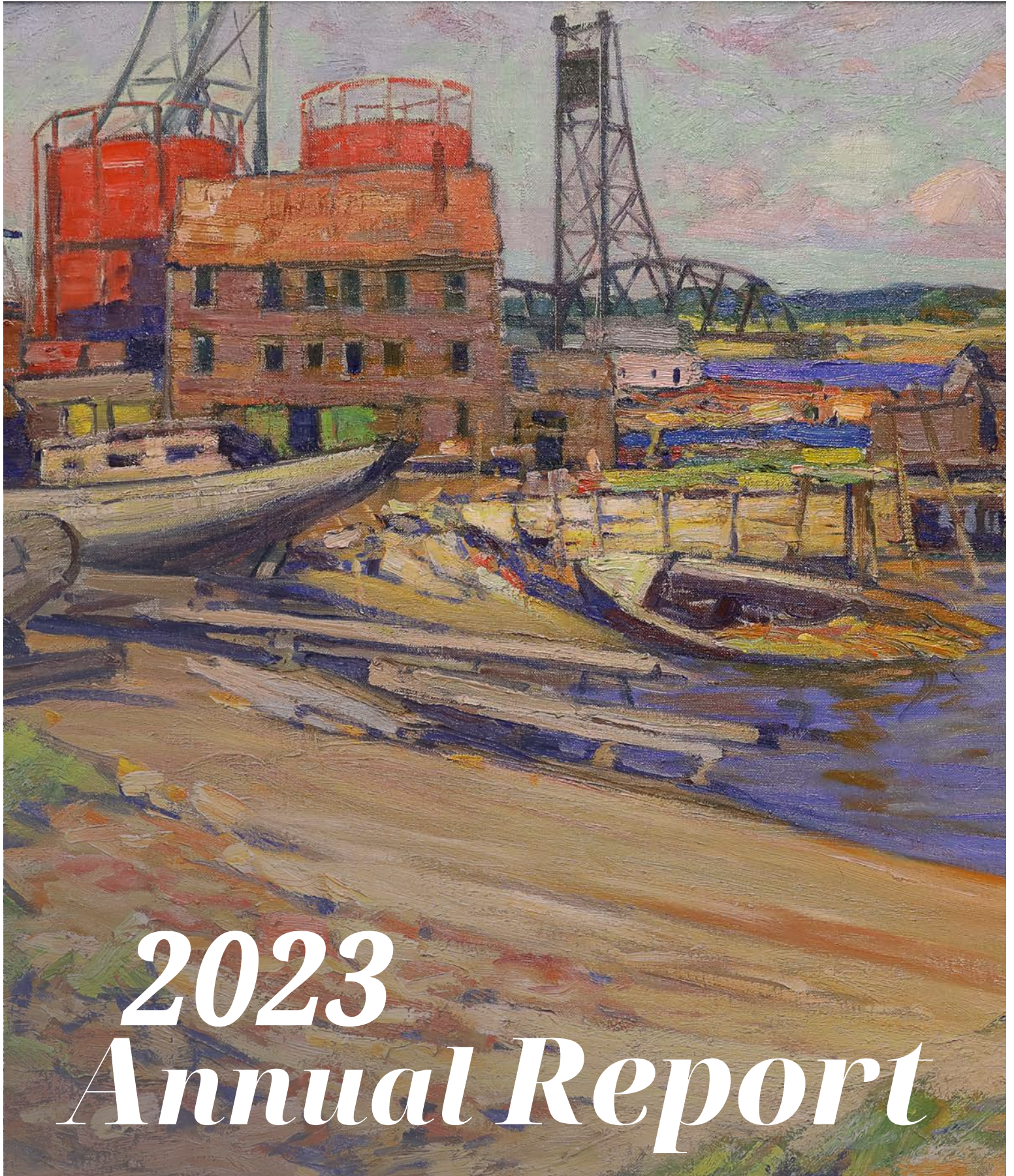




PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*2023
Annual Report*

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emma Stratton, Executive Director

In 2023, Portsmouth commemorated the 400th anniversary of European settlement. Amidst a host of city-wide events, our focus was on two captivating exhibitions: “A Sense of Place,” complementing the renowned *A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects* publication, and “Reinventing Portsmouth,” which delved into the city’s arts, culture, and historic preservation, juxtaposed against the challenging backdrop of urban renewal in the 1970s. Moreover, we launched a new introductory video on Portsmouth’s history, amplifying diverse voices and shedding light on previously underrepresented facets of our city’s past.

Our dedication to public engagement was evident through remarkable growth in our programs. Innovative series such as Portsmouth on Tap, Read It and Eat, and Family Days attracted over 2,000 enthusiastic participants.

Behind the scenes, we developed a new strategic plan, confirming our commitment to sustainability, growth, and inclusivity. The Portsmouth Historical Society serves as a source of community connection, welcoming both new members and familiar faces. With a record-breaking number of individuals engaged in our work last year, we take pride in being recognized as a vibrant hub where Portsmouth’s history truly comes alive.

I’m exceptionally grateful to be part of a fantastic team of colleagues, Board members, and volunteers—all of whom had a hand in 2023’s success.

As we enter into 2024, we will continue to expand our work out into the community through programs, advocacy, exhibitions, walking tours, and more. We hope you will join us once again in exploring Portsmouth’s past, present, and future.



Emma Stratton, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Historical Society

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STRATEGIC PLAN

The board and staff of the Portsmouth Historical Society began our strategic plan process in late 2022 and were delighted to adopt our plan in late 2023. The new plan codifies our commitment to inclusive storytelling, so we can begin to tell all stories of

Portsmouth's history and also reaffirm our work in historic preservation advocacy. We are excited to move more fully into advocacy work and to become a voice for historic preservation in our community.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

Cultivate and enrich a greater understanding of Portsmouth histories



scan here for the full strategic plan

VALUES

Stewardship

Inclusiveness

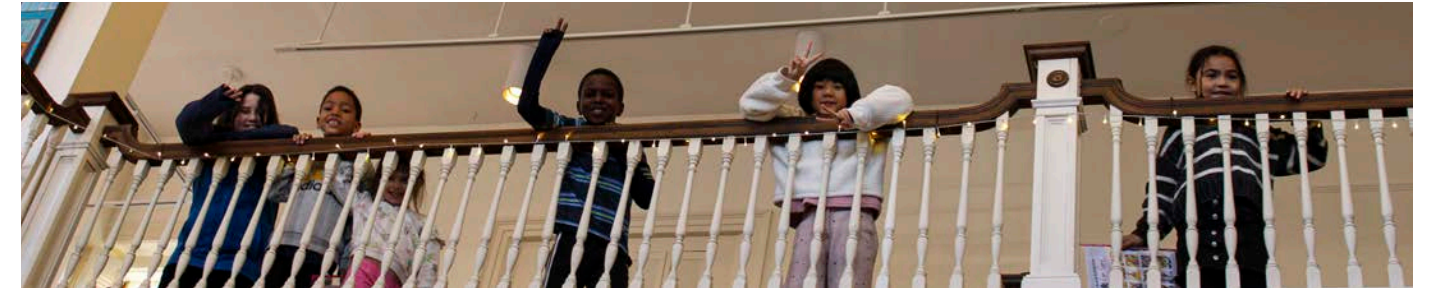
Advocacy

Collaboration

Integrity



WHERE PORTSMOUTH HISTORY COMES ALIVE



Priority

1

Diverse Stories

Collection Understanding and Curation
Exhibitions and Programs
Digital Archiving

Priority

2

Community Engagement

Partnership
Interactive Events
Volunteer and Membership Programs

Priority

3

Inclusivity

Accessibility
Representation in Leadership

Priority

4

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability
Building Sustainability
Financial Sustainability
Operational Sustainability

