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CONTACT: Allison Epstein, 617-269-7171
allison@teakmedia.com

Old North Church & Historic Site Receives Multi-Year Support from Bloomberg Philanthropies to Preserve Church's Legacy

BOSTON – The Old North Church & Historic Site is honored to announce a gift of \$250,000 from Bloomberg Philanthropies to support the national landmark's operations over the next five years.

The gift comes at a time of rebuilding for Old North as the institution slowly re-opens after a 13-month closure in response to the COVID-19 crisis. With more than 90 percent of its operating budget generated through ticket sales, tours, school trips and merchandise, the organization has developed a new five-year strategic plan to expand programming and evolve its business model in advance of Old North Church's 300th anniversary in 2023 and the 250th anniversary of its famous lantern signal in 2025.

The Bloomberg Philanthropies investment will enable staff to begin implementing the new strategic plan, which includes confronting Old North's history with the slave and cacao trades and developing programs and curricula that facilitate dialogue around the ongoing impact of slavery and racism in this country. The goal is to more accurately tell Old North's story through onsite and virtual programming and to create engaging content for K-12 educators that combines a history lesson with thought-provoking discussions about civic engagement, liberty, and personal values.

"Growing up in Medford and celebrating Patriots Day, I was always inspired by 'Paul Revere's Ride' – and the tribute it pays to democracy and those with the courage to defend it," says Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg LP. "Today, I believe our great country still sees that famous light in the Old North Church tower. It's the light of freedom and liberty, of equality and opportunity for so many. The Old North Foundation plays a crucial role not just in preserving our past, but in shaping our future, and Bloomberg Philanthropies is glad to support its mission – so that America's values and ideals continue to shine for all to see."

Built in 1723, the Old North Church's enduring fame began on the evening of April 18, 1775, when church sexton Robert Newman and vestryman Capt. John Pulling, Jr. climbed the steeple and held high two lanterns as a signal that the British troops were heading to Lexington and Concord by sea across the Charles River. That is when Paul Revere embarked on his journey, igniting the American Revolution. In 1860, on the brink of the United States Civil War, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned "Paul Revere's Ride," citing the Old North Church, to appeal to Northern readers' patriotism and rally readers behind the abolitionist cause with the tale of a hero who bravely stepped forward to change the course of history. Once again, the Old North Church helped to inspire a nation.

Although founded nearly 300 years ago, Old North Church remains an iconic symbol of liberty and justice for all. Its legacy is discussed in history and civics classrooms nationwide.

"The story of Old North tells us that active citizenship and protest work and we all have an obligation to contribute to our communities," says Nikki Stewart, Old North Church & Historic Site Executive Director. "We are proud to partner with Bloomberg Philanthropies to offer programming that inspires people of all ages to become courageous and compassionate leaders who guide their communities forward with hope and tenacity."

This summer, visitors can explore Old North Church & Historic Site at a reduced admission price of \$5 per person. Patrons can walk through box pews, admire the 17th century angels flanking the church's 1759 organ, and speak with the staff Educators. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit:

www.oldnorth.com.

The Old North Church

& HISTORIC SITE

About The Old North Foundation of Boston / Old North Church and Historic Site

Established in 1991, The Old North Foundation of Boston is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church and Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Church welcomes approximately 150,000 visitors annually while overseeing the use and preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. The Foundation serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. Old North Church works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other non-profits to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 810 cities and 170 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. In 2020, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$1.6 billion. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), and [TikTok](#).

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