

An aerial photograph of a large urban park, likely Central Park in New York City. The park is lush green with numerous trees and winding paths. A large, irregularly shaped pond is prominent in the lower right quadrant, with a small bridge crossing it. Several baseball fields are visible, including one in the upper left and another in the center. The park is surrounded by dense city buildings and streets, with a major road running along the left side. The overall scene is a vibrant mix of nature and urban development.

Friends of the Public Garden
2016 Year in Review



FRIENDS
OF THE
PUBLIC GARDEN



THE COMMON THE GARDEN THE MALL

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*term began in 2016

**term ended in 2016

†deceased

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PHOTOGRAPHY

William Mann: cover
Elizabeth Jordan: inside front cover; page 3; page 4 – hawthorn tree;
page 5 – opera singer; page 5 – tree pruning; page 6; page 7; page 9
Caroline Phillips-Licari: page 1; page 5 – tours
Michael Dwyer: page 2; page 4 – Making History on the Common
Brian H.: back cover

DESIGN

Jim Hood, hooddesign.com

STAFF

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Stephen TenBarge
Accountant and
Brewer Plaza Coordinator



IN MEMORIAM

*In appreciation of Anne Brooke's
visionary leadership.*

We at the Friends are so grateful for Anne Brooke's inspired leadership, generosity of spirit, and strategic vision in guiding the Friends of the Public Garden in the care and protection of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The Friends, our parks, future generations, and indeed the City owe an enormous debt to her guidance.



MISSION

To preserve and enhance the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

VISION

The Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall are nationally important havens of natural beauty within an urban environment, enhanced with sculpture, where people delight in their surroundings and gather with others. In our vision these great outdoor spaces are buoyed by large and diverse groups of tending stewards working in partnership with the City and will forever be parks of the highest level of excellence.

Thank you. Thank you to all of our Friends and park enthusiasts, for supporting our work to preserve and enhance the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. You have advocated to maintain these parks as healthy, green, sunny spaces, donated to conserve the wonderful public art throughout them, and invested in both their current care and future stewardship to strengthen these historic treasures for coming generations. We work in close collaboration with the City of Boston to ensure that our three urban jewels remain the unique and defining greenspaces so loved and valued by millions, from every walk of life.

2016 was the year of almost no snow, a cold, wet spring, and a long summer drought. The dry summer gave our expert team of contractors the time they needed to complete the long-awaited George Robert White Memorial fountain restoration. The fountain basin has been beautifully restored to replicate the original pebble design, the rams' head cornucopia fountains are fully operational, and a new accessible path and additional benches extend the invitation for Garden visitors to come, rest, and enjoy this special space. Thank you to all those who contributed to make this wonderful project a reality.

Two studies of the Boston Common – a report about its 383 years of history and a survey of its users today – affirmed the enduring and central role this park has played and continues to play in the life of Boston. Peeling back the layers of this story, we are inspired by the centuries of care and advocacy on the part of those who came before, and by the deep affection that people have for the Common today.

As you know, the Friends has a long history of successful advocacy, and our beloved parks needed your voices as advocates more than ever this past year. After a long Friends' campaign of attending hearings, meeting with politicians and writing letters, the developers for the tower proposed for 171-172 Tremont Street reduced its height to 155 feet to meet existing zoning requirements. This is less than half the height of the building in the original plans, and demonstrates that advocacy can work!

Everyone applauded that victory, but for no more than one day, as the Winthrop Square development proposal was announced. Shadows from this proposed 775-foot tall project would, at their greatest extent, reach as far as Commonwealth Avenue Mall and violate both the Common and Garden shadow laws. We have consistently advocated for protecting our parks from the excessive shadow and wind resulting from development projects that would harm these vital and historic greenspaces in the heart of Boston. The discussion about this project is ongoing and we stand firm in our commitment to protect our parks from any weakening of existing legal protections.

It is an honor to have a membership so willing to stand up, speak out, and write in their unflinching support for these historic spaces.

2016 has been both wonderful and challenging. Your dedication, generosity, time and voices have allowed the Friends of the Public Garden to continue our important work. We are so grateful to you, our Members and supporters, who make it all possible.

