



## Charles Duff

When people ask me what I am, I sometimes say: “I’m

an applied architectural historian.” Technically, I am a planner and developer on a non-profit basis. I have been the President of Jubilee Baltimore since 1987 and as such have led the restoration of some 300 historic buildings and

the revival of several dozen Baltimore neighborhoods, including the Club’s own Mount Vernon. Our major projects include the two City Arts buildings in Station North, Baltimore’s first apartment buildings for artists, and the restoration of the old Centre Theatre on North Avenue, now home to the Baltimore Jewelry Center, the JHU-MICA Film Center, and hundreds of people who do creative things.

Like many a brave lad, I followed Walter Schamu into the ranks of the Baltimore Architecture Foundation. Thanks to this, I eventually found myself with a second, generally unpaid, career as a speaker, teacher, and tour guide. Students at Hopkins and Morgan have studied to please me, and my 2019 book *The North Atlantic Cities* remains the best (and only) book on its important subject.

Raised in Mount Washington and North Roland Park, I enjoyed Gilman, worked at Amherst, and delighted in Harvard. In the three cooling-off years between Amherst and Harvard, I got my bearings by teaching Latin to middle schoolers at Boys’ Latin, a wonderful transition. I sang in choruses and choirs for twenty or thirty years, often sitting or standing next to Peter Savage, and I have played most of the bass and baritone roles in the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. For a decade or so, I lived at 831 Hollins Street, where our beloved Tommy Turner lived as a medical student a century ago. Since 1993, I have lived in Bolton Hill, in a house where club member Henry Rowell lived for thirty years.

I am married to the former Lydia Belknap, Associate General Counsel for Environmental Health and Safety at W.R. Grace and a member of our sister club down the street. We have one child, Robert, who is studying for a Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

When not doing the above, I play the piano indifferently and swap gossip with other Bolton Hill dog-walkers. I am a member of the Maryland Club, the Century Association, and (honoris causā) the Mount Vernon Club.