



2023 Annual Report

*Tippecanoe County
Historical
Association*

Letter from the President of the TCHA Board of Governors

Mission: To enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, researching, and sharing our unique and diverse history

What a fabulous year for the Tippecanoe County Historical Association!

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest Executive Director of our Association, Claire Eagle. Claire joined us in March of 2023 after previously serving with Historic New Harmony. Her enthusiasm, energy, and excitement for our Association has been motivational for all of us on the Board and the staff alike.

For the second year in a row, we offered a strong series of programs to the public covering a wide range of local history and culture. Most of these events were offered in person at the History Center as well as online via Zoom. One of the highlights of our indoor program series was Dave Sattler's "A Cartoon History of Lafayette." If you missed it, I highly recommend searching for it on our YouTube channel. Although not recorded, events such as our annual historical Maple Sugaring event staged by Les Garnison du Pays d'en Haut and the Greenbush and Spring Vale Cemetery Tours facilitated by our staff and volunteers also attracted a large audience. All in all, we hosted nearly 30 program events throughout 2023 and are deeply indebted to all of the presenters who shared their time and expertise with us.

And once again, our annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon brought out a great crowd to Fort Ouiatenon Park. Although the weather was a bit blustery on Sunday this year, we exceeded our expectations for the event and raised money not only for ourselves, but for approximately 50 other not for profit organizations. Although it was bittersweet to say goodbye to Leslie Martin Conwell after her decades of service to the Feast, I am excited to welcome Brooke Sauter as our new Feast manager for 2024.

Our Association could not exist without the tireless efforts of the rest of our staff and volunteers. Kelly, Trey, Amy, and Laura continue to provide excellent service to our Association, our members, and the public at large. I also want to applaud the hours of effort that our committees and volunteers put into keeping the Association operating. Please consider donating your time to help one of our committees to keep the Association moving forward. As with all not for profit organizations, it is the dedication and support of people like you, our membership, that keep us thriving. Projects that our volunteers completed this year include new lighting throughout the Arganbright building, new flooring in the executive director's office, indexing of the Journal and Courier portrait photograph collection, and the indexing of Civil War soldiers from Tippecanoe County.

As we enter 2024, we are looking ahead to the next two years when we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the City of Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, and the 250th anniversary of American independence. We could not celebrate these occasions properly without all the support that we have received from the membership over the years that has allowed us to collect and preserve the history of our great community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schwab

Jeff Schwab (jrs@purdue.edu)

Minutes for TCHA Annual Membership Meeting
2:00 PM, January 21, 2023
Meeting at the History Center

**FOR
APPROVAL**

Board President Jeffrey Schwab welcomed TCHA members and guests to the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting held at the History Center at 2:00 pm.

The Minutes of the February 5 2022 Annual Meeting were presented and approved as written by voice vote after a motion and second from the membership.

Governor Jeff Schwab presented the President's Report. He noted that Executive Director Leslie Cornwell retired from her position as Director of TCHA as of December 31, 2022. President Schwab thanked her for her dedication and hard work over many years with TCHA. He noted that Ms. Cornwell will continue as the Feast of the Hunter's Moon coordinator in 2023.

A committee has been appointed by President Schwab which is seeking a new Executive Director for TCHA; the membership will be kept abreast of developments over the next few weeks as the search, which has begun, continues.

President Schwab called attention to a successful Feast of the Hunter's Moon in October 2022 with 46,000+ attendees. He noted as well that in-person programming has returned to TCHA (often in a hybrid format to encourage folks to attend virtually as well) and the new roof that now protects the History Center.

President Schwab took a moment to thank the many volunteers who keep TCHA open and active in the community and encouraged all TCHA members to consider joining committees to support and move the group's mission forward.

The President's Report was followed by the Treasurer's Report and the Association's financial report both presented by Treasurer Lorita Bill. (see attached). Governor Bill reported that TCHA enjoyed Operating income of just less than \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) and suffered some losses in its investments due to the stock market's gyrations.

The Feast income was good, but profitability was down this year past year because of unexpected increases in security and medical services. It is likely ticket prices will be increased (this requires a Board of Governor's vote) for the first time in many years.

Governor Bill noted TCHA purchased a new trailer for use at the Feast and technology upgrades for the Library thanks to a grant provided by NCHS (North Central Health Services).

There were no questions from the membership about either report which were approved by voice vote.

Leslie Martin Conwell presented the (retired) Director's Report, summing up the Association's work and initiatives during 2022.

Ms. Conwell thanked the many volunteers who work with TCHA's staff and board at TCHA's service locations (including the Battlefield and the McCullough Library).

She thanked the many sponsors of TCHA programs and those who provided much appreciated grant funding in 2022 drawing attention to the new Community Development Block Grant funded ceiling lights now installed at the Argenbright Center.

And she called attention to the newly established Rick Westerman and Linda Swihart Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette which will allow TCHA to update technology services in the years to come.

Ms. Conwell reported that TCHA is involved in more local festivals offering opportunities to learn more about Tippecanoe County history to attendees at the Juneteenth and Tippecanoe Latino Festivals.

She noted TCHA's continued involvement with the Ouiatenon Preserve and thanked the newly revived Markers committee for their inventory of historic markers around the County and beginning the assessment of need for repair and possible replacement of markers throughout the County.

Ms. Conwell concluded by announcing TCHA has moved on from the COVID crisis and is looking forward with optimism, thanking the TCHA staff for jobs well done!

Reports were received from Kelly Lippe that focused on TCHA collections; the Collections Committee was thanked for its ongoing and thoughtful work. The committee is giving attention to collecting the History of COVID 19 in the County. She offered special thanks to TIPCOA (Tippecanoe County Area Genealogical Society) for their funding the repair to two County ledger books.

Volunteers at the McCullough Library recorded almost 2,000 (two thousand) hours of service in 2022. Librarian Amy Harbor has rescheduled tours of Greenbush Cemetery for 2023 and offered a program on pioneer cemeteries in Tippecanoe County.

Governor Nick Schenkel thanked TCHA for offering programs both in person and online and for offering recorded programs on the TCHA YouTube channel.

Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager Trey Gordon reported on the Battlefield, pointing to changes made in the bookstore and reported that Civic Youth Theater group are now staffing the books tent at the Feast – he thanked the members of Psi Iota Xi for their many years of service managing the books tent during previous Feasts. And Dr. Gordon thanked former bookstore manager Rick Conwell for his work with the bookstore and the site.

Leslie Conwell spoke to the 39 (thirty-nine) TCHA programs offered in 2022, noting that Tippecanoe County history continues to be important to many members of our community. She thanked the program committee and the many TCHA volunteers and staff for their work noting the YouTube channel's programs and that the Facebook page has recorded over 67,00 visits which are especially popular with the critical 25-41 year old audience. She invited members to join the program committee to bring new ideas and events. Members rose to praise the program presenters.

Ms. Conwell presented the Feast of the Hunter's Moon report to the membership. She reiterated President Schwab's report on attendees – 46,248 attended in 2022! The Federally recognized Miami Tribe attended for the first time and were reported to be very pleased and planning to return in 2023; additional Native American tribes will be invited to attend as well.

Over 60% (sixty per cent) of TCHA's annual operating income is generated by the Feast each year and over 50 (fifty) local not-for-profit groups benefit from their involvement in the Feast as well. It is estimated by Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette that over \$2,000,000 (two million dollars) is brought into the local economy because of the Feast of the Hunter's Moon each year. Ms. Conwell concluded by encouraging all of us to volunteer at the Feast in 2023!

President Schwab asked all Board of Governors present to stand and be recognized.

He went on to draw attention to TCHA Committee's written reports in addition to those already reported. The reports of the Facilities Committee and Development and Membership Committee (Governor Pete Bill, chair of both committees) as well as the Lafayette Bicentennial Events Committee and the Lafayette Bicentennial Publications Committee (Governor David Hovde, chair of both committees) and the Lafayette Bicentennial Publications Committees were called out for particular attention because of their work in 2022.

The Ouiatenon Preserve Committee, headed by Governor Dr. Kory Cooper report good work had been accomplished in 2022. An archaeological dig in association with the University of Southern Indiana brought together students from both Purdue and SIU to engage in hands-on work in archology last summer.

Governor Quenton Robinson presented the nominating committee's slate of returning and new nominees for the Board of Governors. The slate was moved and seconded by the membership as presented. Governor Robinson then invited all

members of TCHA to vote for their choice to fill out the Board of Governors for the coming year. The vote was by secret, paper ballots which were collected and taken for counting.

