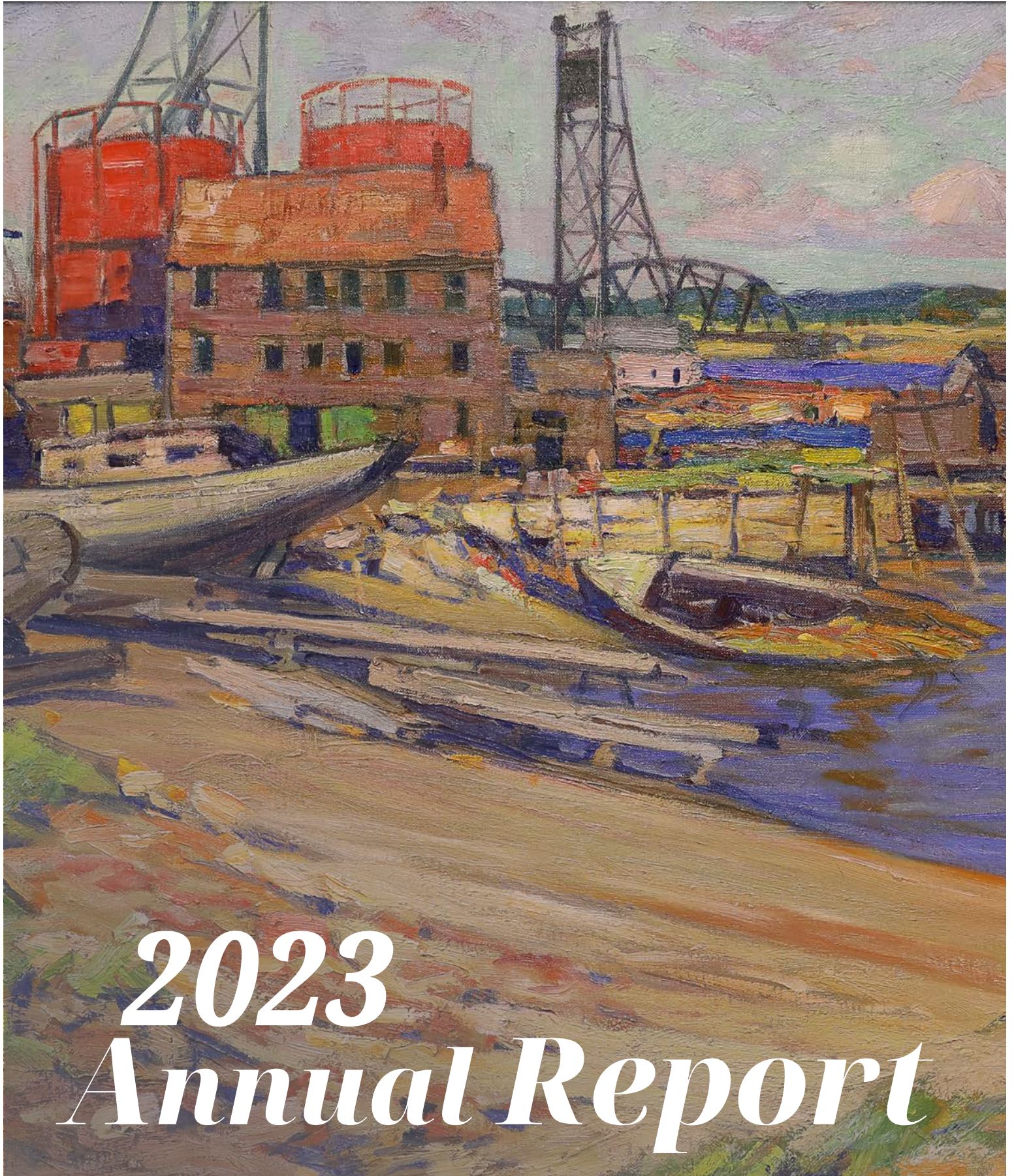




PORTSMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*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

