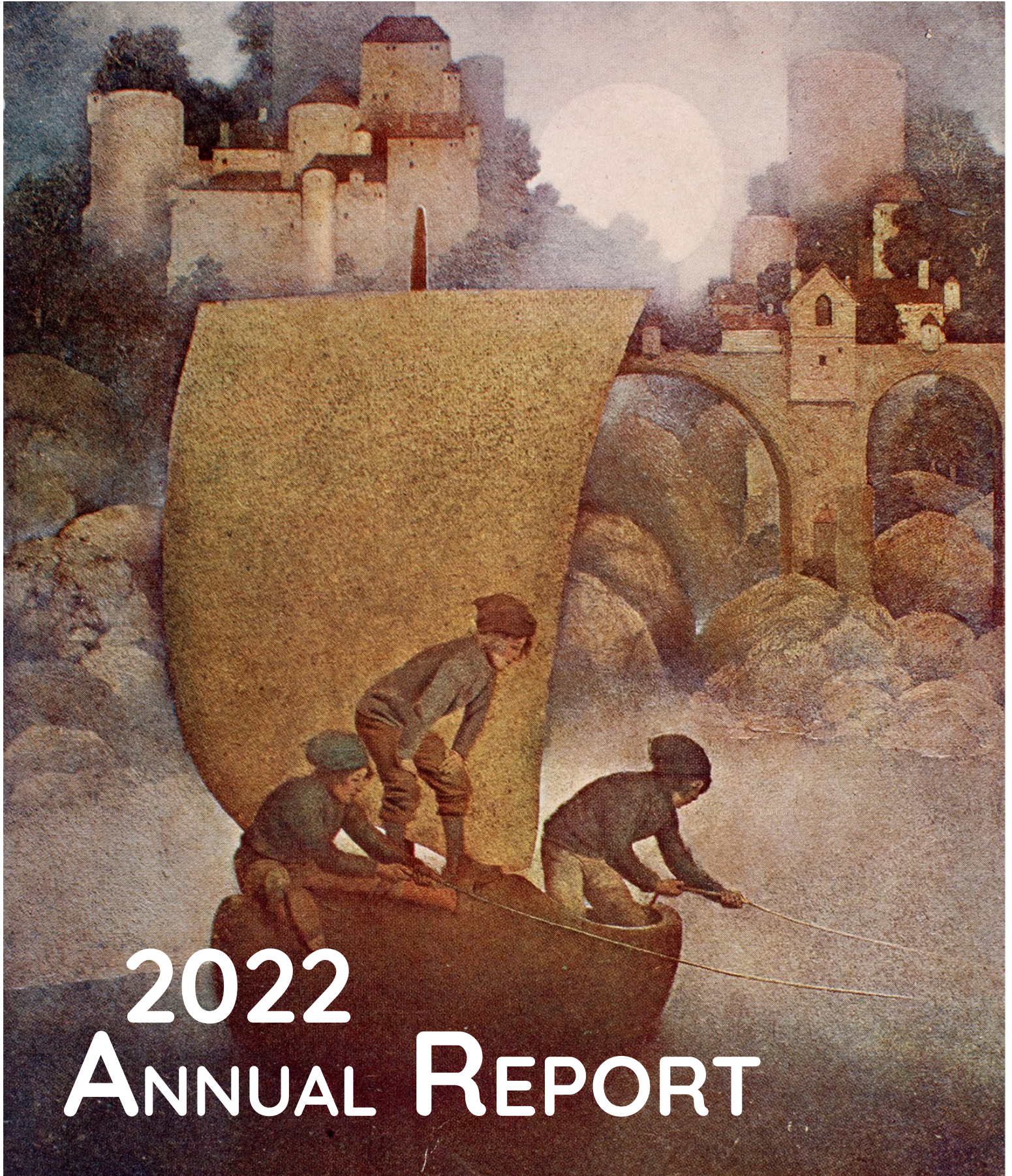




PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

ART

BOOKS

Our 2022 Annual Report is dedicated to Geoffrey Clark, the late husband of our former Board of Trustees Chair Martha Fuller Clark.

Geoff was a steadfast supporter of the Portsmouth Historical Society and we are grateful for his many contributions over the years.



PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Sea

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WELCOME

Reagan Ruedig , *President of the Board*

The Portsmouth Historical Society is now in its 105th year of celebrating the region's arts and cultural heritage. During 2022, the Society saw many changes and welcomed many new visitors, volunteers, and staff members to our organization. Along with those changes came some notable successes over the year – our shows welcomed record numbers of guests to our galleries, the museum shop experienced significant growth after reopening from the pandemic, we put on two very successful shows, and we were joined by our excellent new Executive Director, Emma Stratton.