Priority

5

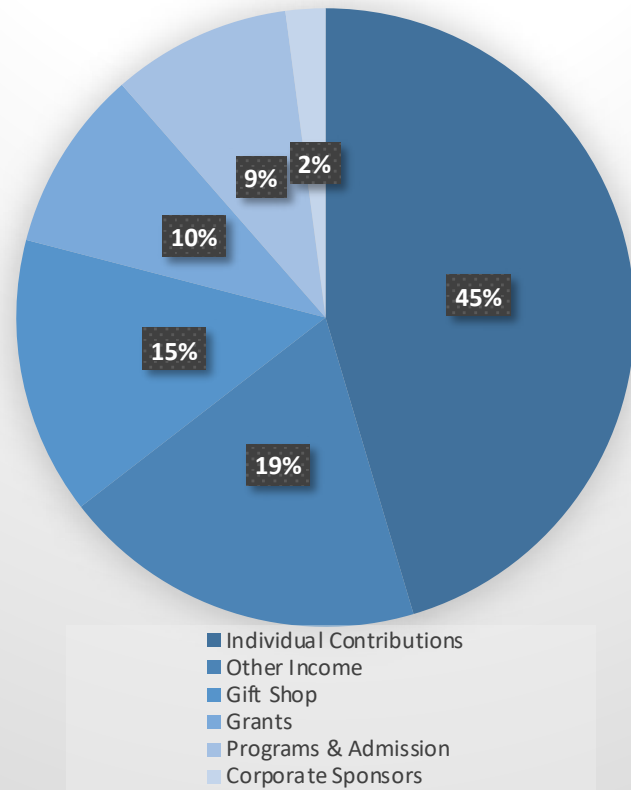
Advocacy

Policy Advocacy
Public Awareness Campaigns
Education

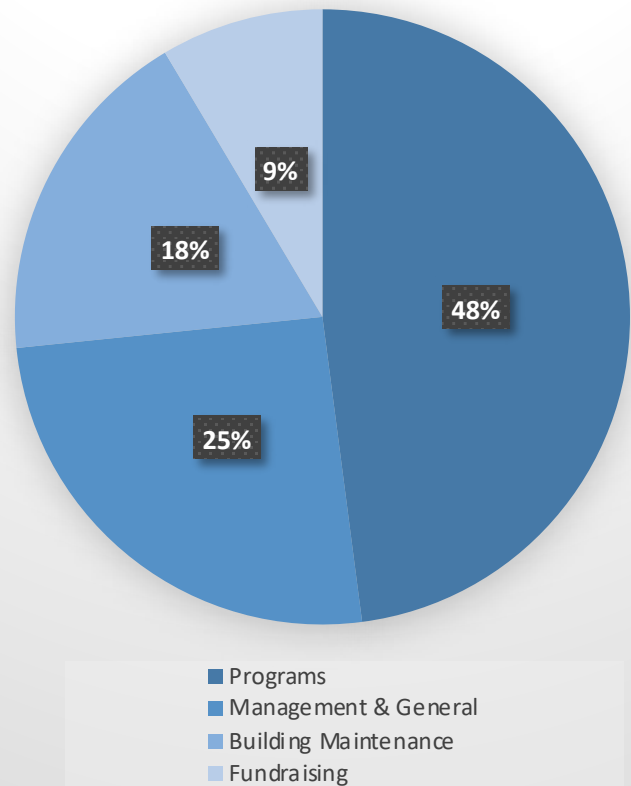
By focusing on these five priorities, the Portsmouth Historical Society aims to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable organization that actively contributes to the preservation and celebration of Portsmouth's diverse history.

FINANCIALS

2023 Income



2023 Expenses



Portsmouth Historical Society Balance Sheet January - December 2023

	Total
ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	
Restricted Use	\$ 668,711.66
Unrestricted	\$ 220,042.64
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 888,754.30
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,895.80
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 2,851.63
Total Current Assets	\$ 895,501.73
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 2,747,797.37
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,643,299.10
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 13,563.13
Total Credit Cards	\$ 1,797.28
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 16,072.20
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 31,432.61
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 1,225.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 32,657.61
Total Equity	\$ 3,610,641.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 3,643,299.10

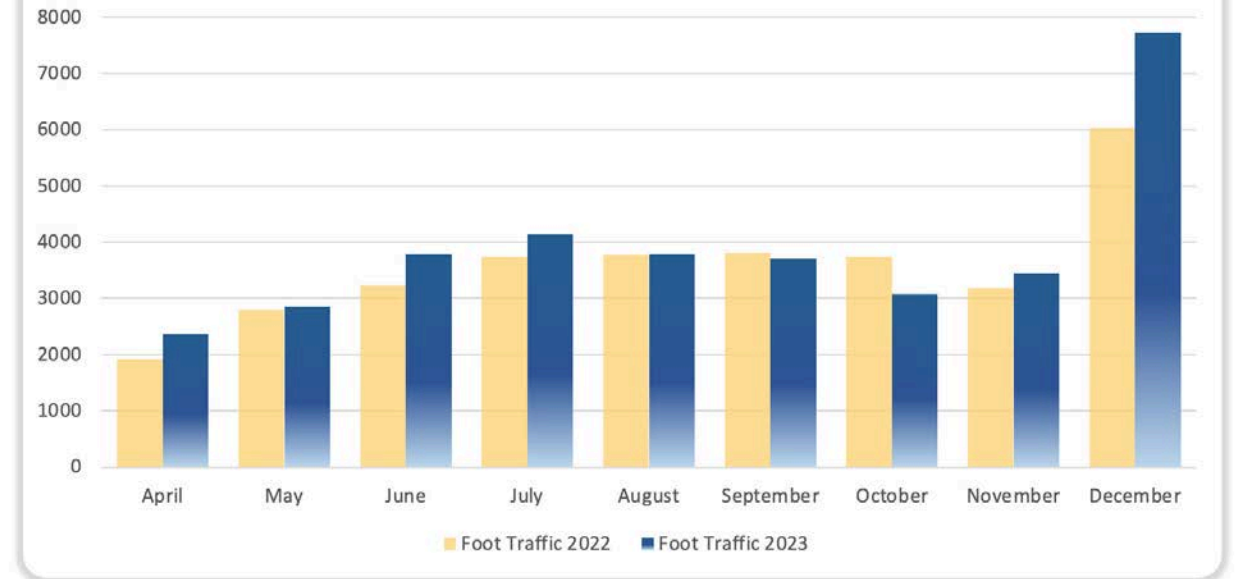
Portsmouth Historical Society Profit and Loss January - December 2023

	Total
Revenue	
Contributions and Grants	\$ 291,884.38
Revenue from program-related sales & fees	\$ 61,217.75
Revenue from dues	\$ 48,776.45
Revenue from investments	\$ 95,711.47
Revenue from other sources	\$ 475.00
Museum Shop Income	\$ 84,950.57
Total Revenue	\$ 589,222.19
Gross Profit	\$ 589,222.19
Expenditures	
Museum Shop Expense	\$ 28,958.66
Salaries & related expenses	\$ 541,670.89
Contract service expenses	\$ 63,595.83
Non-personnel expenses	\$ 22,852.55
Facility & equipment expenses	\$ 116,254.53
Travel & meeting expenses	\$ 2,758.36
Program Expenses	\$ 24,877.06
Other expenses	\$ 52,098.74
Business expenses	\$ (125,713.29)
Total Expenditures	\$ 727,560.49
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (138,338.30)
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 112,880.40
Net Revenue	\$ (25,457.90)

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

VISITATION

Museum Traffic by Month 2023 vs. 2022



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, workshops, and more) and visitors during our many events and rentals.

