

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Tri-Cities Historical Museum

creating connections
to Tri-Cities history



VISION

In 2023, the TCHM Board and team were energized by new members, new learning, and new strategies to meet our mission of “creating connections to Tri-Cities history.” Each Board and staff member participated in strategic development through the *Capacity Building: Michigan Lakeshore* program. Since our founding in 1959 as a Historical Society, we have served our community by preserving and presenting the events, people and stories that capture the unique place that is Ferrysburg, Grand Haven, Spring Lake and surrounding areas. Moving forward, we are united in becoming a magnetic destination for locals and visitors to ignite their curiosity by exploring the rich history of North Ottawa County. Join us!

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
EST. 1959

IMPACT

\$85,898

grant funding awarded

3,444

K-12 students engaged

550

new artifacts
accessioned

14

museum
professionals

44

volunteers



Erica Layton

FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIRECTOR

The year 2023 was one of development and new opportunities at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Within the year, we launched several successful new events, added new faces to our team, and charted our course for the next five years with the debut of our new strategic plan. This plan will guide our work for years to come. The year brought new opportunities for the Museum to strengthen our identity and mission as an organization.

At our Museum, we do not just display artifacts; we spark conversations about our past, ask questions about our community, and encourage critical thinking for all ages. We are a Museum that creates connections to Tri-Cities History! I know you will see that reflected in this 2023 annual report and everything we do.

find our strategic plan summary at tri-citiesmuseum.org/about

WHAT DRIVES OUR MISSION

Three pillars uphold our mission of ‘creating connections to local history’:

COLLECTIONS

the objects we collect, protect, and steward make it possible to create...

EXHIBITS

the displays that immerse visitors in the stories of the Tri-Cities, where...

EDUCATION

we engage the next generation in exploring and valuing our community history

Did you know?

*In 2022, TCHM was selected from a pool of hundreds of West Michigan arts organizations and began intensive work in the two-year Capacity Building: Michigan Lakeshore program through the DeVos Arts Management Institute. All staff and Board members have engaged in the development of a **5-Year Artistic Plan** covering mission focus, artistic and programmatic planning, marketing, and financial planning.*



EDUCATION

Each year, we connect all ages to local history with 10+ unique program offerings, including *History on the Go*, class field trips, *Classroom Curators*, our 'Long Ago in...' series, curator-led workshops for home collectors, as well as hands-on exploration for kids with our Mini-Makers series and Museum Activity Kits. TCHM brings free lectures and presentations to senior facilities and local community groups, and hosts four popular community events: ice cream socials at 1223 Engine and the newly-opened Tanglefoot Park, *Haunted Museum* and *Holly Jolly Family Day*.

Explore our K-12 and community education programs at tri-citiesmuseum.org/learn

EXHIBITIONS

The trajectory of Tri-Cities history is featured in our 13 permanent exhibits, taking visitors through the people, events, and places of the area beginning in the geologic era through the present. These - along with our annual temporary exhibits - draw all ages and interests and feature objects, documents, photographs, and art specific to the Tri-Cities. Our curators displayed 184 individual physical artifacts, plus hundreds of photo reproductions in three temporary exhibits in 2023: *Port to Paint: Maritime Art from the Permanent Collection*; *Play Ball: Sports History in the Tri-Cities*, and *Ferrysburg: 60 Years a City*.

See past, current and upcoming, and digital exhibitions at tri-citiesmuseum.org/exhibits



COLLECTIONS

Our collections team manages the care of the 70,000+ artifacts in the collection, and catalogs the hundreds of new objects donated each year. Most importantly, the team connects the community to its history by supporting research requests, giving community tours at the Community Archive and Research Center (CARC), and ensuring that each artifact is included in our digital database Collective Access.

In 2023, the Museum dedicated efforts on gathering oral histories to enrich the collection with first-hand accounts of local life. Through 'history harvests', the Museum is beginning to collect oral histories from Tri-Cities citizens that will be included in future exhibits, education programs, and in *Collective Access*.

