



## Heritage Consulting Inc.

Heritage Consulting Inc., founded in 2004, is a Philadelphia-based Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) registered in PA, NJ and DE. Heritage Consulting Inc. aids non-profit organizations and government agencies nationwide in the following practice areas: downtown and commercial district revitalization, historic preservation, tourism product development, and non-profit organizational development. **Donna Ann Harris** is the firm principal.

### ***Strategy and Business Planning***

*Strategy and business planning entails guiding board and staff planning committees in writing strategic, business and/or other plans, creating vision statements, and performing bylaw and mission review.*

Oregon Heritage, Salem OR

Ardmore Initiative, Ardmore PA

South Street Headhouse District, Philadelphia PA

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Tacony Community Development Corp. Phila PA

Wyck House, Farm, Garden, Philadelphia PA

Roxborough Development Corporation, Philadelphia

Metuchen Downtown Alliance, Metuchen NJ

Main Street Ronceverte WV

### ***Program Development***

*Program conceptualization for heritage tourism, preservation and interpretive plans and development of new programs.*

Camden County Historical Society NJ

Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia PA

Glover Fulling Mill Park, Haddon Heights NJ

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Burlington

Sourland Conservancy, Princeton NJ

Design Guidelines for Milford, Seaford and Laurel DE

Delaware County Planning Department PA

Jacob's Chapel Colemantown Foundation, NJ

Arch Street Meeting House, Philadelphia PA

Main Street Lansing Iowa

### ***Organizational Assessments***

*Organizational assessment includes governance review, board development and training, and other assessments.*

Florida Main Street

Main Street Iowa

Nakashima Workshops, New Hope PA

Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House, Bedminster NJ

### ***Facilitation of Meetings and Retreats***

*Meeting and retreat facilitation with boards, staff, and community in support of visioning, planning and program development.*

Historic Annapolis, MD

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy IL

Northeast Regional Office, National Trust for

Historic Preservation

Charnley Norwood House Ocean Springs MS

Midwest Regional Office, National Trust for Historic  
Preservation

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

### ***Training and Workshops***

*Professional development training for entry level and mid-career staff and boards in house museums and downtown organizations.*

Main Street America Institute

Wisconsin Historical Society Local History Webinars

Downtown Delaware

Main Street New Jersey

International Downtown Association

Missouri Main Street Connection

Saskatchewan Main Street, Canada

National Main Street Center

Main Street Iowa

Main Street Oregon

Downtown Delaware

New Jersey Historic Trust

New Jersey Historical Commission

Pennsylvania Downtown Center

Donna Ann Harris, Principal  
Heritage Consulting Inc.

### **Education**

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Master of Public Administration, Fels Center of Government, Graduate School of Fine Arts, 1994.

Columbia University, NYC, Master of Science in Historic Preservation, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, 1981.

State University of New York at Albany, BA *cum laude*, American Studies and Art History, 1976.

### **Professional Experience**

- Principal, *Heritage Consulting Inc.*, Philadelphia, PA 2004-present
- Principal, *Donna Ann Harris consulting*, Chicago, IL 2002-2004
- State Coordinator, *Illinois Main Street Program*, Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Chicago, IL 2000-2002; Acting State Coordinator, 2000; Manager, Chicago Office, *Illinois Main Street* 1999-2000; Suburban Coordinator, Office of the Lt. Governor 1998-1999
- Executive Director, *Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois*, Chicago, IL 1997-1998
- Senior Project Manager, *Kise Franks & Straw, Architects and Planners*, Philadelphia, PA 1995-1997
- President, *Lower Merion Preservation Trust*, Bryn Mawr, PA 1992-1995
- Director, Historic House Museum Challenge Grant Program, *Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation*, Philadelphia, PA 1992-1993; Vice President for Program Development 1988-1992; Director, Preservation Programs 1985-1988
- Assistant Director, *National Trust for Historic Preservation*, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA 1984-1985
- Merchant Coordinator, *14th Street Union Square Local Development Corporation*, NYC 1982-1985
- Executive Director, *Preservation New Jersey*, Princeton, NJ 1980-1982
- AV Technician, School Coordinator, *Statue of Liberty National Monument*, NYC, 1976-1979

### **Awards and Honors**

- Main Street America Institute Revitalization Professional, National Main Street Center, 2018
- Grand Jury Award Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for Delaware County (PA) Public History Feasibility Project 2011
- Mid-Career Fellowship, James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation, NYC 2003
- Scholarship, Certification Institute, National Trust Main Street Center, 2003
- Certified Main Street Manager, National Main Street Center, 2003
- Preservation Award 1994 for individual service from the Lower Merion Historical Architectural Review Board, Township of Lower Merion, PA, 1994
- Teaching Assistant, Governmental Administration Workshop II, Fels Center of Government, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1994
- Fels Scholar, Fels Center of Government, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1992-1994
- Victorian Society in America, Study Tour of Glasgow & Edinburgh, 1991
- Victorian Society in America, Summer School in London, 1987
- William Kinne Fellows Memorial Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University, NYC, 1981
- Scholarship and Readership, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, NYC, 1979-81

### **Publications**

- *Second Edition, New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, forthcoming
- *New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses*, 2007 Rowman and Littlefield Publishers

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- “The Essential Role of Boards in Reimagining Historic House Museums,” Chapter author, for AltaMira Press book edited by Kenneth Turino and Max Van Balgooy, June 2019
- “A Bakers Dozen: Thirteen Myths about Main Street Board Service” feature article, National Main Street Center, *Main Street Now*, winter 2015
- “The Power of Thank You,” Main Street Story of the Week, National Main Street Center, July 25, 2014
- “Recruiting New Board Members: 13 Documents Every Main Street Organization Should Give to Potential Candidates,” Main Street Story of the Week, National Main Street Center, February 27, 2014
- “Ten Tips for Networking at the Main Street Conference,” a Blog Post for National Main Street Conference blog, January 14, 2014
- “Procrastinators Guide to Year End Gifts, Part 1 and 2” Main Street Story of the Week, National Main Street Center, December 5 and 12, 2013
- “Six Steps to a Successful Year End Giving Campaign” article in fall 2013 issue of *Saving Land*, the quarterly magazine of the Land Trust Alliance, Washington DC
- “Ten Things Board Members Can do to Improve Manager Retention” in Main Street Story of the Week, National Main Street Center, March 4, 2013
- Commentary piece in *The Art Newspaper*, “Historic Houses Take Note: Innovate or Die,” December 5, 2013
- “Illinois Main Street Back on Track: Case Studies” in *Main Street Now*, National Trust Main Street Center, July/August 2012
- “Make More Money From Members,” article in *Main Street News*, National Trust Main Street Center, August 2008
- “Is a BID Feasible in Your Town? Ten Questions to Ponder,” in *Main Street News*, National Trust Main Street Center, June 2007
- “A Valiant Effort” and “What You Can Do and Lessons from Illinois Main Street” two articles for *Main Street News* National Main Street Center January 2005

#### ***Grant Review and Jury Experience***

- Philadelphia Cultural Fund, panel member for historic sites, large cultural organizations and project support grants, yearly 2009 to present
- National Main Street Center, Great American Main Street Awards Jury Panel, 2014
- Greater Philadelphia Preservation Alliance, Awards Panel, 2014
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, Conservation Support Project Grants, Washington DC, 2009, 2010

#### **Contact**

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