



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; searching for new Executive Directors; and performing bylaw updates.

Heritage Oregon, Salem, OR

Main Street Siloam Springs, AR

Tacony Community Development Corp. Phila, PA

Main Street Dumas, AR

Main Street Siloam Springs, AR

Roxborough Development Corporation, Phila, PA

Ardmore Initiative, Ardmore, PA

Oregon Main Street, Salem, OR

Gloucester County, NJ Historical Society

Program Development

Program conceptualization for heritage tourism, preservation plans, revolving funds, and development of new programs.

Heritage Tourism Plan, Camden County Historical Society NJ

Chester County, PA Heritage Tourism Plan

Revolving Fund, Downtown Joplin, MO Alliance

Design Guidelines, Haddon Heights NJ

Museum Planning, Benjamin Cooper Tavern Camden NJ

City of Camden Heritage Tourism Touch Screen Display

Digital History Kiosk, Hamilton Partnership for Paterson NJ

Easement Program, Newport Restoration Foundation RI

Revolving Fund, Columbus, OH Landmarks Foundation

Museum Planning, Roebling Museum, Florence NJ

Revolving Fund, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Organizational Assessment

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

Trenton Downtown Association NJ

Main Street Iowa

Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House, Bedminster NJ

Old City District, Philadelphia

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, Boston, MA

Charnley Norwood House, Ocean Springs, MS

Midwest Regional National Trust &

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Germantown United CDC, Phila, PA

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

International Downtown Association

Saskatchewan Main Street, Canada

Illinois Main Street

Arkansas Main Street

Missouri Main Street Connection

Main Street Iowa

New Jersey Historic Trust

Oregon Main Street

California Preservation Foundation

Pennsylvania Downtown Center

Mississippi Main Street

Main Street New Jersey

Nebraska Main Street

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 Illinois Main Street, 2000; Manager, Chicago Office, Illinois Main Street 1999-2000; Suburban Coordinator. Illinois Main Street, 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 *Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation*
- 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

Publications

- "Main Street Policies and Procedures Manual," for Oregon Main Street, June 2023
- "Haddon Heights, NJ Design Guidelines" for Haddon Heights Historic Preservation Commission, 2021
- "Handbook for Main Street Financial Sustainability: Turning Supporters into Donors" for Oregon Main Street, 2021
- "Operational Sustainability: How Innovative Programming Can Strengthen and Sustain Historic Sites" co-author of article for the Fall 2021 *Proceedings of the Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums* with Heidi Glatfelter Schlag, former Director of Marketing and Communications, C&O Canal Trust, Hagerstown, MD 2021
- Second Edition, *New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America's Historic Houses*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers/AASLH, November 2020
- "The Essential Role of Boards in Reimagining Historic House Museums," Chapter author in *Reimagining Historic House Museums: New Approaches and Proven Solutions*, Kenneth C. Turino, and Max Van Balgooy, 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
- Commentary piece in *The Art Newspaper*, "Historic Houses Take Note: Innovate or Die," December 5, 2013
- "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 *Saving Land*, the quarterly magazine of the Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC, fall 2013.

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- “Ten Things Board Members Can do to Improve Manager Retention” in Main Street Story of the Week, National Main Street Center, March 4, 2013
- “Make More Money from Members,” article in *Main Street News*, National Main Street Center, August 2008
- *New Solutions for House Museums: Ensuring the Long-Term Preservation of America’s Historic Houses*, AltaMira Press, 2007
- “Is a BID Feasible in Your Town? Ten Questions to Ponder,” in *Main Street News*, National 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.

Awards and Honors

- Preservation Education Award from Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for City of Camden Heritage Tourism Interactive Touch Screen Display Wall, 2024
- David Knights New Preservation Initiative Award from Preservation New Jersey for City of Camden Heritage Tourism Interactive Touch Screen Display Wall, 2023
- Preservation Education Award, from Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for Haddon Heights, NJ Design Guidelines, 2022
- Historic Preservation Commission Award from Preservation New Jersey for Haddon Heights, NJ Design Guidelines, from Preservation New Jersey, 2021
- Grand Jury Award, from Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, for Camden County (NJ) Heritage Tourism Plan, 2019
- Main Street America Institute Revitalization Professional, National Main Street Center, 2019
- Grand Jury Award from Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for Delaware County (PA) Public History Feasibility Project, 2011
- Mid-Career Fellowship, James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation NYC, 2003
- Certified Main Street Manager, National Main Street Center, 2007
- Preservation Award 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

Contact

Donna Ann Harris, Principal
Heritage Consulting Inc.
422 South Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(267) 251-5444 cell phone
heritageconsultinginc@gmail.com EMAIL
www.heritageconsultinginc.com WEBSITE
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