



**2025  
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*

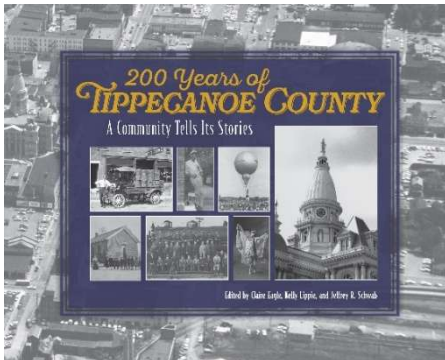
What a fabulous year we have had! The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Lafayette brought a renewed emphasis on local history through many activities across the area. The Tippecanoe County Historical Association was prominent in many of these events. We were able to utilize our extensive collection of local artifacts and memorabilia to showcase our efforts to preserve local history and give the public a glimpse into the breath of our archives.

The careful stewardship of our funds and the oversight of our budget and expenditures continue to strengthen the financial health of our organization. We greatly appreciate and acknowledge the generous financial support that so many of you have given us over the past many years.



One of the highlights of the year for TCHA was the release of the book *200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells Its Stories*. With stories written by over 70 volunteers from the community at large, this book delves into not only the famous and well-known aspects of the development of the city and county but also includes articles about lesser known characters and events that shaped our area.

One of the most visible aspects of the Association's efforts during the bicentennial celebration was a touring collection of pop-up exhibit panels sponsored by the City of Lafayette. These panels were booked throughout the year at various schools, community events, and public locations. Our own curator, Kelly Lippie, was instrumental in putting these panels together and shepherding them around the area.



As our attention now turns to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Tippecanoe County, we intend to reach out to the communities and institutions throughout the rest of the area to continue our efforts to promote our collection and preservation of local history.

In addition, we will continue to hold our traditional events, such as the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon in the fall, the spring Maple Sugaring presentation at Fort Ouiatenon, the annual Battlefield Commemoration and our very successful series of Taste of the Past dinners at the History Center. We are also planning new events this year, so watch for our quarterly program announcements.

As always, I cannot say enough about our dedicated staff and volunteers. Claire, Kelly, Trey, Brooke, and Laura continue to work tirelessly to serve our members and the public. Although we had to say goodbye to our retiring Research Library Coordinator, Amy Harbor, we are happy to welcome Lucy Lugo into that role. An organization such as ours could not continue without the literally thousands of hours that our volunteers contribute in serving our archives, library, events, and facilities upkeep. We appreciate you more than you can ever know.

As I step down as your president at the end of my current term, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve our Association and all the support you have given me over the last five years.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Schwab*

Jeff Schwab (jrs@purdue.edu)

Minutes for TCHA Annual Membership Meeting  
2:00 PM, February 1, 2025  
Meeting at the History Center

**FOR  
APPROVAL**

Board President Jeffrey Schwab welcomed over sixty (60) TCHA members and guests to the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting held at the History Center. The meeting opened at 2:12 pm.

The Minutes of the February 3, 2024 Annual Meeting were presented and approved as written by voice vote after a motion and second from [Linda S and Dave S] the membership.

Board President Jeff Schwab thanked Teays River for catering the meeting.

**He then presented the President's Report**, highlighting the 200-year anniversary of the city of Lafayette and noting the stand-up displays developed by Kelly Lippie on display in the lobby. He thanked the TCHA staff for their continued professional work with our members, the public and TCHA committees and he asked that we stay tuned for news later in the meeting about TCHA's book celebrating 200 years of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County History.

President Schwab noted that TCHA offered a significant number of public programs in 2024 with good attendance.

He called attention to a successful, robust Feast of the Hunters' Moon in 2024.

President Schwab took a moment to thank the Association's staff for their dedication and hard work on behalf of TCHA.

And President Schwab thanked the Association's many volunteers who keep TCHA open and active in the community. He encouraged all TCHA members to join committees to support and move the Association's mission forward.

The President's Report was followed by the Treasurer's Report and the Association's financial report both presented as a PowerPoint slide series by Treasurer Lorita Bill. (see attached).

Governor Bill reported that although expenditure on staff salaries and the costs associated with the Feast of the Hunters' Moon increased in 2024 TCHA ended 2024 with operating income of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) which puts the organization in a secure financial position for the coming year. She noted the Report is preliminary; the final Report will be available later this year.

The Feast Committee will be reviewing the Feast admission price at least every three years. The admission price is not expected to be increased in 2025; however, the admission price will be reviewed for the 2026 Feast.

A question from the members prompted the Treasurer to draw out attention to the "Donations" line item in the budget presentation. The Report was then approved by voice vote.

Claire Eagle presented the Executive Director's Report, summing up the Association's work and initiatives during 2024. Please see the attached Report, presented through PowerPoint at the meeting.

ED Eagle thanked the many volunteers who work with TCHA's staff at TCHA's service locations including the Tippecanoe Battlefield and the Alameda McCullough Library.

She noted the work of staff and volunteers to secure grants and sponsorships for TCHA maintenance, operations, and programs.

Ms. Eagle continued to bring attention to the two-hundred-year Anniversary/Bicentennial book celebrating both Lafayette and Tippecanoe County history, scheduled to be published by Purdue Press later this year. She thanked those who have written articles, and who provided editing and reviews for the book.

She followed the Treasurer's Report in heralding the success of 2024's annual fund-raising campaign.

Ms. Eagle noted that engaging with members and residents about local history is a key part of TCHA's mission and activities. TCHA's social media outreach continues to reach more people and the library's offerings, response to and use of Feast of the Hunters' Moon apps and support from the Board of Governors are all indications that public engagement is working.

Kelly Lippie reported on TCHA collections; Collections Committee members were thanked for their ongoing and thoughtful work. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

Reporting on membership, Ms. Lippie encouraged all of us to bring new, additional members to TCHA; 2023 saw an increase in membership. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting. She noted that a Tippecanoe County Historical Society was first formed in 1925 and evolved into the Tippecanoe County Historical Association in 1928, so our own Society/Association is now 100 years old!

She concluded her report by encouraging us to watch for special membership perks this year from the Flora Candle Company and McCord's Candies among others to be announced as the year progresses.

Librarian Amy Harbor highlighted two successful cemetery tours (at Greenbush Cemetery and at Grand View Cemetery in cooperation with the West Lafayette Public Library) and brought attention to the many volunteers at the McCullough Library who recorded hundreds of hours of service in 2025. She noted too the welcome donation of cemetery records from the Fairfield Township Trustee's Office which are now housed in the Alameda McCollough Library. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager Trey Gorden reported on the Tippecanoe Battlefield, "an amazing place!" The people who visit the Battlefield bring interesting stories and questions.

Dr. Gorden thanked all who have participated in programs at the Battlefield, drawing particular attention to the Spies and Guides reenactors. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

Feast Coordinator Brooke Sauter presented the Feast of the Hunters' Moon report to the membership. She expressed many thanks to the many volunteers who make the Feast happen each year, including new Food Booth coordinator, Lauren Reed. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

Ms. Sauter noted the 2024 Feast was one of the warmest of recent Feast events yet thanks to the many participants and attendees she declared the Feast a success and proclaimed that "living history is alive and well here in the Midwest."

