

French Heritage Society Announces New Leadership to Expand Initiatives of Preservation, Education, and Transatlantic Cultural Exchange

Timothy Corrigan Appointed Board Chair and Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville Named President as French Heritage Society Grows Global Engagement



Left: French Heritage Society Board Chair Tim Corrigan, Photo by Nicole LaMotte; Right: President Jean Guillaume de Tocqueville

NEW YORK—October 28, 2025—French Heritage Society (FHS) today announced the appointment of Timothy Corrigan as Chair of its Board and Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville as President. The new leadership changes will go into effect at the start of 2026, marking a new chapter for FHS as it expands its membership and continues deepening its impact in preserving French architectural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Founded in 1982 as the Friends of Vieilles Maisons Françaises, French Heritage Society was among the first U.S. organizations to serve as an American Friends charitable partner, granting it nonprofit status to protect French cultural treasures. With 11 chapters across the U.S., an office in New York, and a chapter and office in Paris, FHS has become a leading force in heritage conservation. Over its 43-year history, FHS has awarded more than \$16 million in restoration grants to over 700 historic châteaux, gardens, and buildings across France and the U.S. In addition to safeguarding monuments and beloved cultural touchstones, FHS promotes the next generation of cultural stewards. Its Education Program has placed nearly 600 university students in hands-on internships in horticulture, art history, and craftsmanship at venerable institutions on both sides of the Atlantic.

“On behalf of our entire community, I extend deep gratitude to the outgoing Board Chair Elizabeth F. Stribling and President Denis de Kergorlay for their extraordinary leadership,” said **Jennifer Herlein, Executive Director of FHS**. “Their vision and dedication have brought FHS to an exceptional moment of strength. With Tim and Jean-Guillaume stepping into these roles, we embark on an ambitious new era of growth rooted in our shared value of heritage, education, and the French art de vivre.”

Timothy Corrigan is internationally recognized as one of the world’s leading interior designers, with studios in Los Angeles and Paris and projects spanning Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the U.S. Prior

to this, Corrigan had a long career in advertising where he served as President of International for Bates Worldwide. A longtime member of the FHS Board and its Executive Committee, Corrigan's global perspective and commitment to cultural stewardship will help drive FHS's next phase of growth.

Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville comes to FHS with a deep range of legal, philanthropic, and heritage experiences. A member of the Paris and New York Bars, his practice includes mergers and acquisitions as well as banking and finance litigation, and he has served since January 2025 as Secretary-General of the Legal High Committee for Financial Markets of Paris (HCJP). As owner of the historic Château de Tocqueville—the ancestral property of Alexis de Tocqueville, where his manuscripts are preserved—de Tocqueville brings an intimate knowledge of and lived connection to the very heritage FHS seeks to protect. His purpose-driven leadership, rooted in transatlantic dialogue and cultural preservation, positions him well at the helm of this moment of expansion for FHS.

Together, Corrigan and de Tocqueville will guide FHS through a strategic agenda focused on widening membership and strengthening and adding to the 11 regional chapters across the U.S. Another major priority is endowment building, which will ensure long-term sustainability through the creation of a new legacy society.

"I am thrilled about this opportunity to bring FHS activities in preservation, transatlantic collaboration, and cultural vitality in fresh directions," said **Timothy Corrigan, FHS Board Chair**. "With a shared value of French culture and way of life, Jean-Guillaume and I are committed to the vital mission of FHS. Preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of France is not just about safeguarding beloved monuments; rather, it is about inspiring future generations and strengthening the bonds of our shared culture and history."

"I am honored to join French Heritage Society at this pivotal time, when the organization has a robust record of success and stability and is poised to reach new members, diversify our funding sources to expand our impact and allow us to respond nimbly to urgent needs, and deploy innovative strategies that will allow projects funded by grants to become more sustainable over the long term," said **Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville, FHS Board President**. "I look forward to building on our legacy of protecting our cultural heritage and empowering students to continue inquiry and exchange."

Under the leadership of Denis de Kergorlay as President and Elizabeth F. Stribling as Chair since 2008, FHS dramatically expanded its chapter network to include outposts in Paris, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago-Midwest, Dallas, Houston, Louisiana, New York, Northern California, Philadelphia, Southern California, and Washington, D.C. During that time, FHS nearly tripled its income, founded a Young Patrons membership in Paris and New York, and established emergency restoration funds, including \$2.6 million following the fire at Notre-Dame de Paris. In addition to its core principle of helping to restore many of the smaller historically listed monuments and parks throughout France, FHS had awarded almost 700 grants to revered cultural landmarks such as the Grand Palais, the Louvre, the Petit Palais, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Monticello, and George Washington's Mount Vernon. With support from the Florence Gould Foundation, FHS has given to significant sites such as the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the National Archives, the Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, the Abbaye de la Lucerne, the Jesuit Chapel in Saint Omer, and the Chapel of the Hotel-Dieu in Lyon, among others.

About French Heritage Society

Founded in 1982 as the Friends of Vieilles Maisons Françaises by Michèle le Menestrel Ullrich, French Heritage Society (FHS) is an independent American Friends charitable organization dedicated to safeguarding and celebrating the built and cultural heritage of France and the United States. In 2002, under the leadership of Marie-Sol de La Tour d'Auvergne, the Friends of Vieilles Maisons Françaises became French Heritage Society. Agreements were formalized with partners in preservation la Demeure historique, le Comité des Parcs et Jardins de France, and later, la Fondation du patrimoine, allowing FHS to preserve architectural heritage on a wider scale. With chapters in 11 U.S. cities and Paris, and offices in New York and Paris, FHS supports restoration grants for historic châteaux, houses, and gardens, as well as an education program offering transatlantic internships in horticulture, art history, and craft. Through grantmaking, membership programming, and cross-cultural exchange, FHS inspires appreciation for the French art de vivre and ensures that the treasures of French architectural and cultural heritage continue to delight, educate, and inspire future generations. More information is available on the [FHS website](#).

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