



Nashville City Cemetery Association



General Information

Contact Information

Nonprofit	Nashville City Cemetery Association
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Web Site	Web Site
Facebook	Facebook
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At A Glance

Year of Incorporation	2000
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Mission & Impact

Statements

Mission

The Nashville City Cemetery Association, Inc. is a membership organization which works to protect, preserve, restore, and raise public awareness of and educate on the Nashville City Cemetery in collaboration with the Historical Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

Background

Opened in 1822, the City Cemetery is the oldest continuously operated public cemetery in Nashville. A walk through the cemetery is truly a walk through Nashville's history. The gravestones tell the stories of individuals and families from the 1820s to the present day.

On March 9, 1820, the Mayor of Nashville and the Aldermen purchased from Richard Cross four acres of land located "on the plains, south of town, for its burying ground." The cemetery opened on January 1, 1822.

Fourteen years later the cemetery had outgrown its original site and more acres were acquired. By 1850 the cemetery was the final resting place for over 11,000 people of every race, religion and economic status. Since the opening, there have been 20,000 interments in the City Cemetery. Over the years, there have been removals -- 3,000 Federal soldiers from the Civil War were removed to the National Cemetery on Gallatin Pike, 480 Confederate soldiers were removed to Confederate Circle at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Lebanon Pike, and families removed loved ones to new family lots in Mt. Olivet Cemetery after the Civil War. Four of Nashville's founders, James and Charlotte Robertson and John and Ann Robertson Cockrill; four Confederate generals: Felix Zollicoffer, Bushrod Johnson, Richard Ewell, and Samuel Read Anderson; the man who named the American flag "Old Glory", Captain William Driver; Union Navy Commodore Paul Shirley; a Tennessee Governor, William Carroll; 15 mayors of Nashville, and two of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers, Mabel Lewis Imes and Ella Sheppard Moore, are among the interesting people buried in the small and peaceful cemetery.

The City Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 because of its historical and architectural significance. Come visit the Cemetery. Walk down the lanes and you will begin to feel that you have stepped back in time. Its quiet beauty can provide an escape from the busy world outside its walls.

The Nashville City Cemetery is located at 1001 Fourth Avenue South, at the corner of Fourth Avenue South and Oak Street. The Nashville City Cemetery is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. seven days a week, all year. There are signs within the Cemetery and an informational board in the breezeway of the Keeble Building to assist visitors with self-guided tours.

Impact

The Nashville City Cemetery Association has assumed a greater role in the day-to-day repair and restoration of the Nashville City Cemetery in conjunction with the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Metro Parks. In the last year, the Association has paid to restore vandalized tombstones, to plant trees, recreate cedar grave markers, and to provide upkeep and maintenance in addition to that provided by Metro Parks. (In 2010 the \$3.5 appropriation made by the Metropolitan Council to repair and restore the City Cemetery was exhausted, and the Cemetery is now restored as best could be done to its nineteenth century appearance.)

The Association's educational programs have been extremely successful:

- In June 2013 the Nashville Tree Foundation designated the Nashville City Cemetery as an arboretum at a ceremony held onsite. We also created an educational brochure which allows individuals to tour the arboretum employing the map and index within.
 - In May, 2017 the Nashville City Cemetery Association and the Nashville Striders co-sponsored the 20th annual Memorial Day Dash 5K run/walk. All proceeds of this most successful event benefit the continuing restoration and preservation of the City Cemetery.
 - Throughout the year, the Association organized specialized tours of the Cemetery. In May, the Davidson County Master Gardeners (who have made the Cemetery their project) led a tour that focused on the cemetery gardens.
- In October, the popular and successful annual Living History tour was held. Local actors in period costumes portrayed some of the city's most interesting early citizens now buried on the site in Nashville.
 - We sell copies of a revised history book written in 2010, Nashville City Cemetery.
 - The Association publishes a semi-annual newsletter which includes articles on the Cemetery's history and describes past and upcoming events.

We will continue these activities in the year to come.

- In conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Department of Transportation we hope to place the Cemetery on Tennessee Civil War Trails.
- In conjunction with the Metro Parks we hope to have the Cemetery designated as a greenway. We developed a mobile app that will allow visitors on and off site to tour the cemetery and learn about its residents.
- Volunteers are working monthly to maintain the Cemetery, removing trash, brush, dead limbs, etc. This is in addition to the regular mowing and trimming done by Metro Parks.
- We will continue to spend money for repair and upkeep of the Cemetery.

