

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Debbie Komanski, CEO/Executive Director
dkomanski@polasek.org | 407-636-9318

**October Marks Five-year Anniversary of Restored Capen House's Grand Opening
Historic 1885 Home Saved from Demolition, Moved to Albin Polasek Museum Grounds**

WINTER PARK, Fla. – The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is thrilled to recognize the five-year anniversary of the grand public opening of the historic Capen House this October. A landmark community effort saved this 1885 home from demolition, floated it across Lake Osceola, and relocated it to the Polasek Museum grounds. The project was recognized by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation with an Organizational Achievement Award in 2014 and by the City of Winter Park with a Historic Preservation Award for Excellence in Commercial Renovation in 2016.

The first resident of the home was early Winter Park civic leader James Seymour Capen and his family, for whom Capen Avenue in downtown Winter Park is named. The Capen House was originally located on Interlachen Drive about two blocks from Park Avenue before it was threatened with demolition in July 2013. The Winter Park History Museum, the Friends of Casa Feliz, and the Albin Polasek Museum worked together to save and move the house. After two years of moving and renovations, the house was officially opened to the public in October 2015.



Not only did the move fulfill a decade-long mission to add a new structure to the Polasek Museum's grounds, but a connection was found between Albin Polasek and the original owners of the home. Polasek was close friends with descendants of James Seymour Capen when he lived in Chicago and created sculptures of them, many of which are now on display in the house.



In the past five years, nearly 20,000 people have enjoyed the historic charm of Capen House. It has hosted weddings, showers, birthdays, celebrations of life, and family gatherings of all sorts. Capen has provided space for community meetings, corporate retreats, and museum programs. History buffs have enjoyed its docent-led tours.

Polasek Museum CEO/Executive Director Debbie Komanski remarked on the anniversary of the opening, "Thank you to the hundreds of donors who made this possible, to all of the visitors who come to learn about the house, and to all who have enjoyed it and made precious memories here."



The Capen House is currently closed for public tours due to COVID-19, but a video tour is available on the Polasek Museum's YouTube channel. Capen House is accepting inquiries for small rental events following COVID-19 safety protocols. Those wishing to inquire should visit [capenhouse.com](https://www.capenhouse.com) or e-mail event@polasek.org.

About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens: Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens preserves the 200+ piece collection of world-renowned Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek (1879-1965). Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum offers guided tours of Polasek's home, studio, and sculpture gardens. Thousands of visitors each year come from all over the world to be inspired by Polasek's story of emigrating to the United States in 1901, becoming a celebrated artist, and continuing to create monumental works of art from his wheelchair after suffering a debilitating stroke at age 70. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and opened to the public in 2015. The Albin Polasek Museum hosts the annual Winter Park Paint Out Plein Air Festival held every April. For more information, visit [polasek.org](https://www.polasek.org) or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

For high-resolution images, contact Catherine Pinyot at marketing@polasek.org

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