

Stowe House Ground Breaking

On a beautiful Tuesday afternoon recently, donors, staff and friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House gathered there for the last time this year. The reason was to celebrate the launch of the restoration project with a ceremonial groundbreaking. The event included words by Katherine Kane, Stowe Center Executive Director, Tom Farrish, Stowe Center Board President and Dean Andrews, Senior Vice President of Bank of America, and also included a video explaining the project.



The home, which has not had any upgrades in more than 50 years, will be closed to tours for the next year. In that time the Day House next door, and the visitor center will serve as

the surrogate venues so that Harriet Beecher Stowe's story can continue to be told.

The project consists of several parts. A new and expanded climate control system will be installed as well as state-of-the-art water mist fire suppression and detection systems. Forty-four original windows will be renovated including the installation of interior storm windows. Refreshed carpeting, wallpapers and painted surfaces are also part of the plan, funds permitting; and a new tour experience for the public is being planned. Also works of art owned by or created by Harriet Beecher Stowe will undergo conservation treatment.

This is a major undertaking, but one well worth the effort.



The Stowe Center continues to be a mix of historic interest and preservation of one of Hartford's most famous citizens as well as an advocate to continue the legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe herself. Between the two, I think Ms. Stowe would be more pleased with the efforts to continue the struggle for equality than preserving the old home. I also suspect that she would appreciate how the two are connected and be very pleased with their efforts.

For more information on the renovations go to

https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/worxcms_files/Fact-Sheet-Stowe-House-Project-Final.pdf and for more about their programs go to

<https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/calendar/>

For photos of the event go to <https://goo.gl/photos/y4u8cs8CCTqRsJmG8>