Colin Zick, First Vice Chair
Elizabeth Vizza, Executive Director



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This page, left to right: Boston school children get a firsthand taste of colonial era punishment during Making History on the Common; a picnic on the lawn of the Public Garden.

Opposite page, left to right: A Friends' guide leads a walking tour in the Public Garden; the Brewer Fountain – the site of lunchtime opera during the summer of 2016; pruning high up in the Garden's tree canopy.

807
KIDS IN
pillories

learning about
COLONIAL
Punishments
at **Making History**
on the **Common**

2 RAMS' HEAD
cornucopias

SPOUTING WATER AT THE
George Robert White
MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

4,700
GALLONS
OF LIQUID
SOIL
amendments
to **27 acres of**
COMMON



546
PEOPLE
enjoyed
Untold Stories of
the Public Garden
guided
walking
TOURS

PEOPLE
from over
60
COUNTRIES
visited the
BOSTON
COMMON

1
ONE
OPERA
SINGER
At Brewer Fountain Plaza

357
TREES
PRUNED
on the Common,
in the Garden,
AND THE MALL

Thanks to you,
the water is back!

The George Robert White
Memorial fountain has
been fully restored.



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This page, left to right: Protective wrapping covers the granite base, bronze angel, and spouts of the George Robert White Memorial Fountain amidst restoration; contractors and Friends' project manager Bob Mulcaby, discuss the catch basin's surface finish.

Opposite page, The restored George Robert White Memorial fountain.

2016 marks the 92nd anniversary of the George Robert White Memorial, often referred to as "The Angel." A project beyond the resources of the Parks Department, the Friends are proud to restore this city-owned treasure, made possible through the generosity of local private donors. The Friends appreciate working with the Parks Department in finally accomplishing this beautiful restoration. The two rams' head cornucopias are again spouting water into the pebble-lined, water-filled basin and the "Angel" is figuratively casting her bread upon actual water once again.

Located in the Public Garden near the corner of Beacon and Arlington Streets, the sculpture and fountain honors one of Boston's greatest benefactors. When White died in 1922, his will included a charitable trust to be used for public beauty and utility, with \$50,000 set aside

for his memorial. Erected in 1924, the memorial is the last of the many notable collaborations by the sculptor Daniel Chester French and architect Henry Bacon.

On a hot day in August, contractors began the two-month restoration effort to get the waters flowing for the first time since the 1980s. The fountain now has recirculating water required by state plumbing code. In preparation, many of the larger border trees and shrubs were removed to accommodate the plumbing as well as to create a more open, visible space.

Two giant holes were dug for the vault and dry well, and the necessary underground chambers for the fountain systems and related equipment were installed. Concrete was poured in two stages to cover some of the fountain plumbing and to recreate the basin, culminating with

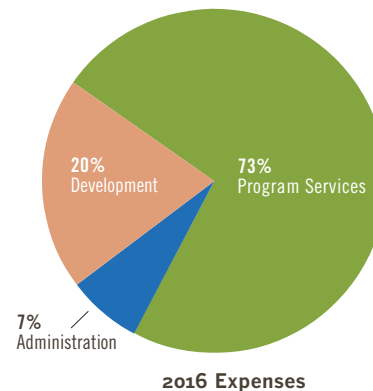
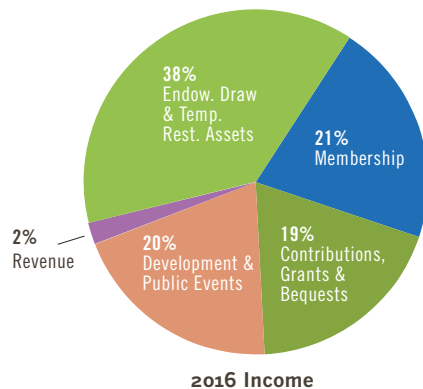
the third and final delicate stage when concrete was poured and the pebbles were hand placed in the floor of the basin. Some of the pebbles from the original memorial had been cleaned and were included in the mixture on the terrace. The remainder of the pebbles lining the interior of the fountain were carefully selected to match the beach pebbles from the Gloucester area that were used in the original structure.