President Schwab called attention to the Ball-Sholty Award for 2023 and retired Executive Director Leslie Conwell announced that Mary Anthrop was the winner for her many years of service contributing materials, researching, blogging and working with the many questions which come into TCHA. She has established herself as the go-to person for local Black History research. Ms. Anthrop is both a former employee and Board member of TCHA and established her career teaching high school history at Central Catholic. Ms. Anthrop comes from a family of story tellers. In her gracious acceptance speech, she pointed to a visit to TCHA as a ten-year-old where Alameda McCullough became a guide and a mentor for Ms. Anthrop's many years of involvement with TCHA that followed.

Ms. Conwell went next to the Volunteer of the Year Award which is chosen by the TCHA staff. This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Captain Thomas Wojcinski leading Les Garnison du Pays den Haut, French Marine unit. Captain Wojcinski and his troops interpret French History at the Fort and recently at the Feast, doing "true honor to the original French inhabitants...". In 2022 the Captain was among the TCHA representatives who welcomed His Excellency Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France to the United States on his visit to the Fort and to Lafayette in May. Captain Wojcinski and his troop worked with the Miami Tribe at this year's Feast and are, at all events, always welcoming to the public who take part in TCHA sponsored events.

Ms. Conwell presented the Executive Director's special commendation to the Tippecanoe Battle DuBois Company of Spies and Guides. This group has volunteered for decades, working year-round with TCHA to interpret the French History at Fort Ouiatenon and since 2011 have worked to honor soldiers and all the fallen at the Battlefield.

The official count of the secret ballots for the Board of Governors allowed Nominating Chair Quentin Robinson to announce that all nominees for the Board of Governors were approved by the voting membership.

In Other Business – Mr. Brent Dixon, a former member of the Board of Governors rose to share his thoughts and offered his support and his praise for TCHA's evident progress in furthering the cause of the collecting and interpreting local History over the many years he has been observing as a former Board member; he was a Governor in the 1970's and 1980's. He specifically recalled working with former Board member Bill Baugh, prompting memories to those of us who also worked with Mr. Baugh on local history projects.

Governor Bill Pete asked all TCHA volunteers to stand for a well-deserved round of applause!

A motion to adjourn having been made and seconded the meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

The annual business was followed by a rousing program featuring music and stories from Captain Malcolm Duncan leading the Tippecanoe Ancient Fife & Drum Corp in a program of live music and talk. Thanks to TCHA President Jeffrey Schwab for arranging this well received program.

TCHA Treasurer's Report 2023
Lorita Bill, TCHA Treasurer

TCHA had another successful year with an operating profit of just over \$59,000. However, this operating profit was less than in the previous four years.

Admission prices were increased for the Feast in 2023 for the first time in many years. This helped significantly to increase the total revenue brought in by the Feast. However, costs continue to increase also. Many of the Feast expenses are for services that are provided by specific individuals, companies, or organizations. TCHA has little opportunity to negotiate these costs since there is no other viable alternative for others to provide the same goods or services. The profit that TCHA makes on the Feast in the future will depend on increasing admission prices and booth charges on a more regular basis.

Expenses were up in 2023 over 2022 by over \$28,000. This increase was mostly due to the increase in Feast costs of over \$51,000 and decreases in occupancy costs of about \$22,000.

TCHA starts 2024 with over \$108,000 more in cash than at the beginning of 2023. This puts TCHA in a secure financial position for the coming year.

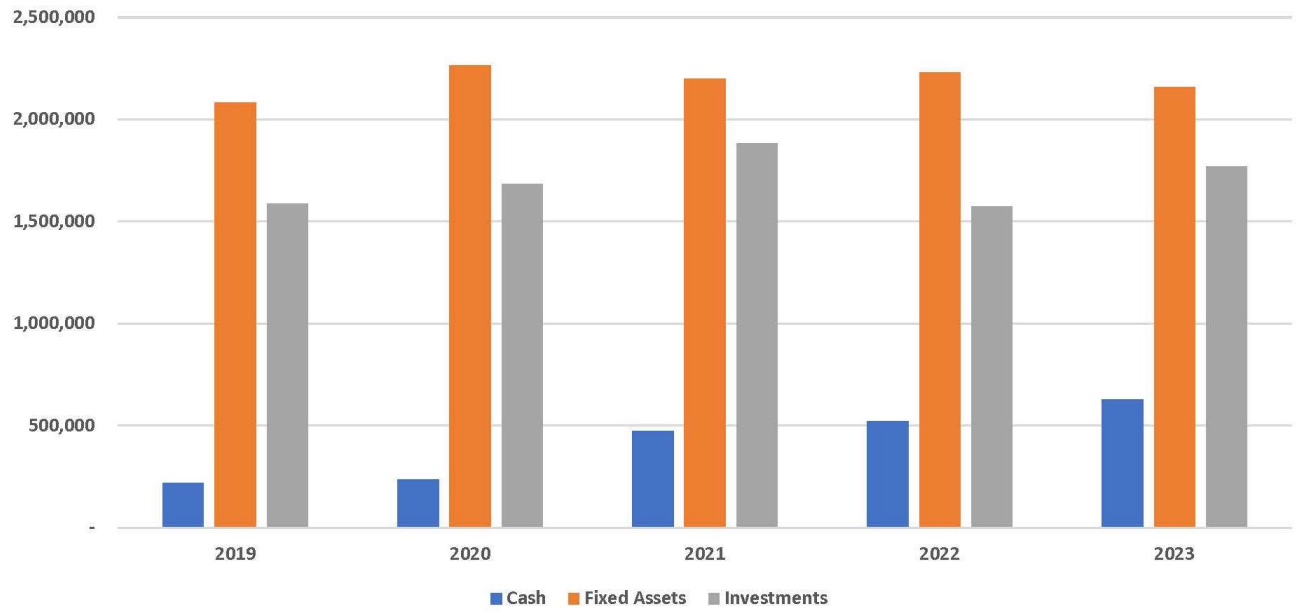
Notes on the 2023 Preliminary Financial Statements

The statements presented are preliminary. The merchandise inventory at the Battlefield Museum Store has not been verified. Various other adjustments may be required before the statements are finalized.

Tippecanoe County Historical Association
Balance Sheet
As of December 31,

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Preliminary 2023
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash	\$ 218,829	\$ 236,080	\$ 475,012	\$ 521,679	\$ 630,209
Grants Receivable	10,578	-	444	14,636	-
Other Current Assets	6,628	1,343	185	1,348	450
Due from OPI	18,676	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	5,016	4,084	3,661	3,988	2,595
Inventory	50,870	47,298	38,701	38,202	42,754
Total Current Assets	<u>310,597</u>	<u>288,805</u>	<u>518,003</u>	<u>579,853</u>	<u>676,008</u>
Fixed Assets					
Buildings	606,440	681,440	681,440	761,440	761,440
Buildings - Improvements	531,020	566,091	566,091	570,636	562,373
Equipment	236,334	245,311	233,424	252,911	224,864
Exhibits - Museum	56,729	56,729	57,923	57,923	57,923
Land	1,260,930	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,691,453</u>	<u>2,941,262</u>	<u>2,930,569</u>	<u>3,034,601</u>	<u>2,998,291</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(607,218)</u>	<u>(674,028)</u>	<u>(731,310)</u>	<u>(802,984)</u>	<u>(838,682)</u>
Total Fixed Assets less depreciation	<u>2,084,235</u>	<u>2,267,234</u>	<u>2,199,259</u>	<u>2,231,617</u>	<u>2,159,609</u>
Other Assets					
Investments	<u>1,586,145</u>	<u>1,682,486</u>	<u>1,882,845</u>	<u>1,573,415</u>	<u>1,771,158</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,980,977</u>	<u>\$ 4,238,525</u>	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,606,775</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 17,490	\$ 18,370	\$ 9,821	\$ 37,529	\$ 9,806
Other Current Liabilities	10,233	9,323	18,277	20,210	36,184
Total Liabilities	<u>27,723</u>	<u>27,693</u>	<u>28,098</u>	<u>57,739</u>	<u>45,990</u>
Equity	<u>3,953,254</u>	<u>4,210,832</u>	<u>4,572,009</u>	<u>4,327,146</u>	<u>4,560,785</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 3,980,977</u>	<u>\$ 4,238,525</u>	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,606,775</u>