Last year we opened our doors to over 32,000 visitors in our exhibition space as well as at the John Paul Jones House. “Imagine That! The Power of Picture Books,” our largest and most ambitious show to date, and the follow-up “Show+Tell: Greater Seacoast Illustrators” drew visitors from across the region and touched the hearts of children and grown-ups alike. We provided another year of introducing local history to the City's third graders through in-class visits and tours of Portsmouth's historic houses and sites. Our walking tours gained more popularity and increased in offerings, sharing our knowledge of Portsmouth's history with visitors as well as locals. For the first time, the John Paul Jones House hosted a celebration of the *Ranger's* victory over the British on April 24. Our Museum Shop welcomed thousands of visitors throughout the year and offered a variety of gifts, books on local history, and original works of art. We finished the year with our most successful Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition so far, attracting over 7,000 visitors and displaying 101 gingerbread houses.

On a personal note, it has been heartening to experience this organization's resilience, watching it rebound with success and growth after the many challenges the pandemic posed. With Emma at the helm, we now have a well-staffed organization that is ready to shine as the center for arts, culture, and history in our community. Our updated mission statement gives us a simple and clear directive: our museums and programs connect the community to our past, present, and future through collections, interpretation, education, and preservation. I am confident that 2023, with the celebration of Portsmouth's 400th anniversary, will be a banner year for the Portsmouth Historical Society.



Visitors enjoyed a wide variety of illustration from children's books during the “Imagine That!” exhibition. Photo © Art of LaRue

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emma Stratton, *Executive Director*

Potential. This is the reason I was drawn to Portsmouth Historical Society. I saw, and continue to see, immense potential in this organization. I started my tenure as Executive Director in June 2022 and was able to witness the breadth of our permanent collection on view at John Paul Jones House, the beauty of “Imagine That!,” the creativity of “Show + Tell,” and the magic of our annual Gingerbread exhibition. In 2022 we added new staff positions and hired Sabina Ion as our Marketing Manager, Sarah Robbitts-Terry as Volunteer and Program Coordinator, and Molly Liolios as Collections Manager and Registrar. All have brought years of experience, creativity, and new energy to their roles.



The Portsmouth Historical Society was pleased to welcome Emma Stratton as the new Executive Director in June of 2022.

Looking ahead, we’re expanding our reach in the digital realm by sharing our work through Facebook, Instagram, and our website. We’re working to create new exhibitions that connect to our lives today, discuss our more recent past, include underrepresented voices, and inspire us to think critically about the world. Our programs are growing to incorporate new audiences with hands-on learning opportunities across generations.

We hope our work will encourage you to become involved with us: whether through attending programs, visiting our exhibitions, volunteering, or serving on a committee.

As we reflect back on 2022 and look ahead to 2023, we strive to serve as a community resource. Your community resource. This is your Portsmouth Historical Society.

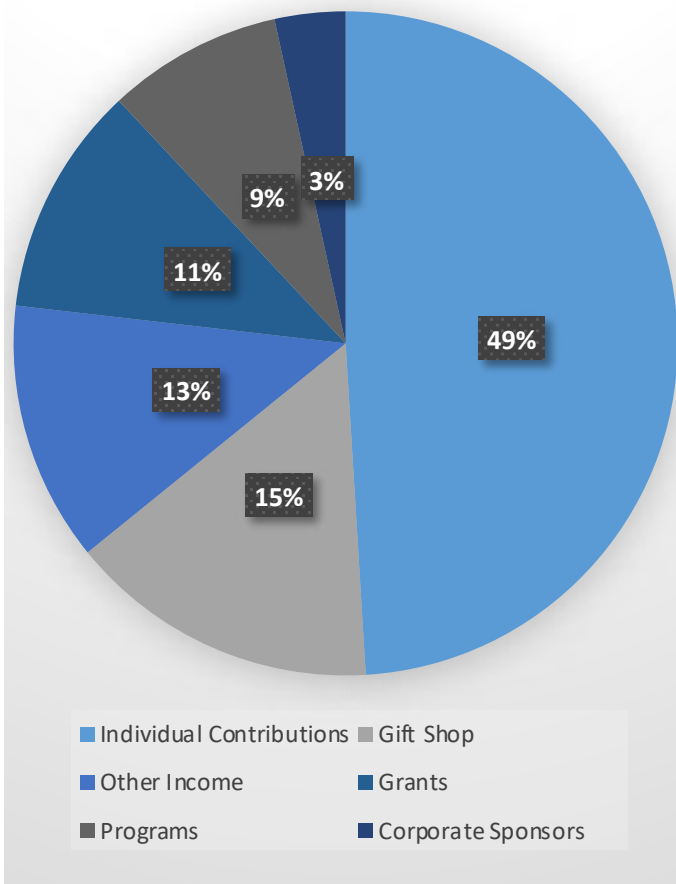
IN LATE 2022, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING MISSION STATEMENT FOR PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The Portsmouth Historical Society’s museums and programs connect the community to our past, present and future through collections, interpretation, education and preservation.