She thanked Jeff Schwab and Scott Ksander for implementing much improved internet access at last year's Feast. And she noted that the Miami of Oklahoma increased their members participating in the Feast; it is possible the Peoria Tribe will join the Feast in 2025.

A video documentary of the Feast is in development thanks to the work of TCHA member Devon Roddel (from the West Lafayette Public Library).

**Brief Committee Reports were presented.** President Schwab thanked the TCHA staff for their Reports shared at this annual meeting and for their daily work on behalf of the Association. He thanked the Board of Governors for their support and all of our members for their continued participation. **Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.**

Governor Dave Sattler (co-chair of the nominating Committee with Governor Quentin Robinson) presented the nominating committee's slate of returning Governors and new nominees for the Board of Governors. He noted that all nominees, those seeking return to the Board and new Board members, have provided written biographies and reasons

for serving that are available on each table for members to read. Nominations from the floor were requested; none were made.

The slate was moved and seconded by the membership as presented. Governor Sattler then invited all members of TCHA present to vote for their choice by completing the election ballot provided to each member present. The paper ballots were collected by the nominating committee and taken for counting.

Governor Jeff Burnworth reported for the Facilities Committee noting that TCHA's buildings have received significant attention over the past year; given their age they could be part of the Association's collections he shared.

Dr. Trey Gorden presented the Historical Markers Committee noting the Committee plans to develop an inventory of all Historical Markers in Tippecanoe County this year.

President Schwab spoke about the Bicentennial Publication Committee work noting the Committee sought articles for a wide range of topics from a broad number of authors, seeing to publish a "people's" commemoration of county history that reflected "us".

Committee Chair Brooke Sauter spoke to the work of the Membership Committee and the Development Committee, noting that committee members are expanding their efforts to secure sponsorships to help pay expenses for the Feast and asked us to watch for information about planned giving to TCHA to arrive this year.

Governor Dr. Kory Cooper reported for the Ouiatenon Preserve Committee, noting fresh field work is expected to take place in the Summer of 2025.

ED Eagle spoke to the many TCHA programs offered in 2024. She encouraged members to join the Program and/or other committees to help TCHA with its Mission to serve our community.

President Schwab thanked TCHA's many significant donors and donations over the past year. Please see the attached Report provided as a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting.

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

President Schwab called our attention to the Ball-Sholty Award for 2025. He announced Lee Brand had been chosen by the TCHA Board of Governors to receive the Ball Shorty Award in recognition of his many years of service with TCHA which include many unsung but critical works which enable us to offer the Feast of the Hunters' Moon each year.

Executive Director Claire Eagle announced the Volunteer of the Year Award which has been chosen by the TCHA staff. This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Sharon Baker for her many years of work with so many TCHA operations – particularly with the Alameda McCullough Library.

The official count of the secret ballots for the Board of Governors was announced by Nominating co-chair Sattler; all nominees for the Board of Governors were approved by the voting membership.

Door prizes were awarded to ten lucky members attending the Annual meeting.

There being no additional business for the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Annual Membership Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

The annual meeting's annual meeting concluded with a program featuring plans for celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the founding of the City of Lafayette.

City Director of Marketing and Communications David Huhnke opened his presentation with a professionally produced video featuring the city's history – the video, schedule of many events planned, and more information can be found at the City's Bicentennial website: <https://lafayette.in.gov/bicentennial>

He shared several commemorative items with us, with postcards announcing Bicentennial events available at each meeting table.

Work on the Bicentennial began in earnest, Mr. Huhnke reported, in February 2021 with an early emphasis on providing family-friendly, inclusive events that will span the gamut of our local arts, schools, libraries, businesses and government. A special note was made of April's National Poetry Month and a period costume ball planned for June 28.

He asked us to fill out the "Why I Love Lafayette" cards provided to everyone attending today's Annual Meeting (which can also be found on the City's Bicentennial website).

He concluded by thanking TCHA for the Association's help in planning and intentions for presenting historical programs and events for the Bicentennial and encouraged all of use to "Help us celebrate!" 200 years of Lafayette's founding.

President Schwab thanked Mr. Huhnke's for his presentation and closed the Annual Meeting at 3:42 pm.

## **TCHA Treasurer's Report 2025**

### **Lorita Bill, TCHA Treasurer**

TCHA had another successful year with an operating profit of just over \$61,000. The City of Lafayette Bicentennial year brought with it some opportunities for TCHA and the Feast was also a big success in 2025. As a result, revenue increased by over \$91,000 from 2024, and expenses increased by nearly \$42,000. TCHA's net operating profit of over \$61,000 was nearly \$50,000 more than 2024.

Salaries and wages increased by less than 6% and Feast expenses increased by 5.7%. In total, expenses were up 6%.

Feast admission prices are expected to be increased for the 2026 Feast after three years of remaining constant. Unfortunately, increasing operating costs of the Feast make it necessary. Investment returns were favorable in 2025 again with over \$281,000 in gains. This number includes over \$21,000 in interest income from money market accounts at First Merchants.



*Lorita Bill*

TCHA's Board of Governors has invested in the overall financial stability of the association over the last several years. In 2019 a Feast Rainy Day fund was established and has grown through earnings and additional investments to \$164,260 by the end of 2025. Additional funds have been set aside for maintenance and major improvements to TCHA's facilities which currently totals \$79,648. Also, TCHA has invested in the TCHA Trust (Endowment) a total of \$200,000 over the last four years.

Overall, TCHA is in a secure financial position for the coming year.

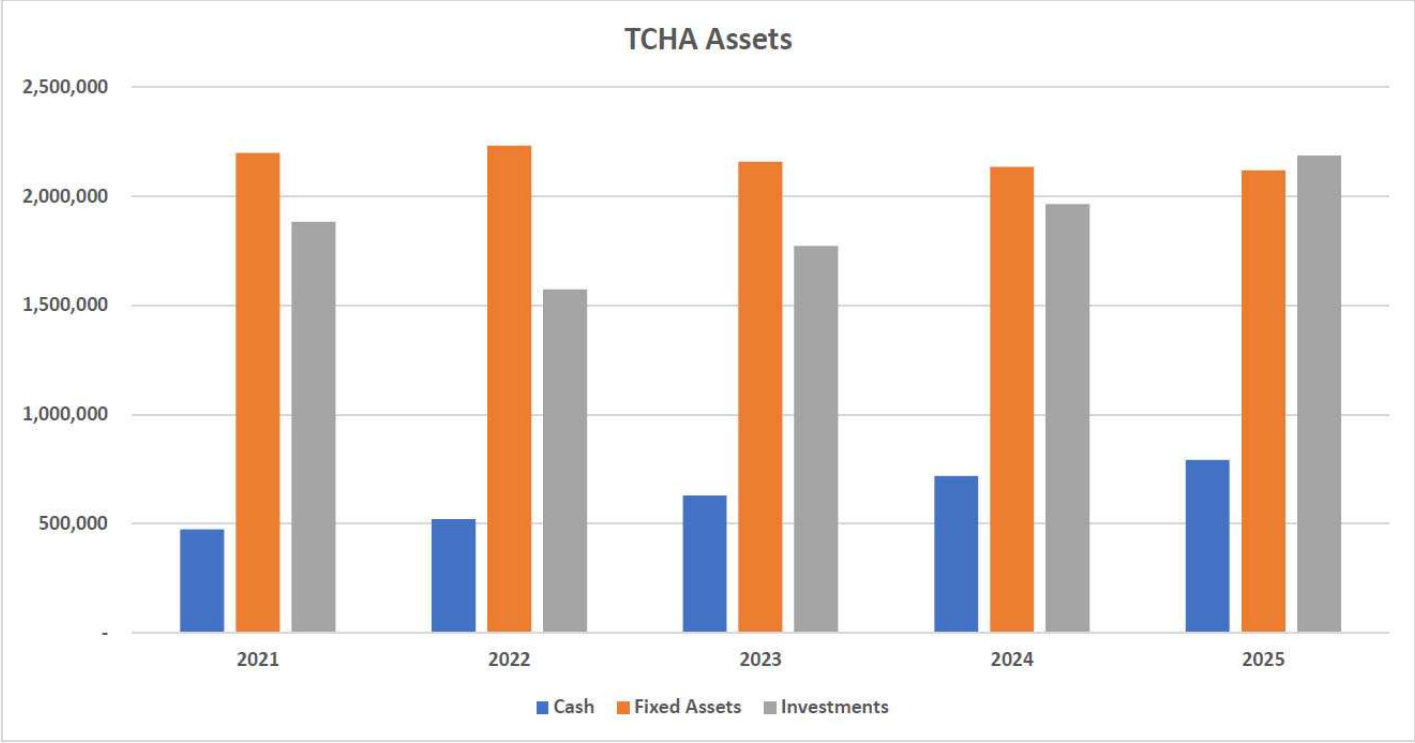
#### **Notes on the 2025 Preliminary Financial Statements**

