



Historic Rosedale Press Release
Press Contact: Deanna Witte-Walker
Deanna.witte-walker@historicrosedale.org
704-335-0325

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For immediate release

Historic Rosedale and Costume Society of America's Angels Project

A week ago, Historic Rosedale was visited by a large group of volunteers from the Costume Society of America (CSA) as part of the Society's Angels Project. The Angels Project takes place annually at a small institution that is located nearby to the Costume Society's Annual Symposium. The Project teams approximately thirty costume professionals to work at the chosen site to offer conservation, storage, and curatorial assistance. Historic Rosedale was honored to be the benefactors and participants of this year's Project.

Throughout the day, which began at 8am, volunteers teamed up at various stations throughout the site – which included vacuuming, photographing (with the executive director's office was transformed into a photography studio), documenting, rehousing, conservation, and more. The CSA volunteers implemented best practices at each of these stations, simultaneously working and teaching the staff and volunteers of Historic Rosedale. Together, the volunteers were able to complete the process for nearly all Historic Rosedale' objects of fabric. It was a tremendous accomplishment.

Executive Director, Deanna Witte-Walker stated, "It was inspiring to see the team of volunteers from the CSA teaching and working alongside our staff and volunteers. People traveled from all over the country to share their expertise with us. We are grateful to have been selected as the 2026 Angels Project recipient. This has a significant immediate impact on our collection as well as into the future."

The Costume Society of America has been offering the Angels Project for the past 20 years. Witte-Walker was made aware of the Project back in September by the National Symposium's Co-Chair, Margarette Joyner, who lives in Charlotte. Joyner realized that Historic Rosedale met many of the qualifications to be considered, including a budget under \$350,000 and a small staff. Though still fairly new in her role, Witte-Walker jumped on the opportunity.

Once selected, Witte-Walker began preparing for the visit, along with Cher Lambeth, Historic Rosedale's Lead Interpreter, who has been working at the historic site for 10 years. After multiple planning sessions, a site visit by the Costume Society of America volunteers and staff, and advanced set-up the day before, Witte-Walker and Lambeth were prepared for the "big day" on May 31. Volunteers labored from 8am to nearly 6pm. The midday break for lunch was a welcome occasion, with the intermingling of people from different backgrounds and locales.

In addition to the volunteer assistance of costume professionals, the Angels Project also includes a gift of up to \$2500 worth of related supplies. Furthermore, CSA volunteers secure donations from the museum industry. Historic Rosedale is now well-equipped to practice all they have learned.

About Historic Rosedale

The mission of Historic Rosedale is to preserve the house and grounds and to share the stories of all who lived and labored at the site, free and enslaved. Historic Rosedale is located at 3427 N. Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28206, and is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10am-3pm with guided house tours at 11:30am and 1:30pm. More information about the tours and 9-acre grounds which include formal gardens, a recreated blacksmith shop, and an accredited arboretum can be found at www.historicrosedale.org. Advance tickets are recommended but not generally required. For more information about Historic Rosedale, please visit www.historicrosedale.org, email office@historicrosedale.org, or call 704-335-0325.

About Costume Society of America

The Costume Society of America (CSA) advances the global understanding of all aspects of dress and appearance. We work to stimulate scholarship and encourage study in the rich and diverse field of costume. CSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded on March 23, 1973, and incorporated in the state of New York on September 12, 1973. The organization serves its members and promotes its goals with national symposia and publications including the annual journal *Dress* and its monthly electronic newsletter *CSA E-News*. CSA serves individuals, students, institutions, and libraries. Our primary membership consists of individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds, both generalist and specialist, who share a passion for the history and serious study of costume. Learn more at <http://costumesocietyamerica.com>.