As the Board continues its strategic planning work, a new vision and values were adopted in early 2023 and the development of a new strategic plan is ongoing. We are thrilled to have you along for the journey as the Portsmouth Historical Society continues its growth in 2023 and beyond.

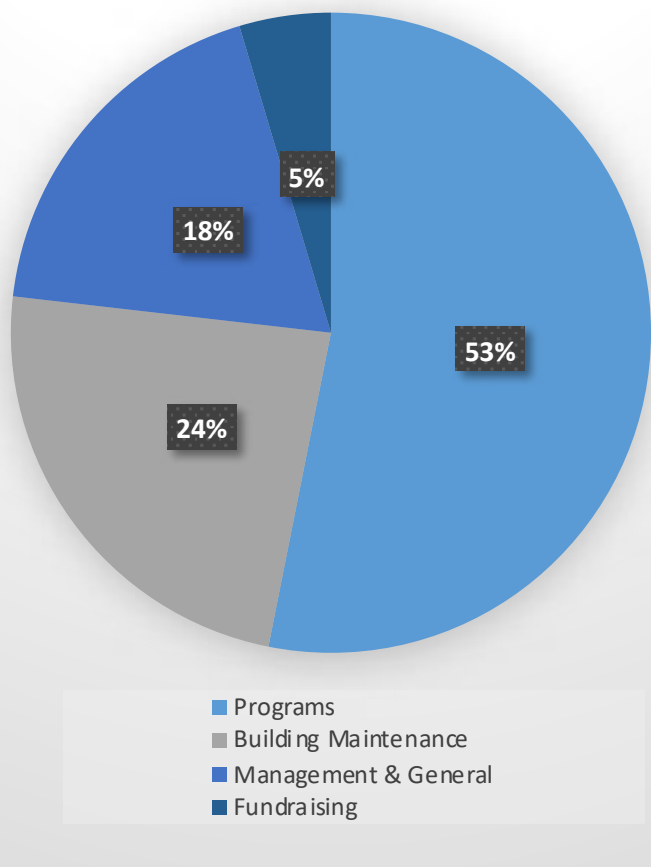
FINANCIALS

2022 Income



Individual Contributions	\$269,853.00
Gift Shop	\$83,279.00
Other Income	\$69,652.68
Grants	\$61,750.00
Programs	\$46,876.00
Corporate Sponsors	\$18,950.00

2022 Expenses



Programs	\$503,840.98
Building Maintenance	\$224,618.60
Management & General	\$176,058.81
Fundraising	\$43,804.17

Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

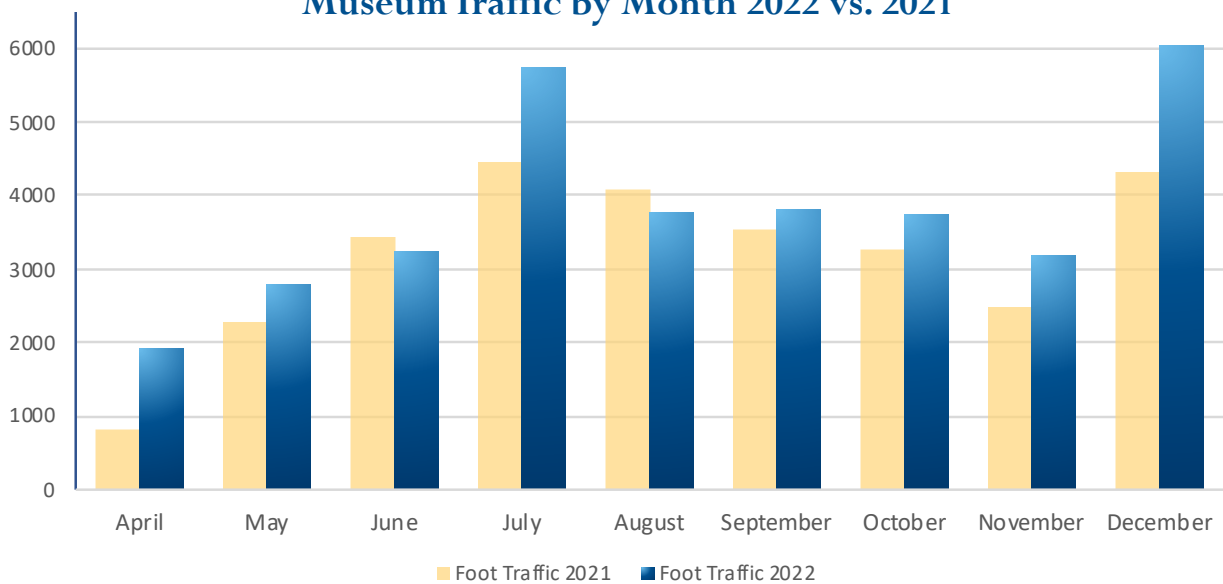
	Jan - Dec 2022
Total Revenue	\$ 550,362.47
Total Expenditures	\$ 894,424.26
Net Revenue	\$ (344,061.79)
Released from Restriction	208,369.00
Total Net Revenue	\$ (135,692.79)