Needs

Our most pressing need is to raise funds for continuing restoration efforts. Our annual fund raisers, the Living History Tour, the Memorial Day Dash, and the Membership Drive all contribute to our on going efforts on behalf of Nashville City Cemetery preservation. Membership support is critical in making this happen. Another area of need is volunteer support. Volunteers are needed for the Living History Tour, the Memorial Day Dash, Clean Up Days, and Special Events.

Other ways to donate, support, or volunteer

Volunteers may sign up for monthly clean up days through HON.org. Donations are accepted through the website or may be mailed to Nashville City Cemetery Association, PO Box 150733, Nashville, TN 37215. In kind donations are accepted for services and supplies for The Living History Tour, Memorial Day Dash, grounds services and replacement tombstones. Please contact Fred Zahn at the Metro Historical Commission.

Service Categories

Primary Organization Category

Arts, Culture & Humanities / Historical Organizations

Secondary Organization Category

Community Improvement, Capacity Building / Single Organization Support

Areas of Service

Areas Served

TN - Davidson

Nashville City Cemetery is located at 1001 Fourth Avenue South* at the corner of Fourth Avenue South and Oak Street.

Board Chair Statement

When a group of very determined people founded Nashville City Cemetery Association in the early 1990's when the Cemetery was an overgrown and neglected relic of the Nashville's past. Due to bizarre views on how contagion was spread, it had effectively ceased to be a working cemetery in the 1880's. Tombstones had been damaged or destroyed due to vandalism, overgrowth, and air pollution. Homeless people camped out between the graves, and drug users used it as their playground.

Today the Cemetery is one of the gems of Nashville's park system. Association members, through aggressive grass roots action, prompted government officials to mow the Cemetery and clear out brush. The Association lobbied for and obtained a \$3.5 million appropriation for City Cemetery from the Metro Council in 2006 to restore and upgrade the Cemetery. Tombstones and mausoleums were repaired. Roadways were paved. Security lighting was installed.

Members of the Association conduct many activities to educate the public about City Cemetery and its history. These efforts include the annual Living History tour, specialized tours, a book, and a newsletter.

This mission continues even though the appropriation has been exhausted. The Association has undertaken to pick up where government left off, and to do this it needs money. While the Association conducts fund raisers that bring in almost \$10,000 per year, it needs donations to help in this mission.

Programs

Programs

Living History Tour

Description

The goal of The Living History Tour, offered each fall at the City Cemetery is increasing community awareness about the cemetery, its history and its preservation needs. The Living History Tour captures the spirit of Nashville - its where stories come alive. "Residents" return to life and offer their insights into local history. Proceeds fund preservation needs.

Category

Community, Business & Industry Neighborhood Revitalization

Population Served

Adults, Children Only (5 - 14 years),

Memorial Day Dash

Description

The annual Memorial Day Dash is eagerly anticipated continue by runners and walkers alike. Bursting forth in the early morning hours on Memorial Day participants start and finish at the Adventure Science Center, up to Fort Negley, and around the City Cemetery receiving their commemorative t-shirt and unique awards. Proceeds from the event funds ongoing preservation needs.

Population Served

Adults, Children Only (5 - 14 years),

Specialized Cemetery Tours

Description

The Association sponsors 2-5 specialized tours during each calendar tour. These relate the Cemetery or persons buried in the Cemetery to particular subject matters such as gardening and ornamental plantings, cemetery architecture and tombstone symbolism, various aspects of the Civil War, and African American history. These tours are led by well-informed amateurs or, in some cases, professional historians.

Budget

0

Population Served

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Group Events

Description

The Association conducts events for specific interest groups. In this category fall such things as Descendants Day for persons whose ancestors are buried in the Cemetery, programs in conjunction with the Nashville Tree Foundation, and Mayors' Day honoring the mayors who are buried in the Cemetery.

Population Served

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City Cemetery/Hands on Nashville Clean up Days

Description

Once a month from April through October we sponsor City Cemetery clean up days with our partner Hands On Nashville. Individuals and Groups come out and help us maintain and clean the cemetery through yard work, gardening, etc.

Population Served

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Governance

Board Chair

Board Chair	Mr. Jim Hoobler
Company Affiliation	TN State Museum
Term	Jan 2016 to Dec 2017
Email	Jim.Hoobler@tn.gov