Explore the collection at tri-citiesmuseum.org/collections



education

4,151

adults + youth engaged

exhibits

20,483

visitors of all ages

collections

+70,000

digital records

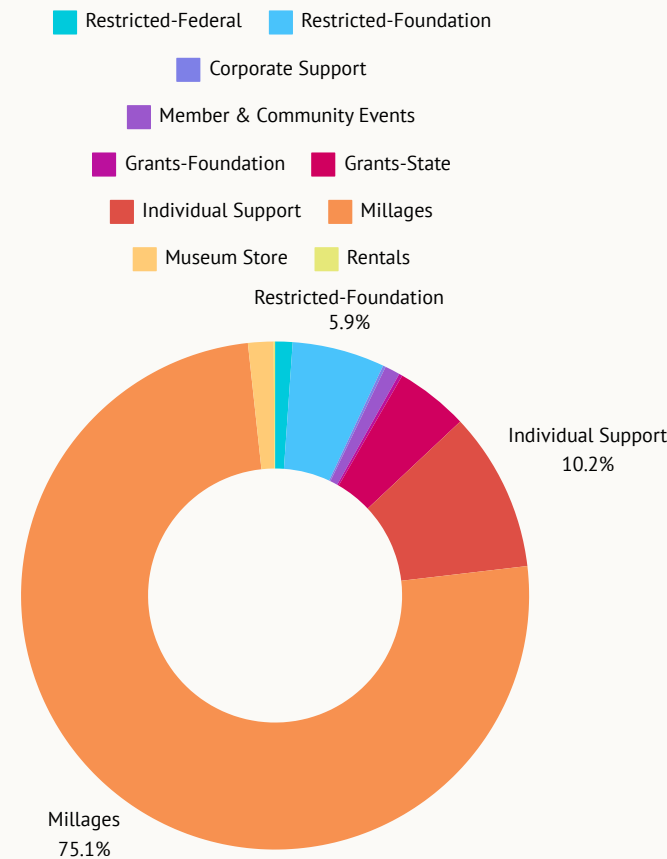


ANNUAL BUDGET

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

revenue

\$865,234 *unrestricted*
\$65,054 *restricted*



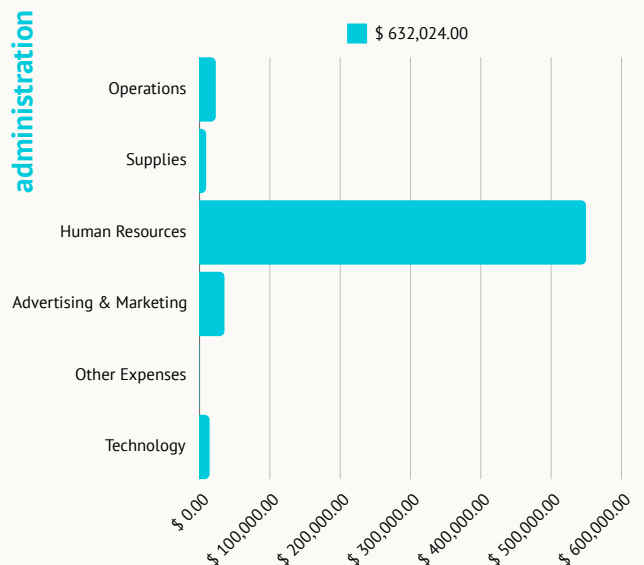
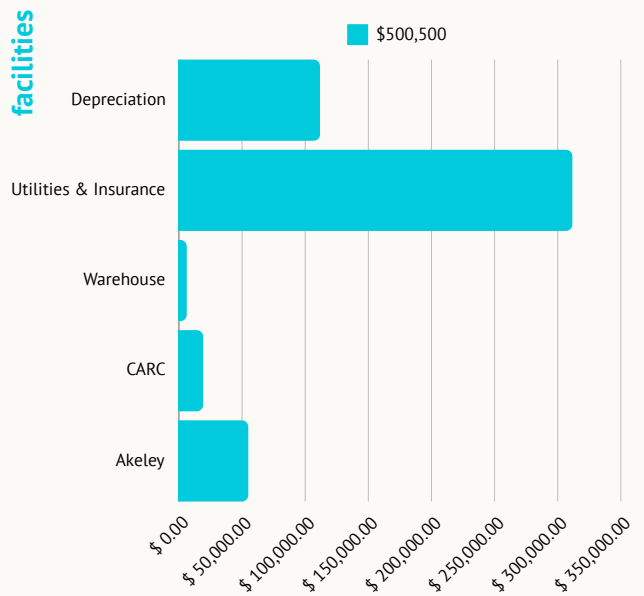
CAPITAL PROJECT: CARC PARKING LOT

In 2023, TCHM was awarded a grant request of \$39,000 from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council to replace the weedy, cracked parking lot of the Community Archive and Research Center. Donors in the community helped raise an additional \$19,000 to meet the grant-required match.

Following a wet fall, work is slated to begin in early May. The old concrete will be removed, the lot will be graded, and fresh asphalt will be laid. New parking curbs will line the building, and accessible parking--with striping and signage--will be located at the front of the building, welcoming all to the Community Archive and Research Center.

expenses

\$ 64,283 *programs*
\$503,602 *facilities*
\$632,024 *administration*



HISTORY KEEPERS

The Museum is incredibly grateful to each of our members, funders, and supporters. In 2023, the Museum received a legacy gift from Bruce and Barbara Hinrichs. They generously designated a bequest from their estate to Tri-Cities Historical Museum. With other *History Keepers*, Bruce and Barbara have played an important part in helping their local Museum hold to its vision of sharing our unique history with generations to come. We were honored to meet Barb and Bruce's family, who shared with us that they both loved the birchbark canoe that is a part of our exhibit on the history of the Anishinaabe. Many, many visitors have been (and will be!) inspired by this and other exhibits, thanks to Bruce and Barbara's commitment to support a truly rich and memorable experience for every visitor to the Museum.