Note: Portsmouth Historical Society budgeted for a deficit given changes in leadership, key staff positions, and the culmination of a large-scale exhibition

a full copy of our financial records and 990 are available upon request

VISITATION

Museum Traffic by Month 2022 vs. 2021

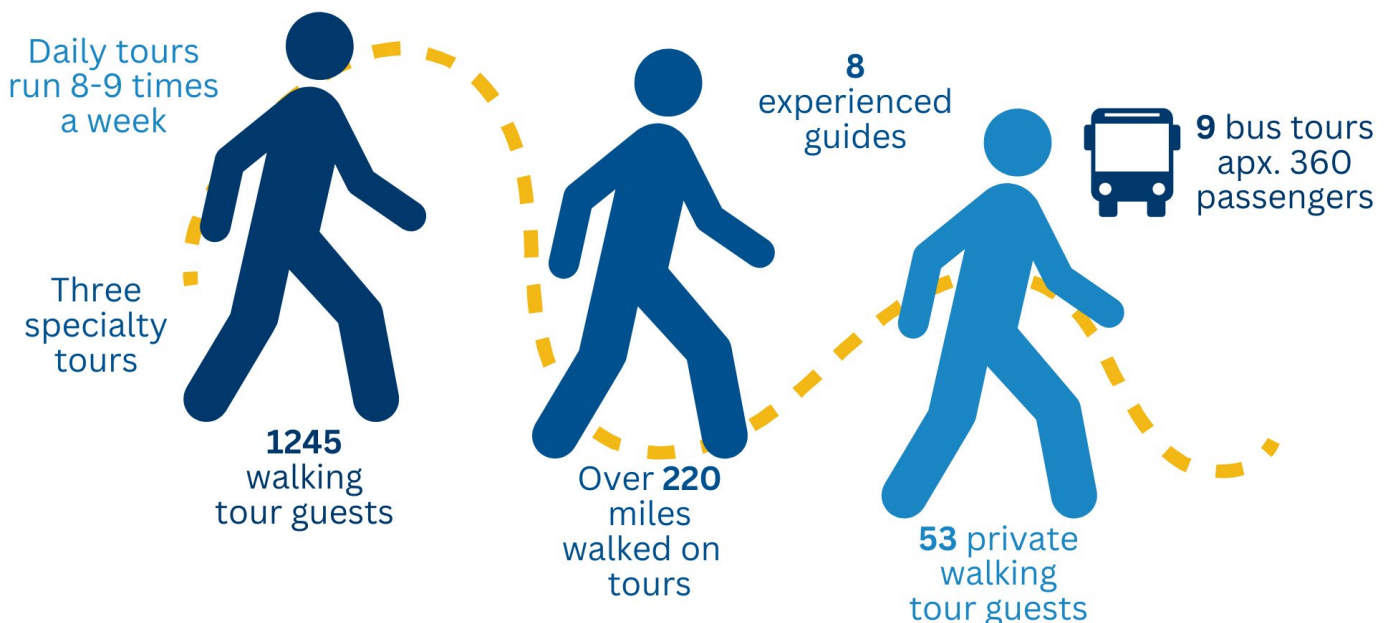


Total museum visitation numbers include visitors to all of our exhibitions, the John Paul Jones House, and the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, as well as those who attend our programs (such as lectures, book signings, story times, and more) and visitors during our many events and rentals.

32,243
total foot traffic in 2022

28,782
total foot traffic in 2021

WALKING TOURS



EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Education and programs at the Portsmouth Historical Society were able to expand over the course of 2022. We continued our outreach to Portsmouth Public Schools by providing monthly Portsmouth history lessons in local third grade classes, with topics ranging from the history of the Abenaki Native Americans to the present day work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Hosting exhibition field trips was an impactful way for students of all ages to engage in conversations about different art mediums, and provide exposure to how books are made.