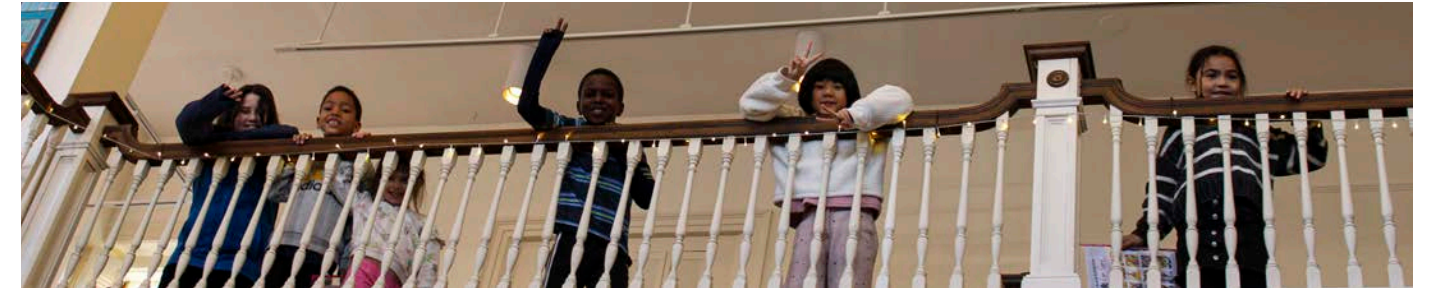
Advocacy

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

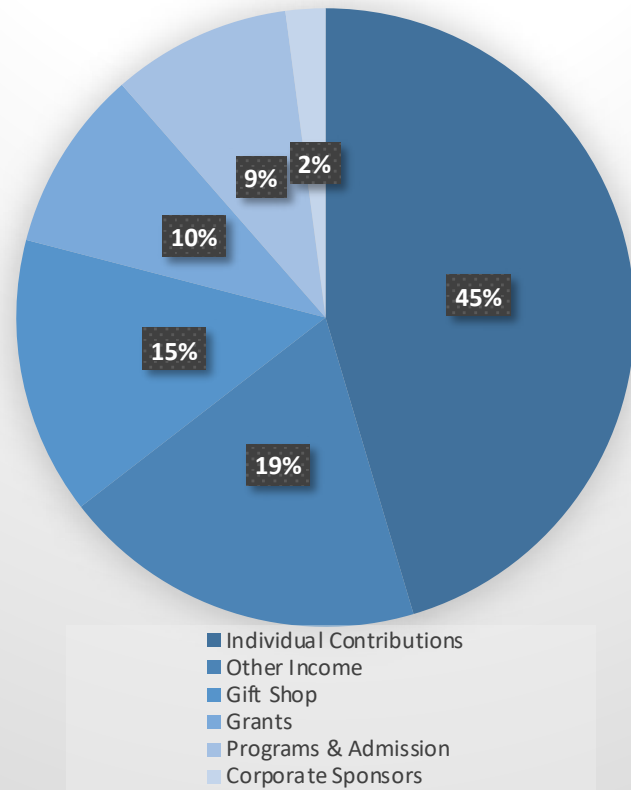
Advocacy

Policy Advocacy
Public Awareness Campaigns
Education

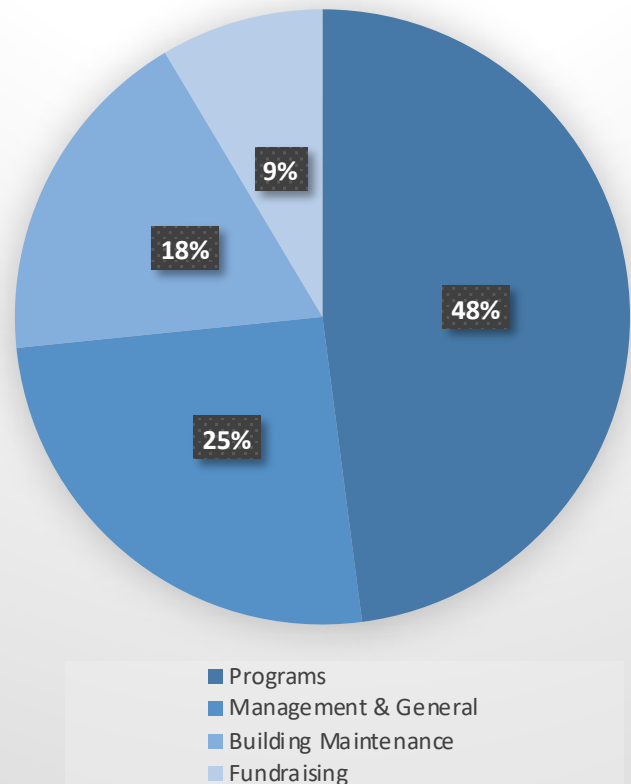
By focusing on these five priorities, the Portsmouth Historical Society aims to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable organization that actively contributes to the preservation and celebration of Portsmouth's diverse history.