The water in the cornucopia fountains was tested in November, and the two rams' head cornucopias jetted water into the full basin just as they did in 1924 when the memorial was dedicated. Then the water was turned off for the winter! The transformation also included an accessible pathway, benches, and stair railings. Landscape plantings around the memorial will be installed in the spring of 2017.



A tribute to Anne Brooke at the White Memorial
As part of our tribute to our wonderful late Board Chair, Anne Brooke, an American Horsechestnut will be planted this spring in a place of honor near the White Memorial.

Financial Performance



OPERATING RESULTS (in thousands)

	2016	2015
INCOME		
Membership	\$ 550	\$ 494
Contributions, Grants & Bequests	482	585
Development & Public Events	524	572
Revenue	51	47
Endow. Draw & Temp. Rest. Assets	990	770
Total Income	\$2,597	\$2,468
EXPENSES		
Program Services:		
Parks Care – Common, Garden & Mall	\$ 1,027	\$ 893
Public Programs	173	182
Personnel & Overhead	399	382
Total Program Services	\$1,539	\$1,457
Development:		
Events	\$ 105	\$ 91
Personnel & Overhead	322	231
Total Development	\$ 427	\$ 322
Administration	\$ 143	\$ 115
Total Expenses	\$ 2,109	\$1,894
Trans. to Endow. & Temp. Restr. Assets	\$ (445)	\$ (540)
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$ 43	\$ 34

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in thousands)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 943	\$ 953
Pledges & Accounts Receivable	53	4
Prepaid Expenses	26	21
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,022	\$ 978
Investments	\$17,467	\$16,988
Property & Equipment	\$ 848	\$ 886
Performance Deposit	\$ 40	\$ 35
Total Assets	\$19,377	\$18,887
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$ 169	\$ 86
Deferred Revenue	25	–
Mortgage Payable	527	558
Total Liabilities	\$ 721	\$ 644
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$ 5,378	\$ 5,262
Temporarily Restricted	2,212	2,916
Permanently Restricted	11,066	10,065
Total Net Assets	\$18,656	\$18,243
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$19,377	\$18,887

Friends of the Public Garden, Inc. Notes to Operating Results and Statements of Financial Position

Operating Results

While income from membership rose sharply once again in 2016, income from contributions and grants decreased mainly because \$75,000 in gifts were received for the Boylston Street Border in 2015. Total Support was \$1.6 million, slightly lower than the \$1.7 million received in 2015. The rolling three-year average of our investments increased from \$16.7 million to \$17.2 million. Income from Temporarily Restricted Assets also increased mainly due to the release of funds from the Boston Common and Public Garden Tree Fund for work in those parks. Total Income rose 5% to a new high of almost \$2.6 million.

Total Expenses for 2016 were 11% higher than 2015. Parks Care spending increased 15%, driven mainly by spending on the Boston Common for soil improvement, structural engineering services for the Shaw Memorial, and the comprehensive plan. Total Personnel expenses also increased 12% due to the addition of two new staff positions—a Communications & Outreach Associate plus a Development Associate. The Program Services, Development and Administrative expense ratios changed compared to 2015 due to the new staff positions. After a \$250,000 transfer from the Green & White Gala proceeds to the Henry & Joan Lee Sculpture Endowment, plus a \$175,000 transfer to the Boston Common and Public Garden Tree Fund, to be used in 2017, we ended the year with a small surplus, just as in 2015.

Statements of Financial Position

Investment performance for 2016 was 7.0%. While slightly below our benchmark for the year, it was ahead of the benchmark for the three, five and ten year periods. Our endowment is in the top 25% of the Cambridge Associates endowment universe (endowments less than \$100 million). The increase in Accounts Payable reflects the retainage due to the White Memorial project contractor plus end-of-year Boston Common tree work expenses. Temporarily Restricted Assets decreased mainly due to the release of funds for the White Memorial project.



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THE COMMON THE GARDEN THE MALL