

# Newsletter

January 2015

## Annual Meeting Salutes Bob Moody and His Vision of and for Our City



*“Birmingham The Magic City” Sign, 2001*

Please join us for the annual meeting of the members at Littlehouse Galleries on Monday evening, February 2, beginning at 7 PM. Brief remarks at 7:15 PM.

Birmingham artist Bob Moody and his dear friend, realtor John Lauriello, will share insights into the duo’s many successes rescuing and restoring historic buildings in Birmingham city center.

Moody’s inspiring and creative watercolors, with their big brush strokes and fantastic interpretation of community places we know and love, will be hanging on the walls of the Littlehouse Galleries. One viewer called the watercolors “Extraordinary! Realism with a touch of imagination.”

President Wayne Hester will conduct a (very) brief business meeting and submit the report of the Nominating Committee with the names of Trustees and Officers for 2015, as described in this newsletter, to the members for their approval and election.

A reception with refreshments, viewing, and sale of the more than 75 watercolors and of the 2015 Birmingham Historical Society Members’ Publication will take place.

Members for 2015 may pick up their complimentary copy of *Bob Moody’s Birmingham—A City in Watercolor* and purchase additional copies for \$35 per copy.

Copies of all BHS publications are available by mail from the BHS office, One Sloss Quarters, Birmingham, AL, 35222. A listing is

found at the BHS website [bhistorical.org](http://bhistorical.org) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). For a limited time, *Bob Moody’s Birmingham* will be sold at Little Hardware and Gus Mayer. On February 3, BHS will mail membership copies to those 2015 members not picking them up at the meeting.

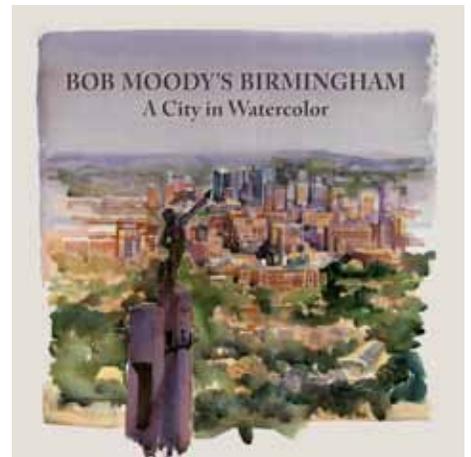
### About *Bob Moody’s Birmingham*

If anyone can make Birmingham even more beautiful, even richer in texture, and elegant in design, it’s watercolorist Bob Moody, whose newest volume, *Bob Moody’s Birmingham—A City in Watercolor*, has been released by Birmingham Historical Society.

“Through a decades-long romance with our city, Bob has come to know buildings personally, as if they were beings with feelings and flair,” says Marjorie White, BHS director. “The result of his talent meeting the classic nature of Birmingham is a book that will surely be passed down through generations to come. It’s that special.”

Produced on rich Japanese art paper, the sort that feels as lush as the works themselves, *Bob Moody’s Birmingham* offers 107 watercolors in full color. For its cover, Moody stood behind Vulcan, peering out at the expanse of city below just as our famous icon does himself. This overview sets the tone for what awaits inside: Moody’s subjects range from a 1967 view of Terminal Station to Sloss Furnaces, Morris Avenue’s Peanut Depot, the Lyric Theatre, 16th Street Baptist Church, Oak Hill Cemetery, Dreamland, Bogue’s, English Village, Mountain Brook’s Old Mill, and so many more. Each image invites a swirl of memories and bursts of pride for today’s Birmingham.

“Photographs of our buildings are one thing; Bob Moody’s treatments are yet another,” says White. “He paints skillfully with watercolors, yes, but the extra ingredient is the love he feels for each site. They are whispers of the relationship he’s had with Birmingham since he first visited in the 1940s—a relationship that, if anything, has grown even stronger since that first flirtation.” *Carolanne Roberts*



### About Bob Moody

Bob Moody is a Birmingham artist and interior designer. Throughout his adult life he has painted his community and in the process created a vibrant record of the city. For the artist, the watercolor medium is fast and immediate, quickly capturing the subject, which for Moody was most often buildings. Historic buildings and architectural details particularly attracted him because they have character. Over the years, he would train himself to observe them and capture their beauty.



*Bob Moody in his studio, 2014*

Born in Boaz, Alabama in 1931, Bob Moody took his first watercolor and drawing classes at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) and graduated with a specialty in interior design in 1953. He then worked as a commercial artist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program in Huntsville, Alabama before moving to Birmingham in 1965 to establish an interior design department for Charles H. McCauley Associates,

*Continued on Page 2*



*Entering Birmingham via Red Mountain Expressway, 1998*



*16th St. Baptist Church, 2014*



*Key Circle with Arlington Crest, 2005*

---

*Continued from Page 1*

then the largest architectural firm in the Southeast. In 1974, Moody established his own firm, Moody & Associates, designing commercial interiors for dozens of architects. Moody's business operated out of the Spanish Stores in Five Points South, a building he purchased and renovated in 1984.