The statements presented are preliminary. Various adjustments may be required before the statements are finalized.

**Tippecanoe County Historical Association**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31,

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Preliminary 2025
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets					
Cash & CD	\$ 475,012	\$ 521,679	\$ 631,041	\$ 719,409	\$ 792,416
Grants Receivable	444	14,636	-	43,640	9,975
Other Current Assets	185	1,348	643	2,188	7,409
Prepaid Expenses	3,661	3,988	2,595	5,802	6,597
Inventory	38,701	38,202	42,315	44,082	64,633
Total Current Assets	<u>518,003</u>	<u>579,853</u>	<u>676,594</u>	<u>815,121</u>	<u>881,030</u>
Fixed Assets					
Buildings	681,440	761,440	761,440	765,545	765,545
Buildings - Improvements	566,091	570,636	568,772	612,827	614,060
Equipment	233,424	252,911	218,464	218,464	272,852
Exhibits - Museum	57,923	57,923	57,923	57,923	60,128
Land	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,930,569</u>	<u>3,034,601</u>	<u>2,998,290</u>	<u>3,046,450</u>	<u>3,104,276</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(731,310)</u>	<u>(802,984)</u>	<u>(839,974)</u>	<u>(911,370)</u>	<u>(984,177)</u>
Total Fixed Assets less depreciation	<u>2,199,259</u>	<u>2,231,617</u>	<u>2,158,316</u>	<u>2,135,080</u>	<u>2,120,099</u>
Other Assets					
Investments	<u>1,882,845</u>	<u>1,573,415</u>	<u>1,772,952</u>	<u>1,963,294</u>	<u>2,186,894</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,607,862</u>	<u>\$ 4,913,495</u>	<u>\$ 5,188,023</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 9,821	\$ 37,529	\$ 10,279	\$ 11,490	\$ 15,079
Other Current Liabilities	<u>18,277</u>	<u>20,210</u>	<u>36,184</u>	<u>96,380</u>	<u>33,782</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>28,098</u>	<u>57,739</u>	<u>46,463</u>	<u>107,870</u>	<u>48,861</u>
Equity	<u>4,572,009</u>	<u>4,327,146</u>	<u>4,561,399</u>	<u>4,805,625</u>	<u>5,139,162</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,607,862</u>	<u>\$ 4,913,495</u>	<u>\$ 5,188,023</u>