34,901
total foot traffic in 2023

32,243
total foot traffic in 2022

MARKETING AND OUTREACH

The year 2023 was the first time that Portsmouth Historical Society had a full-time Marketing Manager on staff to oversee all print and digital marketing. Consistency across platforms and a more intentional, data-driven approach characterized our strategy across all platforms. Last year, Google Analytics was added to our website for the first time, tracking user traffic and behavior for the year. Analytics has influenced our strategies to increase visitor traffic through Search Engine Optimization, identifying new keywords to incorporate on our website, such as "iconic Portsmouth places."

The organization has also increased its visibility by developing connections with other local businesses. An in-kind partnership with Seacoast Lately, a regional events social account, increased our visibility on social platforms with a demographic between ages 25–45.

A long-lasting project for 2023 was updating the decade-old welcome video. Along with Atlantic Media, new interviews and images were selected to tell a more inclusive history of Portsmouth. We hope that this 15-minute-long film will orient visitors for years to come.



Our Gingerbread Exhibition was included in a PBS special, airing on 137 PBS stations nationally, with a potential reach of 150 million viewers.

COLLECTIONS

This year the Collections and Exhibitions team have moved the permanent collection to an online, cloud-based database called CatalogIt. Previously, the collection was housed on Past Perfect, which was only accessible on one computer. CatalogIt not only has desktop access, but a mobile app as well. Now, information can be updated at the drop of a hat! With the help of volunteers Lynne Costa, Brenda Brewster, and Diane Fagan Affleck, the records have been cleaned up and new information added. The next step is preparing for an online hub for visitors to view through our website.

Adopt an Artifact

This program was started in 2023 to bring attention to the critical work that our conservators do in order to preserve historical artifacts for future generations. We have approximately 3,000 objects in our collection, and much like any antiques, they require a little TLC. Artifacts often need specialized care or housing to keep them in stable condition. While all objects have their eventual lifespan; things such as damage, poor storage, and exposure can shorten that time.

In 2023 our Curator and Collections Manager got together with members and an expert in the field to showcase several artifacts and bring attention to their condition and needs. This members-exclusive event touched on why we save what we save, and what kind of detailed work is involved in caring for the physical artifacts that make up the story of Portsmouth.



Turtle carving, New England, possibly Portsmouth, 1810-20, ox bone and mixed media. Box is one-inch deep. Gift of Susan Cooper (2023.003).



Collections Manager Molly Liolos shows details on a pair of 19th century gloves to museum member Sharon Churchill at the inaugural Adopt an Artifact program.

We are excited to bring this program back each year during the summer, so that we can give our community a behind-the-scenes peek at what hands-on historical conservation really means. All adoptions support our preservation mission, and make a tangible impact on improving the 'lives' of the items in our collection.

ARTIFACTS SUPPORTED IN 2023:

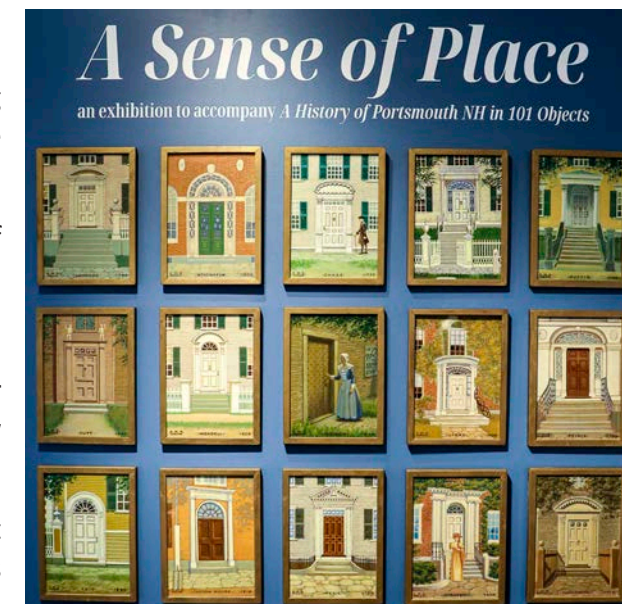
- Bodice supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Child's Dress supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Frank Jones Poster supported by Ellen Fineberg & Vincent Lombardi, and Elizabeth Valway
- Hair Wreath supported in honor of Molly Liolos
- Pitcher supported by Gordon Stone
- Polly supported by Margaret L. Clarke, in honor of Anna Herrera, and by Ellen & Walt Patton
- Ruth Blay Quilt supported by Diane Fagan Affleck, Robin Albert, Ceal Anderson, in honor of Patricia Brunette, and by Tammi Truax
- Tray supported by Karen McDonnell
- Unknown Portrait By Susan Ricker Knox supported by Tom Kaufhold
- Worktable supported by Sharon Churchill

EXHIBITIONS

Our collaboration with other local institutions and the Portsmouth400 project made "A Sense of Place: An Exhibition to Accompany *A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects*" an engaging exhibition for local residents, as well as a diverse overview of the history of our city for visitors. Upstairs, "Reinventing Portsmouth, Renewal to Renaissance: 1970s" garnered so much interest and praise from local residents that we are currently pursuing a publication with Bob Thoresen to more fully explore the topics covered in the galleries.

In the fall, we hosted fan favorites the Pastel Society of NH and the Abstract Four—Barbara Adams, Tom Glover, Peter Cady, and Dustan Knight—in our Balcony Gallery. We also installed a small, semi-permanent exhibition in our Program Room of objects, paintings, and prints in our collection to ensure that our treasures are always on view at 10 Middle Street.

"Captain, Celebrity, & Cliché" continued to be on view at the John Paul Jones House and continued to delight visitors with the lore and myth of Captain John Paul Jones himself.



Entry to "A Sense of Place" featuring 15 small paintings of historic properties in Portsmouth by H.M.S Harlow.

All Things Merry and Bright

In 2023, we celebrated our 33rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition with the theme, "Portsmouth Past, Present, and Future." Participants rose to the challenge and gave us everything from futuristic rock shows in Prescott Park to iconic Portsmouth tugboats, tall ships, and submarines! We never fail to be impressed by the creativity, ingenuity, and engineering prowess of these gingerbread architects. Gelatin sheet windows, bubble gum siding, rock candy pavement, peppermint shingles – visitors always leave abuzz with new ideas for the next contest! For the first time this year, we also hosted an in-house gingerbread house workshop, an ugly sweater cookie swap to celebrate the season (and bring even more sugar into the building, of course), and a smash to round out the season. We look forward to our 34th show in 2024 and thank our volunteer committee for all their support, including Kait Smith, Mary Ellen Hoermann, and Jillian Marquis.



