

PALM BEACH

# Society

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*BACK ROW: Harvey Oyer, III,  
Frances Fisher, Paul Edmondson  
and Henry Lambert; FRONT ROW:  
Carey Bond, David Miller and  
Katherine Malone-France*

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens  
Hosts National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Trust Council

## The National Trust for Historic Preservation Embraces the Restoration and Conservation of the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens



**BACK ROW:** Henry Lambert, Paul Edmondson, Harvey Oyer, III and Katherine Malone-France; **FRONT ROW:** Frances Fisher, Carey Bond and David Miller

Recently, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens (ANSG) hosted over 40 members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Trust Council during their visit to Palm Beach. The National Trust Council is the premier donor recognition society of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and, as preservation advocates in their hometowns and across the nation, they are the bedrock of philanthropic support for the National Trust. As a benefit of their leadership annual contributions, this group receives exclusive invitations to parties and events, and the opportunity to travel twice a year to see preservation at work in communities across the country. A privately funded nonprofit organization, the National Trust works to save imperiled places, revitalize downtowns and tell stories that help all people see themselves in our nation's diverse history.

Leadership and docents for the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens provided the group with tours of the historic Norton house, artist studio and lush two-acre tropical gardens. Following the visit, guests were treated to a luncheon in the Norton home and a keynote address entitled, *Historic Artists Homes and Studios: The Vibrant Intersection of Preservation and the Arts*, by Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer for the National Trust.

here today, especially during a year when the visibility and reach for the Gardens has been significantly enhanced, largely as a result of our connection to the National Trust family," said Fisher. "Last spring, we were honored by Ann Norton's induction in the *Florida Artists Hall of Fame* and thrilled to become a part of the esteemed *Historic Artists' Homes and Studios* (HAHS), a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was also a spectacular opportunity for this site to be selected to take part in the National Trust's *Partners in Preservation* campaign last fall, providing us with a national and international platform to tell Ann Norton's story."

ANSG will continue its relationship with the National Trust when the Norton House is the backdrop for a feature exhibition, *Artists At Home: Photography of Historic Artists' Homes & Studios Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation*, opening March 25th with the release of the first *Guide to Historic Artists' Homes & Studios* by Valerie Balint, Program Manager for HAHS. The publication conveys each artist's visual legacy and sets each site in the context of its architecture and landscape.

The *Historic Artists' Homes and Studios* program operates at the vibrant intersection between preservation and the arts," said Malone-France. "So much of the work of the National Trust happens at this intersection. And the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens certainly operates at this dynamic intersection — with the home, gardens, studio and collection

ANSG's own Trustee and Preservation Advisory Council Chairman, Harvey Oyer, III, also addressed the audience. Guests were welcomed by ANSG's Board Chairman, Frances Fisher.

"Ann Norton would have been pleased that the National Trust Council members are

all beautifully preserved and enriched by community-oriented programming as well as the vibrancy of contemporary art installations."

In advance of the exhibition, Tom Mayes, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and author of *Why Old Places Matter*, will present *Sites of Creativity* on March 18th, which will explore how places evoke feelings of belonging, continuity, stability, identity and memory, as well as history, national identity and architectural merit.

Balint will join ANSG on April 18th to present *Genius Loci: Preserved Artists' Homes and Studios as Models of Creative Placemaking*, which explores the vitality of these historic places not only as beautiful and inspiring locales but also fascinating glimpses into the personal histories of the people who lived and worked in them.

"As Palm Beach County continues its extraordinary growth, it's more vital than ever that we preserve the rich history that brought us to this exciting point in time," said Oyer. "Ann Norton had a vision for this community that she would never live to see. These iconic gardens, historic home and Ann's studio represent her legacy gift. She invites us into her warm home, to walk among her calming gardens and to envision a life that was filled with art and nature. Her foresight now allows our diverse and rich culture an opportunity to unite over a common history and a treasured time."

Located at 253 Barcelona Road in the historic El Cid neighborhood of West Palm Beach, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation established in 1977 by resident sculptor Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982). For more information visit [www.ansg.org](http://www.ansg.org) or call 561.832.5328.

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