The relighting of the Alexander Hamilton Custom House incorporates advanced electric lighting technology, basic illumination of three dimensional objects, the experience of the building at night, and the play of light in nature. The lighting concept was to extend the interior illumination outwards to window openings and overhangs. Small scale LED fixtures are installed at windows, setbacks, and airshafts to create warm highlight, shadow, and backlight. Warm PAR30 metal halide lamps provide key light to statues. Metal halide floodlights on top of a neighboring building, bathe the facade in cool moonglow fill light.

Lighting Designer: Randy Sabedra, RS Lighting Design
Owner: US Government Services Agency
Photography: Tom La Barbara, Picture This Studio

While the lighting solution was to satisfy the owners request to maintain the historic and architectural integrity of the building, reduce energy consumption, and ease maintenance requirements, I knew pedestrians and visitors would enjoy the beauty that night illumination adds to the night streetscape. The illumination of the Alexander Hamilton Custom House is as much for the buildings occupants as for New York City.