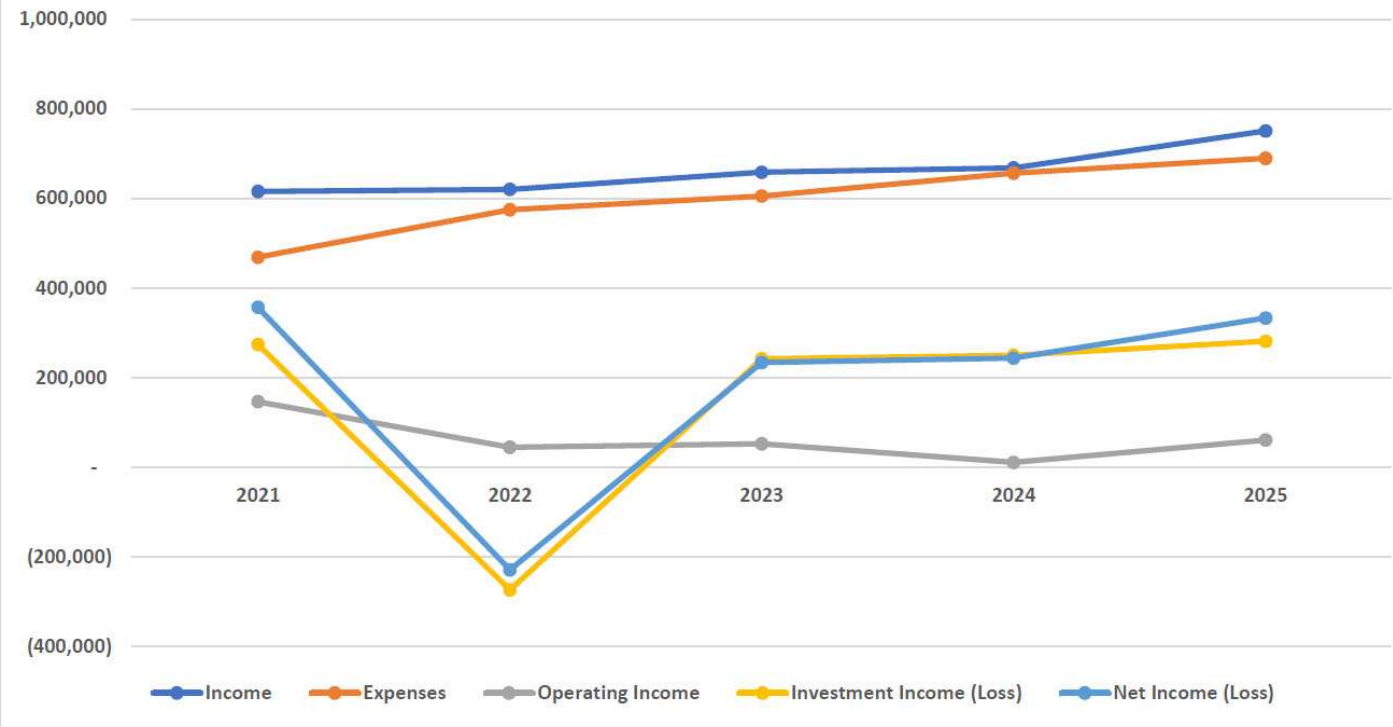




**Tippecanoe County Historical Association**  
**Income Statement**  
**For the Years Ended,**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Preliminary 2025
<b>Income</b>					
Grants - operating	\$ 50,406	\$ 15,888	\$ 2,678	\$ 500	\$ -
Contributions	83,533	80,776	97,638	80,893	90,321
Annual Appeal & Fundraising	-	2,175	5,875	7,150	9,165
Museum Store Sales	71,058	79,967	66,128	74,215	87,792
Library Revenue	2,432	1,871	2,074	2,578	4,140
Membership Dues	22,307	21,670	26,379	28,285	29,712
Programs & Education	48,691	46,978	43,739	66,623	102,531
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	375,720	408,401	447,301	444,672	472,335
Total Income	654,147	657,726	691,812	704,916	795,996
Cost of Goods Sold	38,223	37,401	33,148	36,235	44,992
Gross Profit	615,924	620,325	658,664	668,681	751,004
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	192,740	214,759	213,289	243,353	257,837
Administrative Expenses	9,055	8,553	9,917	12,298	14,492
Contract Services Administrative	13,806	19,516	22,391	24,614	22,029
Equipment & Supplies	4,377	5,123	2,751	2,950	2,935
Collections, Exhibits & Library	3,627	5,136	3,633	5,998	5,929
Museum Store Expenses	1,959	3,340	2,265	1,811	1,716
Insurance and Taxes	17,329	19,669	20,857	19,884	20,446
Repairs & Maintenance	12,982	39,587	25,450	27,559	26,920
Contractual Services - Facilities	5,061	4,859	3,259	2,968	4,096
Utilities	40,788	46,276	40,952	39,752	40,999
Membership Expenses	457	688	1,085	1,936	1,068
Fundraising Event Expenses	-	2,875	1,301	1,248	1,071
Feast Expenses	164,497	199,152	251,973	264,158	279,136
Programs & Education Expense	2,304	5,672	6,506	8,429	11,097
Total Expenses	468,982	575,205	605,629	656,958	689,771
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	146,942	45,120	53,035	11,723	61,233
<b>Other Income</b>					
Grants - non-operating	-	62,300	6,400	43,640	52,788
Other Income	5,692	8,749	11,500	9,600	10,630
Investment Income (Loss)	274,814	(273,034)	243,018	250,658	281,693
Total Other Income	280,506	(201,985)	260,918	303,898	345,111
<b>Other Expenses</b>					
Loss on disposal of assets	-	-	5,737	-	-
Depreciation Expense	70,183	71,674	73,963	71,395	72,807
Total Other Expenses	70,183	71,674	79,700	71,395	72,807
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>\$ 357,265</u>	<u>\$ (228,539)</u>	<u>\$ 234,253</u>	<u>\$ 244,226</u>	<u>\$ 333,537</u>

Income Statement



## TCHA Executive Director Annual Report 2025

### Prepared by Claire Eagle, Executive Director

The culmination of years of planning was a large part of our 2025 with Lafayette's bicentennial and the publishing of *200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells Its Stories*. A successful Feast, continued increase in funds raised and a great programming calendar rounded out another successful year at TCHA. Here are some highlights:

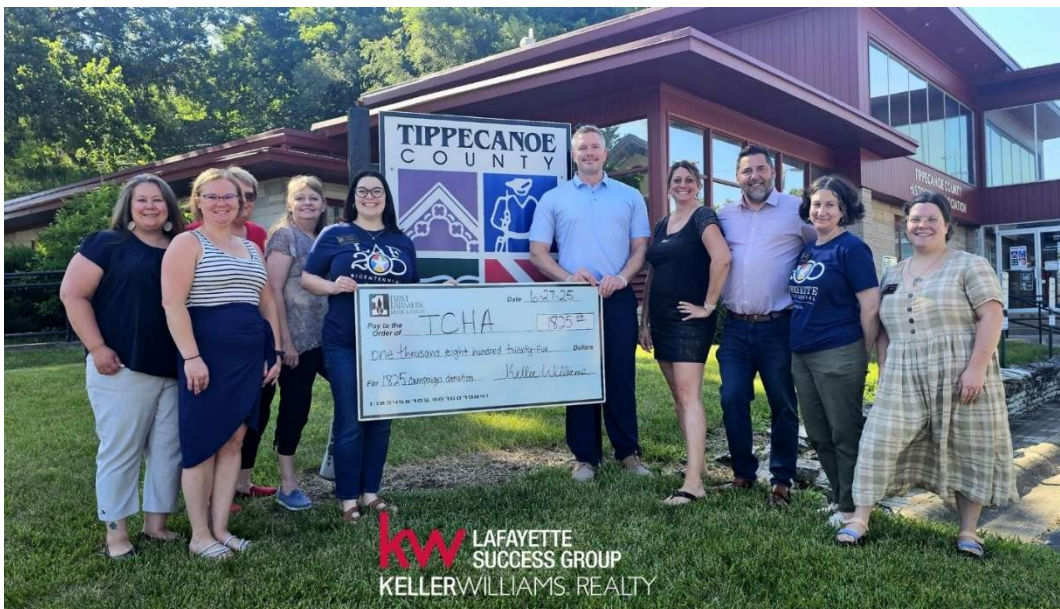
#### Grants, Sponsorships and Donations:

All donors and sponsors are listed in a separate area of this Annual Report. TCHA would not have had the successful year we had 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!

- North Central Health Services awarded TCHA a grant of \$5,122.95 for the installation of a safety rail on the raised platforms on either side of the History Center Auditorium
- A \$2,930 grant from Indiana Humanities supported the participation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the Feast.
- Tippecanoe County gave \$5,000 in support of TCHA.
- The City of Lafayette gave TCHA \$15,000 in operational support.
- Subaru of Indiana provided a \$5,000 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- First Farmer's Bank and Trust provided a \$5,000 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- A \$500 sponsorship was provided by Caterpillar in support of the Feast.
- Comcast provided a sponsorship of \$1,000 in support of the Feast.
- Jeremy Spann - Keller Williams Realty provided a \$500 sponsorship of the Feast.
- Duke Energy provided a total of \$6,000 in sponsorships this year in support of both the Feast and our Lafayette Bicentennial walking tours.
- Malcolm Duncan and Tony Wintz provided \$800 in support of the Middlesex County Volunteer Fife and Drum Corp's attendance at the Feast.
- The Battle Ground Lions Club provided a \$300 sponsorship in support of a free community day at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store.



Claire Eagle



1825 Campaign check presentation with staff from Keller Williams Lafayette Success Group



- Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette provided a \$15,000 sponsorship in support of the Feast and \$15,000 in support of the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store for a total of \$30,000.
- American Legion Post 11 provided a \$300 sponsorship for the Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration event.
- La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux provided \$200 in support of living history events at the Blockhouse.
- In kind donors included the National Group, La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux, Mr. Fence It, Hanna Center, Bauer Subway, WoofBoom Radio, Henry Poor, Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette, The Market by Midwest Prime and Jeff and Ronda Schwab.
- The 1825 Campaign, a matching campaign in partnership with Keller Williams Lafayette Success Group raised \$4,840 from 17 donors during the month of May. 6 of those donors were new TCHA supporters!