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

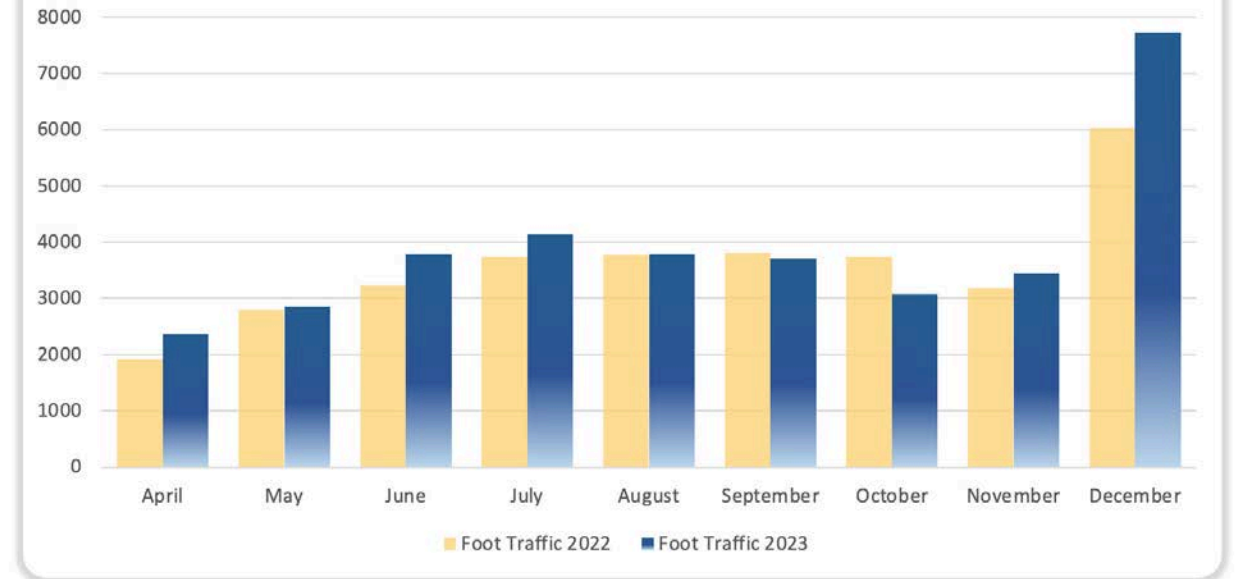
Portsmouth Historical Society Profit and Loss January - December 2023

	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:

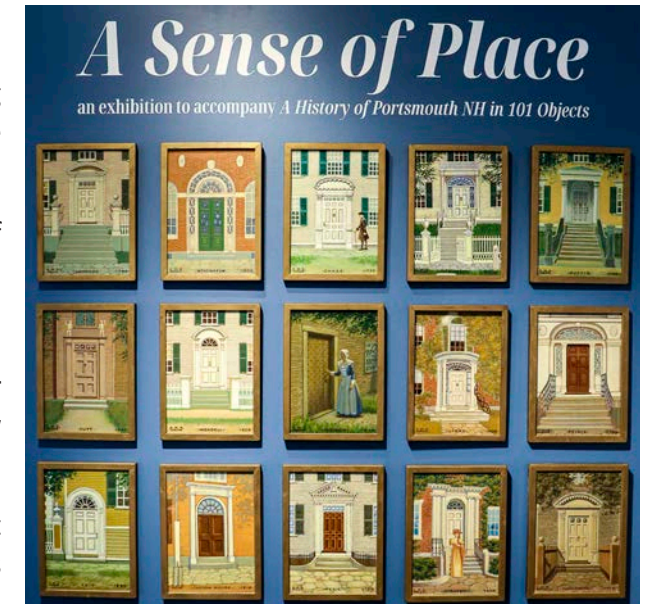
- Bodice supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Child's Dress supported by Diane Fagan Affleck
- Frank Jones Poster supported by Ellen Fineberg & Vincent Lombardi, and Elizabeth Valway
- Hair Wreath supported in honor of Molly Liolos
- Pitcher supported by Gordon Stone
- Polly supported by Margaret L. Clarke, 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

