



PRESERVATION
PARTNERS of the
FOX VALLEY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of Preservation Partners is to offer heritage education and to promote the appreciation and preservation of the Fox Valley's rich architectural and historical resources.

EDUCATE • CHAMPION • PRESERVE



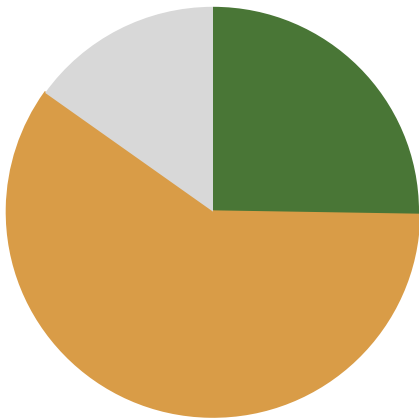
Image courtesy of the St. Charles History Museum

Compiled by the Board of Directors and presented at the
Annual Meeting of Membership
on February 16, 2023



2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ASSETS

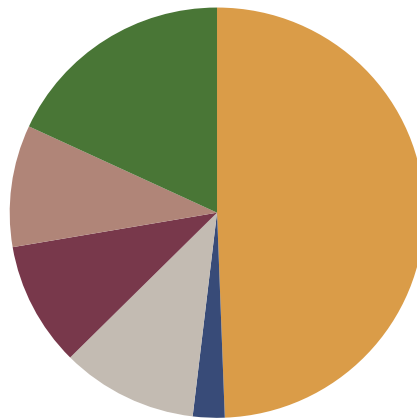


Total: **\$395,845**

- Artifacts
- Cash on Hand*
- Buildings

*Cash on hand includes investment accounts and rainy-day funds

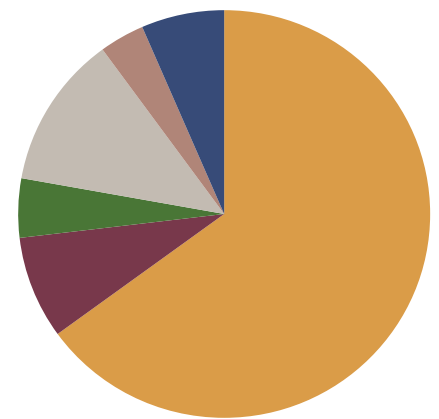
INCOME



Total: **\$201,708**

- Museum Income
- Donations
- Memberships
- General Grants
- Events and Programs
- Contractual Agreements and Museum-Specific Grants

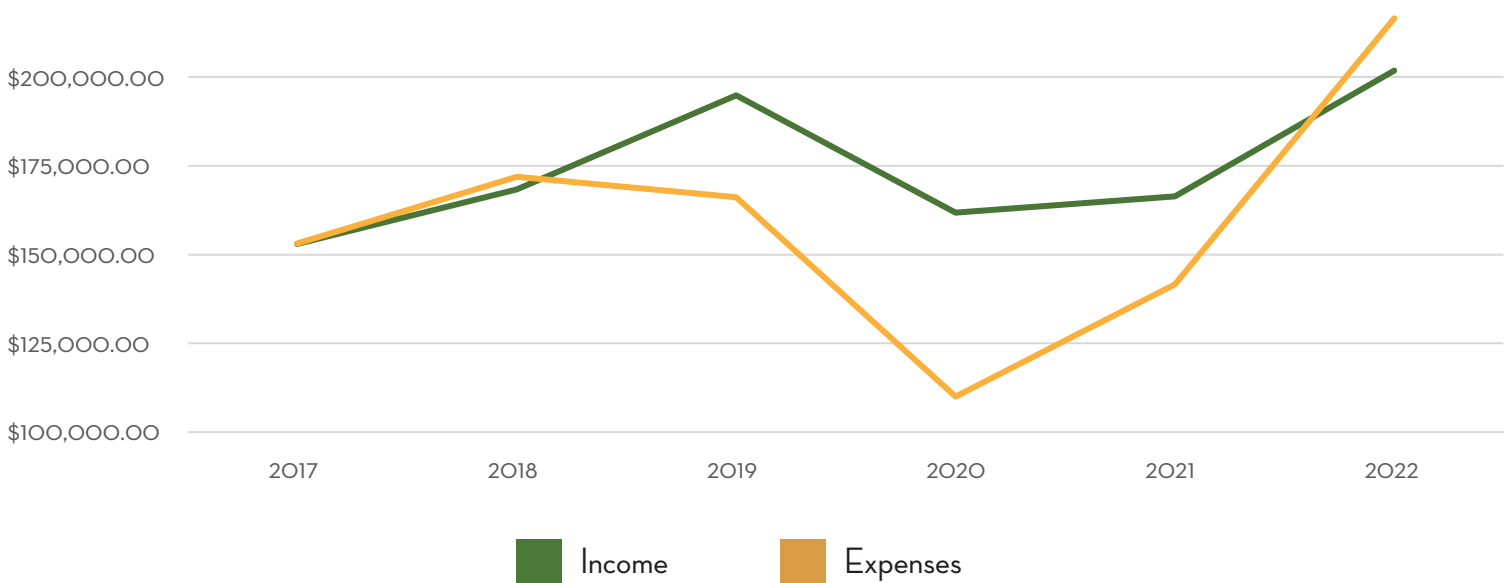
EXPENSES



Total: **\$216,479**

- Museums/Education
- Members
- Overhead
- Payroll and Employer Taxes
- Beith Capital Projects
- Events and Programs