Third-Grade School History Program

Portsmouth public schools focus on local history in their third-grade classrooms. The Portsmouth Historical Society partners with them providing classroom visits which consist of Portsmouth history lessons and are often accompanied by period artifacts. The school year culminates in a downtown Portsmouth Walking Tour that brings students through buildings and sites that they have learned about in class.

“Imagine That!”

Story Hours


These programs, held in the exhibition space, were attended by approximately 80 people, predominantly children 10 and under with an accompanying guardian.



Author and illustrator Chris Van Dusen, creator of the beloved characters Mr. McGee and his dog Dee, demonstrates different ways kids can capture their creativity on paper.



third-grade
classes served



visits per
classroom



Portsmouth
elementary schools
participating



school walking
tours cap off their
experience

Field Trips

More than 400 students from Seacoast area schools and camps attended a multi-layered field trip to the Portsmouth Historical Society with a focus on visual literacy, creativity through collage, and authors/illustrators of color at the Seacoast African American Cultural Center.

After School and Library Journey Boxes

Our Journey Boxes were a picture book(making) curriculum for the purpose of enhancing visual literacy among school-age children in the Portsmouth community.

We delivered this program through the Seacoast Community School's PEAK afterschool programs held at multiple Portsmouth elementary schools. After School Journey Boxes supplied an intensive five-day full curriculum for bookmaking, including four picture books with correlating lessons and bookmaking supplies (paper, scissors, pencils, art and bookbinding materials). Separate kindergarten through second-grade and third through

fifth-grade curriculums were provided to allow for developmentally appropriate learning.

Library Journey Boxes were delivered to twelve public libraries on the Seacoast. They included three books and biographies of prominent authors and/or illustrators from the exhibition, as well as self-guided activities for each.

Concept by Nina Maurer and Claire Spollen. Artwork for the exterior of the boxes and trifold were designed in collaboration with students (Isabella Usle-Wolfel, Makayla Davis, Morgan Tait, Jessica Vallente) from the New England Institute of Art and Design. Curriculum design by Jenn Thibadeau.

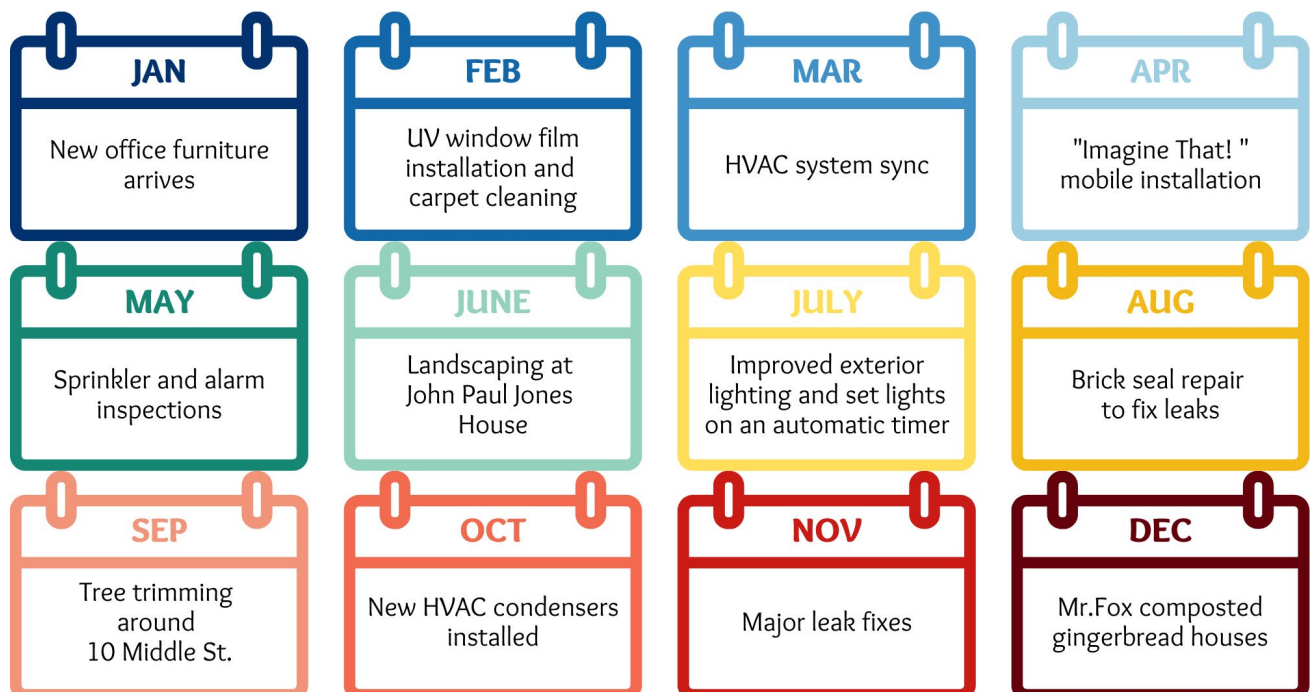
“Show + Tell”

During the fall exhibition, curator Tess Feltes led two curator tours. We hosted the workshops, “Drawing from Nature” with illustrator Susan Spellman, “Read, Discover and Draw!” with author/illustrator Gina Perry and a lecture on the Book Illustration Process with authors/illustrators Jill Weber and Ryan O’Rourke. All artists had work featured in the exhibition.