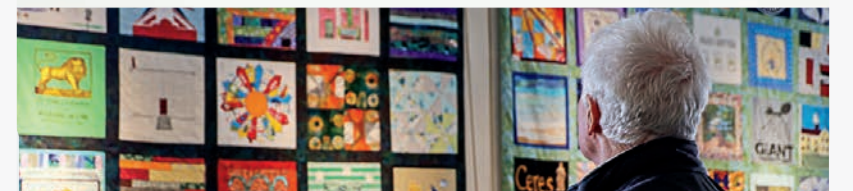
New Hampshire Humanities' statewide speakers' bureau allowed us to host historians, specialists, professors, and musicians for lectures, workshops, and performances that were free to the public.



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

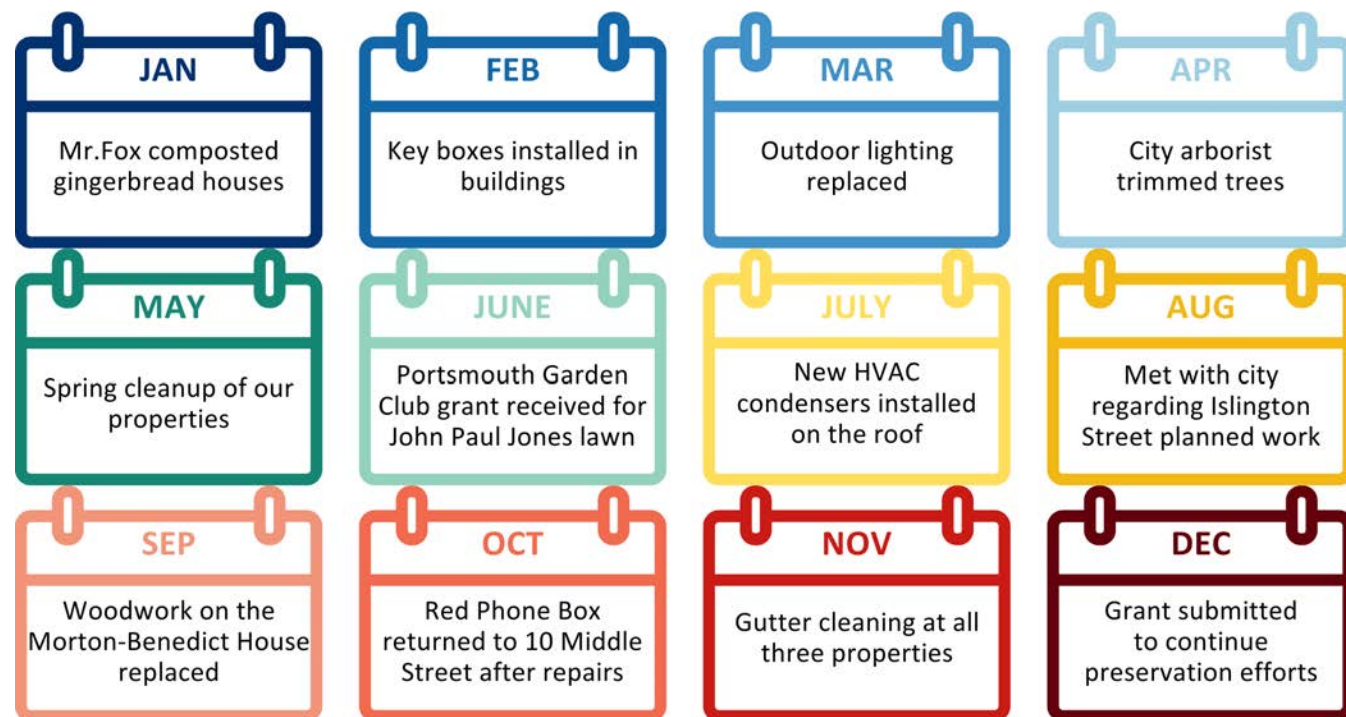
The former Beck family home at 43 Austin Street remains under the stewardship of the Portsmouth Historical Society. We continue to provide preventative maintenance including groundskeeping, furnace inspection, gutter cleaning, and more. In addition, we held conversations with many different community 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