"The Albacore in Action" by the Monarch School



"I ❤️ Portsmouth" by Sandi Strzepek



"Alien Concert at Prescott Park, 2423" by Barbara, Jackson, Zoë, and Oliver Ward

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Education

The Portsmouth Historical Society continues to provide Portsmouth's 3rd-grade students with a year-long local history program. Monthly classroom visits, artifact investigations, and the much anticipated downtown Portsmouth walking tour field trip are part of our free educational program. Schools included New Franklin, Little Harbour, and Dondero Elementary. School walking tour sites included John Paul Jones House, Moffatt-Ladd House, Moffatt-Ladd Warehouse, Portsmouth Athenaeum, and African Burying Ground.



A third-grade class from New Franklin Elementary School visited the John Paul Jones House in May to cap off our year-long outreach to local, public schools.

Programs

This year witnessed tremendous growth for programs at the Historical Society. Our aim has been not only to bring in more visitors, but to diversify the types of programming we run in the hopes of reaching new, first-time audiences. History can get a bad rap as something stuffy and staid; we wanted to recontextualize how our visitors interact with the subject by presenting exciting hands-on activities, workshops, partnership programs with unique organizations, and events for the whole family.

In addition to these new series, we hosted many other workshops, lectures, community discussions, and curator tours. Some highlights include our Brewster Series bark-basket workshop with indigenous artist Jennifer Lee, a wonderful community conversation on the 1970s Portsmouth art scene with Marguerite Mathews, Jon Kimbell, and Bob Thoresen, and the return of our popular Curator Tours that provide visitors with an in-depth look at our exhibitions. Beyond our on-site work, we also began hosting more events in the community including a presentation and round of history trivia at the Portsmouth Senior Center.

New Programs in 2023



Family Days

Held monthly on Saturdays, these events center around a theme, such as gardening, mending, ocean conservation, or experimental art and include hands-on activities for kids of all ages.



Knit Happens

Held monthly on Friday afternoons, is yarn social circle fosters conversations between community members and allows us to bring out unique fiber pieces from our collection to show and inspire the group.



Read it and Eat!

A potluck series that very literally brings people to the table (in our galleries!) to build community around recipes from local cookbooks.

Portsmouth On Tap

Connecting to new audiences by hosting history-themed trivia (paired with history-themed beer of course!) at five Portsmouth-based breweries.



Humanities to Go

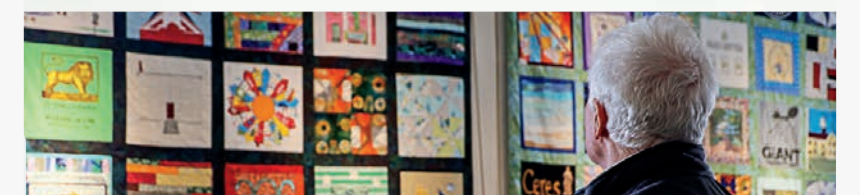
New Hampshire Humanities' statewide speakers' bureau allowed us to host historians, specialists, professors, and musicians for lectures, workshops, and performances that were free to the public.



Hands-on Workshops

Bringing history and craft together through several one-off workshops, we were able to work with a diverse group of New England artists who guided attendees in creating their own one-of-a-kind projects to take home.





FACILITIES



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

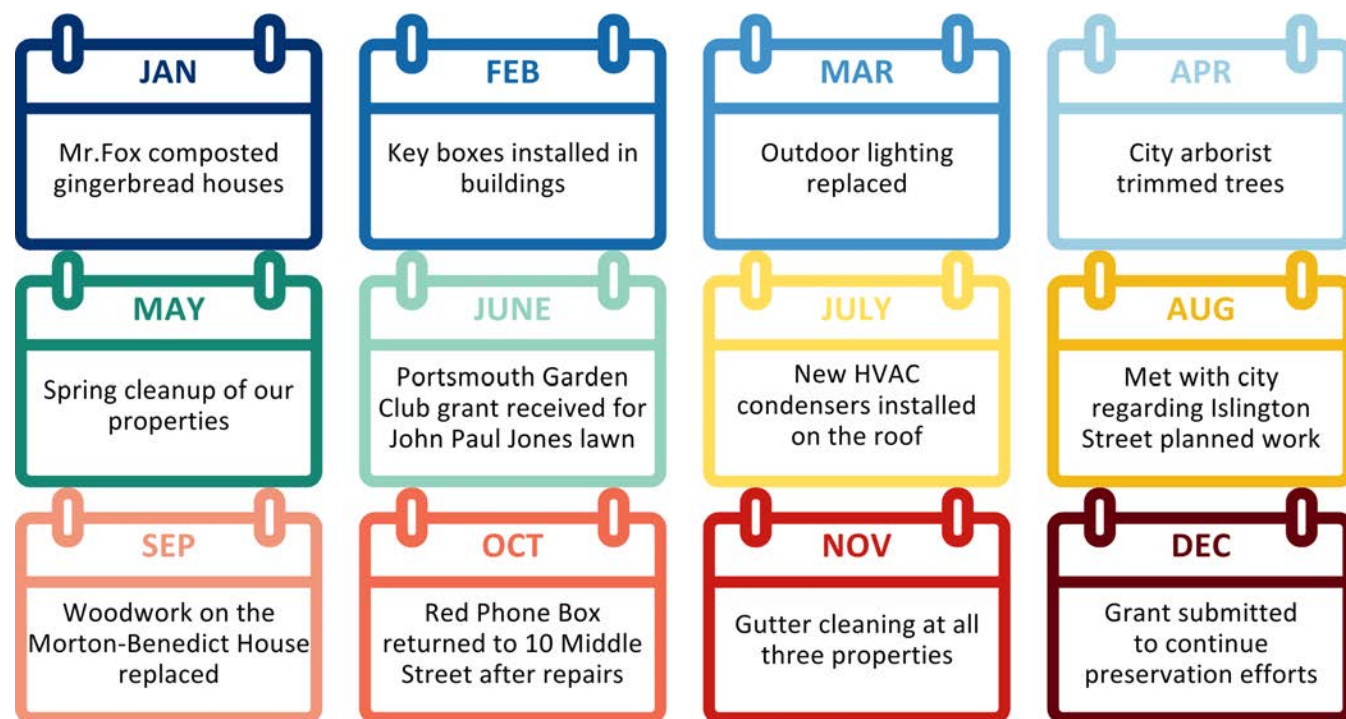
The former Beck family home at 43 Austin Street remains under the stewardship of the Portsmouth Historical Society. We continue to provide preventative maintenance including groundskeeping, furnace inspection, gutter cleaning, and more. In addition, we held conversations with many different community partners about a potential adaptive reuse of the Beck House. We look forward to sharing more information with you soon.



Repair work on the Morton-Benedict facade removed staining on the bricks and made repairs to exterior woodwork.

