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**The Cambridge Historical Society Wins
AASLH Leadership in History Award for Program Excellence**
Award-winning Symposia Series Continues This Fall

CAMBRIDGE, MA: The Cambridge Historical Society (CHS) today announced it has received the 2017 Award of Merit given by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Now in its 72nd year, the AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the nation's most prestigious recognition of achievement in state and local history. CHS was recognized for its 2016 civic engagement symposia, "Housing for All?", which convened nine expert speakers and attracted nearly 300 attendees to explore the past, present and future of affordable housing in Cambridge.

"An important objective of the Cambridge Historical Society is to help our community explore how and why we arrived at our present state and use that perspective to facilitate discussion of contemporary issues that will have an impact on our future," said Marieke Van Damme, Executive Director. We are extremely gratified to have earned the AASLH Award of Merit as it validates a cornerstone of our mission to connect our past with today and tomorrow and draw fresh insights from that process."

Throughout 2017, The Society has focused on the annual theme, "What does Cambridge Make?" leading an exploration of the remarkable history of what Cambridge has manufactured over the years from glass, ink, and candy to today's discoveries that will lead to tomorrow's medicines.

Though the interactive History Café series and other activities, the events brought together people who live and work in the city to explore our history of innovation, why it matters to Cambridge, and how we can continue to foster an environment where creativity flourishes.

The award-winning Fall Symposium continues this October with two upcoming events.

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2017 Fall Symposium “Made in Cambridge: What’s Happening in Kendall Square?” events:

1. “Why Here?”

Monday, October 2, Time: 6-8pm

Location: Main branch, Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway

Free and open to the public

2. “What’s Next?”

Wednesday, October 18, Time: 6-8pm

Location: Google Cambridge, 355 Main Street

Free and open to the public

Speakers for this series include:

- Henrietta Davis, former Mayor of Cambridge
- Sam Lipson, Director of Environmental Health at Cambridge Public Health
- Dr. Robin Wolfe Scheffler, Historian
- Dr. Phillip Sharp, Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT
- Mimi Graney, Author
- David Sun Kong, Community Biotechnology Initiative at the MIT Media Lab
- Abbie Celniker, a Partner at Third Rock Ventures
- Debra Morris, President of the Newtowne Court-Washington Elms Tenant Council

The Cambridge Historical Society recently launched their new website which will improve the experience of visitors and more effectively showcase the mission of the organization. The site features the Society’s new logo which embodies the organization’s mission to celebrate, preserve and value what happened in the city’s past and make that history relevant to the challenges impacting Cambridge today.

About the AASLH Award of Merit

Forty-eight recipients from twenty-four states received Leadership in History Awards, honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The Leadership in History Awards is AASLH’s highest distinction and the winners represent the best in the field. The awards celebrate the recipients’ commitment and innovation to the interpretation of history, as well as their leadership for the future of state and local history. Each nomination is peer-reviewed by AASLH’s state captains. Final awards are decided by the Awards Committee, comprised of AASLH’s fourteen regional representatives and the National Awards Chair. The awards were presented during the 2017 AASLH Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, on Friday, September 8.

About The Cambridge Historical Society

From the American Revolution to the biotech revolution, the history of Cambridge, Massachusetts is unlike that of any other city. A city this vibrant and vital must preserve its past and learn from it to make the Cambridge of today the best it can be. Founded in 1905, the Cambridge Historical Society is a membership organization that serves our community through inclusive programming and stewardship of its historic collections and the property entrusted to it. We *sharing CURIOSITY* enable our community to better recognize, understand, and appreciate the threads that connect yesterday, today, and tomorrow and connect us to each other and our community. For more information, please visit www.cambridgehistory.org

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