Over the years, Moody & Associates continued to be involved in historic preservation projects. Most often Moody worked with his good friend and associate, John Lauriello of Southpace Properties. When in 1990 Birmingham Historical Society published *Cinderella Stories: Transformations of Historic Birmingham Buildings*, Moody and Lauriello noted that they had worked together on more than 40 projects in the volume. Southpace was the realtor, and Moody & Associates furnished the conceptual design and architectural plans.

Bob Moody has exhibited across the country. His watercolors of Alabama churches and English guildhalls have taken publication form, as has this collection of 107 works featured in Birmingham Historical Society's *Bob Moody's Birmingham-A City in Watercolor*.

## About John Lauriello



*John Lauriello*

John Lauriello became a Birminghamian by chance. An automobile accident terminated an early career initiative, giving relatives in the city the opportunity to redirect the young man to study economics and become an early graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1971.

Lauriello hailed from Amsterdam, New York, a mill town on the Mohawk River and the Erie Canal, first settled by the Dutch in 1710. The eldest of eight children, he recalls his father fixing up

historic buildings on the weekends. John loved this work and realized it was something he would like to do every day.

After working with Colonial Properties and Johnston, Rast & Hayes on real estate ventures in Birmingham's growing suburbs following his graduation, Lauriello also fixed up old houses and apartments, but banks were reluctant to lend money for historic ventures at that time. He tried many other aspects of real estate in these years, but none proved personally satisfying until 1984.

When in 1984 Lauriello, with Bill McDaniel, founded Southpace Properties, Inc., he noted, "people had left the city center, but the buildings stayed." When, in 1983, the YMCA announced plans to build a modern facility across the street from the historic Title Building, Lauriello began interviewing architects to restore the Title Building. "Everyone was "trying to modernize buildings...to make the urban center look like suburbia." He wanted an architect who got the idea that historic buildings should remain true to their character. That was when Lauriello met Bob Moody. The next day, Moody provided a sketch of how the Title Building might be renovated, retaining and enhancing its 1903 character.

The Title Building became the offices of Southpace Properties, and the team of Lauriello and Moody would work together for 18 years until Moody retired in 2002. In the process, Moody would envision and "do his magical drawings," sketching the possibilities for new life for historic buildings, and Lauriello would "get people committed to doing it." The friends loved to take a diamond in the rough that leaked from top to bottom and figure out how to make it useful to someone and how to advantageously finance the venture. Ninety percent of Lauriello's work at Southpace in these years resulted in historic renovations, often for law firms and medical practices. Lauriello terms this activity: "going to Grandma's attic and getting paid to go on a magical mystery tour." The list includes 50 properties in downtown, Southside, Forest Park, and Redmont—30 commercial buildings, 8 apartment buildings, and 12 historic homes.

Today, John Lauriello heads a firm with 24 broker/agents, brokering, leasing, managing, maintaining, and developing real estate for clients across the region. He has been recognized by his profession as an outstanding realtor. His ability to see the intrinsic character and beauty of Birmingham's rich and unique trove of historic buildings, and to adapt them for today's clients, has and is helping to fuel a return to the city center. *MLW, KT, JL*

---

## 2015 OFFICERS and TRUSTEES to Be Nominated

Carol Slaughter, chairman of the Society's Nominating Committee, reports that the following individuals are willing to serve as officers and trustees of the Society. Their names will be submitted to the Members for approval at the Annual Meeting on February 2.

### Officers

**President:** Wayne A. Hester, President

**Vice Presidents:** Allison A. Boone, Patricia H. Camp,

Julius E. Linn Jr., Richard W. Sprague, Katherine M. Tipton

**Secretary:** Carol L. Slaughter

**Treasurer:** Edgar B. Marx Jr.

**Chairman of the Board:** Marjorie L. White

### Trustees

Cathy Criss Adams

Craig W. Allen Jr.

Regina D. Ammon

Ronnie Bates

Martha Bouyer

Lee M. Bowron

Alice M. Bowsher

Kaydee Erdreich Breman

Diane Burnett

Charles S. Caldwell III

Belle Sumter Coleman

Elizabeth B. Crawford

David M. Driscoll

James W. Emison

Samuel H. Frazier

Harold H. Goings

Wyatt R. Haskell

Anne J. Heppenstall

Birgit Kibelka

F. Cleveland Kinney

Sallie M. Lee

Chuck S. Lowe

Louise J. McPhillips

E. Vaughn McWilliams

Linda J. Nelson

Patty A. Pilkerton

Richard R. Randolph III

Henry B. Ray Jr.

Carolanne Roberts

Brian R. Rushing

Barbara S. Shores

Paula Stanton

Ben B. Thompson

Karen Utz

Marion Walker