



PRESERVATION
PARTNERS of the
FOX VALLEY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 50 years of saving and sharing local history.

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.



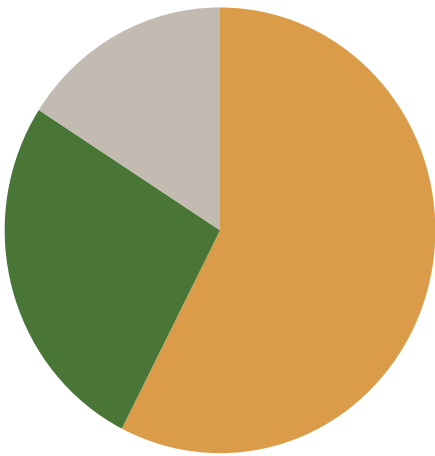
First part of deteriorated trim removed at the William Beith House, September 25, 2023

Compiled by the Board of Directors and presented at the
Annual Meeting of Membership
on February 15, 2024



2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ASSETS

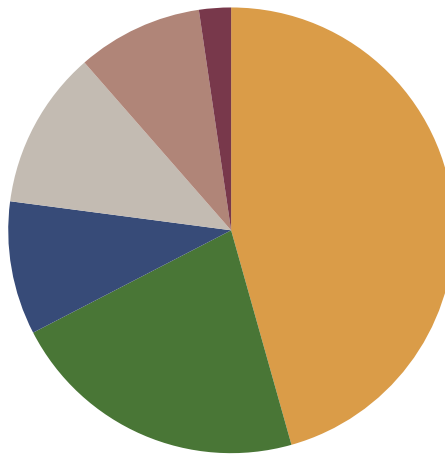


Total: **\$376,812**

- Cash on Hand*
- Artifacts
- Buildings

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

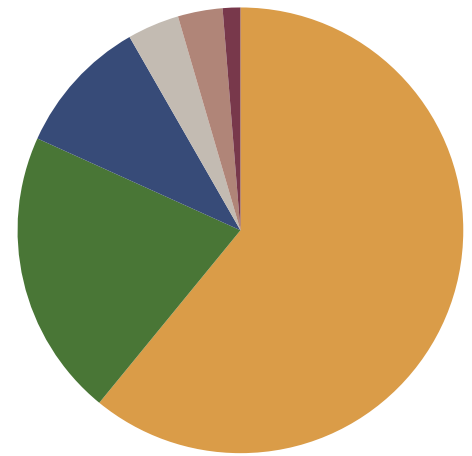
INCOME



Total: **\$210,855**

- Operating Agreements
- Museum Income
- Grant Income
- Memberships
- Donations and Interest Income
- Events and Programs

