

15 Care and Maintenance

Funding

In any maintenance program, funding is the first consideration. Funds are needed for restoration, for continuing touchup, for running the carousel, for keeping the machinery in good working order, for tuning the band organ, for fire suppression, and for inspections.

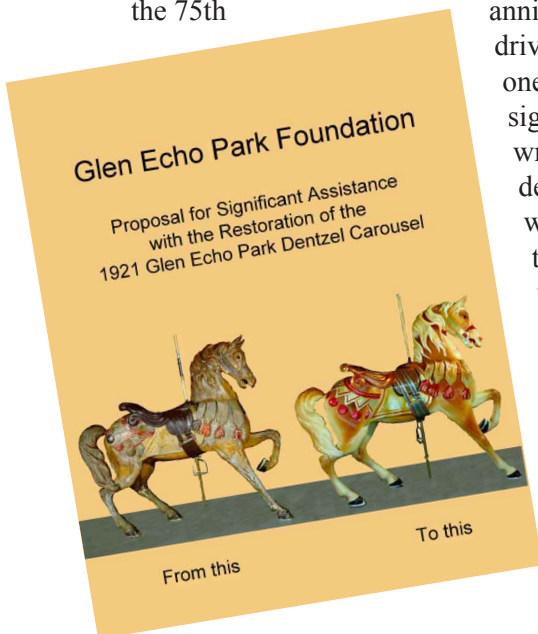


The National Park Service, which owns the Glen Echo Park carousel, jump-started the restoration by providing \$6,000 in the early 1980s to strip and repaint all the animals. Park curator Nick Veloz wisely used that money instead to fix the carousel mechanisms and make sure the carousel met all the safety codes. He also discovered that the animals, drum panels, and ceiling panels had original paint. As an archeologist, he understood the historic significance of his discovery. And so began the process that led to a magnificently restored carousel.

Another early contributor to the carousel restoration was the Parks & History Association. It was charged with running the carousel, and it used some of the proceeds of rides to restore a few animals. Considering that the price of rides has always been kept low – 25 cents in the 1970s, 50 cents in recent years, and now 75 cents as of 2004 – its contribution has been significant.

The greatest source of funding for the carousel restoration has been private donations. The funding drive was led by the Glen Echo Park Foundation. Since its inception in 1987, the Foundation had been soliciting donations from private individuals. In 1996, with 17 animals restored, the Foundation organized a fundraising drive to celebrate the 75th

anniversary of the carousel's arrival at the park. This drive attracted the attention of many donors, including one who expressed an interest in making a more significant contribution. Two Foundation members wrote a 100-page proposal to the donor, showing detailed drawings of artist Rosa Ragan's previous work on the carousel figures and describing the work that still needed to be done. They were rewarded with a grant for \$500,000 and a requirement that the entire restoration be finished by 2003. And finished it is, looking more beautiful than anyone could have imagined.



Today the park is managed by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC). GEPPAC will be running the carousel for the first time in the summer of 2004. It plans to put