Thanks to a grant from the 1772 Foundation, we were able to start work on the facade of the Morton-Benedict House. We were able to repair rotted window sills, preserve wooden columns at the entrance to the building, and complete a wash of the bricks to help improve its appearance. Additional grant funding has been secured for 2024 to complete the exterior work to include painting and masonry repairs.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



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

Hollis Brodrick
Richard M. Candee
Susan Cooper
Ellen Fineberg and Vince Lombardi
Tom Kaufhold
Kevin LaFond
New Castle Historical Society
Caryl Sawtelle
John Willoughby
And several anonymous donors

Donors to the Library and Archives

Sally Baybutt
Kim Caldwell
Charles and Mary Garland
Leah Lachance
Alvin Schaut
Cheryl Sprague
Barbara McLean Ward and Gerald W.R. Ward

RECENT ACQUISITION

Founded in 1980 by Randon Eddy and Mercie Chick, the Iris Women's Club was located at 40 Pleasant Street in Portsmouth. As Eddy recalled: "It was always billed as a Women's Club. A safe place for women to visit and leave any harassment or stress from the outside, sometime unforgiving world, behind." The iris flower gets its name from the Greek messenger goddess of the rainbow. The rainbow has been a prominent image within the LGBTQ+ community since 1978, when the first rainbow pride flag, designed by Gilbert Baker, was introduced at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The private Iris club may have been the first organized lesbian club in the Seacoast and the only private lesbian club in New England at the time. It had some six hundred members when it closed in 1987.

Given by Tom Kaufhold, head of the Seacoast NH LGBTQ History Project, the Iris sign represents an initiative by the Historical Society to collect objects that are representative of the history of the Seacoast's communities as a whole and in all their diversity.



Randon Eddy (b. 1947), Iris Club sign, Portsmouth, 1980s, Carved and painted wood. Portsmouth Historical Society; Gift of Tom Kaufhold (2023.013).

DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, new Development Manager Kim Simmons hit the ground running. Since starting in January, she has dedicated herself to increasing Portsmouth Historical Society's outreach, fundraising, and capacity to complete large projects. We restructured admissions to give discounts to local residents and joined Museums for All, a program which allows us to provide free tickets to people on SNAP/EBT. With the ability to follow up more consistently with members, we were able to grow our membership from 359 people at the end of 2022, to 461 members at the end of 2023.

Grants received this year covered more than just exhibition costs; we were awarded funds that allowed us to see to much-needed deferred maintenance. A grant seminar mid-July helped us focus our requests, and with those new tools in mind

we were honored to receive a \$20,000 unrestricted operating grant from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, as well as a \$7,500 grant to improve the storage and housing of our 3,000 object collection. In addition to adding a new program to support the conservation of our historical objects, Adopt an Artifact, Portsmouth Historical Society collaborated with local partners to put on a murder mystery event at the Music Hall Lounge in September.

We look forward to a fun and engaging year in this seaside community we call home. History is our passion and we are happy to share that passion with everyone who visits us here in the heart of Portsmouth. Thank you for being a part of our important mission to tell Portsmouth stories.

We could not do all that we do without you.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Corporate Sponsors

\$5,000
Kennebunk Savings Bank

\$2,500
EnviroVantage
Newburyport Bank

\$1,500
The Chamber Collective of
Greater Portsmouth

\$1,000
Avery Insurance
Bangor Savings Bank
Devine, Millimet & Branch
Professional Association
Piscataqua Savings Bank
Seacoast Lately

\$500
St. Mary's Bank



Representatives from exhibition sponsor Kennebunk Savings Bank stop by the Gingerbread Exhibition to serve as contest judges.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS, LIBRARY MEMBERS, IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

In-Kind Sponsors

- Aster House
- Bangor Savings Bank
- The Black Dog
- Richard Candee
- Celtic Crossing
- Circle Furniture
- Diversions Puzzles & Games
- Flatbread Company
- G. Willikers
- The Hammer Pub & Grille
- Ken Goldman
- Gus & Ruby Letterpress
- Kennedy Gallery & Custom Framing
- Nicholas Lasinsky
- Macro Polo LLC
- New Hampshire Made
- Popovers on the Square
- Portsmouth Soap Company
- David Pratt
- Richardson's Market
- RiverRun Bookstore
- Alvin Schaut
- Société
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Warner's Card & Gift Shop

Foundation Supporters

- \$25,000+**
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- \$5,000– \$10,000**
Fuller Foundation
New Hampshire State Council of the Arts
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
Schleyer Foundation
Madeline von Weber Trust
- \$1,000– \$2,500**
New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (1772 Foundation)
Horizon Foundation
New Hampshire Humanities
Rosamund Thaxter Foundation
- Up to \$999**
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program - LCHIP
Portsmouth Garden Club

Library Members

- Lee Public Library
- North Hampton Public Library
- Portsmouth Public Library



Key sponsorships from Newburyport Bank and Kennebunk Savings Bank allowed us to keep our Family Day programs free for the public.



The Madeline G. Von Weber grant provided needed funds to improve our collections storage.

2023 MEMBERS AND DONORS

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

\$100,000 +

Martha Fuller Clark

\$5,000–\$15,000

Diane Fagan Affleck and James Affleck
Sharon Churchill
Charles Doleac
Joseph MacDonald Family
Ed and Fran Mallon
McNabb Properties
Robert and Susan Thoresen

\$1,000–\$4,999

John and Pamela Blalock
Bill and Linda Ceruzzi
Beverly Donahue
Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Foster
Granite State Minerals
Ann Hartman
John and Joan Henderson
Edward Lopes
Jay and Amanda McSharry
In memory of Merrilee J Posner
Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
James and Deborah Somes
Barbara Sweet

\$500–\$999

Michael Berounsky
William and Arlene Brewster
James Buttrick
Patricia and Lance Day-Lollini
Sandra and Gregory DeSisto
Chris Dwyer and Mike Huxtable
Sally and David Falck
Jameson and Priscilla French
Sally and Alan Gayer
James Gray
Nancy Hammond
Deborah and David Kanner
John and Debora Mayer
William McCarthy and Ana Egana
David Panek and Barbara Van Buskirk

Nancy Pearson
Teresa Rhodes Rosenberger
Gayle Sawtelle and Eric Maskin
Gloria Wennberg

\$250–\$499

Christopher and Gay Adams
Steve Amraen
Karen Battles and James Shanley
Peter Bergh and Janet Prince
Nicole Bodoh
Rebecca and John Brewster-Taylor
Lorn and Rosalie Buxton
Birgit Christiansen and Patrick Malloy
Michael Chubrich and Donna Saunders
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Darcy Davidson and Robert Snover
Natalie DeCristofaro
R. David Drucker
Julie Gowen Fehrstrom
Joanne and Peter Foster
Barbara Franzoso and Bob LeGros
C. Wes Gardner
Charles Gardner Jr.

