| Please share names and emails for anyone you think would like to receive messages about RMH 200 and are not on the list.<br>If you no longer wish to receive message, let me know and you'll be removed from the distribution list | | |