## Lafayette's Bicentennial

- After many years of work, *200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells Its Stories* was published in September. This book is a celebration of both Lafayette's bicentennial in 2025 and Tippecanoe County's bicentennial this year. We celebrated the launch with a fantastic program including a private reception for contributing authors, a presentation by Dr. Pete Bill and remarks from Mayor Roswarski. We've already sold 300 copies!
- The Programming Advisory Committee made bicentennial themed programming a priority in 2025. We hosted 8 themed walking tours covering topics like downtown houses of worship, the history of South Street between the Fowler House and Five Points and Columbian Park. Lecture programs included a show and tell from authors who contributed to *200 Years of Tippecanoe County* and how our community celebrated the joint centennial of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County in 1925. Finally, our last Taste of the Past of the 2025 season was themed to Lafayette's bicentennial with a special menu from Chef Lauren Reed and a wonderful performance from Audrey Johnson of Of Thee I Sing.
- Our City of Lafayette sponsored bicentennial pop-up exhibits, which debuted at last year's Annual Meeting, made 32 appearances throughout the community with an estimated 13,650 people seeing them. During the City's Memorial Day Celebration, TCHA staff and volunteers hosted all 10 pop-ups in the Carousel building at Columbian Park.

## Public Engagement and Partnerships

- TCHA representatives attended the Greater Lafayette Juneteenth Celebration, OutFest, Holy Trinity Community Fair and the Tippecanoe Latino Festival to share about our mission.
- I spoke about Lafayette's Bicentennial at many club and other organization meetings including Altrusa, Noon Optimists and WALLA.
- Brooke presented the history of the Feast for Lafayette Daybreak Rotary.
- Kelly shared TCHA's history and our mission to Klondike's alumni.
- In the spring we partnered with WALLA for a genealogy class. Attendees came to the Arganbright and learned the basics of genealogy and how to use our resources from Kelly and Amy.
- Trey represented TCHA at Family Day at the Farm at Prophetstown interacting with visitors using the very popular pioneer wagon activity.
- TCHA social media pages continue to be a great way to interact with the community and foster interest in our history as well as promote our



*A screenshot of TCHA's most popular 2025 Facebook post*

programs. While growth slowed compared to 2024, total reached across Facebook and Instagram had a 32% increase and we are now over 11,000 followers on Facebook. Social media continues to be an invaluable way to share our mission, programs and events and our collection! Our most popular post this year was a photo of one of George Winter's most famous portraits in our collection, that of Frances Slocum. While posting on social media may seem like an easy task, content creation takes research, time and dedication. Thanks go to Kelly and Brooke for helping to create content and manage our pages.

- We once again 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, identification, mini excavations and atlatl throwing. Thanks to Dr. Kory Kooper, Cassie Apuzzo, Ben Grubbs, Sam Kelemen and several other anthropology students from Purdue!
- In December, I was one of three presenters at the YWCA of Greater Lafayette's Linda Cohen Trailblazer Series. I was able to share the stories of several women who shaped early Lafayette.

## Facilities

With no maintenance person on staff, our Facilities Committee and other volunteers are responsible for most of the maintenance. I truly cannot emphasize enough how much our Facilities Committee does to ensure TCHA properties and sites are functioning and safe. From large projects to small repairs and preventative maintenance in between, we are so thankful to the entire Facilities Committee for all their hard work keeping our facilities in great condition in 2025.

- Several neighborhood volunteers worked tirelessly to remove the invasive Tree of Heaven and Honeysuckle from the grounds of the Arganbright. After removing most of it in the fall of 2024, volunteers were able to get the few plants that made it through as they popped up last spring.
- With the sale of the YWCA building, we were able to get some of the furniture they no longer needed. We received office furniture, chairs and rug as well as four shelving units to help with storage in the History Center basement.
- After we were awarded a grant from NCHS in fall of 2024 for the installation of a weather alert system supply chain issues caused some delays. We were fortunate that the system arrived right before the Feast and the main siren was in operation during the event.
- Kelly, Trey, our summer intern Kari and several volunteers refreshed the Battlefield this summer. Kari and Kelly refurbished all of the exhibit labels and Facilities Committee members helped repaint the walls of the galleries.
- Right before the Christmas break, we found some water dripping down the wall of our clothing storage room. Moving quickly, we were able to ensure that no damage was done to our collection and get what turned out to be a couple of holes in the roof patched. During some of the intense winter weather we had in December, a combination of ice and wind caused the gutter on the roof of the Arganbright to be torn down. While the roof has been patched, we are still working with Thayer's to get the gutter fixed.



*TCHA Board Vice President, Jeremy Spann, paints a gallery wall at the Battlefield Museum*

**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 and collection volunteers completed 2,933.5 hours of work (that's 13 more hours than 2024). Using 2024's value of a volunteer hour as calculated by Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute that is a total value of **\$102,056.47**. It's hard to put a number on the number of volunteer hours that go into the Feast, but when you consider the hundreds of people who participate, it has to be an even larger number than that. Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to the entire Board of Governors. As volunteers, their dedication to TCHA is astounding. I look forward to continuing to work together to fulfill our mission.

## **TCHA Collections Annual Report 2025**

### **Prepared by Kelly Lippie, Curator of Collections**

#### **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 11 members who are staff members, Board governors or members of the association and it is chaired by the Curator of Collections. In 2025, the committee created 84 new accessions (donations) to the permanent collection. The committee created 7 expendable collections, which are intended for use in programs or for other hands-on opportunities. One of these accessions and expendable collections was a purchase by TCHA, 2 collections were assigned to materials recovered from the archaeological dig at Fort Ouiatenon.



*Kelly Lippie*



*James J. Perrin Portrait  
donated by Kathleen Ingram*

Some notably large collections were received from the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Surveyor's office (including map drawers), Rostone and the First Christian Church of Lafayette.

The curator met with Burgundy Fletcher, Historic Preservation Officer for the Peoria, who was in town to visit Ouiatenon and view the Ouiatenon collection.

Deaccessioned and rejected items from recent years were delivered to School House Auctions for online auction, which was conducted at the end of 2025.

#### **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.

For Lafayette's bicentennial celebration, the curator participated in several walking tours and a presentation on the Lafayette- Tippecanoe County Joint Centennial Celebration. Other bicentennial projects were assisted by TCHA including images for the Greater Lafayette magazine bicentennial issue and the Lafayette Symphony's bicentennial concert.

Several Purdue groups and students visited in 2025 to get a tour of the resources at TCHA. These groups continued to visit to conduct research on local historic sites and music history. The curator met with other local groups in an advisory manner or to talk about potential partnership opportunities. These included the Union Township Trustee's historical exhibit, Student Semiconductor Association and Black Chamber of Commerce. There were special appearances or presentations given at local community events including Juneteenth, LatinoFest, OUTFest, Holy Trinity Community Fair and the Klondike Alumni Banquet.

Continuing outreach work includes "This Day in History" and "Born on this Day" social media posts and bicentennial efforts for 2025 and 2026. We hosted a genealogy class collaboration with WALLA in the spring of 2025.

#### **Projects**

In addition to regular collections administration and research, volunteers assisted with projects to make the permanent collection more accessible and to improve storage. Students from Purdue's Anthropology Department worked on materials from the Ouiatenon archaeology collection; scanning animal bones and studying jewelry.



Scanning and cataloging artifacts in the collection is an ongoing project for volunteers and interns. Most of the historic photograph collection has now been cataloged and scanned to our Past Perfect software system.

