



HISTORY CENTER
OF OLMSTED COUNTY

annual report

2022



ORY
TER
COUNTY

CE

the team



OUR VISION

To become a gathering place for the broader community that inspires and encourages the exploration of history.



OUR MISSION

Give people of all ages and backgrounds access and opportunity to learn about the past through interpretive programs and exhibits, research, publications and events.

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messages from

IT'S HISTORY



DR. PAUL SCANLON
BOARD PRESIDENT

The past year (2022-2023) had been interesting and productive at the History Center. I was surprised to become the board President when Roger Stahl was forced to resign because of family issues. Fortunately, I have been well supported by the board and our staff has maintained excellent performance under the expert leadership of our Executive Director, Wayne Gannaway.

The highpoint of the year was the near completion of the restoration of the Stoppel farm's smokehouse, the first and smallest of the three main Stoppel buildings needing extensive restoration. We anticipate completion before the Annual Meeting. The restoration was achieved

with funding from several sources, most prominently from the Minnesota State Legacy Amendment. We anticipate renewed efforts in 2023 to raise funds for the continued project from grants and contributions.

Mayowood remains our signature attraction with continued restoration (by Mayo Clinic) and high levels of interest among visitors. Christmas season tours are the high point of interest for the year. The Mechanical History Round Table and other users of our property maintain our agricultural roots, while our educational offerings continue to grow.

The archive continues to provide rich historical information and artifacts from Rochester's past. Under the direction of Krista Lewis, the archive has been a hive of productivity. Two new books were published by local authors using materials from our archives, one by Amy Jo Hahn, Hidden History of Rochester Minnesota, and one by Virginia M. Wright-Peterson, Rochester: An Urban Biography. Many articles of local history by Thomas Weber and Lee Hilgendorf have been published in the Post Bulletin. At least one more book of Rochester history is in publication, Andrew Wood's Life at High G-Force: The Quest of Mayo Clinic Researcher Dr. Earl H. Wood.

The board and Wayne have continued the prudent fiscal management of recent years and once again finished the year with a balanced budget and a slight increase in our cash reserve. We received a favorable audit from Smith Shaefer & Associates regarding the year's finances.

The board has been very successful in attracting new and dynamic members to the board with both the 2022 and the 2023 cohorts. Likewise, Wayne has brought several new members to the staff who are well educated, dynamic and productive.

leadership

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS



WAYNE GANNAWAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was all about building foundations. As is usual for me, a moment in history helped me appreciate the importance of constructing lasting foundations. Perusing a used book store recently, I picked up “Order Upon the Land” by Hildegard Binder Johnson, a deep dive into how the public land survey system shaped our region. The book inspired me to take a day trip to Initial Point, a historical marker located along the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota. According to the marker, on April 18, 1852, surveyors hired by the U.S. Surveyor General established Initial Point as a fixed reference point, from which they would map “out the Township and Section Corners which defined the property lines for the homesteaders and is still used today as the basis for all property descriptions.” They had no GPS. They marked distance with a Gunter’s chain and axe and got their bearing using a Surveyor’s Transit and Level (see examples at the History Center).

In other words, more than 150 years ago, these surveyors created foundations that still shape so much of our world. It may be a stretch to say that the work we are doing here at the History Center today will impact our organization 100 years from now. But it is worth thinking about.

About a year ago, we began major preservation work to save the George Stoppel smokehouse, rebuilding its foundation being the most urgent. As it is built into the side of the hill, it is subjected to relentless pressure, especially from rainwater runoff. Today, after careful work by stone masons, the native stone walls are once again plum, sturdy, and dry.

Knutson Construction has been foundational to our construction work at the George Stoppel farmstead, from cost estimating, making remedial repairs, to managing the bidding and general contracting for the smokehouse. We are grateful for their ongoing support of the History Center.

As gratifying as it is to see the smokehouse preserved, we need historical research and interpretive planning to make it a place where visitors can engage with the past. In 2022 we were awarded grants to start both. Through a small Legacy grant we hired consulting historians to review all the existing research on George Stoppel, with an emphasis on his immigration journey from Württemberg to Rochester. We followed that up with an initial phase of figuring out what stories we wanted to tell about the farmstead and how to tell them—we called this our Foundations Report. This interpretive planning work is like surveying land for a plat map. It creates the boundaries for our future educational programming and exhibits.

