



2023

POE BALTIMORE
YEAR-IN-REVIEW

writing a new chapter

**Poe Baltimore Turns 10!
Celebrating a decade of stewardship of Poe House**

**The Poe Toaster Murder Mystery, City Tour &
Poe Birthday Party at Westminster Hall & Burying Ground**

**2nd annual YOUNG SATURDAY VISITER AWARDS,
first live ceremony**

Poe Birthday Weekend Livestream from The Poe Cottage (The Bronx, NY)

Restored Braille Guide at Poe House

Expanded Poe House museum days & monthly bus tours April thru October

**Expanded Mobile App Development with Living History Video & Audio,
Text-to-talk and multiple languages**

"Kiss Me, I WAS Irish" St. Patrick's Day Pints for Poe at Annabel Lee Tavern

**"Poe's Last Poem: A Brief History of the Bells"
Presentation at The Meyerhoff for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**

**"Here Lies A Noble Heart" David Poe & Elizabeth Cairnes Poe History Presentation at
Todd's Inheritance Historic Site**

**"Doomsday" Reading and "Poe Is Dead" Movie Night
with The National Edgar Allan Poe Theatre**

**Poe Homes History Project with Morgan State and The Peale Museum
(BNHA Heritage Investment Grant)**

**The 6th Annual International Edgar Allan Poe Festival,
\$300,000 over 3 years sponsorship from Wells Fargo**

PROM NITE at the Black Cat Ball & 5th Annual Saturday 'Visiter' Awards

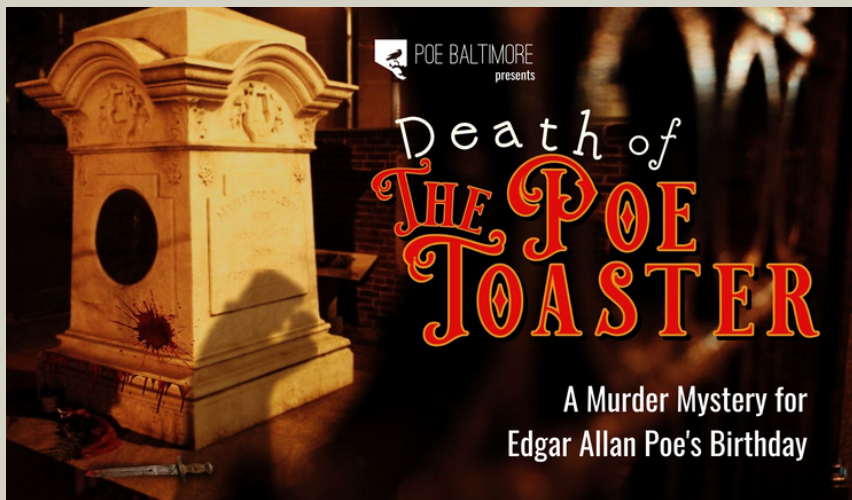
**"Poe In Comics" Exhibit at Westminster Hall & Burying Ground,
with livestreaming Art Series from Artway Alliance**