Neil and Helen Garvey
James and Donna-Belle Garvin
Jay Gibson and Mary Pat Gibson
Jane and Jerry Gnazzo
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Laurie Kennedy
Jack McGee, Jr., Esq. and Diane McGee
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Michaela Neiro and Tom Martin
Richard and Jane Nylander
Dawn Przychodzien and Beth Jefferson
Lee and Rodney Roberts
James Rosenfield
Kerry and Peter Rubinstein
Daphne and Peter Schwab
Lucinda Spaney
David Taylor and Bonnie Price
James and Theresa Terry
Joan Waldron
Katie Wheeler
Christopher and Alice White
David and Margaret Witham
Julia and Martin Wybourne
Conley and Mike Zani
Susan Zuckert and Steve Rogers

\$100–\$249

Randy Absher and Carolyn Trosky-Absher
Richard and Barbara Adams
Robin Albert and Wayne Lehman
Robert Andelman and Kathryn Lynch
Mary Anker
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Joan and Frank Graf
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Michael and Cynthia Harvell
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William Littlefield
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Jan McManus
David Melick

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Judy Miller and Arthur Carakatsane
Priscilla Miller
Chi Mo and Lourdes Rodriguez-Mo
Mike Neilio
Terie Norelli
Luise Palace
Chuck Petlick
Susan Philbrick and Peter Wissel
Regina Piantedosi
Nancy and Walter Pierce
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Noreen Polus
Joe Porter
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Maureen Raeside
John and Joan Rice
Meghan Rice
Knut and Jean Roalsvig
Doug Roberts
Dennis Robinson
Elisabeth Robinson
James and Michelle Robinson
Judith Ryde
Carol and Robert Sawyer
Brenda and Tony Scolaro
Paula and Elton Shaffer
Caroline and Andrew Sloat
Kathleen Soldati
Peter Somssich and Kathleen Pohlman-Somssich
David and Janet Splaine
Bill and Bonnie Stafford
Michael and Laurie Steinberg
Martha and Eric Stone
Penelope and Richard Stratton
Strawbery Banke Museum
Donna Sully
Robert and Ann Swan
Kathryn Taylor and Kenneth Louis
Elaine Tefft
Carol Theurer
Michael Thiel and Gail Richard
Jeffrey and Corky Thomson
Danna and Bill Truslow
David and Linda Underhill
Elizabeth and William Valway
Austin and Phillip Vancelette
Lee and Peter Vandermark
Anna Vorsteg-Boyd
Sandra Walent
Thomas and Kathleen Watson
David Watters and Janice Alberghene
Peter and Pat Weeks
Donald and Carol Welsh
Gisela Wemple
Mark Willis
Mara Witzling

Joanne and Dean Wolfe

Up to \$99

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Stephen Alie
Sue and David Allen
Tim Allison and Estie Ott
Jean M Alvanas
Linda and Erik Anderson
Mark Anderson and Robin Silva
Suzanne and Brittany Anderson
Denise Ankarberg
Mark Ankarberg
Karla Armenti
Judy Arnold
Melissa Austin-Weeks
Cheri Bach and Roger Clum
Michael Bacher
Patricia and Richard Bagley
Karen Bailey
Louisa Bain
Melanie and Todd Baker
Gil Barndollar
Karin and Stephen Barndollar
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Strawbery Banke Museum
Donna Sully
Robert and Ann Swan
Kathryn Taylor and Kenneth Louis
Elaine Tefft
Carol Theurer
Michael Thiel and Gail Richard
Jeffrey and Corky Thomson
Danna and Bill Truslow
David and Linda Underhill
Elizabeth and William Valway
Austin and Phillip Vancelette
Lee and Peter Vandermark
Anna Vorsteg-Boyd
Sandra Walent
Thomas and Kathleen Watson
David Watters and Janice Alberghene
Peter and Pat Weeks
Donald and Carol Welsh
Gisela Wemple
Mark Willis
Mara Witzling

Jack and Dianne Chambers
Linda Cheatham
Deborah and Tom Child
Margaret Clarke
Stephen Clarkson and Mary Claire
Nancy Clayburgh
Burt and Patty Cohen
Linda Cohen
Ellen Cohn and Martin Richman
Roddy Cole
Kent Collins and Family
Will Cooper
Jane Copp
Lynne Costa
Matthew Craig
Ann Cummings and Jim Lee
Judith Custer
Judy Dandison
Suzanne Danforth
Michael and Elizabeth Dater
Kathryn Davis
Victoria Davis
Kim Davis Smith
Joosje and Maarten de Ruiter
Charles DeGrandpre, Esq. and Marsha DeGrandpre
Anthony and Patricia Delyani
Jeff and Blair Demers
Paula Dempsey
Frank and Janet Dennett
Kaitlin Deyo
Sandra and John Dika
Rose Downes
Janet Doyle
Virginia Drew and Judy Barnette
Tim Driscoll and Mary Ann
Dudley Dudley
Sharon Dunbar
Lorrie Eastwick and John Haskell
Carol and Everett Eaton
Eric Ebbeson
Amy Lou Emanuel-Bassett and Luke Bassett
Rose Eppard
David Ewing
Sherrill Fawcett
Corbe Feeney
Tess Feltes and Mark Moses
Dennis Fink
Elizabeth Fischer
Shirley Floyd
Paul and Kristin Ford
Barry and Suzanne Foley
Sue Forti and Bob Houlihan
Stephen Foster
Brandy Francis
Christine Friese and Tony Cuda
Darlene Furbush and Neal Ouellett
Felice Fullam
Thomas Fuller



Members enjoyed the first chance to purchase tickets for our Murder Mystery Event, held at the Music Hall Lounge, where a group of actors presented the evidence for a murder case loosely based on the Smuttynose Murders.

Vivienne Gale
 Kevin Galeaz
 Greg Gathers
 Brian Gibb and Chris Williams
 Lucy Gilson
 Richard and Julie Gilston
 Donald Gindlesperger
 John and Linda Gisis
 Christine and Steven Glazer
 Steven Goldthwaite
 Susan Goodman
 Rebecca Gould and William Buckley
 Mary Graff
 Mary Lou Green
 John and Susan Groves
 Kathryn Gunderson
 Thomas Haas
 Jennifer Hance
 Greg Hankinson
 Martin Hanssmann
 Thomas Hardiman
 Deloris Harrison
 Cynthia and Michael Hart
 Martha Shanley Hass
 Karen and James Helm
 Arlene Hill and Bill Wells
 Stephanie Hewson
 Margaret and Kevin Hodges
 Joanne Holman and Lance Hellman
 Etoile and Jonathan Holzaepfel
 Annette Hope-Ross
 Cynthia Hosmer
 Catherine Howard
 Fernanda Howard and Greg George
 Fred Howell
 Don Hoyt
 Sue Hubbard
 Rod and Linda Hurst
 Carol Hutchins
 Sabina Ion and Troy Samuels
 Lee Isdell and Deborah Anderson
 Nancy and Andy Jaffe
 Barbara Jasinski and Thomas Beardsley
 Judy Jellinek
 Alison and Craig Jewett
 Terry Karnan
 Tom Kaufhold and Michael Englehardt
 Jo-anwyl Foster Keefe
 Alice and Richard King

Clare Kittredge and Ted Jankowski
 Linda King
 Charleen Knight
 Kearn and Nancy Knowles
 Meredith Kobzik
 John Kocak and Beverly J. Everett
 Ezra Krieg and Marsha Eisenberg
 Michael and Carol Lahan
 Josephine Lamprey
 Bradford Landon
 Larry Lariviere
 Suzanne Laurent
 Dianne LaVoie
 Sherry and Robin Leaver
 Joel Lefever and Janet Blyberg
 Ellen and Dexter Legg
 Prebbie Leonardi
 Suzanne LeVan
 Jeralyn Lewitz
 Roberta Lippemeier
 Patricia Losik
 Katrina Loudon
 Peter Loughlin
 Molly Lynch
 Johanna Lyons
 Terry and Peg MacDonald
 Janet MacKay
 John and Skye Maher
 Barbara Malandrino
 Fran Mallon
 Cyndy Maloney
 Ann Malpass
 Mary and John Maier
 Beth Margeson
 Ellen Marlatt and Kathleen Wheeler
 John and Catherine Marr
 David Mason
 Tom McCarron
 Laurie McCarthy
 Michele McCarthy
 Joanne McDonough
 Ms Jennifer Meconi
 Patricia Meyers
 Dan Miller
 Sally Minkow
 Richard Minnick
 Thomas and Susan Moore
 Kevin and Nicole Murphy
 Carol Newbury
 Sarah Newick
 Barbara Newton