C. Bruce Hinrichs



Barbara A. Hinrichs



DEDICATIONS

in honor of...

- Edna Greuel
- Ann White

in memory of...

- James Leet
- Mary (Floto) Ellingboe



HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR 2023

The Board of Directors recognized Dr. Chris Petras for his efforts and achievement in bringing home 17 Purple Heart medals to Grand Haven soldiers killed or wounded in battle in WWI. Eleven months before, in January, Dr. Petras, having completed months of research, submitted reams of paperwork to the US government, and having personally traveled to Chicago to have each of the 17 medals engraved with the soldier's name, made the decision to donate them to the Museum's collection. The extraordinary moment was marked with a formal ceremony where the soldiers' descendants and relatives, officers of the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post #28, and Museum staff and Board members, as well as local government officials gathered in the Museum's Centennial Hall to honor the soldiers and officially accession the medals into the collection.



Board President Thomas Puleo (L) congratulates Dr. Chris Petras (R)

OUR COLLABORATORS

An ongoing partnership with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and their Careerline Tech Center brought students from the *Future Prep'd* program into the Museum to respond to real-life driving questions...and to collaborate with peers from other schools to propose solutions. We also explored new ventures with 'old' friends. The Museum partnered with Central Park Place and Loutit District



Library on a grant proposal to bring history, art, and literature together for cultural encounters called *Live on the Lakeshore*. With the awarded funds, the three partners presented a series of *al fresco* encounters along the Grand Haven channel that featured painters, theatrical vignettes, musical performances, and historical storytelling to passersby, for a one-of-a-kind experience along the lakeshore. The Museum continues to connect our community to local history for all ages, around the year.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9

board members
each serving a
3-year term

- Thomas Puleo *President* Teacher, Grand Haven Public Schools
- Jeanette Weiden *Vice President* Head of Local History & Genealogy, Loutit District Library
- Robert Schmidt *Treasurer* Accountant, Retired
- Annie Baker *Secretary* Owner, D. Baker Lumber Co.
- Robert Mann, Retired
- John Martin, Retired
- Joan Moser Kuiper, City of Ferrysburg
- Wendy Knoth, Owner, Off The Chain Brewstillery
- Ernie Petrus, Retired

We thank our 2023 outgoing Board Members: Jen Crouse (Treasurer) | Marsha Peterson

members*

historian + historian family

- Leon and Linda Bakke
- Mary Jane and Roger Belter
- Mark Boughner and Janet Ross
- William and Kay Cansfield
- Andy and Joyce Cawthon
- Barbara Legatz
- Rob and Gail Miner
- John and Sharon Naser
- Sean and Nancy O'Neill
- Bob and Bobbi Sabine
- Harry and Carol Schmidt
- Paul and Mary Springer
- Margie and Jack Steinmetz

adventurer + adventurer family

- Sal and Irene Barbera
- Bill Ellingboe
- Cathy and Warren Feyt
- Jane and George Gardner
- Frank and Diane Kennedy
- Bill and Peg Klungle
- Karen and Michael Lowe
- John and Kathryn Nash
- Robert Sheardy
- Grace Stanton
- Mary and Paul Veach

history keeper (legacy gift)

- Bruce and Barbara Hinrichs

annual partners

- Oakes Agency
- Olmsted Signs and Design

guide (\$500+)

- Tom Boven and Linda Siewert
- Kent and Carole DeYoung
- Duane Leet
- Sandra Nieuwenhuis
- Marsha Peterson
- Randy and Karen Smith
- Bill and Marjie Viveen
- Ann White

pathfinder (\$1,000+)

- Linda McAffrey and Dr. Barbara Brown
- Richard and Gay Cole
- Dr. Peter and Anita vanden Berg
- Wally and Jane Ewing
- Ake and Marianne Johansson
- Jackie Thoroughman and Vern Condon

grantors

- Anthony and Monica Verplank Thriving Communities Fund
- Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
- Holland Area Arts Council
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Michigan Arts and Culture Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Samuel L. Westerman Foundation
- The Loutit Foundation
- Verplank Donor Advised Fund



scan the code or mail
in the response
envelope located in
this publication **and**
connect to our
shared community
history and your
TCHM Family



*member rolls as of 4/9/2024

“Nice museum! Every local should take the advantage to view it.”



152-year old community touchstone and our largest artifact:
Akeley Building



“So much for kids to enjoy here!”

houses +70,000 artifacts donated by the local community and open for facilitated research and tours:

**Community Archive and Research Center
Collections Warehouse**



Thank you to our visitors, millage communities, our donors and partners, and our dedicated volunteers.

Tri-Cities Historical Museum

200 Washington Avenue | Grand Haven | MI | 49417
connectingtohistory@tchmuseum.org | (616) 842-0700

Community Archive and Research Center

14110 172nd Avenue | Grand Haven | MI | 49417
collections@tchmuseum.org | (616) 842-0700