James Gray
Nancy Hammond
Catherine Howard
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
Kerry Vautrot
Gloria Wennberg

Lynne Monroe and Frank Whittemore
Mary-jo Monusky and Pete Carey
David Murray
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
Pamela Yonkin and Thomas Maher
Conley and Mike Zani
Susan Zuckert and Steve Rogers

Ellisa Arbogast
Barnollar LLC
Colleen Bean and Ceal Anderson
Pamela Bethel
Gayle Blumenberg
Jeffrey Brann
Laura Calhoun and Jonathan McPhee
Marcia Call
Carol Cameron-Sears and Craig Sears
Dr. Thomas Candee and Ms. Sue Peterson
Judith and William Castle
Lawrence and Beatrice Cataldo
Carol Cheney
David and Elizabeth Choate III
Thomas and Pamela Clairmont
Katherine Cook and Ernest Podrasky
Karen Bowden Cooper and John Bowden Cooper
Debra Cresta
Raymond Croteau
Judith Currie
Iain Cutter
Beverley Daniel
Terri DeMitchell
Robert and Patricia Dempsey
Jeffrey Deuink
Erica Dodge
Ronan Donohoe
Lawrence Drake
Gail Drobnik
Susan Duchesney

\$100–\$249

Randy Absher and Carolyn Trosky-Absher
Richard and Barbara Adams
Robin Albert and Wayne Lehman
Robert Andelman and Kathryn Lynch
Mary Anker



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.

\$1,000–\$4,999

John and Pamela Blalock
Hal Brewster and Geoff Wetrosky
Richard Candee and Robert Chase
Bill and Linda Ceruzzi
Beverly Donahue
Chris Dwyer and Mike Huxtable
Ellen Fineberg and Vince Lombardi
Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Foster
Granite State Minerals
Ann Hartman
John and Joan Henderson
Edward Lopes
Jay and Amanda McSharry
Karen Possner, in memory of Merrilee J Possner
Reagan and Adam Ruedig
Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
James and Deborah Somes
Barbara Sweet

\$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
Louis F. Clarizio, DDS PA
Darcy Davidson and Robert Snover
Natalie DeCristofaro
Joseph Distefano
R. David Drucker
Nancy Euchner
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
Alan and Susan Gold
Glenn Hammond
Richard and Rebecca Harris
Laurie Kennedy
Jack McGee, Jr., Esq and Diane McGee
Peter Michaud and Paul Chung

\$500–\$999

Erika and Cyrus Beer
Michael Berousky
William and Arlene Brewster
James Buttrick
Patricia and Lance Day-Lollini
Sandra and Gregory DeSisto
Sally and David Falck
Jameson and Priscilla French
Sally and Alan Gayer
Ken Goldman and Barbara Sadick

Andrea Dudley and Richard Masse
Susan and William Durling
Fred and Barbara Engelbach
Mary and Philip Engle
Cynthia Fenneman
Susan Frankel
Susan Friedrich and Matthew DeAngelis
Julie and Wallace Gaye
Helen Gettelman
Elizabeth Gilbert
Maurice Glad
David Gobbi
Russ and Karen Goldberger
Susan Goodall
Rebecca Gould and William Buckley
Joan and Frank Graf
Ernie and Richard Greenslade
Michael Griffin
Linnea Grim
Sylvia and Bill Gunn
Nate Hamilton
Thomas and Janet Hand
Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Mary Harding
Jessica Harmon
Michael and Cynthia Harvell
Robyn and Tom Heany
Mary Ellen and Walter Hoerman
Sarah Holly
Darcy Horgan and Dennis Kleinman
Patricia Howard
Barbara Jenny and Matthew Beebe
Alison Johnston
Pauline Jordan
JSA Architects
Michael and Glicka Kaplan
Tom Kauffhold and Michael Englehardt
Cynthia and Jeffrey Knapp
Fred and Susan Lewis
Thomas LaBerge
Kevin Lafond
Peter Lamb and Faith Harrington
Jane and Benjamin Lannon
Fred and Susan Lewis
Charlie & Kathy Liolios
George and Dixie Littlefield
William Littlefield
Sheridan Lloyd and Glenn Lael
Bradley Lown and Christyn Sieve
Duncan MacCallum
Lynn Marsh
Janet C Marx
Marguerite Mathews
Maryse and Alexis McConnell