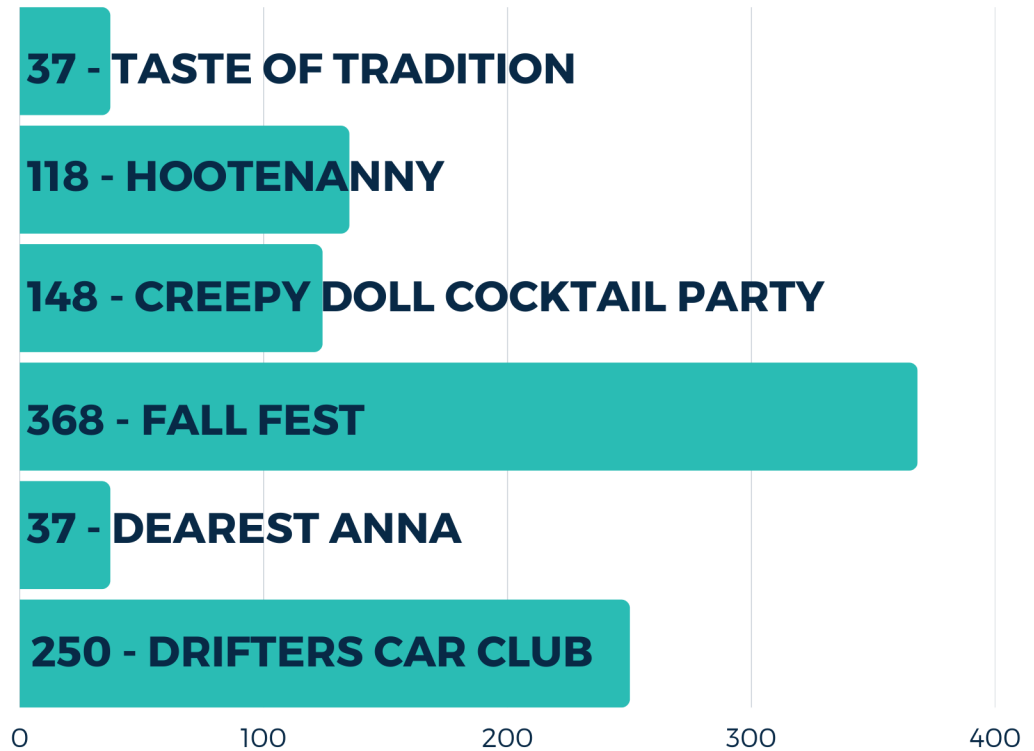
Thanks to our members, volunteers, and donors, we made 2022 the year of building solid foundations.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

July's Drifters Car Show brought hundreds of individuals to the History Center grounds for a day, with extremely positive feedback from all involved. This event went so well, we're partnering with the Drifters again for 2023!

Fallfest also came roaring back last year, with great attendance and a lot of media coverage!

EVENT & PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



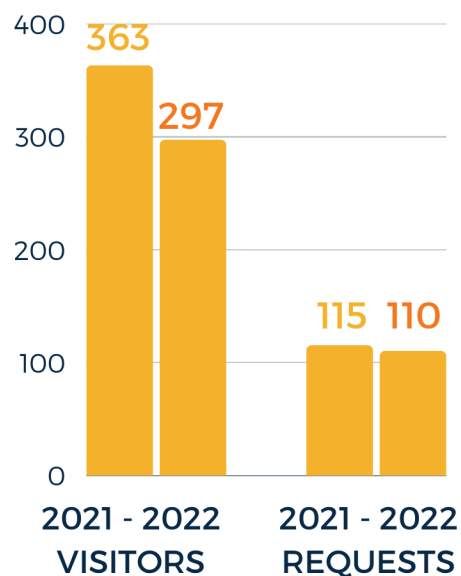
COLLECTIONS

The never-ending quest to catalogue the amazing donations our community makes continues in spite of a bit of down time without a collections manager.