6th Annual Poe House Calendar with the Baltimore Camera Club

"Legend of the Poe Toaster" Mystery Mugs in the Poe House Gift Shop

**Grant Funding & Sponsorship:
Wells Fargo**

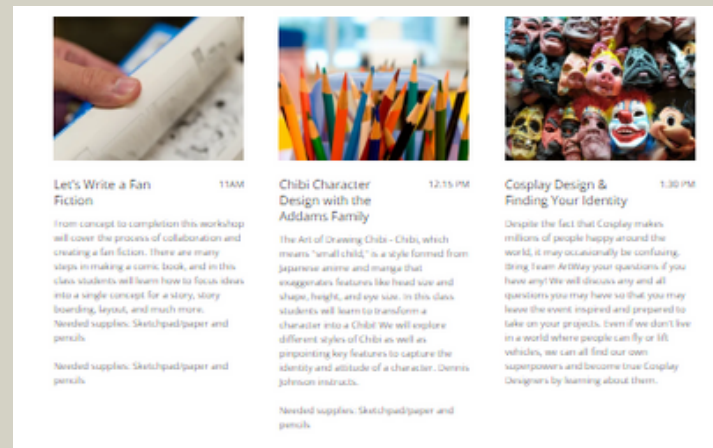
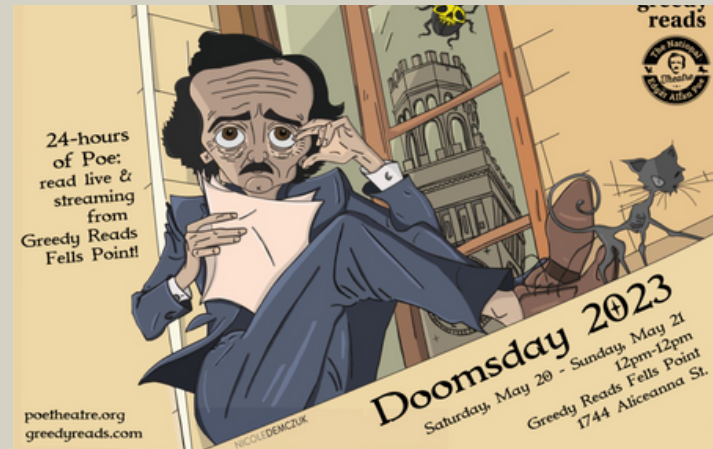
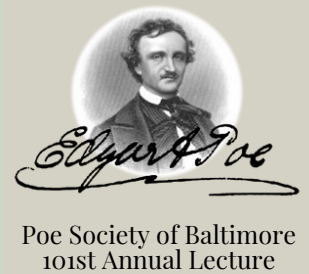
**Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA)/ Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)
Baltimore National Heritage Area
Maryland Public Television
Bosch Foundation**



*delving into
mystery*

January is always thrilling in Poe-land: (un)Happy Birthday festivities kick off in Baltimore every January 19th at Poe's grave. And of course, everyone still holds out hope that the legendary *Poe Toaster* might someday return after he vanished without a trace in 2009. This year, Poe Baltimore set out to solve the mysterious disappearance with a "Poe Toaster Murder Mystery & Birthday Celebration for Edgar Allan Poe" at Westminster Hall & Burying Ground.

It was a dark and stormy night, but Poe fans still gathered for a thrilling murder mystery game led by **Adam Stone** from **Poe's Magic Theatre** and a tour of the famed catacombs with **Westminster's LuAnn Marshall**. We crowned the evening with a ceremony for the **2023 Young Saturday Visitor Awards** and a grave-side hot chocolate toast to Poe led by **Chris Riehl**.



We had several lovely invitations to bring Poe programming out of the house: the first from the Bronx County Historical Society to travel **The Poe Death Exhibit** to **The Poe Cottage** in NY and livestream a talk between Poe House Director, Enrica Jang, and Education Director, Roger McCormack. In early Spring, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra welcomed us to **The Meyerhoff** to present **Poe's Last Poem: A Brief History of 'The Bells'** at a special rehearsal ahead of the Rachmaninoff Festival at Washington National Cathedral. In May we presented **Here Lies a Noble Heart** at **Todd's Inheritance Historic Site**, highlighting the Revolutionary War service of Poe's grandparents. **Poe House Manager, Laura Scott**, was one of over forty readers at the **National Poe Theatre's** annual **Doomsday** event. And for a second year, Poe Baltimore had the honor of hosting the **Poe Society of Baltimore Annual Lecture**.

In October, it was our turn to invite **Artway Alliance** to the **Poe-In-Comics Exhibit** for a week-long arts and writing workshop series livestreamed from Westminster Hall.

*invitation
to history*

THE Edgar Allan Poe Homes

HISTORY PROJECT



Transform Poe

A New Chapter In Our Shared History

On September 10, 2018, The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) received a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop a transformation plan for The Edgar Allan Poe Homes and the Poppleton/Hollins Market neighborhood. The "Transform Poe" Plan revolves around the redevelopment of the Poe Homes' 288 units of public housing and integration of more housing into the existing footprint. The work of redevelopment is slated to begin in 2025.

