

The Woman's Club of Winter Park is a 106-year-old organization. The Scholarship part of our club attained 501c3 status in 1966 with the general club granted that status in 2013. Our main missions include Charitable Giving, Education and Scholarship, and the Preservation of our historic club house. Our Charitable Giving committee dispersed \$11K in cash grants and \$9K in donated goods for our year that ended April 30<sup>th</sup>. Our Scholarship committee awarded a total of \$34K in grants to students from Orange and Seminole counties who will attend college this fall. In addition, we held approximately 22 educational and cultural speaker programs, all open to the public and advertised on social media, before the virus forced us to postpone in-person gatherings. In addition to our own programming, we provide free or discounted meeting and rehearsal space for a number of non-profit groups and have done so for many years.

I am writing to ask for consideration in helping us complete exterior work on our National Historic Register building which will turn 100 years old in January, 2021. We did a renovation of our interior in 2015 which included new bathrooms, two new AC units, wood trim, floor refinishing, painting of the interior, upgraded wiring and kitchen improvements. Also, in recent years we rebuilt the raised brick patio and added a new portico entrance on the Lyman side and a new awning on the Fairbanks side. Our roof was replaced in the past ten years. The last of the old AC units for the kitchen area was replaced and moved off of the roof in the past two months with new fencing installed to hide both the AC unit and the refuse bins.



Thanks to CRA funds given to us last year, we are now within a week of starting the rebuilding of the three pairs of tall wood and glass doors leading out to the brick patio. With a National Register building, it is our responsibility to not only maintain the building, but to make sure that outside work maintains a correct historic look.

The last phase of our "Centennial Spruce Up" is a list that will complete needed maintenance work on the exterior of the house and leave our building in great shape for years to come. We are not sure when the exterior walls were last painted, but it appears it was in the mid 1990's. Waterproofing of the stucco to fill in hairline cracks with an acrylic coating product followed by two coats of high-quality paint is what has been recommended. Some of the wood trim on the eaves and elsewhere appears to be in need of replacement before this painting can take place, and, more importantly for the integrity of the building, loose bricks noticed on the chimneys during the roof replacement will need to be fixed and may require a partial rebuild of parts of the exposed areas of the chimneys.



Past renovations were financed by a combination of funds from the city, local foundations and donations from members. Our members are generous and help support the cost of programs, scholarships and monies for charity. Our all-volunteer board and committees spend many hours working to plan programs and events and to maintain the house and grounds.

Event rentals for weddings, meetings and gatherings normally bring in enough income to cover our overhead expenses for utilities, landscape service, insurance and payroll for our three part time employees. The sudden Covid-19 shutdown had a large impact as the spring months are a busy time for rentals. We have endeavored to be flexible in helping couples postpone weddings and groups rebook meetings and, where they could not, we refunded deposits to them. We are finding that the cancelations are now continuing well into the fall and winter.

Like many groups who normally meet in person, we are using Zoom as a way to keep our board and committees meeting actively and are looking at doing a combination of in-person and online programming for the fall season.

Until folks again feel safe to gather for in-person events though, we recognize that our event rentals will be on hold along with the income they normally provide. Our Scholarship funds are all protected and we can only use the interest income from those decades of donated funds for Scholarships. Our Charity "rainy day" fund, also protected, will be used to give help to local groups as our always successful Rummage Sale has been postponed for health and safety reasons. We are sewing cloth face masks which have brought in helpful donations but are digging into our savings for the rest of our operating expenses.

While our quotes from contractors are rough ballpark guesses and some, like the chimney and wood trim repairs, will be better known once they get into the actual work, it appears that the cost of doing **all** of the needed exterior work will be close to \$75,000.

**We appreciate the tremendous extra costs and reduced income facing the city due to the Covid-19 emergency and understand the asks and needs you are all balancing as you look at available funds. Because of the many other financial needs in the city we are asking you to help us with a grant of \$20,000 towards this outside work with the understanding that we will match the that \$20,000 from our savings to do the waterproofing and painting part of the exterior project. We hope you will consider this request and thank you for your time and energy on behalf of the community.**