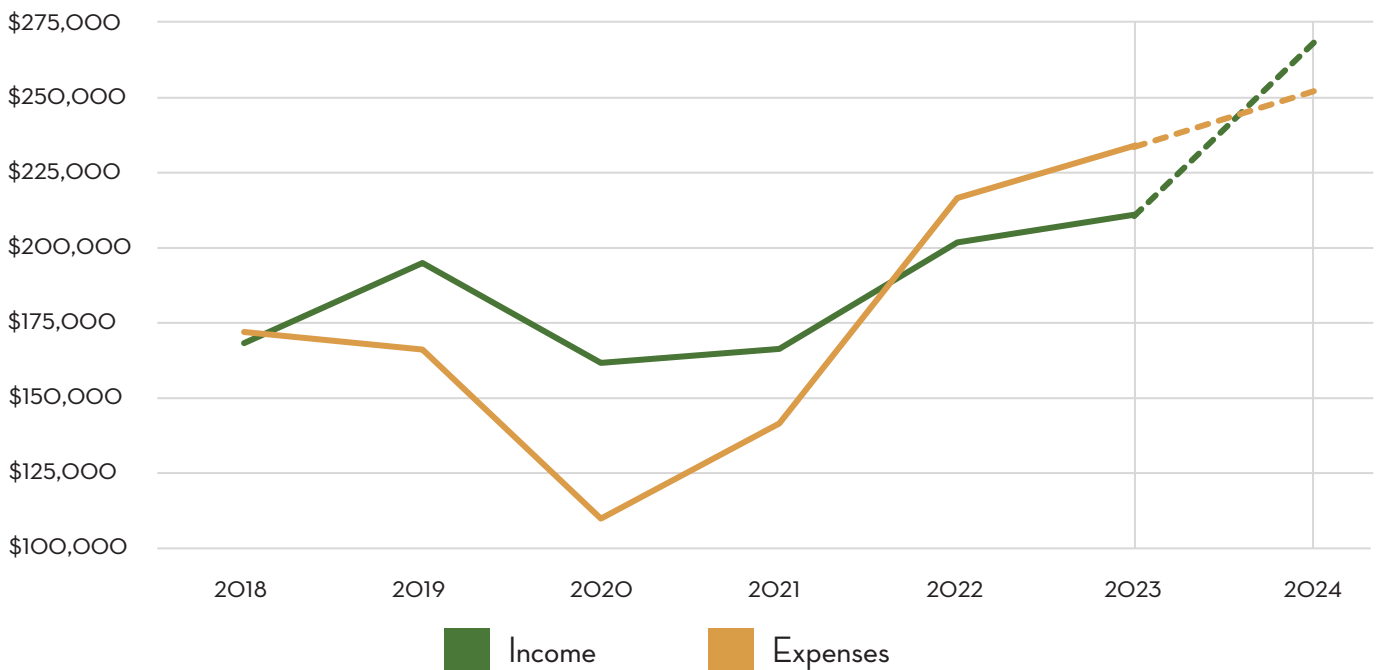
EXPENSES



Total: **\$234,000**

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

INCOME AND EXPENSES: A BRIEF HISTORY



2023 SUCCESSES



QUICK STATS

93,820



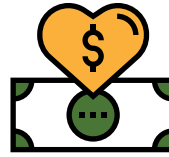
Visitors to our website

14,054



Visitors to Museum Sites

\$24,220



Membership Joins
and Renewals

\$69,419



In reimbursable grants
promised for capital projects

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

1. Grant Awards and Related Projects

A little effort goes a long way, so the saying goes—and that is true for our grant applications this year! We secured \$15,228 from the City of St. Charles' Facade Improvement Grant program and \$26,392 from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Fund for work at the Beith House, as well \$27,799 for conservation of Nelle Fabyan's couture gown, UV film for the Fabyan Villa, and a condition assessment of the concrete artifacts at Fabyan Forest Preserve. We were also awarded a \$3,100 grant from the Colonial Dames of America to create interior signage for the Fabyan Villa.

2. Operating Agreement Negotiations

PPFV and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County have been longtime partners in the care and operation of the District's historic sites. We are continually working with them to enhance our relationship and are grateful for their continued financial support.

3. Improved Visitor Experience

2023 was a bit of an experiment for us. We implemented the use of a new booking software called FareHarbor to help control crowds at the Fabyan Villa and to improve the visitor experience. We installed new interior signage and created an introductory video to support new self-guided tours. At LeRoy Oakes, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County installed interpretive signage throughout the preserve, including a "Heritage Trail" that leads from Creek Bend Nature Center, between the barns, and over to the Durant-Peterson House and Sholes School. All these improvements have resulted in favorable feedback from visitors!

4. Beith Capital Improvement

After confirmation from the City of St. Charles' Facade Improvement Grant and preliminary confirmation about a Grand Victoria Riverboat Grant, we kicked off the first phase of work at the Beith House! Deteriorated trim has been removed and replaced and work is underway to build our new storm windows because of generous sponsors. Roof and gutter work are expected to proceed during the spring of 2024.

5. Continued Data Leverage

We started regularly collecting data about visitors to our sites, social media, and website in 2022 and have continued that tracking. Looking at this data helps us understand what we're doing well and what we need to work on to improve.

6. Preservation Success

The Alexander Brother's Blacksmith Shop (former site of the Mill Race Inn) has been saved again from demolition! After months of public hearings and community input, Geneva's City Council unanimously denied demolition of the stone structure that is the last remaining tie to Geneva's early industrial heritage. Future plans for the site are still unknown, but the historic structure still stands.



INITIATIVES FOR 2024

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Below is a summary of what we're planning to pursue in 2024.

1. PPFV is Turning Fifty!

What a half century it has been! Starting as a small group of people who were passionate about restoring the Durant-Peterson House and becoming the organization we are today took so much effort from so many people. This year we will be celebrating those people, efforts, and milestones!



1974 - 2024

2. Grant Projects

This year will see new gutters and roof repairs to the Beith House. We are pursuing estimates for the next phases of work to guide our next grant applications. At Fabyan, we will be exploring the options to conserve and display Nelle Fabyan's couture French ball gown, installing protective UV film on the Villa windows, and finally proceeding with a condition assessment of the concrete sculptures at Fabyan Forest Preserve. These projects at Fabyan have been contingent upon final confirmation of Grand Victoria Riverboat Funds, which is expected in spring of 2024.

3. Website and Collections

Work to digitize our collections has taken longer than hoped, so we are continuing those efforts in 2024. We have begun the tedious process of migrating our digitized collection to a cloud-based version that we can link to our website. In addition, we are creating more robust website content to increase visitation to our site. We have also implemented a new monthly eNewsletter to share the latest news on historic structures and local history.

4. Beith Rehabilitation

Slow and steady! We have established best next steps for work at the Beith House and are pursuing estimates for electrical and HVAC work. Once estimates are secured, we will be pursuing grant funds for that work in 2025.

5. Preservation Education

Over the last few years, our focus on education vs. advocacy has seen positive outcomes. We are continuing those efforts to create positive relationships with building owners, developers, city staff, and elected officials to encourage thoughtful decisions regarding historic structures. We are also coordinating some educational opportunities for community members and city staff in 2024 to encourage conversation around the importance of historic preservation in our communities and creative ways to implement preservation practices.

6. Fundraising Shift

Though we enjoy hosting popular events like Winterlights, the Winter Solstice, Farm-to-Table and more, we have learned in the last few years that the financial return rarely matches the investment in time, efforts, and funds. Therefore, we are shifting our fundraising to increasing membership numbers and pursuing grants. This will also help us focus more staff time on running our educational efforts.

WE ARE: Volunteers. Community. Stewards.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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