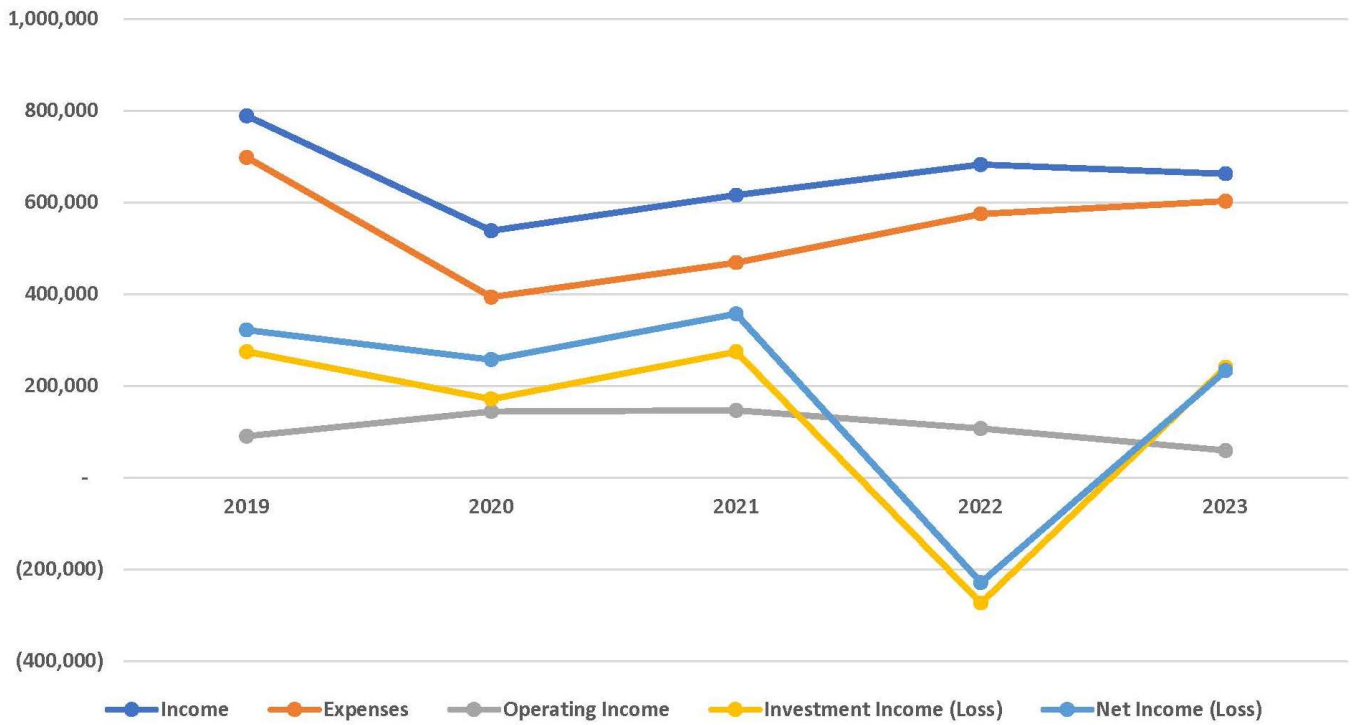
TCHA Assets



Tippecanoe County Historical Association
Income Statement
For the Years Ended,

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Preliminary 2023
Income					
Grants	\$ 46,808	\$ 140,212	\$ 50,406	\$ 78,188	\$ 8,678
Contributions	138,103	246,143	83,533	80,776	103,112
Fundraising	21,754	4,437	-	2,175	-
Museum Store Sales	66,630	37,889	71,058	79,967	66,123
Library Revenue	3,611	4,611	2,432	1,871	2,074
Membership Dues	25,095	21,745	22,307	21,670	26,379
Programs & Education	121,661	96,558	48,691	46,978	42,906
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	407,480	5,181	375,720	408,401	446,100
Total Income	<u>831,142</u>	<u>556,775</u>	<u>654,147</u>	<u>720,026</u>	<u>695,372</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	42,325	18,363	38,223	37,401	32,703
Gross Profit	<u>788,817</u>	<u>538,412</u>	<u>615,924</u>	<u>682,625</u>	<u>662,669</u>
Expenses					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	288,706	248,264	192,740	214,759	213,289
Administrative Expenses	15,741	12,445	9,055	8,553	10,091
Contract Services Administrative	21,032	19,179	13,806	19,516	22,391
Equipment & Supplies	6,084	2,295	4,377	5,123	2,751
Collections, Exhibits & Library	3,179	3,164	3,627	5,136	3,633
Museum Store Expenses	703	1,000	1,959	3,340	2,405
Insurance and Taxes	14,790	16,404	17,329	19,669	20,857
Repairs & Maintenance	35,722	15,217	12,982	39,587	24,425
Contractual Services - Facilities	10,384	14,240	5,061	4,859	3,259
Utilities	50,180	38,557	40,788	46,276	40,952
Membership Expenses	5,241	3,576	457	688	1,085
Fundraising Event Expenses	21,267	1,007	-	2,875	1,301
Feast Coordinators	-	-	-	-	40,000
Feast Expenses	187,126	6,658	164,497	199,152	210,608
Programs & Education Expense	39,623	11,772	2,304	5,672	6,106
Miscellaneous (Income)/Expense	(1,528)	(1)	-	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>698,250</u>	<u>393,776</u>	<u>468,982</u>	<u>575,205</u>	<u>603,153</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>90,567</u>	<u>144,636</u>	<u>146,942</u>	<u>107,420</u>	<u>59,516</u>
Other Income					
Other Income	13,565	8,065	5,692	8,749	11,500
Investment Income (Loss)	274,938	171,687	274,814	(273,034)	241,031
Total Other Income	<u>288,503</u>	<u>179,751</u>	<u>280,506</u>	<u>(264,285)</u>	<u>252,531</u>
Other Expenses					
Loss on disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	5,737
Depreciation Expense	56,983	66,810	70,183	71,674	72,671
Total Other Expenses	<u>56,983</u>	<u>66,810</u>	<u>70,183</u>	<u>71,674</u>	<u>78,408</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 322,087</u>	<u>\$ 257,577</u>	<u>\$ 357,265</u>	<u>\$ (228,539)</u>	<u>\$ 233,639</u>

Income Statement



TCHA Executive Director Annual Report 2023

Prepared by Claire Eagle

As I was preparing to start at TCHA last March, I found myself reading Annual Reports from the last couple of years. I was amazed at the things that had been accomplished and the way that this organization continued to fulfill its mission through the pandemic and the challenges it brought. I quickly realized that the successes I saw in those reports were all due to the dedication of TCHA staff, volunteers, and the Board of Governors. This dedication has continued through Leslie's retirement and my start as Executive Director. I'm thankful to have become a part of this wonderful organization and I'm excited to share with all of you my first Annual Report. As you'll see, TCHA had another very successful year. Here are some highlights:



Claire Eagle

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations:

- All donors and sponsors are listed in a separate area of this Annual Report. TCHA would not have had the successful year we did without each and every one of them. Please take some time to read through the list. Maybe we'll see your name on it next year!
- The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette awarded TCHA a grant of \$8,678.07 to cover the HVAC replacement at the Arganbright and some repairs to the Auditorium unit at the History Center.
- Duke Energy Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant for the Feast of the Hunters' Moon
- A \$2,940 grant from Indiana Humanities supported the participation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the Feast.
- Indiana Humanities also provided a \$400 grant to host Dr. Luke Gascho at our annual Tippecanoe Battle Commemoration event. His keynote presentation was entitled "Living on Indigenous Landscapes: Potawatomi and Settler Histories in Northern Indiana."
- The City of Lafayette gave \$15,000 in support of TCHA.
- The City of West Lafayette gave \$3,000 in support of TCHA.
- Tippecanoe County gave \$5,000 in support of TCHA.
- Subaru of Indiana provided a \$3,500 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- First Farmer's Bank and Trust provided a \$4,500 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette provided a \$5,000 sponsorship in support of program performances.
- We met and exceeded our goal of \$5,000 raised for our Annual Campaign with a net total of \$5,151.18!
- The City of Lafayette provided a \$12,500 sponsorship for the Bicentennial book project.
- Kirby Risk Corporation provided a \$12,500 sponsorship for the Bicentennial book project.
- American Legion Post 11 not only participated in our wreath laying ceremony for the Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration they also provided a \$300 sponsorship for the event.
- La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux provided \$300 in support of living history events at the Blockhouse.