INCOME AND EXPENSES: A BRIEF HISTORY





QUICK STATS

6,030



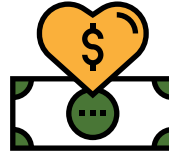
Followers on Social Media
(29% increase from 2021)

14,522



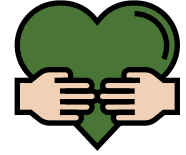
Visitors to Museum Sites
(4,769 more than 2021)

\$21,545



Membership Joins
and Renewals

\$40,000



in Wages Saved through
Volunteer Generosity

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

1. Record Visitation

What a year that was! Before the pandemic stifled visits, 2019 was our busiest year in history. In 2021, visitation soared with even more visitors in less time than 2019. In 2022? Well—cumulatively, our four forest preserve sites saw a **49% increase** in visitation. What a problem to have!

At Fabyan, this visitation was fueled in part by the continued interest in codebreaking following the release of the book *The Woman Who Smashed Codes*. At Durant, increased social media activity and monthly hands-on activities brought both new visitors and repeat visitors back to the sites.



2. Data Collection

In 2022, we began to collect and use data to determine how successful our efforts are and guide future decisions. Other than visitation numbers and volunteer hours, which we had tracked for some time, we now survey museum visitors, track our engagement on social media and our website, track what types of projects are coming in front of the Tri-Cities' historic preservation commissions, and count how many people we educate about the importance of historic preservation. All of this data will be compared to previous years so we know how well we are achieving our mission and where we need to make improvements.



3. Historic Preservation

We shifted last year from *advocating for* to *educating about* historic preservation. Nationwide, organizations that work in historic preservation have found greater success with educating than traditional advocacy methods. What does this mean, though? Educating about local historic preservation ordinances and national standards for the rehabilitation of historic structures offers a neutral position for leveraging relationships with building owners, developers, community members, and preservationists alike. We are able to demonstrate that we understand the challenges associated with preserving the built environment while helping building owners find the resources they need to successfully care for their buildings. Feedback from local developers and city officials has been very favorable with this educational approach. In 2022, we worked to educate about 7 historic properties, had over 47 education presentations/meetings with 610 people overall, and attended nearly all of the historic preservation commission meetings in the Tri-Cities.



INITIATIVES FOR 2023

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

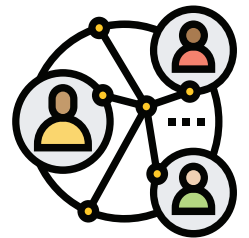
Below is a summary of what we're planning on pursuing in 2023.

1. Fundraising

Our growing visitation, event feedback, and increased community involvement in historic preservation have demonstrated to us that we are doing the right things—but our financial charts tell us that we need to be more creative with our funding. In 2023, we have already begun renegotiating our operating agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, which is our largest source of income. This operating agreement covers some of the costs associated with operation of the Durant House and Sholes School museums, as well as the Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden. We are also looking to host fundraising events, aggressively pursue sponsorship opportunities, are applying for grants, looking to increase membership, and will be giving paid presentations to off-site groups about our local history. We are also starting a volunteer fundraising committee to help us with these efforts.

2. Volunteer Recruitment

Speaking of volunteering: we have an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers! Last year our 58 volunteers worked a total of 1,369 hours, saving PPFV roughly \$40,000 in wages and associated expenses. Talk about impact! But, as with fundraising, we always need more help. “Many hands make light work,” and the more hands we have, the more programming and preservation work we can do!



3. Website

2023 will see the leveraging of our website as a resource for building owners, history enthusiasts, and researchers. With the help of an intern this winter, we now have a digital finding aid for our collection of photos of the Fabyan estate. This, along with our completed Fabyan artifact inventory and partially-complete Durant artifact inventory, offers us an opportunity to showcase some artifacts and images online to attract more visitation to our website. Additional content about historic preservation will be included on the website to act as a starting point for building owners to learn best practices for their historic structures.

4. Tour Structure at the Fabyan Villa

Visitation at the Fabyan Villa in 2022 was nearly impossible to accommodate; we had to turn visitors away nearly every Sunday because there was not enough room on our tours. In 2023, we will be offering more self-guided days to allow us to accommodate many more visitors per hour. Guided tours will still be offered in a limited capacity and will be available for advance reservation. We are utilizing a new software called FareHarbor to allow visitors to select the date and time they would like to visit to control traffic through the Villa and ensure everyone gets an opportunity to visit. We anticipate that this new format will increase both visitation and revenue.

5. Beith Rehabilitation

Finally, we are continuing our efforts to rehabilitate the Beith House. In 2023 we are focusing on securing funding for roof repairs, gutter installation, and miscellaneous woodwork and masonry repairs. We are currently soliciting funding to pay for these projects and will update members as they proceed.

WE ARE: Volunteers. Community. Stewards.

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