It is important to note that The Edgar Allan Poe Homes will remain public housing, and residents have the right of return once redevelopment is complete. While a chapter ends for the physical buildings, the story of the Poe Homes Community continues.

The goal of this overarching project is to document the feelings and opinions of current and past residents of the Poe Homes about their experiences in public housing before a new chapter begins.



Tell Us Your Story!

Did you know:

The Poe Homes were the first public housing in Baltimore city?
The Poe Homes were built in 1940 for families?
Poe Homes were named for Edgar Allan Poe?

Have you, or someone you know, lived in Poe Homes? Please contact us at the Poe House to share your story!

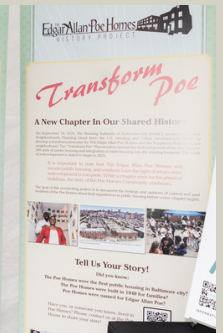
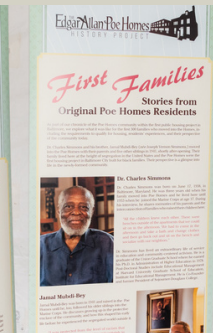


Morgan State University Research Team Statement

In the Summer of 2023, our team embarked on a documentary project to explore the historical significance of Edgar Allan Poe Homes, Baltimore's first African American public housing in the southwest neighborhood of Poppleton. Named after the adjacent Edgar Allan Poe House and built in a time of racial segregation, these homes and the stories of the residents are part of the community's heritage.

By researching their history and interviewing past and present residents, we sought to capture historical perspectives within the community itself. Through newspaper research, photography, video, and oral histories, we chronicle stories from the community. Our interviews with diverse generations of members shed light on life in this historic neighborhood and the impact of social and public housing policy on the lives of residents today.

Research on this project is ongoing. This interim bridge exhibit highlights two stories from members of a first family to move into the Poe Homes when the project was built in 1940.



good
neighbors

For over eighty years, Poe House has operated as a museum and tourist attraction within the bounds of the **Poe Homes Public Housing Project** in West Baltimore. Though built in 1832 as a duplex, Poe House was cut in half when the Poe Homes were erected in 1939 and adjoined to the housing project: the historic house now shares a demising wall with the adjacent public housing building.

With grant funding from **Baltimore National Heritage Area**, Poe Baltimore has begun to document our shared history with our neighbors. Graduate students from **Morgan State University** interviewed neighborhood residents, including members of one of the first families to move into Poe Homes in the 1940s. As we explore the tangible connection between literary appreciation and social support, research from this project will inform a planned permanent exhibit at Poe House in future years. Visitors can now see excerpts from these interviews in the Poe Baltimore mobile app.



Original Comic Art Page
loan from The Richard Corben Estate



graphic haunts

For a second year, Poe brought two exhibits to Westminster Hall in the week ahead of the 2023 International Edgar Allan Poe Festival. First, return of **The Poe Death Exhibit**, complete with a body in a casket and the Mystery of Poe's Clothes, was greatly enhanced by the gift of a painting of Virginia Poe by **Chris Semtner**, curator at the **Poe Museum (Richmond)**. The museum also loaned pieces to **The Poe-in-Comics Exhibit**.

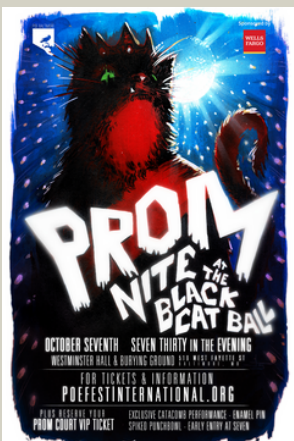
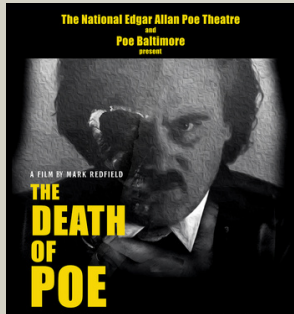
For **Poe-in-Comics**, visitors immersed in Poe's tales of horror and suspense brought to life in over a century of comic art. Curated by **John Edward Martin** from **The Poe Studies Association**, the exhibit featured original comic pages on a generous loan from **The Richard Corben Estate** and **Gareth Hinds**, as well as donated or loaned comics, books, and original art from two dozen comics publishers, collectors, and shops. The exhibit included a live guide and an interactive audio/mobile app.



premier sponsorship

In July, Poe Baltimore was elated to announce a **new sponsorship from Wells Fargo Foundation** for the **International Edgar Allan Poe Festival & Awards** in Baltimore, MD. The commitment of **\$300,000 over three years** will support educational and community arts programming at the annual event which benefits the The Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum.