Public Engagement and Partnerships

- Kelly, Mary Anthrop and I manned a TCHA booth at the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration
- TCHA partnered with the Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild to host an all-day quilt program at the History Center in June.
- TCHA social media pages had a great year! Facebook had a 20% increase in followers. Instagram had an 11% increase in followers. Total reached across Facebook and Instagram was 489,926. That's a 217% increase! This means our followers were sharing our posts far and wide. Big thanks go to Brooke Sauter and Quentin Robinson for helping me manage these pages!
- I presented a program at Westminster in September on the history of the Feast. Many of the attendees had been a part of the Feast in some form or fashion for years and it was great to hear their stories and memories.

- The Bicentennial Book Committee began author recruitment this summer. With the goal of 200 articles for 200 years, through email marketing, social media, word of mouth and several local media stories, TCHA has been able to recruit a good number of authors. Recruitment continues. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact us at book200@tippecanoehistory.org!
- TCHA was in the news! From the Feast, Juneteenth and the Bicentennial book to the story of a mystery solved by our very own Research Library Coordinator, Amy Harbor, TCHA was covered well in local media this year.
- We partnered with Purdue University's Department of Anthropology to celebrate Indiana Archeology Month at the Battlefield. The program included activities for all ages including artifact show-and-tell, artifact identification and atlatl throwing. Thanks to Dr. Kory Kooper, Cassie Apuzzo and Professor Buzon from Purdue!

Facilities

- The lighting project at the Arganbright was completed thanks to the incredible work of Pete Bill, Jeff Burnworth and Jeff Schwab! The majority of lights were converted to LED's with hopes that they will last longer and lower energy costs in the long term.
- The HVAC on the second floor of the Arganbright was replaced after breaking down in May thanks to a NOW Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette. Kelly was able to use her ingenuity to combine use of a window unit, a freestanding unit and fans to keep the Archive cooled down during the hot summer months.
- The motor in the History Center auditorium unit was replaced after burning out in early summer. This was also covered by the NOW Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette.
- The old hole ridden floor in my office was replaced with new laminate flooring. Many thanks to Jeff Burnworth and Jeff Schwab for completing the work!
- Countless other small repairs and preventative maintenance were completed throughout 2023. We are so thankful to the entire Facilities Committee for their work in keeping our facilities in great condition.



Claire Eagle, TCHA Executive Director, trying her hand at throwing an atlatl.

Everything you just read about would also not have been possible without all of you! Our members believe in TCHA and its mission and are crucial to our success. Library volunteers completed 2,920.5 hours of work completing indexing, cataloging and digitizing resources in our collection. It's almost impossible to quantify the volunteer hours that go into the Feast. With set-up volunteers, committee members that serve all year long and all of the volunteers that come with the food booths, just know it is A LOT. Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to the entire Board of Governors. They have the responsibility of guiding the Association in all our endeavors and do it with care. As volunteers, their dedication to TCHA is astounding. Here's to an even better 2024!



New Flooring

TCHA Collections Annual Report 2023

Prepared by Kelly Lippie

Collecting and Preserving

Donations and Administration

A Collections Committee held monthly meetings to consider all potential donations or purchases for the permanent collection, materials found in the collection but not documented and deaccessions. This committee is made up of 13 members who are staff members, Board of Governors or members of the Association and it is chaired by the Curator of Collections. In 2023, the committee created 83 new accessions (donations) to the permanent collection. The committee created 5 expendable collections, which are intended for use in programs or for other hands-on opportunities. Two of these accessions and expendable collections were purchases. The committee also recommended some minor updates and edits to the TCHA Collections Policy, which was approved by the Board of Governors in May.



Kelly Lippie

Special work was done by the curator in regard to collections administration. Both the library and collections staff worked with the Fairfield Township trustee to transfer the Greenbush Cemetery books to the TCHA permanent collection. This requires the approval of the Tippecanoe County Commission of Public Records and requires communication with the state archives.

Work also continues in partnership with the Ouiatenon Committee to plan for the current and future use of the Ouiatenon archeological collection; some of which is currently held at other repositories.

Outreach & Research

Throughout the year, the curator has worked to promote TCHA resources and collections by making presentations to other local organizations and helping with research projects that utilize the collection. A project early in the year involved working with the Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild to create a public program that would display quilts from the TCHA collection and give visitors a chance to learn more about their quilts and quilting. This resulted in a program held at the History Center in June.

Presentations were done for the Lafayette Kiwanis, Lions Club and Haan Museum board by the curator on specially requested historical topics. TCHA collections were utilized for public education during the Juneteenth celebration. The Potowattomi Trail of Death Caravan visited during their regular commemoration event to view the George Winter collection.

Several local groups have been in contact with the curator to receive advice or training on the proper care of historic materials. These groups include a local church, the Haan Museum, the Linden Train Museum and the Latino Center for Wellness and Education.

Several classes from the Purdue Honors College visited the library and archives in 2023 to learn about the available resources and take a tour. Many of these students returned to conduct research for class projects on black history, “visual memory” photographs and local music history.



Claire Eagle and Mary Anthrop at the Juneteenth Celebration

Projects

6 students were hosted as TCHA interns in 2023. Their projects included digitizing slides, writing articles for the Bicentennial book project, processing five archival collections and re-housing archaeological artifacts.

In addition to regular collections administration and research, volunteers assisted with projects to make the permanent collection more accessible and to improve storage. A collection of photograph portraits from the Journal and Courier were indexed. This project was done over several years and completed in 2023 with a total of 11,013 portraits. A collection of research files for historic tours and programs was donated by the local visitor's bureau and incorporated into the library vertical files. A number of ephemeral collections were digitized to the Past Perfect database including advertising and political campaign materials. A large collection of over 100 glass bottles were cataloged. This project included writing a detailed description, applying numbers and taking photographs of each bottle. A new project was begun by a volunteer to photograph architecture, events and construction projects throughout Tippecanoe County. This is an ongoing project that will work to document current points of interest. Volunteers cataloged and photographed over 100 items of clothing in the collection and hundreds of photographs were cataloged and scanned.



Postal Practice Box

Exhibits

To share TCHA's collection and interpret local history, exhibits are regularly changed out at several of the buildings. At the Arganbright Genealogy Center in 2023, a display of historic dresses from the 1910s was set up early in the year as part of an intern's project. Later, a scouting exhibit was changed to showcase swords from the collection.

At the History Center, a display of materials on loan from Masonic Lodge #123 was removed to make way for a display of shoes. The hand fan exhibit was removed at the end of December to prepare for a new exhibit in 2024.

At the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, several exhibit refurbishments were conducted and new, temporary displays were set up. To coordinate with an exhibit loan from the Indiana Historical Society, a display of local cartoonists was installed. The free exhibit loan occurred for 5 weeks in the summer and was themed *From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics*. To refresh the permanent exhibits, three staff members worked on removing all of the historic firearms for cleaning. The labels in the historic firearm exhibit were also edited and replaced. Updates were made to several other museum labels and the Native American display was rearranged.



Firearms Cleaning

Huston Electric assisted with the removal of a historic light pole from the permanent collection that had been on display at the Fowler House. This required a special lift truck and electrical work to remove. The light pole was transferred across the street to storage at the Arganbright Center.

As part of a new collaborative project with the West Lafayette Public Library, two exhibits were designed and installed for short displays in the library building. These exhibits were a history of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon and historic toys. There are plans to continue this collaboration with exhibits in 2024.

Finally, plans were begun for the Lafayette/Tippecanoe County Bicentennial celebration for pop up exhibits. This project is partially funded by the City of Lafayette and will allow for the production of two-dimensional exhibit panels that can travel to numerous sites around the county before, during and after the bicentennial celebrations.

Current loans

Loans are made to share the TCHA permanent collection with other historical groups or to enhance the exhibits of TCHA. There were three incoming loans made or renewed in 2023; all for exhibits at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum. Four outgoing loans were renewed for another years' duration.

Training

The curator completed professional development training by attending two different webinars in 2023. These were "Collaboration Between Museums and Indigenous Partners" and "Dealing with County records".