Katherine O'Brien
 Peg O'Neil
 Barbara Pamboukes
 John Pappas
 Monika Parker
 Veronica Parsloe
 Ellen and Walter Patton
 Shawn Pelech
 Patricia Penhallow
 Joel and Janet Phelps
 Julia Phelps and Steve McKenzie
 Frederick Pineau
 Dean Plager and Barclay Jackson
 Jane Porter
 Laura Pope and John Schnitzler
 Portsmouth Submarine
 Memorial Association
 Katharine and Stephen Pounds
 Crystal Pratt-Bushey
 Adele and Frederick Pulitzer
 Tim and Paula Purington
 Ralph Merrill Lincoln Revocable Trust
 Christine Randall
 Peter and Judith Randall
 David and Donata Random
 Elizabeth Crawford Reisz
 Jane and Fred Reynolds
 Peter Rice
 James Rosenfield and Jane Armstrong
 Thom Rossi
 Carolyn and Timothy Roy
 James Russ
 Patricia and Louis Salome
 Elizabeth Sanborn
 David and Eleonore Sanderson
 Caryl Sawtelle
 Jennifer Schwartz
 Lisa and Dan Schwarz
 Amy Sears
 Nancy Seesman
 Anna Senechal Rodgers
 Brenda Shanley
 Cynthia Shanley
 Kathleen Shannon
 Ron Sher
 Sarah Sherman
 Arnold and Barbara Silverstone
 Nicole Snow
 Barbara and Joseph Sobol
 Margaret Sofio and James Tuckerman
 Ellen Spanks

Laura Spelke
 Sharon Spickler and Mark Gearreald
 Curt Springer
 Star Island Corporation
 Matt Stolpe
 Gordon and Janet Stone
 Sandy Stowe
 Linda Swiniuch
 Jim and Michele Swisher
 Elian Tackeff
 Celia Tapia-Long and Peter Long
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Tarbell
 Debbie Thayer
 Michelle Thompson
 Heather and Len Thomsen
 Betsy Tinkham and Steve Robinson
 Dr. Mary Tobkin
 Heather Tomlinson
 Tammi Truax
 Lisa Unwin
 Elias Urban
 Sandy Valpey Cordts
 Katrina and Phillip Vancelette
 Neal Venancio and Katherine Sherring
 Dee Vieira
 Peter and Ursula Vocca
 Phil von Hemert and Susan von Hemert
 Mr. Jeffrey Wade
 Jeff Warner and Lisa Schaus
 EJ Warren
 Harriot and Ford Weiskittel
 Katie and Richard Wentworth
 Wentworth by the Sea
 Jane Werner
 Karen and Peter Whelan
 Nicole and James White
 Susan Wierzba
 Lucinda Wigodo
 Judy Wilbur-Albertson and Donavon Albertson
 Louise Williams
 Matthew Wirth and Michelle Blaisdell Wirth
 Peggy Wishart
 Sarah Holle Wood
 Lichuan Wu
 Jonathan and Joann Wyckoff
 Robert and Marilyn Zimman

VOLUNTEERS

We count ourselves very lucky to have such a dynamic group of incredible volunteers. Their dedicated support is invaluable across everything we do, from cataloging new objects to assisting with programming to welcoming visitors, and much more. This year, our volunteers donated over 1,800 hours of their time, which we were able to track with our newly implemented scheduling software. This software, Volgistics, is both browser and app-based, and allows our volunteers to easily see all available shifts and sign up for them with a few clicks. On the backend, Volgistics gives us much better access to volunteer information and statistics. It has also

allowed us to streamline our onboarding process and bring volunteers smoothly from an interest form to an application to an interview, a background check, and, if all goes well, an account in our database.

Our volunteers are such kind, welcoming, knowledgeable, and creative people. That creativity was on full display at our volunteer appreciation party this year, which doubled as a Halloween costume party! We had witches, tennis players, vampires, construction workers, and more! We look forward to many more fun events next season!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers this year:

Randy Absher
 Diane Affleck
 Josette Almeida
 Michael Anderson
 Denise Ankarberg
 Karen Bailey
 Caroline Bain
 Louisa Bain
 Gina Blus
 Brenda Brewster
 Louise Cameron
 Richard Candee
 Alan Cohen
 Ellen Cohen

Lynne Costa
 Devaja Dutta
 Jennifer Hance
 Ann Hartman
 Mary Ellen Hoerman
 Tom Kaufhold
 Charlotte Leatherman
 Philip Lefebvre
 Fred Lewis
 Maia Little
 Jillian Marquis
 Mary Lou McElwain
 Barbara Newton
 Julia Phelps

Frederick Pineau
 Maureen Raeside
 Knut Roalsvig
 Reagan Ruedig
 Sam Ruel
 Barbara Sadick
 Elizabeth Sanborn
 Nancy Seesman
 Anna Senechal Rodgers
 Ron Sher
 Kait Smith
 Talia Sperduto
 Christine Stacey
 Victoria Stanhope

Amy Steinberg
 Gordon Stone
 Sandra Stowe
 Terri Terry
 Gail Thomas
 Bob Thoresen
 Austin Vancelette
 Elissa Von Letkemann
 Lucinda Wigode
 Evelyn Wilkinson
 David Wold
 Dean Wolfe

With thanks to our walking tour guides:

Randy Absher
 Alan Cohen
 Tom Kaufold
 Fred Lewis
 Knut Roalsvig
 Elizabeth Sanborn
 Ron Sher
 Jeff Thomson

With additional thanks to our volunteer guest curators:

Richard Candee, Robert Chase, and Bob Thoresen for "Reinventing Portsmouth"



Portsmouth Historical Society staff and volunteers celebrate Halloween. Photo © Kenneth R. Goldman

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Pearson, *President; Chair, Governance Committee*
 Charles Doleac, *Vice President*
 Peter Michaud, *Secretary*
 Pamela Yonkin, *Treasurer; Chair, Finance Committee*
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Linda Ceruzzi, *Chair, Programs Committee*
 Ellen Fineberg
 Ken Goldman
 Michaela Neiro, *Chair, Collections Committee*
 Kerry Vautrot, *Board Liaison, Portsmouth Advocates*

