



Updates on Recent DC Landmark Fires

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The DC Preservation League is saddened by the recent fires at the historic Eastern Market and Georgetown Public Library. We are pleased that Mayor Fenty has acted quickly to pledge funds to not only restore the historic market, but also to find temporary locations for the numerous vendors displaced by the fire. The outpouring of support from citizens across the city is extraordinary. It reinforces the connection people have to places and spaces that define the history of the city's neighborhoods.

DCPL Business Members, Quinn Evans | Architects, were 90% complete with restoration plans for Eastern Market when the fire broke out on April 30th. City officials will be meeting with the architects to amend the plans for a new scope of work.

DCPL looks forward to working Quinn Evans, the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, the Citizen's Association of Georgetown, Mayor Fenty and City agencies to ensure the sensitive restoration of these two important landmarks.

Interested in supporting the preservation efforts of Eastern Market or the Georgetown Library?

DCPL has established a fund to assist with the planning costs associated with preservation efforts at these two historic landmarks. These funds will be used to leverage any grant money sought or received by the City and preservation groups to ensure that the best preservation consultants are enlisted to facilitate the buildings' restorations. To contribute to this fund, please send a check to the DC Preservation League and note "Landmark Fires" in the memo line. If you wish the money to go towards one particular building, please note that as well. To donate by credit card, please call the DCPL offices at 202.783.5144. All funds are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged in the DC Preservation League e-Advocate and Annual Report.

Interested in supporting the vendors at Eastern Market?

A fund has been established by the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to support the vendors while the market is rebuilt. To contribute online go to <http://www.capitolhillcommunityfoundation.org/>.

Other ways to support the Capitol Hill community:

- Attend Market Day this Sunday, May 6th and visit the Capitol Hill Community Foundation's table for more information on efforts to rebuild the Market.
- Participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society's House and Garden Tour Saturday, May 12th. More information can be found at <http://www.chrs.org/housetour.htm>
- www.easternmarket.net

In the Short Term

Although, we do not yet have information on plans for preservation/restoration of the Georgetown Public Library, it has been reported that the Peabody Collection was untouched by the fire. Heat and water did damage some materials which have been shipped to Texas for conservation. Some undamaged materials have been shipped to the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library where they will be made available shortly.

Eastern Market

Eastern Market was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. The building contributes significantly to the cultural and architectural heritage of the District of Columbia and has served the community for 137 years. Designed by prominent local architect Adolph Cluss (Franklin School, Smithsonian Institution Arts & Industries Building), the original brick structure was completed in 1873, with an addition completed in 1908. The building is DC's oldest continuously operated neighborhood market and a focal point for the Capitol Hill community.



The Georgetown Public Library

The Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library was opened in October 1935. The Georgian Revival style building was designed by DC Municipal Architect Nathan C. Wyeth and built by the construction firm of Bahen & Wright, Inc., for the then-substantial sum of \$150,000. The Georgetown branch library also housed the Peabody Collection, formerly the Peabody Library, a private lending library established by George Peabody in 1867.



The mission of the DC Preservation League is to preserve, protect and enhance the historic and built environment of Washington, DC, through advocacy and education.

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