Donors to the Permanent and Expendable Collection in 2023

Sarah Ackerson	Mary Anthrop
Sharon Baker	Jennifer Beale
Ruth Ann Bechdol	Carolyn Beck
Pete and Lorita Bill	Kristy Brewer
Joan Briller	Peggy Bryant
Roy Bryant	David and Rita Buckles
Susan Clawson	Lou Ann Clugh
Mary Daly	Linda Emberton
R. David Edmunds	Mary Fairman
Five Points Fire Station Museum	Frankfort Community Public Library
Shirley Fruits	The George Ade Commission at Hazeldon Estate
Amy and Jon Harbor	Tara Harl
Mark Jaeger	Anna Kennedy
Jason King	Jack Korty
La Porte County Historical Society Museum	Lebanon Public Library
Roger Mansfield	Bob McIntyre
Marta O'Neill	Marcia Phillips
Potawatomi Trail of Death Association	Colleen Reader
Quentin and Camilla Robinson	David and Nancy Sattler
Sean Sassex	Marsha Selmer

Lynn Senesac	Peter and Charlene Sherry
Van and Lynne Sherry	Norma Jean Singley
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration	Michael Smith
Robin Smith	Mary Springer
Arnold Sweet	Lynn Swingle
Tippecanoe County Commissioners	Jane Turner
Diana Vice	Dana White
Fred Whitford	

TCHA Membership Annual Report 2023

Prepared by Kelly Lippie

2023 ended with a total of 424 members of the Association; an increase of 68 members from the same time in 2022. New membership perks were introduced in February that included changes to the Benefactor and Treasure level memberships. The level of “Donor” memberships’ name was changed to “Premier” and the “School” membership level was discontinued because it was not being used. A new group research rate was introduced to the library to accommodate classes and clubs who might have formerly used the school membership to access resources.



Kelly Lippie

The Board of Governors were given a month- long member recruitment challenge that resulted in 17 new memberships. The Membership and VIP marquess tent at the Feast of the Hunters’ Moon was hosted by Board Governors and resulted in the sale of 17 membership (both renewals and new purchases).

A study was conducted of non-renewals from 2022 by the Membership and Development committee to help plan and understand membership trends. Gift memberships were made available for purchase by current members and plans are underway to offer gift membership online for purchase by anyone. The membership committee also Introduced a new sign-up opportunity at programs so non-members can get a one-time email from membership regarding programs and membership. Sign-up was available online or on paper.

Four electronic newsletters were produced in 2023. These are written by staff and volunteers and compiled into a digital format by a contractor. The new layout, designed in 2022, continues to work well for this publication.

A member appreciation sale at the History Store scheduled for Dec. 14-17, 2023. More similar perks and appreciation events are planned for 2024.



2023 Annual Membership Meeting

TCHA Alameda McCollough Research Library Annual Report 2023
Prepared by Amy Harbor

Researching

In support of our mission to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, researching, and sharing our unique and diverse history, the research library is open ten hours a week for walk-in visitors who come in to research their families and other topics of Tippecanoe County history. We also have visitors by appointment on other days, as needed. I spend another eight hours a week working on requests that come in by telephone and email. Scanning and sending document images also takes up a good amount of time.



Amy Harbor

I also supervise ten volunteers who provide a huge amount of support in the library. In addition to helping with patron research, these volunteers are indexing our vast collection of documents in an ongoing effort to convert everything to digital. Our goal is to make all our indices available on our website. As this is happening, we are seeing an increase in research requests with references to these new indices. Hundreds of volunteer hours were devoted to this in 2023.

A sample of the collections we indexed in 2023 include:

- Civil War Soldiers from Tippecanoe County (finished in 2023!)
- Marriage supplement records
- Property Deeds
- County Commissioners' Poor Relief records

Volunteers and staff were also involved with researching people buried in Greenbush Cemetery and Spring Vale Cemetery in preparation for two extremely popular and well attended cemetery tours. Both tours enjoyed beautiful weather and hundreds of visitors. Volunteers presented stories about the lives of well-known Lafayette citizens buried in Greenbush in May and Spring Vale in September. Due to popular demand we plan to continue this series with two more tours in 2024. These two tours also brought in several hundred dollars in donations.

In March we were excited to welcome our new Executive Director and help her get up to speed on local history. Her support of the library and enthusiasm are welcome and very much appreciated. We will continue to help her as much as we can as she settles into her role.

In April we offered a beginning Genealogy class, taught by one of our volunteers. The class filled up quickly and was very well received. This was a free class for members, with a fee for non-members. This encouraged a couple of people to join to take advantage of the free class. The class will be repeated in 2024 with the addition of a small fee.

In November, the research library became a Family Search Affiliate library. This status gives us access to Family Search digital collections that are not available to the public. Patrons, volunteers, and staff have benefited from this access at no cost to TCHA.

Once again, the research library enjoyed a good year with some positive publicity, a lot of contact with the public and members, and many mysteries solved. We are looking forward to more of the same in 2024.



Library Volunteer Colleen Reader

TCHA Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store Annual Report 2023

Prepared by Trey Gorden

The Tippecanoe Battlefield hosted its first INfields meeting on Wednesday, April 19th. And at the end of this year the project made a report / sales pitch to potential member organizations. The price tag of \$2000.00/year for founding members, though, is very high. I am working with Claire to find ways to continue our involvement without committing such a large sum of TCHA's money to the project until we know whether such an investment will pay off. One possible solution might be applying for a grant that will cover our cost for the first year. The closure of 9th Street between Burnett's Road and Prophets Rock Road had a significant impact on our visitor numbers this year, especially beginning, as it did, just as our busy season was starting. See the charts at the end of my report for the numbers.



Trey Gorden

I put up signs in such a way that we were able to avoid complicated permitting. Those signs seem to have helped, but it's difficult to quantify how much. Visitors who found us said the signs were helpful in finding the museum, and one expressed appreciation for the directions on the Web site. But of course, those who didn't find us didn't give us feedback. I had one phone call from someone who was having problems (I helped him find us), but that is only one data point.

While the road has been open for a while, it was recently closed again. We've been told that the construction will be completed before the end of February, at the latest. I'm planning to purchase new signs to get us through that month (and the possibility of the project running past the time projections).

The new drinks fridge is installed and running happily (and quietly). Many thanks to Jeff Schwab, Jeff Burnworth, Del Bartlett, and Pete and Lorita Bill for their help.

The Feast 2023 mugs were a success again. I plan to keep this design group together, if I can, for as long as they can stand me.

Overall, Feast sales were down this year. I'm looking at ways to address this, looking first at book selection.

Feast requires a temporary staff person to act as my Feast assistant from early August to mid-October. That person must have good organizational skills, be fluent in the use of Excel spreadsheets, and physically able to handle a lot of packing and unpacking, loading and unloading. Except for the week of the Feast, it is a 2- to 3-day per week job. Then starting Monday of Feast week, it is every day through the end of the event and a few days after. Feast week is normally a 70-hour work week; period clothing is encouraged. If you know of someone who might be a good fit for the job, have them call me at the museum store, (765) 567-2147. Retirees are good candidates as long as they are physically capable and not too computer-phobic. Ex-military folks are also good, as are recent college graduates who have not moved on to their careers yet. Full time students are not so good, due to that 70-hour week in October. The Feast assistant also needs to be an adult. Ideally, I could find someone who would be willing and able to do it year after year, but that's asking a lot. It is a paid position.

In June and July, we hosted an IHS traveling exhibit, *From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics*. Dave Sattler generously loaned us parts of his extensive collection, and Kelly used these artifacts to enhance the information in IHS's panels. It was a wonderful exhibit! This upcoming summer, Kelly has requested Indiana *Through the Mapmaker's Eye*, another exhibit that plays to the strengths of TCHA's collection. I can't wait to see what she does with it. Come on out and see.

As in past years, John and Nolan Wickett presented their program several times out at the Tippecanoe Battlefield. They portray members of Harrison's force, wearing their gorgeous period uniforms and equipment to present a fascinating program. They are both incredibly knowledgeable about the



Battlefield Commemoration



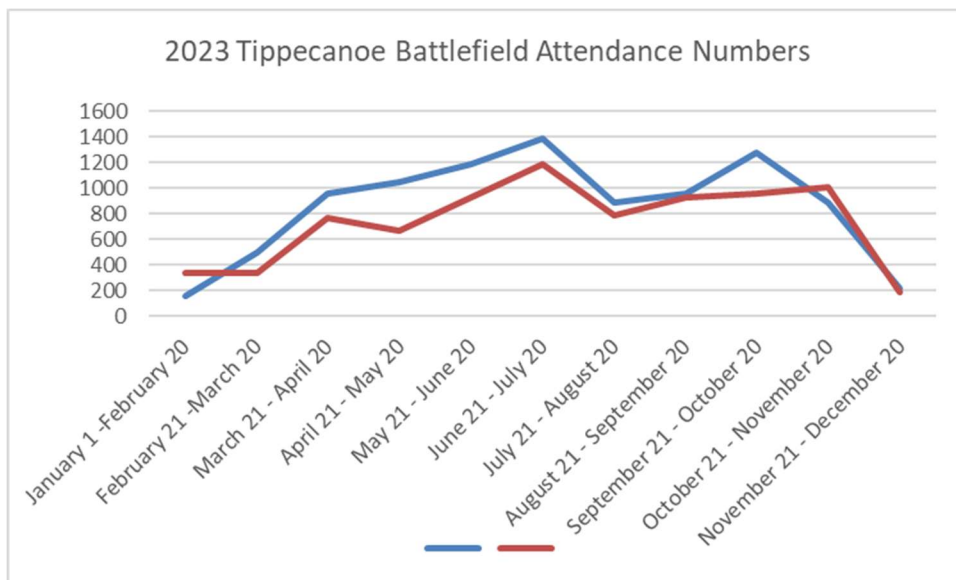
Dr. Luke Gascho

Battle of Tippecanoe and early nineteenth century military life in general. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming dates.