Laurie McCray
Robert and Mary Lou McElwain
Allen McGee
Jessica and Paul McKeon
Jan McManus
David Melick
Greg and Regis Miller
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
Antonia Pollak
Noreen Polus
Joe Porter
Alden and Katie Quimby
Maureen Raeside
Paula Rais and Elton Shaffer
John and Joan Rice
Meghan Rice
Ann and James Rickards
Knut and Jean Roalsvig
Doug Roberts
Dennis Robinson
Elisabeth Robinson
James and Michelle Robinson
Judith Ryde
Marcus Santy and Michelle Fijalkowski-Santy
Carol and Robert Sawyer
Juliette Schwab
Brenda and Tony Scolaro
Paula and Elton Shaffer
Caroline and Andrew Sloat
Mrs. Sally Smyser
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
Sue Sughrue & Neil Robinson
Donna Sully
Cathy Sununu
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
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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
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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.

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STAFF As of 12/31/2023

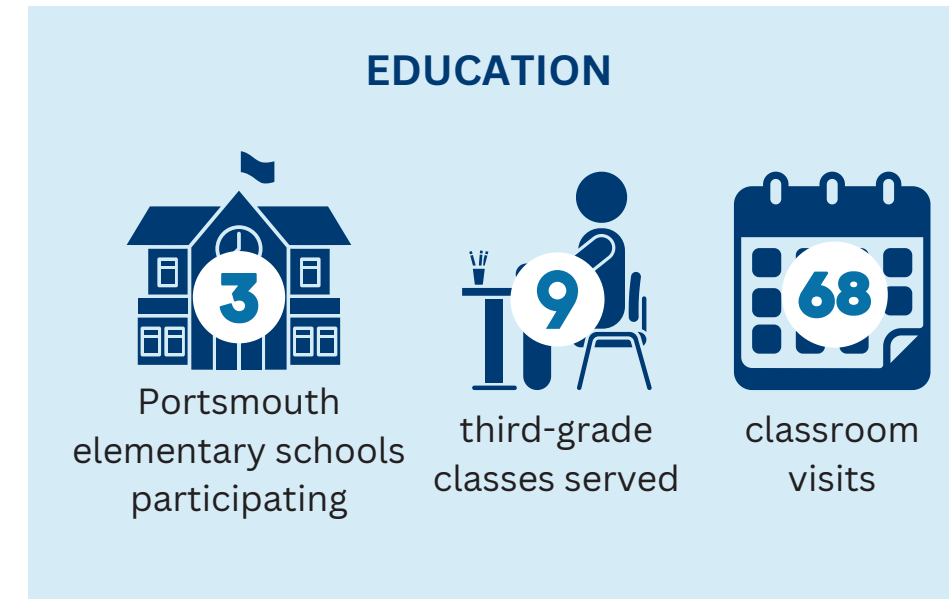
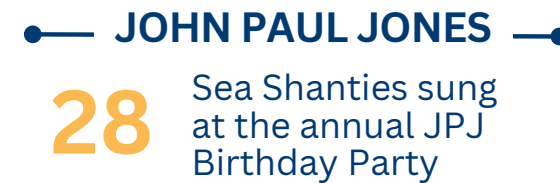
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With sincere thanks to our seasonal front desk staff:

Sharon Dunbar Christina Johns Roberta Lew Donna Theodossiou



2023 by the numbers



SOCIAL MEDIA

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Most viewed post of 2023:
 April 18 red phone box removal
11,719 views
251 likes
71 comments

