



PRESS RELEASE

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The TR Site Announces New Mission, Strategic Plan

Buffalo, N.Y. — The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site is proud to unveil a new, 3-year strategic plan recently completed with grant support from Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY). In January 2025, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation's Board of Trustees attended a day-long retreat and completed a S.O.A.R. analysis (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results) with Development Consultant, Reine Hauser. The need for a new strategic plan was obvious to TR Site's leadership and the organization applied for and secured funding from DHPSNY. This funding allowed the TR Site to engage a facilitator who helped guide the TR Site's trustees and staff through the strategic planning process.

Barbara D. Paxton, Director at BoardStrong, facilitated the TR Site's strategic planning process. Barbara has years of experience working with nonprofit boards and helping them achieve success. A New York City resident, she is an expert in personalized board matching services and has served on boards of The Pearl Theatre Company, Heiress Productions and the New York Junior League.

On Saturday, May 10, members of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation's Board of Trustees met at the TR Site with key TR Site staff members and engaged in a strategic planning day. Barbara Paxton facilitated the conversation in collaboration with TR Site's President of the Board, Christopher Copeland, and Executive Director, Spencer Morgan. This was done after key stakeholders had already been surveyed and data had been compiled and reviewed by the board and staff. From these surveys and conversations, the TR Site was able to develop multiple goals and strategies it hopes will propel the TR Site into the future.

"We want to take the TR Site to the next level," said TR Site Executive Director Spencer Morgan. "This institution is more than just a historic house museum. We play a vital role in promoting civics learning and engaged citizenship and it is important that we have a plan to grow and evolve with the community around us as a civics resource center." This new strategic plan focuses on growth and advancements in museum collections and holdings, programming and interpretation, and revenue generation and financial solvency. "We are the arena," said Morgan referencing Theodore Roosevelt's 1910 *Citizenship in a Republic* speech also known as his *Man in the Arena* speech.

"The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site is a cornerstone of Buffalo's history and a vital civic institution for our community and nation," said Congressman Tim Kennedy (NY-26). "I am proud to see this historic landmark receiving this critical support from DHPSNY, which will help strengthen its mission and ensure its future. Preserving this site means safeguarding President Roosevelt's legacy of visionary, progressive, and principled leadership."

"The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation has long shown a deep commitment to preserving their historic site and collections," said DHPSNY Program Manager, Amanda Murray. "As demonstrated by their strategic goals and vision, the staff and Board at TRIS are actively dedicated to strengthening community engagement, providing accessible educational opportunities, and in ensuring

TRIS remains adaptable and supported well into the future. Staff and Board members are well positioned to carry forward their identified priorities and should be commended on setting a strong strategic vision and plan to guide the organization over the next few years.”

TR Site’s New Mission Statement:

Our mission is to advance Theodore Roosevelt’s legacy of leadership by inspiring civic engagement and preserving the site of his unexpected 1901 inauguration in Buffalo, New York, which sparked the birth of the modern presidency.

The new strategic plan officially aligns with the TR Site’s September-October fiscal years, starting with 2025-2026 and ending in 2027-2028, and comes at a challenging time. The TR Site is a National Park Site and is the only NPS site of its kind in WNY. According to its 1980 federal enabling legislation, the TR Site may receive up to 2/3rds of its operating funding through the Department of Interior. Currently, the organization receives just 1/3 of its operating support in this manner and has not received an increase in operating support since 2018. As of this announcement, the TR Site has not yet received its operating support for 2025 and future support from the federal government is currently unknown.

About DHPSNY: Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York is a collaboration between two long-running New York programs dedicated to service and support for archival and library research collections throughout the state: the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program. DHPSNY is supported by the New York State Archives, New York State Library, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), and the New York State Education Department. DHPSNY’s Strategic Planning Assistance curriculum was developed in collaboration with the New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON).

About Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site: The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site is an affiliate site of the National Park Service and the only NPS site in WNY. The TR Site is dedicated to promoting civic readiness and active and engaged citizenship. The TR Site was added to the National Registry on November 2, 1966, and is Buffalo and Erie County’s first registered landmark. A 1980 amendment to that legislation enables the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, a local 501(c)3 non-profit, the ability to interpret, operate, and maintain the historic property. The property at 641 Delaware is owned by the National Park Service and the Foundation owns the historic collection and exhibits housed within. The Foundation operates the Site via a renewable cooperative agreement with the NPS and receives about 1/3 of its annual operating income from the Department of the Interior. The Foundation raises the remaining 2/3rds through ticket sales, special events, rentals, museum shop purchases, memberships, donations, sponsorships, and grants.

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