Artist Susan Spellman inspires participants to look deeply and thoughtfully at the world around them in her life drawing workshop.

OVERVIEW: A YEAR IN FACILITIES



EXHIBITIONS

Our summer exhibition, “Imagine That! The Power of Picture Books” was of unprecedented size, quality, and fundraising. In order to appropriately care for the numerous works on paper we hosted, we applied for and received a New Hampshire State Council on the Arts “Mooseplate” grant for more than \$12,000 to improve the display environment throughout the building. With these funds, we installed:

- UV-blocking film on all interior windows in the galleries
- Dimmers for all track lighting, so interior light exposure can be controlled for individual objects more effectively.

Additionally, exhibition grant funding was used to purchase:

- new UV-blocking vitrines for cases.
- humidity-controlled case that can be used for sensitive objects.
- five additional TempSticks to help monitor temperature and humidity in the galleries

Upstairs in the fall, we displayed “Show + Tell,” an exhibition of children’s book illustrators from the greater Seacoast area. Downstairs, our friends from the Pastel Society of New Hampshire displayed their annual exhibition of award-winners



UV blocking vitrines allow for light-sensitive objects to be displayed with appropriate care..



Robert Squier Lil' Library Digital art, 2018. Private collection. Featured in “Show + Tell.”



N. C. Wyeth (1882–1945), *The Bonadventure*, 1918. Oil on canvas. For Jules Verne, *The Mysterious Island* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1918). Private collection. Photo, Ralph Morang. Featured in “Imagine That!”

from their juried competition, followed by the ever-popular Gingerbread House Contest. Between mid-October and the end of the year, we had over 9,600 visitors, surpassing pre-pandemic visitation for the fall by about 3,000 guests. The Gingerbread House Contest theme of fictional characters and places gave us some phenomenal submissions inspired by classic stories and connected to our exhibition on picture book illustration.



“An Old House in Paris” gingerbread house by Aunt Kathy Brown & the LaCroix kiddos. Inspired by Ludwig Bemelmans, *Madeline* (New York: Viking, 1939).



John Paul Jones, born in Scotland and a sailor, was a natural choice for purveyors of spirits to use in their advertising. These two “collectibles” date from ca. 1976.

The Bradford Collection

Our 2022 exhibition in the gallery space at the John Paul Jones House featured more than one hundred objects from the James and Judith Bradford Collection of Jones memorabilia. Entitled “Hero, Celebrity, Cliché,” the show charted Jones’s evolving identity in the world of popular culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the plates, bowls, mugs, decanters, soda cans, medals, models, prints, posters, puzzles, and other types of memorabilia in the Bradford Collection, we can see Jones’ career recounted and his reputation perpetuated. These souvenirs reach a wider audience than academic textbooks and lengthy scholarly biographies and help keep the memory of Jones (and some of the myths surrounding him) fresh in the collective public’s mind.

PORTSMOUTH MARINE SOCIETY PRESS

In 2022, the Portsmouth Marine Society Press was proud to publish *Imagine That!: The Power of Picture Books*, to accompany our major loan exhibition of the year. This 88-page book, publication 42 in the PMSP series, contained scholarly essays by H. Nichols B. Clark, Founding Director of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, and Naomi S. Baron, Professor Emerita of Linguistics at American University. Eight short section headings by Nina N. Maurer, guest curator, introduced the themes of journeys and discoveries that were the focus of the exhibition. The book was designed by Rita Marshall and Jessica Flynn and printed at the Penmor Lithographers in Lewiston, Maine, who did a fine job with the book’s 79 color illustrations of works by nearly as many artists, including N.C. Wyeth, Mo Willems, Robert McCloskey, Daniel Minter, and Beth Krommes, whose beautiful watercolor graced the front cover. A grant from the Wyeth Foundation for American Art supported our production costs. As noted by Martha Fuller Clark, then chair of the Historical Society’s board, the exhibition and catalogue provided a “compelling intersection of art, the written word, and journeys of the

mind.” This focus on the significance of children’s book illustration came at a particularly apt time in history, as book banning has once again raised its ugly head among segments of our society.