In collaboration with TIPOA (Tippecanoe County Area Genealogy Society) we have been able to make more progress in cleaning and indexing a collection of county records related to the poor relief efforts in Tippecanoe County. This is an ongoing project that will continue through 2026.

## 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 2025, displays of scrapbooks and shipping containers greeted visitors to the research library.

At the History Center, a display of Lafayette/ Tippecanoe County Centennial and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was installed early in the year. A student volunteer installed a display of local brewery bottles. To recognize the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII, a poster exhibit was displayed at the History Center for the fall months.

At the Tippecanoe Battlefield museum, several exhibit refurbishments were conducted and new, temporary displays were set up. A student volunteer designed and installed a temporary exhibit around a Civil War soldier's diary from the TCHA archives. An intern, Kari Klem worked for the summer to update and replace all of the exhibit labels in the permanent galleries of the Battlefield Museum. The galleries also received a fresh coat of paint.

For the Lafayette Bicentennial, a series of 10 pop-up exhibits were designed that will be available for local schools, libraries and businesses to display in 2025 and beyond. The exhibits were booked nearly every week during 2025. The exhibits made 32 appearances during the year and it is estimated that over 13,650 people saw them during their visits.

Short term displays were set up to enhance experiences for Bicentennial book launch and at the Taste of the Past Dinners.

"Threshing the Grain" traveling exhibit loaned to The Farm at Prophetstown for several months.

An exhibit was planned for the Lafayette Bicentennial Costume ball in June, but the event was cancelled and the exhibit plans unused.



*Students explored the Bicentennial Exhibit at West Lafayette Intermediate School.*

## 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 2025; used for exhibits at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum. Three outgoing loans to local historic sites were renewed for another years' duration. One loan was recalled and returned to TCHA.

There were also short-term loans to West Lafayette library and Haan Museum (Evaleen Stein program).



Donors to the permanent and expendable collection and digital archive in 2025

Ross and Rena Aiken	Janna Mailloux
Antique Candle Co.	Marshall County Museum
Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County	Mary McCutcheon
Kathy Atwell	Bonnie McDougale
Kathleen Barker	Courtenay Murakowski
Carolyn Bedrosian	Douglas Paprocki
The Beyond Gallery	Sarah Powley
Pete Bill	Pride Lafayette
Amanda Booher	Mary Pugh
Peggy Bryant	Nancy Rhodes
Jeffrey Burnworth	John Riegler
Toni Butcher	James Richendollar
Karen Carter	Paula Robinson
Cass County Historical Society	Quentin Robinson
Ethan Chitty	Brooke Sauter and Thomas Johnson
Lou Ann Clugh	Jeffrey Schwab
Kathy Cox	Gregory Seiters
Gary Cunningham	Forrest Shigley
Jan Davis	Society of Indiana Pioneers
Terry Edgell	Lee Stanifer
John Ellis	Linda Swihart
First Christian Church of Lafayette	Te'Aqua Custom Blended Teas LLC
Flora Candle Company	David Thomas
Mark Goodson	Tippecanoe County Surveyor's Office
Deborah Green	Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association
Historical Society of Decatur County	Vincent Walter
David Horn	Deborah Wegner
Tom Howe	June Weiland
Indiana Crossroads Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence	Deborah Wesley
Kathleen Ingram	White County Historical Society
Angie Klink	Joyce Wiegand
Latino Center for Wellness and Education	Michelle Wood-Voglund
Taylor Lee	Linda Yoki
Dominic and Connie Leto	YWCA of Greater Lafayette
LGBTQ Center	

## **TCHA Membership Annual Report 2025**

### **Prepared by Kelly Lippie, Membership Coordinator**

2025 ended with a total of 455 memberships in the Association; an increase of 17 memberships from the same time in 2024.

The Annual meeting of the membership of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association was held on February 1st, 2025. New and returning Board of Governors were voted on by the membership. The Awards for Volunteer of the Year (Sharon Baker) and Ball-Sholty (Lee Brand) were announced. A guest speaker from the City of Lafayette gave a presentation about the upcoming Lafayette Bicentennial Celebration.



*Kelly Lippie*

Special membership perks were offered for the bicentennial year with Flora Candle Company, Wolf Park and McCords. Members were also given the chance to register early for the “Taste of the Past” dinners.

A TCHA Members-only tour of the archaeological dig at the Ouiatenon Preserve was held June 12. The second planned tour was cancelled due to poor weather.

Thrivent presented Planned Giving program for TCHA members.

At the Feast’s TCHA membership tent, 12 memberships were sold. Many members visited the tent to talk to TCHA staff and board members and to enjoy snacks.

A Members-only sale was held at the History Store at the Battlefield and in the Arganbright Center December 4-7. A TCHA members Christmas parade warm-up with hot chocolate and cookies (provided by Sweet Revolutions Bake Shop) was held December 6<sup>th</sup> at the History Center.

After conducting a price study on membership, it was decided to increase the price of Basic level membership by \$5 beginning in January 2026.

Four electronic newsletters were produced in 2025. These are written by staff and volunteers and compiled into a digital format by a contractor.



The Voyageur Ancient Fife and Drum Corps made a special appearance at the Christmas Parade Warm Up.

## **TCHA Alameda McCollough Research Library Annual Report 2025**

### **Prepared by Lucy Lugo, Research Library Coordinator**

In September of 2025, I stepped into the position of Research Library Coordinator upon Amy Harbor's retirement. As I've settled into the role, I've been met with the warmest welcomes and the most amazing support from the TCHA staff, the Board, and our awesome volunteers. Thanks to their help, I've been gradually becoming familiar with the library's extensive holdings and learning how to aid our patrons with their historical and genealogical research questions.



*Lucy Lugo*

The research library is open ten hours a week for walk-in visitors. We also provide the option of making an appointment to those who are unable to come in during our public hours. This past year, we had a total of 212 researchers seek out our resources. This included 100 walk-in visits and 112 remote (email and telephone) requests. I spend most of my time attending to these requests, retrieving and scanning the appropriate materials and ensuring that their research needs are met.

Currently, we have 11 volunteers working on various library projects. Most of these efforts are focused on indexing historical records, digitizing existing indices, and updating older indices. Collections that are currently being worked on include:

- Marriage records
- Children's Home cards
- Family/Surname cards
- Tippecanoe Villa cards
- Poor Farm records

I would like to thank our amazing volunteers for dedicating hundreds of hours this past year, making sure that the library's extensive materials are made available and easily accessible on our website to patrons near and far. I often receive online requests noting how useful these reference materials are and how they have made research journeys much easier.



*Donation of aerial photographs and maps from the Surveyor's office.*

The library had the opportunity to engage with the community through outreach programs this year. In March, Amy and Kelly successfully led a WALLA course consisting of four weekly sessions, covering the basics of genealogical and historical research. Amy also gave a presentation to the men's breakfast group at the University Place retirement home. In addition, staff and volunteers hosted two cemetery tours this year, both led by Amy. At Greenbush, we held a spring bicentennial tour presenting some of Lafayette's earliest citizens, as well as a Halloween-themed "dark tour" at Spring Vale in the fall. Both tours were well attended and received great feedback from visitors and presenters alike. We hope to hold these cemetery tours again this year as well as additional programming.

2025 proved to be a great year for the library as it continues to support TCHA's mission to collect, preserve, research, and share Tippecanoe County's history. I'm looking forward to growing in this role and leading the library in the next year through continued service to our community.