STAFF As of 12/31/2023

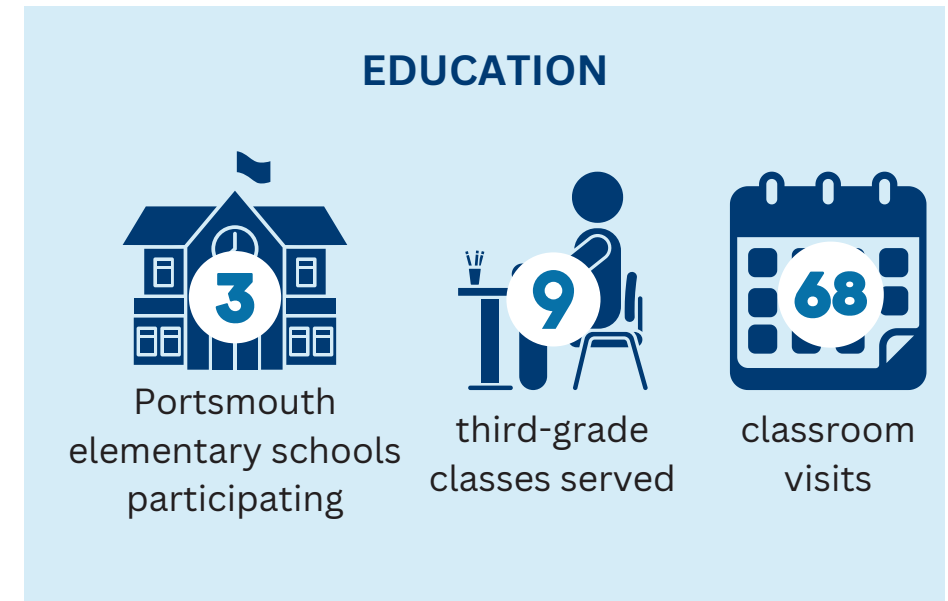
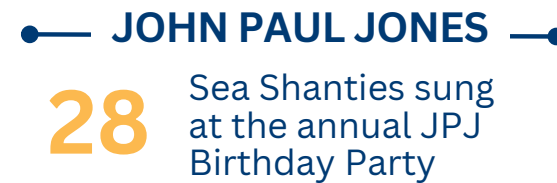
Emma Stratton , <i>Executive Director</i>	Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf , <i>Facilities & Walking Tour Manager</i>
Meredith Affleck , <i>Exhibitions Manager</i>	Kim Simmons , <i>Development Manager</i>
Beth Gross-Santos , <i>Welcome Center & Gift Shop Manager</i>	Sarah Robbitts-Terry , <i>Volunteer & Program Coordinator</i>
Sabina Ion , <i>Marketing Manager</i>	Jenn Thibadeau , <i>Program Manager</i>
Jessica Kliskey , <i>John Paul Jones House Site Manager</i>	Gerald W.R. Ward , <i>Curator and Editor</i>

With sincere thanks to our seasonal front desk staff:

Sharon Dunbar Christina Johns Roberta Lew Donna Theodossiou



2023 by the numbers



SOCIAL MEDIA

f 5,335 **ig** 2,615 **tw** 3,041



Most viewed post of 2023:
 April 18 red phone box removal

11,719 views
251 likes
71 comments

VOLUNTEERS



OVERVIEW OF THE 2024 CALENDAR

Exhibitions

“The Matter of Memory”
at 10 Middle Street

April 1 – November 3

John Paul Jones House Open to the Public

May 24 – October 14

“Finishing Touches”
at the John Paul Jones House

May 24 – October 14

“It’s Pastel!”
16th National Juried Exhibition by the Pastel Society of New Hampshire
at 10 Middle Street

October 27 – November 23

34th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition
at 10 Middle Street

November 29 – December 31

New Hampshire Furniture Masters
at 10 Middle Street

December 2 – December 30

Programs

Historic Portsmouth Walking Tours

Daily, May 1 – October 31

Twilight Tour
with the Portsmouth Historic Sites Associates

August 9

Curator Tours
free First Friday admission all day long

the first Fridays of the month
at 12:00 and 5:30 pm

Family Days
free drop-in activities and scheduled workshops for visitors of all ages

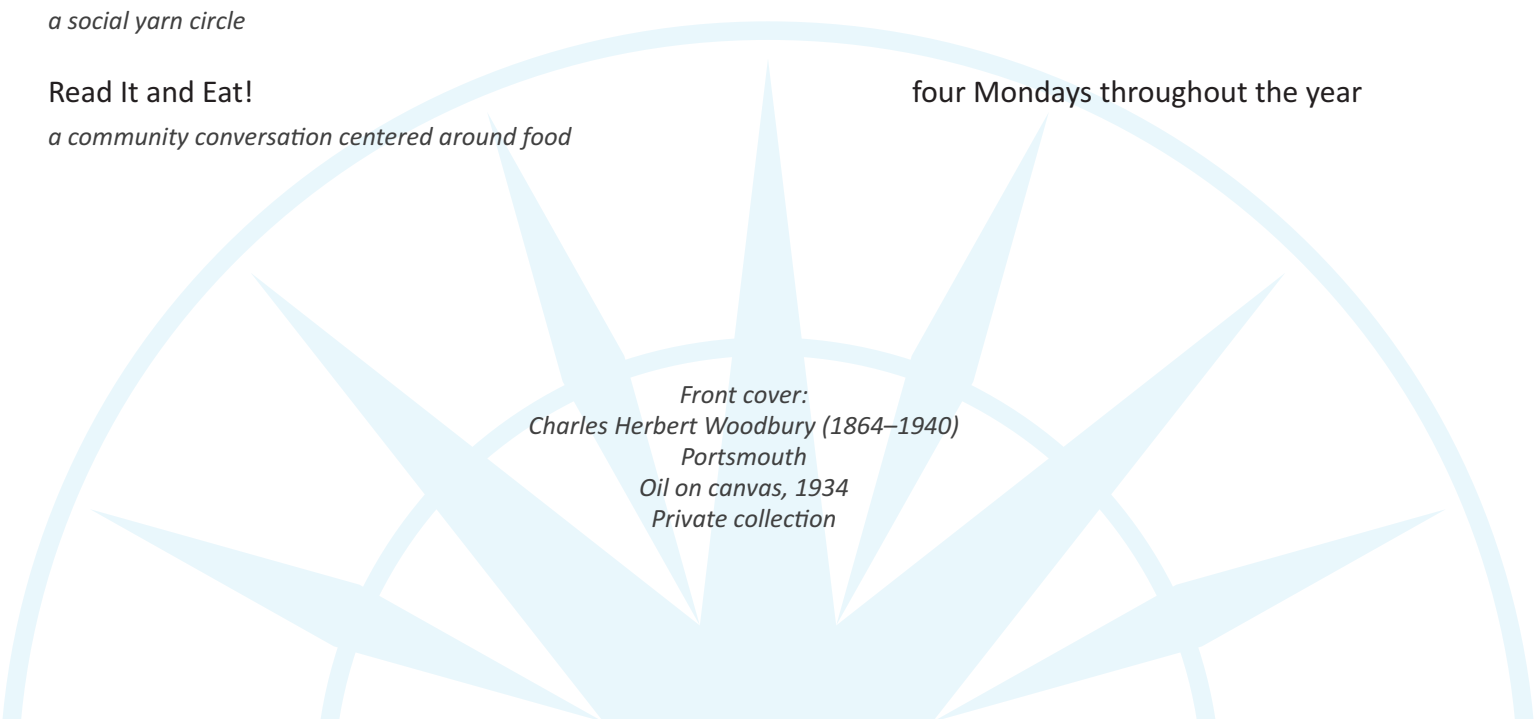
the second Saturday of the month

Knit Happens
a social yarn circle

fourth Fridays of the month

Read It and Eat!
a community conversation centered around food

four Mondays throughout the year



*Front cover:
Charles Herbert Woodbury (1864–1940)
Portsmouth
Oil on canvas, 1934
Private collection*