Commemoration was a great success. Dr. Luke Gascho’s keynote speech, “Living on Indigenous Landscapes: Potawatomi and Settler Histories in Northern Indiana,” was interesting. We even had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all the participants. We had great weather, which encouraged lots of participation from re-enactors, including DuBoise’s Company of Spies and Guides and John & Nolan Wickett. Many of the reenactors spent two nights at the battlefield using period-appropriate camping gear, which they discussed with many fascinated visitors.

In addition to this month’s on-site events, I took to the road with our travelling presentations on the history of the Tippecanoe Battlefield and on the political events leading up to the battle. I presented in Monticello and locally, and I hope to expand on these offerings in the coming year.

2023 Tippecanoe Battlefield Attendance Numbers					
Duration	2022 attendance	2023 attendance ²	Change in Attendance		
			Numerical	Percentage	
January 1 -February 20	158	340	182	115.19%	
February 21 -March 20	501	342	-159	-31.74%	
March 21 - April 20	959	771	-188	-19.60%	
April 21 - May 20	1051	665	-386	-36.73%	
May 21 - June 20	1191	927	-264	-22.17%	
June 21 - July 20	1388	1193	-195	-14.05%	
July 21 - August 20	890	786	-104	-11.69%	
August 21 - September 20	957	928	-29	-3.03%	
September 21 - October 20	1279	959	-320	-25.02%	
October 21 - November 20	888	1013	125	14.08%	
November 21 - December 20	223	193	-30	-13.45%	
2022 Totals	9485	8117	-1368	-14.42%	



Blue line represents 2022, red line represents 2023

TCHA Programming Annual Report 2023 Prepared by Claire Eagle

Sharing

2023's successful programming season would not have been possible without our sponsors, volunteer presenters and committee. Educational programming is a BIG part of our mission and their support and time allow us to continue to fulfill our mission, enriching the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving and sharing our unique and diverse history. Support for this year's programs included The National Group, La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux, Indiana Humanities and the American Legion Post 11. With their support and the help of over 75 volunteers, 2023 programs (exclusive of the Feast) had 1,453 attendees.



Claire Eagle



*Dave Sattler, local Cartoonist and TCHA Board Member
presents A Cartoon History of Greater Lafayette*

There is a change coming for 2024. Members will no longer receive the monthly postcards, instead receiving a brochure each quarter with more details of our programming. You should have already received your first one, but if you missed it, we have a few copies available on your tables! As always, our schedule can always be found on our website at tippecanoehistory.org and our Facebook page. We're looking forward to another year of great programming, including a few exciting additions!

Finally, special thanks go to our entire committee for working hard to put on an interesting and balanced slate of programs. 2023 committee members were Pete Bill, Leslie Martin Conwell, Amy Harbor, David Hovde, Walt Griffin, Quentin Robinson, Brooke Sauter and Jeff Schwab. If program planning interests you, please contact

me at director@tippecanoehistory.org. Any member can be on the committee!



Meal Prepared during Joyeux Noel a Post du Ouiatenon.

Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report 2023

Prepared by Leslie Martin Conwell and Brooke Sauter

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is TCHA's largest fundraiser of the year, annually generating over 60% of the operating income of the Association. The funds raised at this historical reenactment of life at Fort Ouiatenon (1717-1791) help us meet our mission on a daily basis through the work of staff and volunteers at the sites TCHA operates: Frank C. Arganbright Genealogy Center, the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, the History Center, and the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse.

The 2023 Feast has provided over \$195,000.00 in operating funds for TCHA in 2024. These funds help us meet our promise to the community as Tippecanoe County's "history keeper" - to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, and sharing our unique and diverse history.

The Feast can be greatly impacted by weather. In the past, we've had some real doozies due to Mother Nature not cooperating! However, I'm happy to report the weather was beautiful (A high of 61 on Saturday and 56 on Sunday!) and an audience of 41,203 enthusiastic Feast goers showed up to celebrate the 56th annual event in the gorgeous fall weather on the banks of the Wabash.

This cool but clear (and dry!) weather allowed visitors to "Feast" their way around all the food booths, enjoy the performances and cultural presentations in the arenas and on the stages, learn from the traditional artisans, and shop 18th century-style wares.

2023 also saw Leslie's official retirement from the Feast, and TCHA, after over 40 years of involvement with the organization. She is always quick to follow up that she looks forward to her next role with the event, as lead toilet paper re-stocker, a task that is so dutifully needed for an event as big as the Feast!

Brooke Sauter also joined the team in August of 2024, and officially took over the reins on January 1. Brooke will now oversee the event as the Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager.

The Event Manager is responsible for keeping the event focused on the educational mission of the Feast, ensuring that the budget is adhered to, and making all programming contacts, logistical arrangements and service contracts. The Manager assists the TCHA board, Feast chairman, and Feast Steering Committee in their efforts to ensure a successful, profitable event TCHA can be proud of. The Feast committee works hard every year and provides innovative ideas, encouragement, and support to Feast staff.



Native Dancers

We thank these folks for serving TCHA and the Feast Committee members for 2023 included: Josh Adamson, Daniel Alford, Sara Bartlett, Mac Bellner, Pete Bill, Jeff Burnworth, Terry Clark, David Conner, Barbara Deaton, Claire Eagle, Mike Elliott, Mary Fisher, Brian Hawn, Erin Hicks, Jeff Hockstra, Diane Hunter, Erika Kvam, Bob Leavitt, Matt Reibsoner, Brooke Sauter, Jeff Schwab, Preston Smith, Sheri Sondgerath, Jason Stanfield, Scott Stambaugh, Linda Swihart, Brian Wagner, Jeni Watkins, Joyce Wiegand, Logan York, Bill Young, and Jan Young. Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department Director Randy Lower as well as Fort Ouiatenon Site Manager Andy Wall complete the Feast team. TCHA's

partnership with the parks department is critical to the success of the Feast. TCHA collaborates with the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department on the production and grounds set-up/tear down for the Feast, as they own the land the Feast is held on.



Brooke Sauter and Leslie Martin Conwell



French Military

Some significant challenges that affected the Feast in 2023: The continuance of inflation and its impact on the bottom line for the Association, supply chain issues, food sourcing difficulties, and shortages of booth workers and volunteers, as well as training Brooke for this new role. All of these items are actively being addressed by the Feast Steering Committee, TCHA staff, and the Board of Governors.

Looking ahead, Brooke has big things planned as she assumes the new role. While these big ideas are still under wraps until they're concrete enough to stand on, she is eager to hit the ground running in 2024 and looks forward to continuing the Feast legacy.

Thanks to the participants, community partners, sponsors, Feast goers, and the thousands of volunteers that make the Feast a treasured tradition in Tippecanoe County, the 2023 Feast will go in the books as a very successful one! We hope to see YOU at the 2024 Feast, scheduled for October 5-6!

Besides TCHA, over 50 area not-for-profits benefit from the Feast. The event infuses over 2 million dollars into the local tourism economy, thus making the Feast- and TCHA- vital to the quality of life in the community at large.



TCHA Board Committees Reports 2023

Facilities Committee

Members: Pete Bill (co-chair), Walt Griffin (co-chair), Del Bartlett, Colby Bartlett, Lorita Bil, Jeff Burnworth, Kevin Cullen, Kelly Lippie; Marsha Selmer. Jeff Schwab (Board President) and Claire Eagle (Executive Director) are *ex officio* members.

The Facilities Committee, formerly the Building and Ground Committee, is charged with advising the Board and the Executive Director on matters relating to the upkeep, maintenance, and repair of the Arganbright building, the History Center, the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse, the TCHA owned improvements at the Battlefield Museum and Store (TCHA does not own the building itself at the Battlefield), and the house at the Fort Ouiatenon Overlook.