Throughout the year, the backlist of forty-one PMSP monographs and exhibition catalogues continued to be offered. Pat Wall’s *Lives of Consequence* was among the best sellers.



PORTSMOUTH ADVOCATES

In November, Portsmouth Advocates gathered for their annual award ceremony at the Portsmouth Historical Society. The following awards were presented:

- *Restoring the Integrity of a Resource*: State of New Hampshire Bureau of Historic Sites for restoration of the Billiard Room at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion
- *Continued and Sensitive Maintenance of a Historic Property*: Christine Dwyer and Michael Huxtable (homeowners) and David Ryng (contractor) , 600 Broad Street
- *Arthur J. Gerrier Memorial Award*, which is presented to an individual who is committed to serving our historic community: Bruce Blanchard (Preservation Manager- Piscataqua Region at Historic New England)
- *John Grossman Memorial Award*, which recognizes an individual who makes a reality of an organization's mission by bridging the theoretical and the practical: Lawrence Yerdon (President and CEO of Strawberry Banke Museum)
- The inaugural *Nancy Carmer Preservation Planning Award*. The award celebrates individuals or groups who promote innovative, vibrant, and economically sustainable uses for historic properties and is presented to its namesake: Nancy Carmer (Former Economic Development Program Manager for the City of Portsmouth)

For more information about Portsmouth Advocates, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ portsmouthadvocates.



The 2022 Portsmouth Advocates Award winners. From left to right: Roslyn Weems, Chair of Portsmouth Advocates; Nancy Carmer; Lawrence Yerdon; Bruce Blanchard; Christine Dwyer and Mike Huxtable; David Ryng; and Gerry Ward (accepting on behalf of the NH Bureau of Historic Sites for the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion).

DONORS TO THE COLLECTION, LIBRARY, AND ARCHIVES

It is with much appreciation that we thank the following individuals for their donations to the Collection:

Donors to the Collection

Susan Arnold
Hollis Brodrick
Mrs. Jennette Jones Loos
Ellen "Westy" Lovejoy
Bob St. Cyr
Dr. Artemis Willis



Gertrude Fiske (1879–1961), Portsmouth Burying Ground, ca. 1925. Oil on canvas; 20 1/8 in. by 27 1/8 in. Gift in memory of Harold B. Willis (2022.10)

The Beck House

In February 2022, the Portsmouth Historical Society was bequeathed the residential property at 43 Austin Street, once owned by Peter and Nancy Beck. The Beck House, is well-known to many long-time Portsmouth residents as the home and office of Dr. Peter Beck, an ophthalmologist by trade. This historic residential structure was given to the Society as a means to generate additional revenue for the Society to fund the maintenance and preservation efforts for its other historic buildings. A structural assessment was completed on the home in late 2022.

Donors to the Library and Archives

Mrs. Eileen Herring
Alvin Schaut
Barbara McLean Ward and Gerald W.R. Ward



Attributed to Samuel Dockum (1792–1872), center table, Portsmouth, 1850s. Mahogany, marble; H.28 3/4 in., W. 31 in., D. 23 1/2 in. Gift of Jeannette Jones Loos (2022.12)



The Beck House, located at 43 Austin Street in winter. Photo © Kenneth R. Goldman

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Lee Public Library

Newmarket Public Library

North Hampton Public Library

Portsmouth Public Library



Jo Ann Klatskin, Senior Vice President Government and Nonprofit Banking Manager (left), presents PHS staff with support for a new Welcome Center film to be unveiled in late spring of 2023. This much needed update of an over-decade-old film was made possible thanks to Newburyport Bank.

2022 MEMBERS AND DONORS

We are extremely grateful for the continued support of our members and donors, who make our important work possible.

\$25,000 +

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\$10,000–\$24,999

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We have made every attempt to recognize all contributors. If any information is missing or incorrect, please contact us at development@portsmouthhistory.org. We apologize for any oversights.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are some of our strongest supporters, and we have enormous gratitude for the hard work they put into everything from our day-to-day operations, to our gardens, our exhibition prep, special events, and more. Our volunteer program is small but mighty and has only continued to grow as we rebuild connections post-pandemic, and bring in new, enthusiastic supporters. Our 2022 season included volunteers leading storytimes for young visitors, helping guide our third-grade walking tour with ease, serving drinks and snacks at our receptions and Art 'Round Town, crawling around the floor testing string lights for our Gingerbread exhibition, smashing (and composting!) said gingerbread houses, among many other invaluable

tasks. They are always game for whatever we may throw at them!

