

R.R. Smith

**Fall
2003**

History and Art Center

Newsletter →

Banc of America Historic Tax Credit Fund

The R. R. Smith Center for History and Art has recently completed an application to receive tax credit funds from the Banc of America Historic Tax Credit Fund. The fund is a partnership between the Bank of America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It provides tax credit equity to for-profit and non-profit developers rehabilitating historic properties. It offers the National Trust's expertise in the field of historic preservation, combined with the resources and financial strength of the Bank of America. Upon acceptance, the tax credit funds will be used to establish the R. R. Smith endowment.

R. R. Smith Center Website

On October 30th, the R. R. Smith Center for History and Art website was launched. The site includes press release and newsletter archives, construction updates and will eventually include virtual tours and multimedia experiences. The site was designed with future expansion in mind. It will integrate seamlessly with the sites of the Center's three entities: Historic Staunton Foundation, Staunton Augusta Art Center, and Augusta County Historical Society. The domain is www.rsmithcenter.org.

The website was designed through a collaboration between NightLight Designs, Inc. and grep Innovation LLC.

NightLight Designs specializes in web development, e-commerce, and database design. grep Innovation provides a wide range of technology services such as broadband network architecture, data and telecommunications network design and administration, software development, animation, photography, and digital video.

Future additions to the site will include the Fine Art Gallery, T. J. Collins Archives, and the gift shop e-commerce capability.

HSF's Service Auction Successful!

This year's HSF Service Auction, DreamGirls, was roaringly successful! With 75 people in attendance, the



A blowtorch and two days time was needed to disassemble the original boiler in the Smith Center basement.



View from the future home of the R.R. Smith gift shop, looking toward parking garage.

Foundation raised \$12,100. Attendees bid on such items as bird watching, interior design, tailgating parties, and dance lessons all provided by the ladies of the Foundation. The event was held at the Clock Tower Tavern.

In-Kind Grants and Donations

Susie Miller

As interior renovation continues at the Smith Center, we are still actively seeking grant funding from federal and private resources. A \$20,000 request has been submitted to the Norfolk Southern Foundation and award notifications will arrive soon.

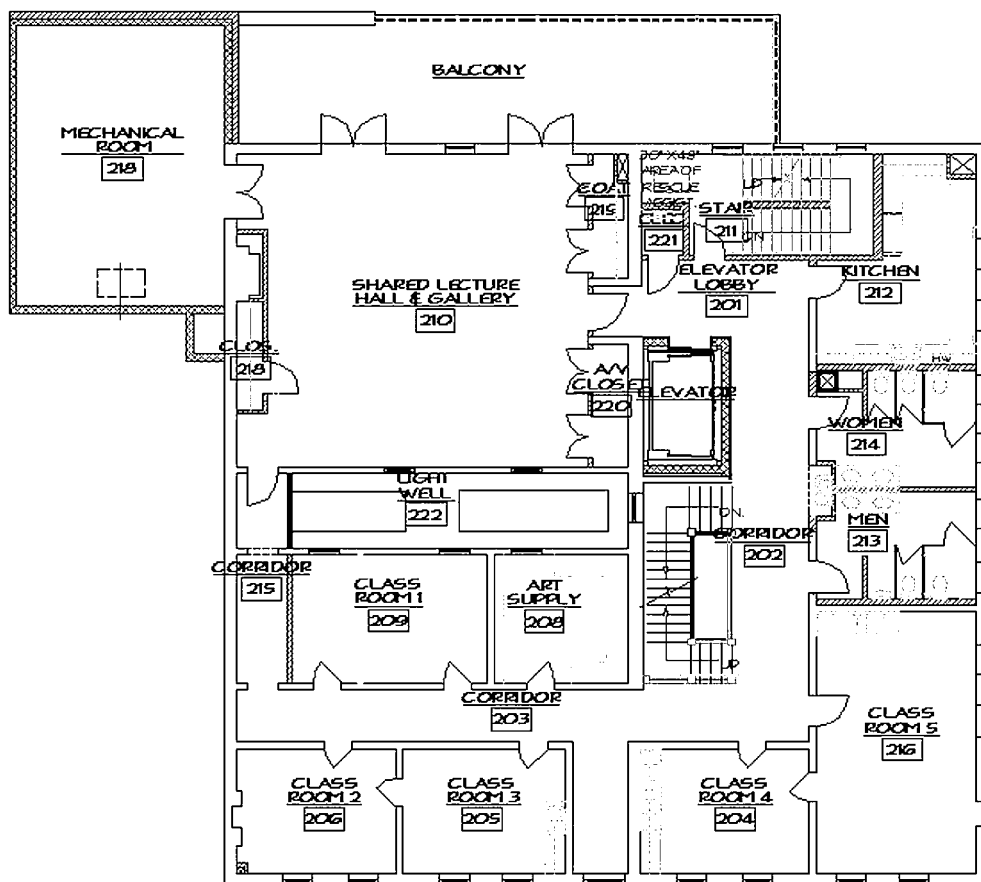
Due to the large amount of equipment and fixtures needed for the building the decision was made to request these goods from major manufacturers and suppliers as in-kind contributions. This type of gift will provide budget-relieving monies to the overall project budget and foster good working relationships with these donors.