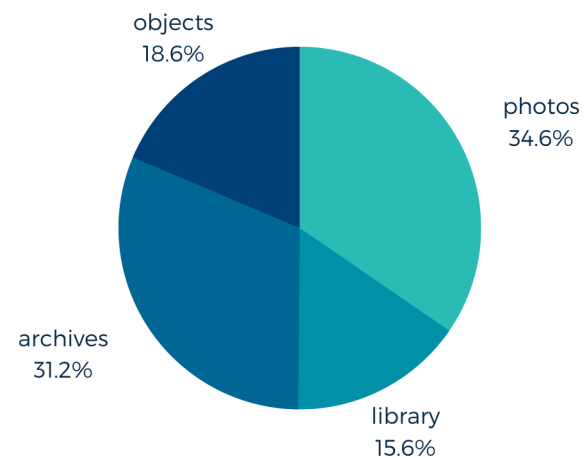
Our research requests remained steady, generating roughly \$6k in revenue.

RESEARCH LIBRARY

2021 - 2022



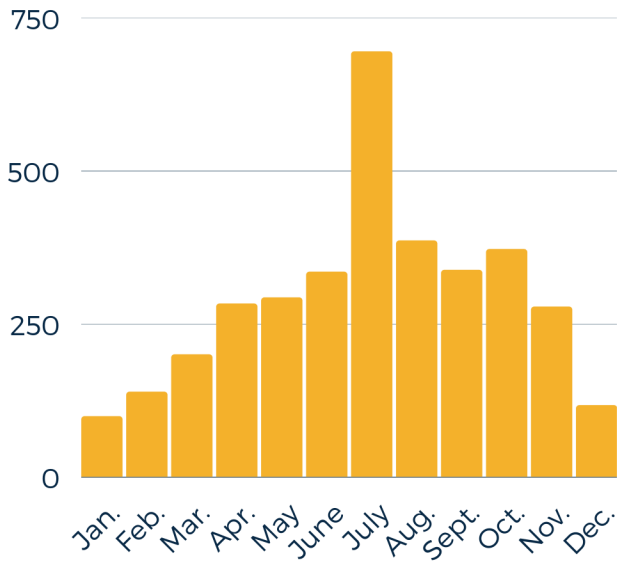
DONATIONS



2069 ITEMS CATALOGED

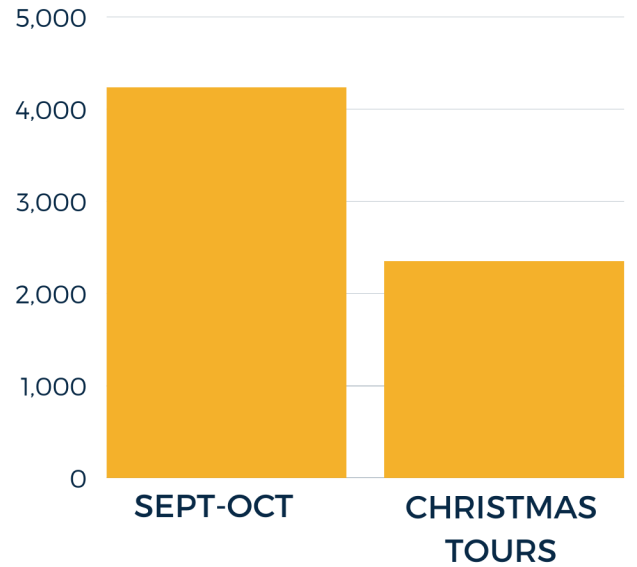
reports

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE



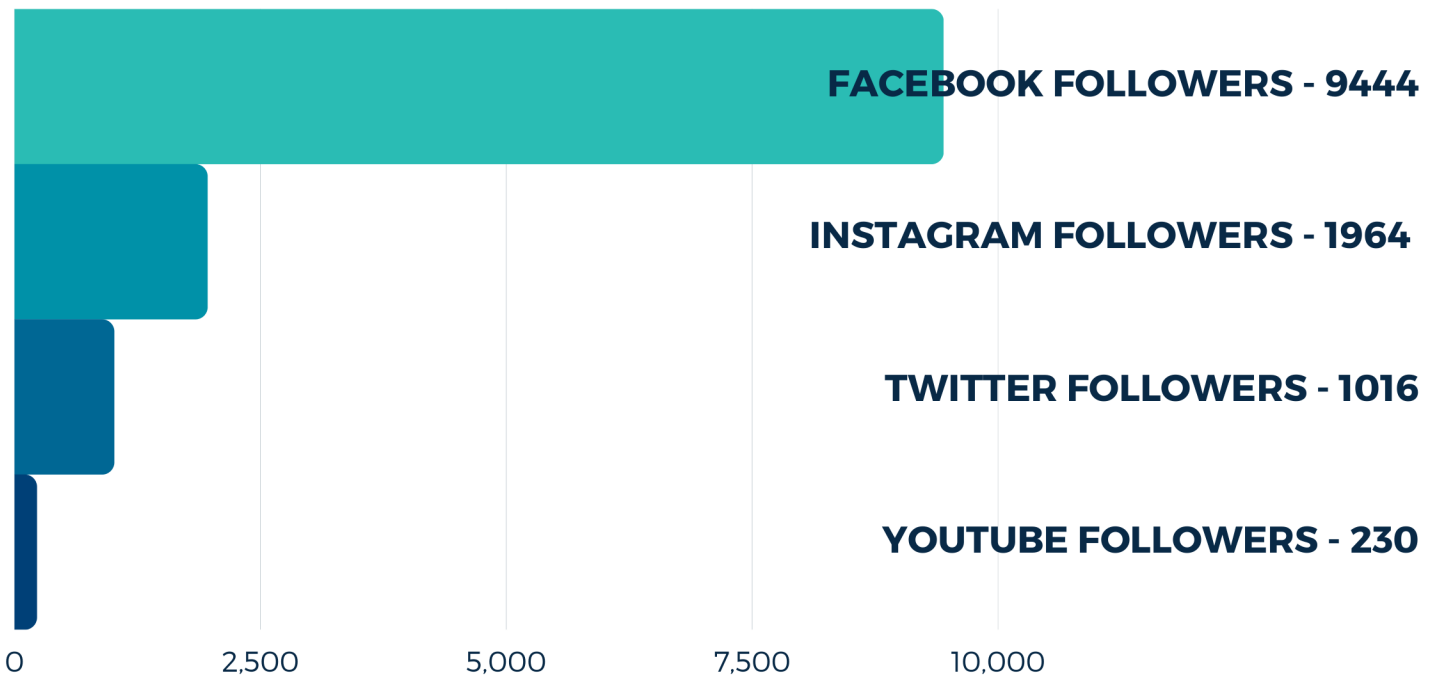
TOTAL ATTENDANCE - 3535

MAYOWOOD ATTENDANCE



TOTAL ATTENDANCE - 6575

SOCIAL MEDIA



spotlight



**CREEPY DOLL
COCKTAIL PARTY**



TASTE OF TRADITION



FALLFEST

on 2022



SMOKEHOUSE RESTORATION



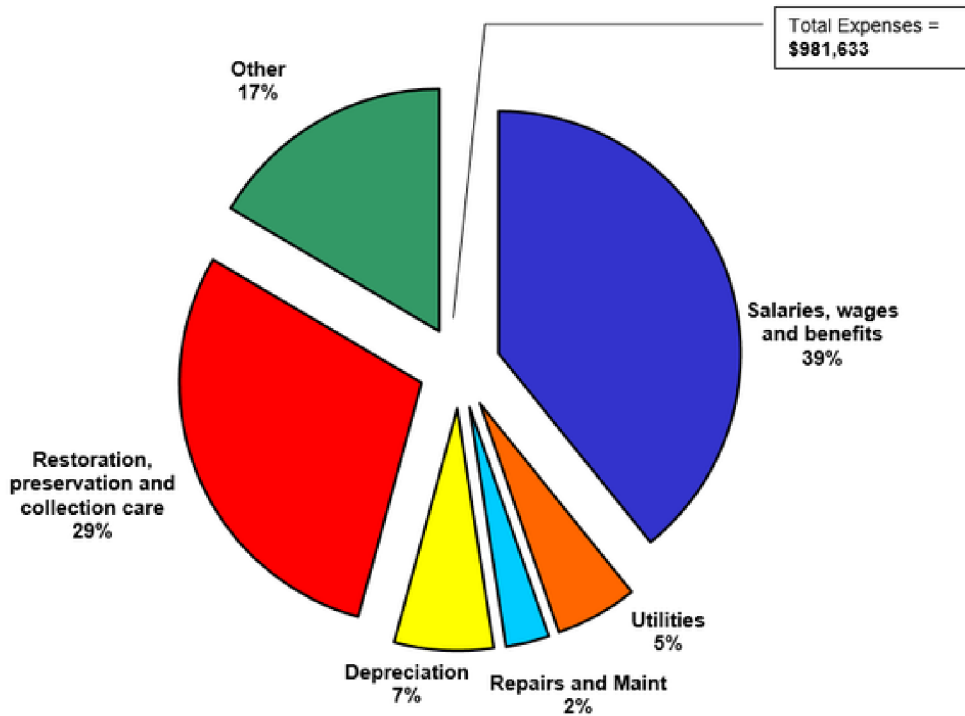
HOOTENANNY



DRIFTER'S CAR SHOW

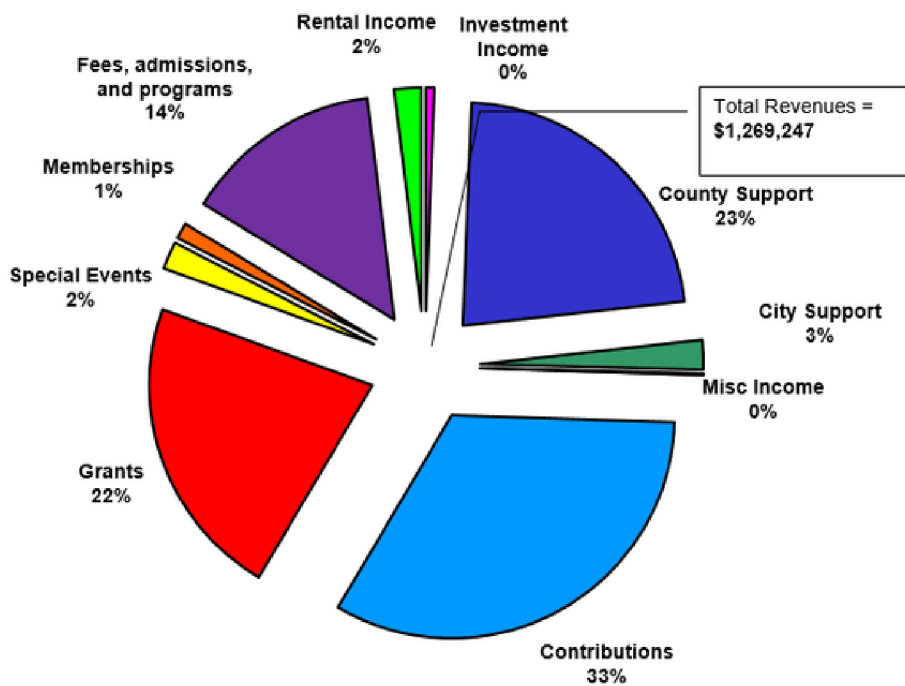
Operating Expenses

2022



Sources of Revenue