Giving back to our volunteers is a priority for the program. They are giving us their time and their passion, and we want them to feel included, empowered, and proud of their accomplishments. We hosted a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon in November, which was a wonderful opportunity for all our volunteers - 10 Middle Street, John Paul Jones, and walking tour guides - to get together, get to know each other and celebrate the season with us. This coming season will see even more volunteer benefits in place, which will hopefully encourage people to come back to volunteer again and again.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers this year:

Randy Absher
Michael Anderson
Suzanne Anderson
Denise Ankarberg
Karen Battles
Hermann Bautzmann
Alana Carling
Paul Caswell
Alan Cohen
Ellen Cohen
Chuck Collins
Lynne Costa
Sharon Dunbar
Karen Freda
Hannah Gagnon
Lorraine Goodman
Ann Hartman

Mary Ellen Hoerman
Charlotte Leatherman
Norm LeBel
Philip Lefebvre
Jillian Marquis
Barbara Newton
Dana Peters
Jill Petruzzello
Julia Phelps
Jim Poole
Dawn Przychodzien
Clare Purcell
Julie Rafuse
Kerry Rubinstein
Elizabeth Sanborn
Jonathan Sandberg
Nancy Seesman

Ron Sher
Kait Smith
Christine Stacey
Gordon Stone
Donna Theodossiou
Gail Thomas
Carolyn Trosky-Absher

Joyce Tucker
Austin Vancelette
Barbara Ward
Maxson Ward
Roslyn Weems
Jonathan Wyckoff

With thanks to our walking tour guides:

Randy Absher
Alan Cohen
Joe Distefano
Lauren Gianino

Tom Kaufold
Fred Lewis
Elizabeth Sanborn
Jeff Thomson

With additional thanks to thanks to our volunteer guest curators:

Bob Thoresen, "Reinventing Portsmouth" (2023 exhibition)
Tess Feltes, "Show + Tell"



Volunteers at our end of season John Paul Jones lawn clean-up.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reagan Ruedig, *President; Chair, Facilities & Grounds Committee*

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Peter Michaud, *Secretary*

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STAFF As of 12/31/2022

Emma Stratton, *Executive Director*

Meredith Affleck, *Exhibitions Manager*

Beth Gross-Santos, *Welcome Center & Gift Shop Manager*

Sabina Ion, *Marketing Manager*

Jessica Kliskey, *John Paul Jones House Site Manager*

Molly Liolios, *Collections Manager & Registrar*

Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, *Facilities & Walking Tour Manager*

Sarah Robbitts-Terry, *Volunteer & Program Coordinator*

Jenn Thibadeau, *Program Manager*

Gerald W.R. Ward, *Curator and Editor*

With sincere thanks to our seasonal front desk staff:

Jay Daphnis

Christina Johns

Roberta Lew



2022 by the numbers



EXHIBITIONS

121

artworks displayed for
"Imagine That!" by 38
artists from 11 states

75

artworks displayed for
"Show + Tell" by 20 Greater
Seacoast Area artists

110

Gingerbread houses
deliciously constructed

DEVELOPMENT

360 Historical Society
members

100 new donors

\$50,050
raised through membership

IN THE GIFT SHOP

Local Artists
represented

25



Modgy Vases
Sold

357



Finger Puppets
Sold

148



VOLUNTEERS

7

new volunteers

total volunteers

30

1050

total hours
volunteered



2,253 total visitors to the John Paul Jones
House with 97 Birthday Party guests
and 90 Veteran's Day guests

SOCIAL MEDIA

f 4,861

ig 2,237

tw 2,855

tk new platform!

OVERVIEW OF THE 2023 CALENDAR

Exhibitions

"A Sense of Place"	April 1 – October 28
"Reinventing Portsmouth"	April 7 – October 9
John Paul Jones Open to the Public	May 26 – October 9
"It's Pastel!" <i>15th National Juried Exhibition by the Pastel Society of New Hampshire</i>	October 23 – November 20
Permanent Collection display opens	October 30
"Lost Neighborhoods" <i>exhibition by Barbara Adams, Dusty Knight, Peter Cady, and Tom Glover</i>	November 21 – December 30
33rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition	November 24 – December 31

Programs

Historic Portsmouth Walking Tours	May 1 – October 31
John Paul Jones Birthday celebrations	July 9
Twilight Tour	August 11
Portsmouth Advocates Awards Night	September 10
Family Days <i>free drop-in activities and scheduled workshops for visitors of all ages</i>	the second Saturday of the month
Knit Happens <i>a social yarn circle</i>	fourth Fridays of the month
Read It and Eat! <i>a community conversation centered around food</i>	four Mondays throughout the year
Portsmouth on Tap <i>a brewery series inspired by historic Portsmouth events</i>	the third Thursday of select months

*Front cover: Wynken, Blynken, and Nod, Maxfield Parrish (1870–1966). 1904. Photogravure.
For Eugene Field, Poems of Childhood. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904.*