As a Board Committee, the Facilities Committee researches and collates background information on facilities issues and makes recommendations to the Executive Director and the Board. Committee recommendations go to the Executive Director for actions that do not incur a large expense and do not significantly exceed budget allocations.

Recommendations may go to the Board's Executive Committee or to the full Board for a decision if the recommendation's financial impact on the Association is large or requires expenditures significantly outside of the budget allocations.

Over the past two years the Emergency Maintenance Fund has been replenished (it was drained during COVID and the year after the No-Feast year 2020). This fund serves to help cover costs for significant unexpected expenditures (e.g., HVAC failures, plumbing emergencies). TCHA is very **grateful to the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette** for the financial support they have provided to help pay for some of these essential equipment or infrastructure failure.

Informally in the past two years, the members of the Committee have also chipped in to do maintenance and remodeling projects for TCHA (replacement of fluorescent lights at Arganbright with LED panels, replacement of lights at Battlefield, updating AV equipment and some computer equipment, leak mitigation and replacement at HC, installation of Legacy Bricks, weeding and mulching, TCHA trailer repair, etc.). This has saved the Association thousands of dollars in labor costs.

Because of volunteer help, external grants, and judicial spending on the long list of projects completed in 2023 (see below), the Committee has remained well within the budgeted expenditures for facilities maintenance and repair. In fact, the committee has recommended a decrease in budgetary allocation for 2024 so those freed-up funds can be allocated for other aspects of TCHA's operational budget.

The following are significant 2023 projects in which the Committee was involved:

- History Center boiler tank repair was done in December 2022. The original boiler is of an older construction which is more reliable than newer models, however, the committee recommended investigating alternatives for the HVAC system. Some investigation was done and it was generally determined that the cost to switch to a forced-air furnace /air conditioning system would be cost prohibitive requiring extensive remodeling to accommodate. A tankless boiler system was not investigated but informal information received indicated a very high expense.
- Further HVAC issues at HC:
 - Air blower for the HC auditorium stopped working due to bearings failing on the blower motor. Blue Fox replaced blower motor and drive pulley: \$1697.12
 - Banquet room heat went out at the end of January. Blue Fox identified a malfunctioning hot water circulation pump to the blower that supplies the banquet room area. Pump was replaced and charged \$953.75 plus \$231.25 to reconfigure the pipes for the new pump. Total: \$1185.00.
 - The basement blower for the HVAC was disconnected and moved to replace the failing banquet/auditorium blower. We didn't replace the basement blower. Temperature and humidity are okay for now. Basement blower will be replaced in 2024.

- The A/C unit at Arganbright that supplies the second floor failed during the summer. A replacement for the unit's leaky coil was very difficult to locate. Blue Fox provided us with a room-cooling unit to keep the computer server room under 90 degrees and help prevent overheating of sensitive archive areas (e.g., film storage). After a month, a smaller complete A/C unit was installed. **Community Foundation provided partial funding.**
- Jeff Burnworth, Jeff Schwab, and Pete Bill worked for several days over the span of 2 months to replace all of the old fluorescent light fixtures on the main and 2nd floor of Arganbright with new LED panels. This also required finding disposal sites for dozens of old light ballasts (some with PCBs) and the fluorescent bulbs. The LED panels added a great deal of light especially to the archive storage areas on the second floor.
- Enhanced audio-visual equipment was acquired to facilitate meetings hybrid (Zoom and in person) and presentations at the HC. A **Community Foundation NOW grant** funded 4 microphones and stands. A mobile presentation console for a computer used for presentations at the HC was acquired from Purdue salvage. The refurbished unit will allow easier use by presenters and will allow staff to control Zoom functions during meetings and presentations.
- Many lights are burned out in the high ceiling in the HC auditorium. A very tall ladder has been acquired and all incandescent bulbs lights will be removed and replaced with LED bulbs. The fluorescent panel in the foyer of the HC will be replaced with an LED panel. Jeff Burnworth and Jeff Schwab will provide the labor.
- Computers to replace aging computers at Arganbright and HC were acquired through a member donation. This update was sorely needed.
- TCHA coordinated dismantling of a historic lamp post that is owned by TCHA but was located at Fowler House. Kelly worked with a contractor to disassemble the lamp post and move it to storage.
- The alarm system at Arganbright, History Center, and the Blockhouse all had problems with not working appropriately. Multiple trips by Mulhaupt to service the system they had installed were required. The troubles started in January 2023 and by the fall appear to all have been corrected. Kelly and Claire have not reported any significant malfunctions since October.
- The work done on the History Center roof in 2022 by Shafer Roofing had caused problems with ceiling leaks in the banquet hall and on the stage of the auditorium. Both were corrected but clean-up of the curtain in the auditorium from where the rain-soaked ceiling tiles had collapsed onto the stage were to be cleaned up by Shafer and the damage to the floor surface in the banquet room fixed (involved stripping and rewaxing the entire floor). Both of these were completed in early spring 2023. In July a leak in the HC banquet room roof was discovered to be staining the ceiling panels. The leak was relatively small, but because the roof decking is corrugated, the water from the leak was running along the decking channels eventually dripping out at an open end under one of the roof vents. Thus, the source for the leak could be anywhere along a 200 foot run of deck channel with no way to identify the source. Because the leak is small, a drip pan was set up under the roof vent to catch any water coming out of the roof decking channels and prevent it from damaging the suspended ceiling panels.
- LED lights were installed at the Battlefield Museum by volunteers and staff. The A/C went out and was repaired. The carpet has been professionally cleaned for the first time in years and evaluated for replacement. Doesn't need replacement yet.
- Jeff Burnworth removed the badly damaged floor tiles in Claire's office and replaced the flooring with a better laminate.
- The wall-mounted monitor in the HC foyer was reconnected and made operational by Jeff Schwab so it can run scrolling messages and information.
- Comcast increased the bandwidth at the Feast this year. The original quote provided by Comcast was well below what TCHA was charged due to additional fees and the inability to terminate the contract as quickly as had been originally planned. The goal is to expand internet bandwidth at the Feast so all vendors and entrance gates can use the internet to conduct payments for goods and services reducing reliance on cash-only transactions.
- The City of Lafayette reported that the chimney housing the hot air exhaust vent for the HC boiler was deteriorating and pieces were falling off. An independent masonry contractor with a very good reputation has agreed to do the work. It will involve dismantling part of the chimney (within city code) and repairing the brick on the remainder of the chimney. This will be done in the spring when the temperatures get warmer.

Projects to Continue into 2024

- Inspection of the Arganbright roof
- Assessment of exterior paint and wall condition at Arganbright
- Further discussion of possible display areas in the History Center alcove
- Training of all staff on the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) owned by TCHA
- Formal training of all staff on the safe use of the kitchen equipment including gas supply, electrical supply, and operation of large cooking equipment.
- Create monitor and computer system so we can do Zoom meetings at Argbanbright.
- Replacement of blower system in basement of HC

WE WANT YOU: *The Committee is seeking TCHA members with building construction, infrastructure maintenance, HVAC experience, or other construction/maintenance knowledge to become part of the Facilities Committee so we can 1) better advise the Board and Executive Director on facilities matters, 2) help facilitate effective interaction with building or repair contractors working on TCHA owned facilities. We also welcome anyone who is willing to pitch in on small maintenance or upkeep projects (e.g., mulching, painting, setting up shelving, brush cutting, etc.), or any other projects that will help service TCHA facilities and thereby move TCHA forward with its mission.*

Please contact Jeff Schwab, Board President, at: jrs@purdue.edu

Historical Markers Committee:

The Historic Markers Committee met late in 2023 to get Trey on board and caught up as the new chairman. Sharon Baker and Kelly Lippie have already been hard at work collecting documents and a spreadsheet that log the committee's past work. We will begin meeting regularly starting in January on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Finding ways to make the markers program financially self-sustaining will be a priority.

Lafayette Bicentennial Publications Committee:

Time marches on and the bicentennial of the city and county is only a year or two away.

Thanks to the work of Claire Eagle, we have obtained sufficient funding to proceed with the steps necessary to edit and prepare the book for publication. The committee has seen an uptick in author interest and potential articles are being submitted on a regular basis.

But, we still can use more authors and articles. Please consider authoring an article about your favorite topic that contributed to the development of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County as we know it. We discover over and over again that our members are great sources of knowledge about local history and we'd like you to share that with the community. Please write to us at book200@tippecanoehistory.org to volunteer to share in writing our local history.