2022



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2022

OLMSTED COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DBA: HISTORY CENTER OF OLMSTED COUNTY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021	Variance
Revenues			
Olmsted County	\$ 287,515	\$ 289,515	\$ (2,000)
City of Rochester	27,000	27,000	-
Contributions and grant income	698,314	414,880	283,434
Special events, net	25,189	14,663	10,526
Memberships	14,690	13,090	1,600
Fees, admissions, and programs, net	182,567	139,746	42,821
Rental income	24,793	24,071	722
Investment income	7,809	917	6,892
Miscellaneous income	1,370	11,965	(10,595)
Total Revenues	1,269,247	935,847	333,400
Expenses			
Salaries, wages, and benefits	384,748	320,197	(64,551)
Utilities, waste removal and security monitoring	53,942	55,247	1,305
Repairs and maintenance	28,589	11,899	(16,690)
Supplies, postage, and printing	30,061	26,835	(3,226)
Collection care	27,758	1,103	(26,655)
Professional fees	38,675	39,175	500
Contracted services	300,436	124,204	(176,232)
Insurance	18,012	17,660	(352)
Advertising	13,737	20,283	6,546
Telephone, internet, computer software and supplies	12,724	8,152	(4,572)
Exhibits	2,663	4,218	1,555
Travel, dues, conferences, meals and entertainment	5,398	3,410	(1,988)
Depreciation	64,890	49,172	(15,718)
Miscellaneous expense	-	477	477
Total Expenses	981,633	682,032	(299,601)
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 287,614	\$ 253,815	\$ 33,799

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