The Smith Center's primary fundraising goal continues to be finding creative and alternative funding methods to complete a true community history and art center.

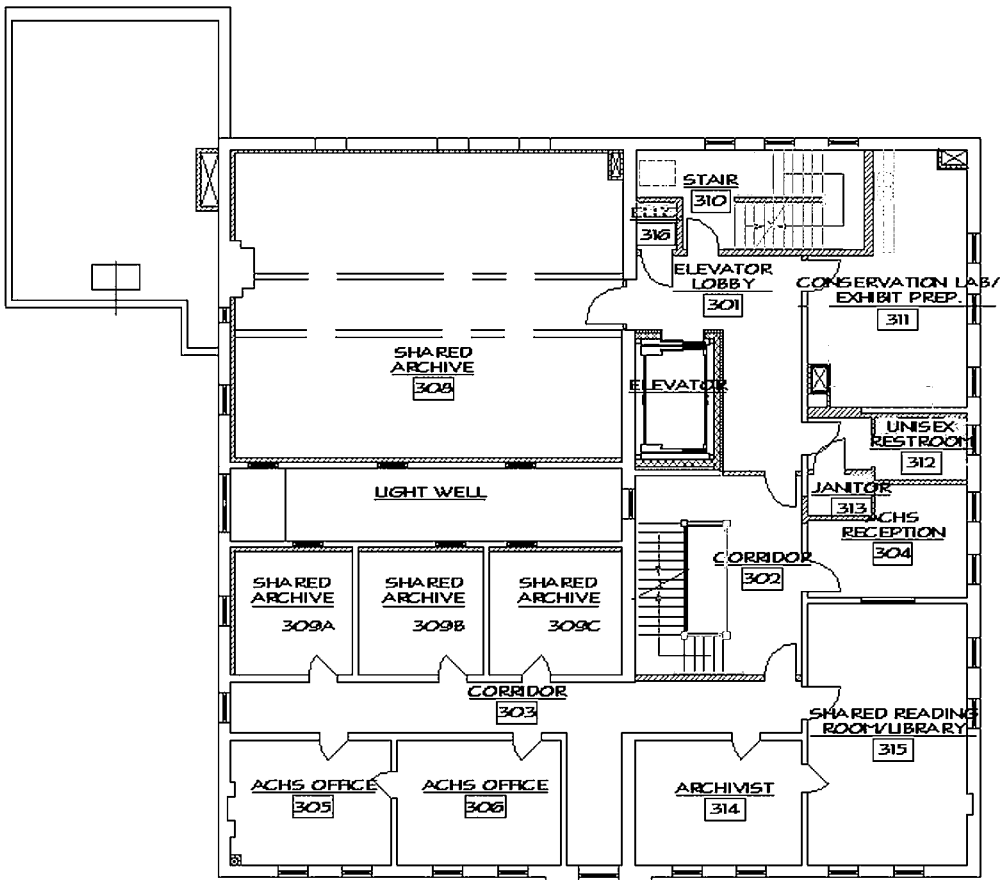
Floor plans showing the interior layout of the RR Smith Center 1st and 2nd floors



