



President's Letter

Preserving the past, accommodating the present, and anticipating the future is a delicate balancing act, and one of the most formidable challenges faced by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

It is also one that we are tackling head-on.

A major part of Monticello's magic is its authenticity, from the original brick, wood, and glass of the house to the furnishings purchased or designed by Thomas Jefferson to the gardens and grounds restored to his own plans. But there are many places where the modern world intrudes on the mountaintop. Offices and storage spaces occupy the upper floors of the house; on the basement level, portions of the dependencies enclose public restrooms; part of Jefferson's original Vegetable Garden serves as a parking lot; and Mulberry Row shares space with Foundation offices and a Museum Shop.

All of these "intrusions" are vital to the operations of Monticello and the enjoyment of our visitors, but our goal is to relocate as many of these facilities as possible. We want to restore the mountaintop to its historical appearance while still fulfilling the needs and expectations of our guests and dedicated staff.

To help further this ambitious vision, the Foundation enlisted the architectural and planning firm of Cooper, Robertson & Partners of New York to identify sites suitable for relocating offices and other modern spaces. We are delighted with the ideas they have generated. Their proposals include constructing an enhanced visitors complex and a multifaceted history education center near the current Ticket Office and Shuttle Station, which will help us better serve our guests of all ages, and building new offices on recently acquired property next to Kenwood, which will give our staff expanded and improved workspace.

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Of course, financial support is required to execute these lofty aims. In this regard we gratefully acknowledge the leadership and generosity of Hunter and Carl Smith of Charlottesville, who have donated \$3 million for the design and construction of the new history education center, which will bear their name, and \$2 million for endowment. The new center will offer classrooms, interactive exhibits, an auditorium, and more, all in a space convenient to, but not intruding upon, the mountaintop – a model for what we hope to do with other spaces.

We welcome your comments and support, and we invite you to journey with us into both Monticello's storied past and its promising future.

President

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org