## TCHA Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store Annual Report 2025

Prepared by Trey Gorden, Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

At the beginning of 2025, the big news at the Battlefield was the furnace. We lost heat in the museum and its back-office areas. The temperature in the museum was hovering between the high 40s and low 50s. Anderson was out for three days trying various solutions until they finally cleared a clogged drain. That fixed the problem for about 24 hours. County Parks ultimately replaced the furnace, and we've been toasty warm ever since.



*Trey Gorden*

We opened a new exhibit on Friday, February 21, A Corporal, the Civil War & a Journal, by TCHA volunteer Luke Polster. Luke read the journal of Corporal William Watkins of the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment, Co. G. He took excerpts from Watkins's journal and placed them in the context of Civil War artifacts from TCHA's collections. It was a fascinating exhibition!

Later on in the summer we hosted the bicentennial panels.

The Lion's Club sponsored a Community Day at the Battlefield on May 10th. We had our usual array of re-enactors, battlefield tours, and the Lion's Club sold hot dogs and drinks. We had 102 people go through the museum, and many more enjoying the day outdoors.



*Laura Smyser*

We had to say goodbye to Robbie Alford, the Battlefield Park Site Manager, who left us for another position at Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation. He was an incredible partner to us for many years, and did a fantastic job keeping the grounds beautiful and the facilities in good shape. We miss him, and wish him all the best at his new position. His position has been ably filled by Joe Kallock, who has also been great collaborator.

Caitlyn Pettet, our former volunteer, has come onboard as a part-time employee. Caitlyn helps us out as a backup, mostly for weekends and special events when we expect to be particularly busy. Stephanie Elliott returned this year as my Feast Assistant! She brings energy, intelligence, and experience to the role, and I'm looking forward to working with her many more times over the coming years.

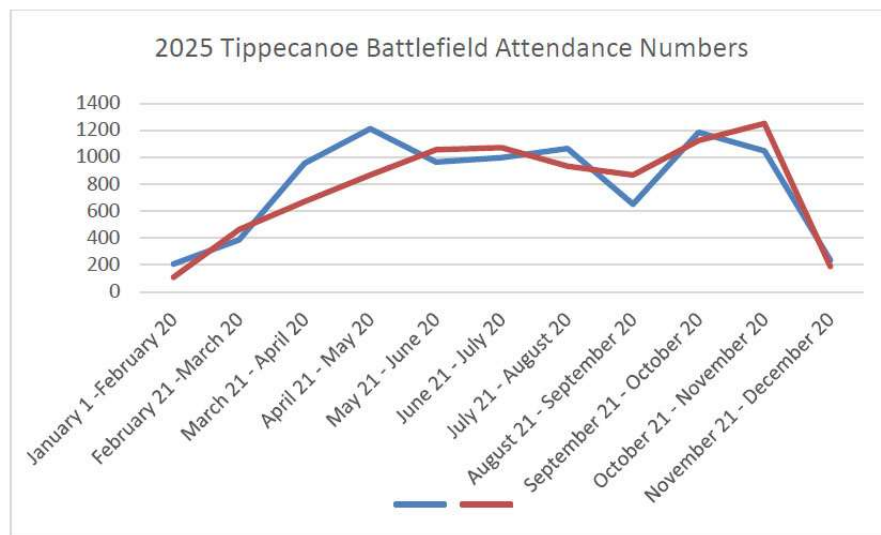


For Commemoration, we were honored to have Professor Christopher Young, of Indiana University Northwest, deliver our keynote address, "Father Black Robe: The Loving Ministry of Benjamin Petit to the Potawatomi, 1837-1839." We had roughly 137 people go through the museum, and many more stayed outdoors interacting with the reenactors, taking a battlefield tour, and learning from Jared Nally, the Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

### Plans for 2026

This year we are planning a series of workshops throughout the year. We have already scheduled a flint-knapping workshop taught by Ed Mosher for Saturday, February 21. We're also working on a possible series of workshops on creating historical maps, to be taught by Mike Dotson.

2025 Tippecanoe Battlefield Attendance Numbers				
Duration	2024 attendance	2025 attendance	Change in Attendance	
			Numerical	Percentage
January 1 -February 20	208	109	-99	-47.60%
February 21 -March 20	385	462	77	20.00%
March 21 - April 20	955	671	-284	-29.74%
April 21 - May 20	1212	867	-345	-28.47%
May 21 - June 20	963	1056	93	9.66%
June 21 - July 20	997	1070	73	7.32%
July 21 - August 20	1065	932	-133	-12.49%
August 21 - September 20	651	867	216	33.18%
September 21 - October 20	1185	1123	-62	-5.23%
October 21 - November 20	1046	1252	206	19.69%
November 21 - December 20	236	188	-48	-20.34%
<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>8903</b>	<b>8597</b>	<b>-306</b>	<b>-3.44%</b>



Blue line represents 2024, red line represents 2025



## Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report 2025

### Prepared by Brooke Sauter, Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon continues to be the organization's largest annual fundraising and public-facing event, accounting for approximately **59% of total revenue**. In 2025, the Feast demonstrated continued strength and stability through consistent attendance, expanded regional and national reach, improved operational efficiency, and highly effective, data-driven marketing.

#### Attendance & Event Experience

Attendance in 2025 once again hovered around **41,000 visitors**, consistent with recent post-COVID benchmark years. Weather conditions were exceptional: Clear, mild, and seasonally ideal, which provided an optimal visitor experience across both days.

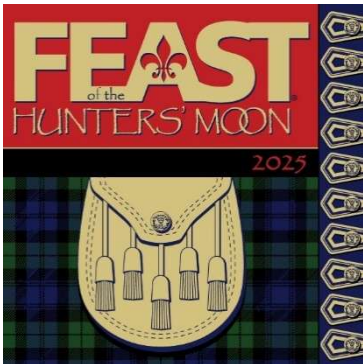


*Brooke Sauter*

#### Food Booths & Culinary Programming

The 2025 Feast expanded its culinary offerings with the successful return of two popular food items:

- **Croquignoles**, brought back by Venture Crew 125 from Carmel, Indiana, which proved to still be a crowd favorite even after a multi-year hiatus.
- A reimagined **apple-dumpling-style dessert**, offered by the Northshore Women's Rugby Team from the Chicago area, which was also well received.



*2025 Feast Button*

These additions strengthened the overall food mix while maintaining historical plausibility and visitor appeal. Continued refinements to commissary ordering, inventory tracking, and communication contributed to one of the most efficient food operations in recent years.

A pilot program introducing card readers at select food booths generated **over \$6,500 in cashless transactions**, improving accessibility and transaction speed for attendees.

As a result of these improvements, **food waste was reduced from approximately \$30,000 in 2024 to under \$1,000 in 2025**, representing a **97% reduction**, a significant operational and financial success.

#### Marketing, Advertising & Reach

The 2025 Feast utilized a comprehensive marketing strategy combining traditional media, digital advertising, and community partnerships.

##### *Digital Advertising Performance*

Four paid Facebook campaigns ran between **September 20 and October 10, 2025**, achieving an average cost of **\$0.07 per engagement** (Significantly outperforming typical nonprofit benchmarks of \$0.20–\$0.60).