Membership and Development Committee

Members: Pete Bill (co-chair), Brooke Sauter (co-chair), Del Bartlett, Jeff Burnworth, Kelly Lippie, Dave Sattler, Ronda Schwab, Jeff Schwab (Board President), Claire Eagle (Executive Director)

The Membership and Development Committee is a Standing Board Committee charged with advising the Board of Governors and the Executive Director on matters relating to membership, or efforts to engage the community for purposes of development (donor cultivation, procurement of grants, external fund raising, sponsoring partnership formation, etc.).

Membership: As a Board Committee, the Membership and Development Committee works with membership staff (Kelly Lippie) to be a sounding board for feedback or ideas, or as an additional conduit between membership staff and the Board. Discussions include changes in membership benefits and services, methods for membership recruitment, and membership outreach projects.

Membership staff reports at each meeting on the status of membership numbers, trends, and ideas for reaching out to members and increasing the perceived value of their membership. The status of the Tippecanews newsletter is discussed (the newsletter sent out electronically 4 times a year) and any results from membership surveys. Plans for covering the TCHA Membership Tent at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon are also discussed during this time.

Membership numbers for the year and more details about projects completed for membership are reported in Kelly Lippie's Membership Report section of this Annual Report.

Development: The Executive Director (Claire Eagle effective April 2023) is typically the chief development officer for TCHA. The Executive Director works closely with the Committee to plan development events (e.g., fundraising programming), on-going donation programs (e.g., Legacy Brick), the Annual Appeal, and relationship-building events. The Executive Director takes the lead in writing and submitting grants, as well as completing grant reports, and the Committee acts as a support group for the Executive Director by helping to suggest potential granting opportunities or donor opportunities, providing identifying documentation for targeted equipment costs for grants, helping to proof grant applications or reports, and acting as sounding board for pursuing certain grants.

During the Committee meetings the Executive Director reports on all grants in development, grants procured, and grants concluded (required reports submitted to granting agencies). In this past year the Committee and the Executive Director formulated a Development Strategic Plan for 2024 along with setting specific target goals for the coming year.

Grants, sponsorships and donations for 2023 are presented in the Executive Director's section of this Annual Report.

Development and Membership Committee Projects for 2024

- Review and modification (as needed) for Annual Appeal 2024 – timing, goals, tracking goal progress, reporting of goal progress to membership, additional communication during the Appeal period.
- Continued expansion on Planned Giving opportunities for TCHA: estate planning, monthly giving, donations from IRA required minimum distributions (RMD)
- Continue efforts to attract new support for increasing the endowments whose interest would be used to support TCHA operations and increase the Association's fiscal stability by reducing dependence upon the weather-dependent Feast for so much of the Association's yearly operational budget.
- Continue to discuss and create effective methods to foster development relationships with individuals, businesses, and community leaders.

Thanks to the Committee volunteers and staff for helping this Committee fulfill its function and obligation to the Board of Governors.

WE WANT YOU: *The Committee is seeking TCHA members with experience, or ideas, on how to better engage the community in practical methods of donor partnership development, personal engagement with the Association, cost effective uses of social media for outreach and communication with the community, and other means by which TCHA can attract non-TCHA-members into the TCHA orbit.*

Please contact Jeff Schwab, Board President, at: jrs@purdue.edu

Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

- In January-February discussions focused on the acquisition of 90 additional acres by OPI for the preserve which led to a discussion about maintaining better communication between OPI and TCHA in the future. AS a result there is a new reporting procedure for OPI-OP Committee (TCHA). After quarterly meeting of OPI board Mike Reckowsky (President of both the OPI and RWF boards) will meet with the OP Committee.

- Agreement with the Lafayette Sportsmens' Club was finalized at the May board meeting. Still need to define mowing right of way.
- There was a discussion of the plan for the OP overlook at this years' Feast. Last year it was blocked off with tape and cones and two cones were stolen. The consensus seems to be that this year it will be open with a sign reminder drivers to stay on the gravel areas. We revisited the plan to get boulders placed at the overlook to potentially help keep people from driving where they shouldn't. Kohlers had expressed interest in donating labor and equipment and Purdue has expressed interest in donating the boulders. Colby will follow up with both in the fall.
- We discussed having a future OP committee meeting at the Fix House. Mike Reckowsky is still waiting to hear back from the people who looked at the property last year. They are supposed to provide Mike (free of charge) some plans and estimates for what could/should be done to make the house usable by the public.
- A major task this year was communicating our understanding of ownership of the Kellar Ouiatenon collection currently at Indiana University Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology (IUMAA). They do not recognize that TCHA has a claim on the collection and they are not willing to accommodate a meeting at this time. Del and Leslie have prepared statements. In the new year Claire and I will go through the TCHA documents and prepare a response for the IU Museum.
- There was some discussion regarding Tippecanoe County Parks entering their land adjacent to the OP into the preserve.

Outstanding Items to be Addressed in Coming Year

- Kory will work with Claire on response to IU Museums lack of interest in working with use regarding ownership of Kellar collection from Ouiatenon.
- Have detailed discussion with Reckowsky about future of Fix House.
- We revisited the plan to get boulders placed at the overlook to potentially help keep people from driving where they shouldn't. Kohlers had expressed interest in donating labor and equipment and Purdue has expressed interest in donating the boulders. Need to follow up with both.
- Have board members visit OP and Fix property.

Grants, donations, and sponsorships for 2023 are listed below

Grant Income

Indiana Humanities	\$ 3,340.00
Duke Energy	\$ 5,000.00
Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette	\$ 8,678.07

Sponsorships

American Legion Post 11	\$ 300.00
La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux	\$ 300.00
Subaru	\$ 3,500.00
First Farmers	\$ 4,500.00
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette	\$ 5,000.00
City of Lafayette	\$ 12,500.00
Kirby Risk Corporation	\$ 12,500.00

Contributions or donations \$1 – \$100

American Literature Club	William Hoover
Amazon Smile	Judith and Ronald Howard
Larry Anderson	Mark Howells
Carol Andrew	James Ross and Marylin Howland
Mary Anthrop	Thomas G. King
Tom and Mary Arth	John Knoll
John and Joan Bauer	Michael and Pamela Luenz
Carolyn Bedrosian	Ben and Maxine Miller
David Blickenstaff	Rick Oliver
Paula Bongen	Janet Onken
Spencer Bower	Jeff Bolin and Carol Post
Mark and Barbara Bowman	Mary Pugh
John Brainard	Jacquelyn Ralph
Joan and Joseph Briller	Colleen Reader
Marilyn Brown	Larry and Marianne Rose
Ed and Becky Chosnek	Margaret Rowe
Suzanne and Dan Collins	Nick Schenkel
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Gordon and Harriet Coppoc	Jeff and Ronda Schwab
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Harlan and Heather Day	Harriet Smith
Leon and Kay Dickson	Pauletta V. Smith
Ron and Jan Ditto	Laura Smyser
Peter and Georgia Dunn	Elizabeth Stoddart
Facebook	Linda Sutter
Julie Ginn	Bob and Patti Truitt
Deborah Halsema	Jane Turner
Katherine L. Hiser	Terry and Shirley West
John Hobaugh	Joyce Wiegand

Contributions or donations \$101 - \$250

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Pete and Lorita Bill
Joseph Carter
Sally Jean Carter
Caterpillar Foundation Match

Joey Hall
Michael O. Hunt
Quentin and Camilla Robinson
Mary and Ted Springer
Darrell Schulze and Diane Stott

Contribution or donations \$251 - \$500

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Jane Kinyon and Mike Brown
John Copeland and Gail Thayer-Copeland
Connie Small Davis
Junction 1869
Amy Johnson

Carolyn Niemantsverdriet
Marsha Selmer
Peter Fadde and Pat Sullivan
Tippecanoe County Area Genealogy Society
Dave and Nancy Sattler

Contributions or donations \$501 - \$1,000

Steve and Debbie Belter
Jon and Amy Harbor

Margaret Wood

Contributions or donations \$1,001 - \$5,000

Elsie Fleeger
City of West Lafayette

Tippecanoe County

Contributions or donations \$5,001 or more

City of Lafayette

Contributions in Kind

Lorita Bill
Haley's Lock Safe and Keys
Henry Poor Lumber
Huston Electric
Jim's Garage
La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux

Lafayette Travel Trailer
Long Electric
The National Group
Vester and Associates
Wintek Corporation

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As of January 3, 2023**

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Spicer Connie	Devon Roddel
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Seth Harden	Alice Wenger
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Erika Kvam	Nah'shon Williams
Elizabeth Linginfelter	The Wabash Weavers Guild
Sean Lutes	

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