VOLUNTEERS



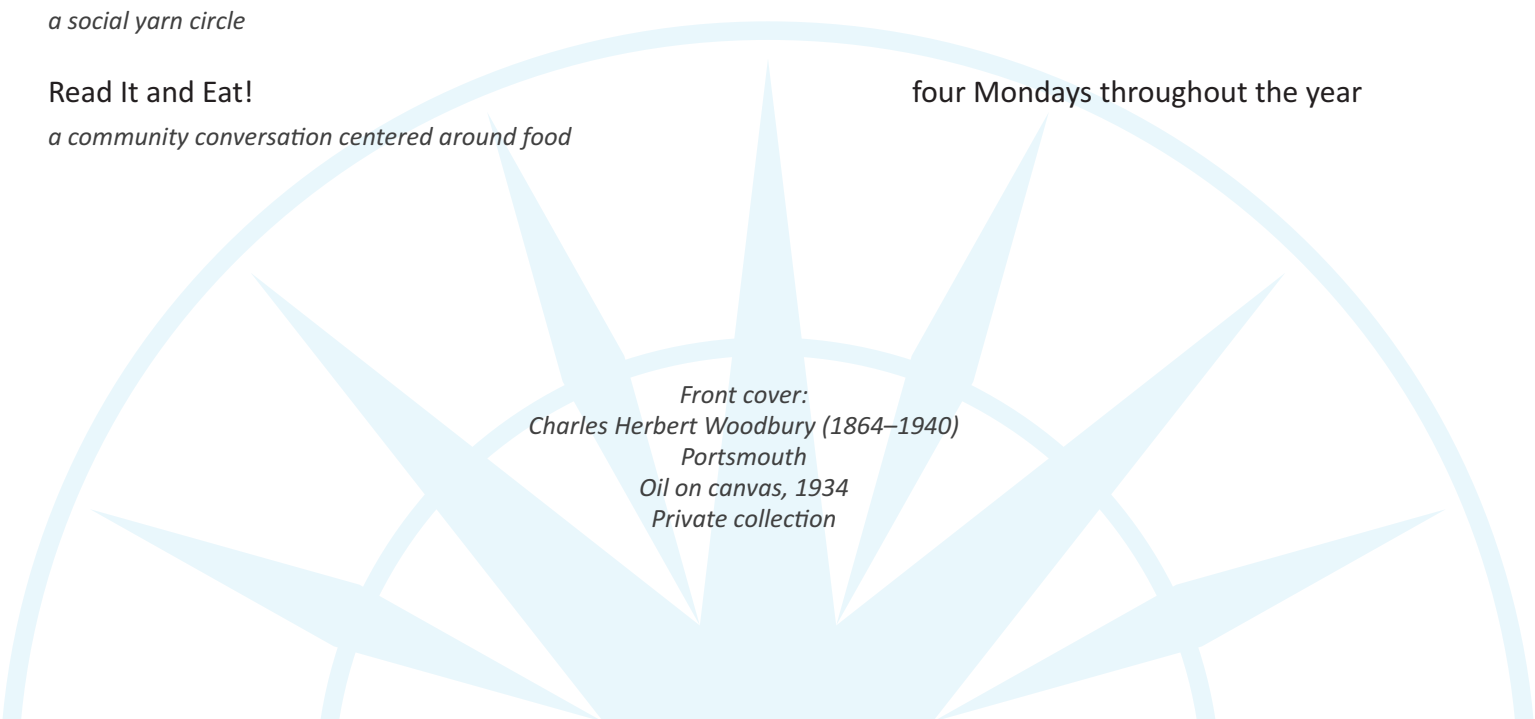
OVERVIEW OF THE 2024 CALENDAR

Exhibitions

“The Matter of Memory” <i>at 10 Middle Street</i>	April 1 – November 3
John Paul Jones House Open to the Public	May 24 – October 14
“Finishing Touches” <i>at the John Paul Jones House</i>	May 24 – October 14
“It’s Pastel!” 16th National Juried Exhibition by the Pastel Society of New Hampshire <i>at 10 Middle Street</i>	October 27 – November 23
34th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibition <i>at 10 Middle Street</i>	November 29 – December 31
New Hampshire Furniture Masters <i>at 10 Middle Street</i>	December 2 – December 30

Programs

Historic Portsmouth Walking Tours	Daily, May 1 – October 31
Twilight Tour <i>with the Portsmouth Historic Sites Associates</i>	August 9
Curator Tours <i>free First Friday admission all day long</i>	the first Fridays of the month at 12:00 and 5:30 pm
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



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