Wells Fargo joins **La Cite LLC** as our premier sponsors. Funding ensures the festival will remain a **FREE** community event and Halloween-season destination for Poe fans worldwide. We are deeply grateful for Wells Fargo's investment in our shared vision to expand educational programming and promote art, culture, and literacy.



POErade of events

It's official: 2023 was the absolute biggest and best Poe Fest International on record! Double the vendors, double the events and tours, nearly 3000 attendees estimated over two days, our biggest crowd yet. New tents and special events like our Red Masque Festival Pass featuring One Man Poe and Murder Mystery Co, our first annual Costume POErade, and Bloody Mary Brunch upped the scream-factor.

It was officially time to party for Nevermore High School's Class of 1849 at PROM NITE at the Black Cat Ball. Film/TV Producer, Rodney Barnes, presented medals to 2023 Saturday 'Visitor' Awards winners. Then Royal Prom Court disappeared into the catacombs for a special subterranean performance of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum" by Threedumb Theatre's Stephen Smith before hopping up graveside for a Rav'n Dance Off and final toast to Poe.

on with the show in 2024

**Poe House turns 75!
Three-quarters of a century honoring
Edgar Allan Poe**



**TRANSFORM POE initiative at Poe House
including a new strategic plan & potential museum expansion**

**Poe Family & Revolutionary War History
Interpretive Signage at Westminster Hall
New Virginia Poe and Poe Family history exhibits
for Poe House & Maryland Women's Heritage Center
(MHAA/MHT Non-Capital Grant)**

**The Poe Toaster Murder Mystery: CRACK THE CODE
Poe Birthday Party at Westminster Hall & Burying Ground
with NSA's National Cryptologic Museum**

**The 7th Annual International Edgar Allan Poe Festival & Awards:
commemorating the 175th Anniversary of Poe's Death in Baltimore**

75th Anniversary Concert & Black Diamond Gala

**Marquis de Lafayette Farewell Tour Bicentennial
Exhibit & Poe Talk at Westminster Hall**

Poe Baltimore Digital Museum Membership

Expanded Mobile App Development with Living History Video & Audio

Virtual course with the New York's 92 Y and Roundtable.org

Continuing E.A Poe Homes Project History with The Peale Museum

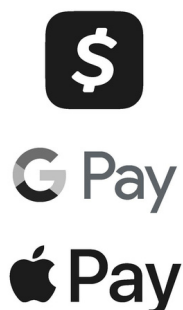
**Poe House exclusive commemorative pen & letter opener with "Edgar Allan
Poe's Baltimore Letters" Poe House Publication**

Doomsday presentation with the National Edgar Allan Poe Theatre



DONATE TO SUPPORT EDGAR ALLAN POE HOUSE & MUSEUM

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support our mission

If you have enjoyed this year's poetical offerings from Poe Baltimore, please consider the following options to support The Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum in Baltimore - some of them cost nothing!

Please support Poe Baltimore this and every year, and a very (un)Happy Holidays and New Year to all!

- List Poe Baltimore (501c3) as your non-profit of choice for Holiday, and End-of-year giving. One-time and monthly donations will help us keep Poe's chamber door open to visitors.
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel. Our goal before December 31 is 1000 subscribers!
- Text POEBALTIMORE to 44-321 to set a recurring monthly gift or one time payment. Now accepting all credit cards and Apple Pay!
- Make a donation or purchase in the gift shop!
- Gift 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" personalized pavers to ensure you remain a part of Poe's legacy in Baltimore
- Share #PoeBaltimore or @PoeBaltimore on all social media and tell your networks what Poe means to you!