Board Members

Name	Affiliation	Status
Mr. John Allyn		Voting
Mr. Albert M Austin V		Voting
Mr. Clay Bailey	Montgomery Bell Academy	Voting
Ms. Amy Blackman		Voting
Mr. Todd Breyer		Voting
Mrs. Fletch Coke		Voting
Mr. Christopher Cotten		Voting
Mr. John Cross		Voting
Ms. Jacobia Dowell	Community Volunteer	Voting
Mr Ken Fieth	Metro Archives	Exofficio
Ms. Paula Godsey		Voting
Mr. Frank Harrison		Voting
Mr. J. Roderick Heller	Community Volunteer	Voting
Ms. Julianna Herod	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Voting
Mr Jim Hester	Metro Parks Dept	Exofficio
Mr. Jim Hoobler	TN State Museum	Voting
Deputy Chief Damian Huggins		Exofficio
Ms Susan Laux		Voting
Ms. Lynn D. Maddox	Vanderbilt University	Voting
Mr Robert Mather		Voting
Dr. Bill McKee		Voting
Ms. Monique Odom	Metro Parks	Exofficio
Mr. Steve Sirls	Community Volunteer	Voting
Councilman Colby Sledge		Exofficio
Mr. Justin Stelter		Voting
Mr Tim Walker	Metro Historical Commission	Exofficio
Mr. Paul White		Voting
Mr. Paul White	Community Volunteer	Voting
Ms. Lynda Wynn	TN State Historical Commission	Voting
Mr Fred Zahn	Metro Historical Commission	Exofficio

Board Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black	5
Asian American/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	24
Hispanic/Latino	0
Native American/American Indian	0
Other	0 0

Board Demographics - Gender

Male	20
Female	9
Unspecified	0

Governance

Board Term Lengths	3
Board Term Limits	2
Board Meeting Attendance %	85%
Written Board Selection Criteria?	No
Written Conflict of Interest Policy?	No
Percentage Making Monetary Contributions	0%
Percentage Making In-Kind Contributions	0%
Number of Full Board Meetings Annually	12

Standing Committees

Communications / Public Relations
Finance
Executive
Membership
Strategic Planning / Strategic Direction
Special Events
Technology

Risk Management Provisions

Commercial General Liability and D and O and Umbrella or Excess and Automobile and Professional
Employee Dishonesty

Management

Staff

Full Time Staff	0
Part Time Staff	0
Volunteers	200
Contractors	4
Retention Rate	0%

Plans & Policies

Does the organization have a documented Fundraising Plan?

No

Does the organization have an approved Strategic Plan?

No

In case of a change in leadership, is a Management Succession plan in place?

No

Does the organization have a Policies and Procedures Plan?

No

Does the organization have a Nondiscrimination Policy?

No

Does the organization have a Whistle Blower Policy?

No

Does the organization have a Document Destruction Policy?

No

Awards

Awards

Award/Recognition	Organization	Year
Preservation Award	Metropolitan Historical Commission	2009

Financials

Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year Start	Jan 01 2017
Fiscal Year End	Dec 31 2017
Projected Revenue	\$26,160.00
Projected Expenses	\$26,160.00
Endowment Value	\$15,902.00
Endowment Spending Policy	N/A
Endowment Spending Percentage (if selected)	0%

Detailed Financials

Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Total Revenue	\$0	--	--
Total Expenses	\$0	--	--

Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Foundation and Corporation Contributions	\$0	--	--
Government Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal	\$0		
State	\$0		
Local	\$0		
Unspecified	\$0		
Individual Contributions	\$0	--	--
Indirect Public Support	\$0	--	--
Earned Revenue	\$0	--	--
Investment Income, Net of Losses	\$0	--	--
Membership Dues	\$0	--	--
Special Events	\$0	--	--
Revenue In-Kind	\$0	--	--
Other	\$0	--	--

Expense Allocation

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Program Expense	\$0	--	--
Administration Expense	\$0	--	--
Fundraising Expense	\$0	--	--
Payments to Affiliates	\$0	--	--
Total Revenue/Total Expenses	--	--	--
Program Expense/Total Expenses	--	--	--
Fundraising Expense/Contributed Revenue	--	--	--

Assets and Liabilities

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Total Assets	\$0	--	--
Current Assets	\$0	--	--
Long-Term Liabilities	\$0	--	--
Current Liabilities	\$0	--	--
Total Net Assets	\$0	--	--

Short Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities	--	--	--

Long Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Long-Term Liabilities/Total Assets	--	--	--

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--

Capital Campaign

Is the organization currently conducting a Capital Campaign for an endowment or the purchase of a major asset? No

Capital Campaign Goal \$0.00

Capital Campaign Raised-to-Date Amount \$0.00 as of 0

Capital Campaign Anticipated in Next 5 Years? Yes

State Charitable Solicitations Permit

TN Charitable Solicitations Registration Yes - Expires June 2017

Registration No 0

GivingMatters.com Financial Comments

This organization files a 990-N form with the IRS which does not provide financial information. Small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are \$25,000 or less are required to submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, unless they choose to file Form 990-E.

Comment provided by Kathryn Bennett 3/25/16.

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