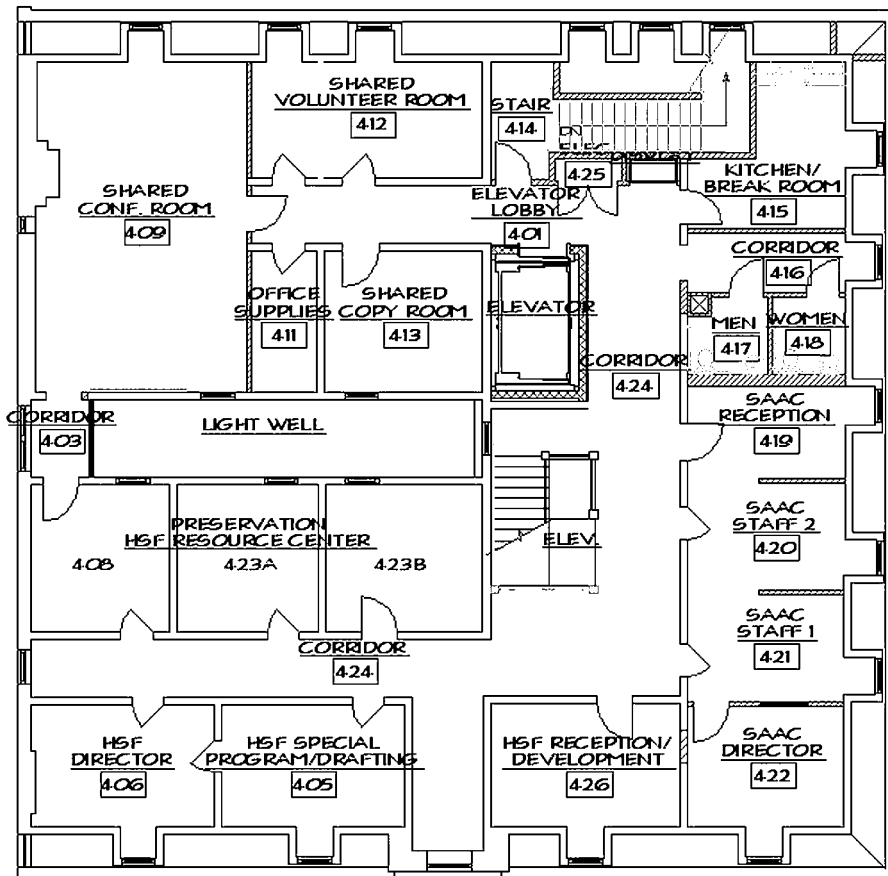
Light was shed on the original stairwell for the first time in over 25 years when the wall blocking it was re-opened.



Danica Jamison named new Art



Floor plans showing the interior layout of the RR Smith Center 3rd and 4th floors



Design a Banner Contest!

On December 3rd, representatives of the R. R. Smith Center invited local artists in grades K through 12 to participate in a "Design a Banner" contest. The winning banners will be prominently displayed on the flagpole that rests atop the Center's cupola. The purpose of the contest is to familiarize the students with the R. R. Smith Center, and build excitement for its opening next year.

Notices announcing the contest were sent to art teachers in Staunton, Waynesboro, Fishersville, Stuarts Draft and Ft. Defiance. Students were asked to use the medium of choice and submit their artwork on an eight and a half by eleven sheet of paper. Deadline for entries is January 17, 2004.

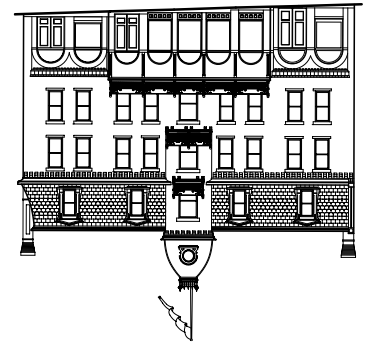
Three prizes will be awarded. The first prize is \$50.00. Two second prizes of \$25.00 each will be awarded. Winning entries will be made into banners, and flown atop the cupola and flagpole which have been restored to reflect architect T. J. Collins' vision in his 1894 plans for the building.

"We felt this was an excellent way to get the children in the area interested in our project, and excited about what the center will mean to them once it is complete" said Don W. Wilson, president of the Center's L.L.C.

Center Director

Danica Jamison has been chosen as the new Executive Director of the Staunton-Augusta Art Center. Danica is a 1995 graduate of Mary Baldwin College with a degree in studio art. This past summer, Danica served as the 2003 Summer Studio Program Director for the center.

Danica's responsibilities will include organizing events and openings, fundraising, public relations, and general administration and management of the center. She is very active in the community volunteering her time to several arts, education, and civic programs. Welcome Danica!



R.R. Smith Center
for History and Art
120 S. Augusta Street
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“Architecture is the masterly, correct
and magnificent play of volumes
brought together in light”



Le Corbusier