For less than **\$450 in total ad spend**, the campaigns generated hundreds of landing-page views, nearly **300 public shares**, and strong measurable interest in tickets and event information, demonstrating exceptional return on investment.

##### *Comcast Streaming Campaign*

For the first time, the Feast partnered with Comcast Effect to run a **\$5,000 digital streaming television campaign** across the Chicago and Indianapolis DMAs, targeting adults aged 35 and older.

Campaign highlights included:

- **51,650 impressions delivered** (103% of goal)
- **49,827 completed views** (96.5% completion rate)
- **97.8% average view-through rate**
- **421 total viewing hours** of Feast messaging
- **82.7% of views delivered via Connected TV**

Top platforms included Paramount Streaming, CNN, Investigation Discovery, HGTV, Pluto, the History Channel, Food Network, and A&E.

### ***Additional Outreach***

Additional promotional efforts included radio advertising and interviews, expanded CityBus placements, Purdue Exponent ads, student-produced television coverage, regional print publications, reciprocal advertising partnerships, and the distribution of **2,500 custom Feast coasters** to area businesses.



*Middlesex County  
Volunteers Fife and  
Drum Corps*

### **Ticketing & Audience Data Insights**

The Feast once again utilized TicketSpice as our digital ticket sales arm. With 2025 being the second year for the service, we now had data to compare sales year-to-year. Online ticketing continued to show strong growth in 2025, reinforcing the value of advance sales and digital engagement:

- **Total online ticket revenue:** \$133,751.02 (+17.2% year-over-year)
- **Total tickets sold online:** 8,283 (+17.8%)
- **Total page visits:** 23,805 (+43.5%)
- **Average order value:** \$36.19
- **Email conversion rate:** 28%, far exceeding the national event average of 2–3%
- Processing fees accounted for just **9.9% of total revenue**, exceptionally low for online ticketing platforms.

Ticket buyers represented **819 cities across 46 states**, including two purchases from Hawaii, underscoring the Feast's role as a **regional destination event with national reach** and its importance to local tourism.

### **Community, Cultural & Educational Impact**

Beyond attendance and revenue, the Feast continued to deliver meaningful cultural and educational value:

- Hosted **School Days for over 3,000 students and teachers**.
- Welcomed the **French Consul General to the Midwest**, elevating the Feast's cultural profile. This visit was coordinated and executed on an exceptionally short timeline, demonstrating staff adaptability and strong external relationships.
- Secured participation from the **Middlesex County Volunteer Fife & Drum Corps**, enhancing historical authenticity while providing mentorship opportunities for local youth musicians.
- Continued cultural partnerships with the **Miami Tribe of Oklahoma**, supported by grant funding secured prior to statewide cuts.

### **Staffing, Capacity & Sponsorship Strategy**

In 2026, the addition of a **Programs Manager** is something we are all excited about. This role will handle application processing and contract management, allowing Brooke and Claire to focus more strategically on logistics, operational management, fundraising, sponsorship development, and external relationships.

This staffing shift also supports a more effective sponsorship strategy. **Paired sponsorship asks**, led by Claire with support from the Feast team, will be an additional change to the Feast strategy in 2026. With programmatic responsibilities redistributed, Claire will be able to more fully lead sponsorship outreach, an area where her experience and relationships are especially valuable, while maintaining continuity and clarity for sponsors and allowing Brooke to assist with asks while focusing more fully on event organization as a whole.



*1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Fife and Drum Corps*

**Moon** scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

In 2026, we are excited to roll out the addition of a **\$150 “Friend of the Feast” tier**, providing an accessible entry point for individuals, memorial gifts, and small-scale supporters. This addition will hopefully broaden community participation while offering meaningful recognition and strengthening long-term donor engagement.

### **Looking Ahead**

Despite ongoing challenges related to inflation, staffing capacity, and changes in the grant landscape, the 2025 Feast stands as a strong, stable, and forward-moving event. Strategic investments in systems, staffing, marketing, and sponsorship structure have positioned the Feast for continued success and long-term sustainability.

Planning is already underway for the **2026 Feast of the Hunters’**



## **TCHA Board Committees Reports 2025**

### **Facilities Committee**

The repairs and maintenance costs for the year came in approximately \$12,000 under budget. Fortunately, we had no major failures at either Arganbright or the History Center this year. In addition, our dedicated group of volunteers did much of the work themselves, greatly reducing our labor costs.



*Arganbright  
Window Replacement*

The outside painting and window replacement project at Arganbright wrapped up this year. In addition, the volunteers cleaned up the outdoor storage area behind the building.

Repainting the walls of the Battlefield Museum was started in 2025 and will be completed before the museum reopens this spring.

Preventative maintenance contracts on the HVAC systems at both the Arganbright and History Center buildings were obtained. The boiler at the History Center also had a deep maintenance cleaning to help keep it running.

The Association was able to end the rental of two storage units that were used for Feast materials and other miscellaneous TCHA items. All of the Feast materials were moved to a new Conex trailer unit situated between the two barns out at Fort Ouiatenon.

Ongoing upgrades to TCHA barn at Fort Ouiatenon have allowed for better storage utilization and given us a chance to clean up the appearance of the area

around the barn itself.

Finally, in the first part of January of 2026, after several months of planning, new safety railing was installed in the History Center auditorium.

### **Historical Markers Committee:**

The Historic Markers Committee has been doing a survey of existing Tippecanoe County markers in 2025. We've made great progress, and plan to finish up soon.

The City of Lafayette and Fairfield Township asked us to design their marker commemorating William Digby. Our portion of this project has been completed, and the marker awaits an official place to be displayed.

A marker commemorating Lafayette native Edna Browning Ruby has been in the works for a while. The committee member who was taking point on the project, however, has had to resign from the committee. While we haven't abandoned the project, it had to go onto the backburner for the end of 2025.

### **Membership and Development Committee**

Members of the committee: Kelly Lippie (chair and membership coordinator), Tara Raber, Dave Sattler, Ronda Walsh Schwab, Jillian White, Jeremy Spann, Jeff Burnworth, Todd White, Jeff Schwab (Board President), Claire Eagle (Executive Director), Brooke Sauter (Feast Event Manager).

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 the purposes of development (donor cultivation, procurement of grants, external fund raising, sponsorship partnership formation, etc.) Kelly Lippie took over from Brooke Sauter as chair of the committee, mid-2025.

## Membership Projects:

The committee advising TCHA staff on retention and cultivation of members in the association. Toward this end, four e-newsletters, "TippecaNEWS" were issued in 2025 to communicate updates to member and recognize new members and association accomplishments.

Special opportunities for TCHA members were offered in 2025. These included a members- only tour of the archaeological dig at Fort Ouiatenon and a Christmas Parade Warm Up with hot chocolate and snacks. Members were also offered special discounts at local shops as an extra bicentennial perk.

At the Feast of the Hunters' Moon, a Member Tent was open for a quiet retreat with extra snacks and drinks. Members of TCHA received free tickets to the Feast; which were sent in the mail to members in early September.

A membership study at the end of the year resulted in a review of membership perks and a decision to increase some membership level costs to match other similar institution pricing.



*Christmas Parade Warm Up*

*See Membership Report for membership numbers and also a full list of current members at the end of this report.*

## Development Projects:

The Executive Director (chief development officer for TCHA) works closely with the committee to plan development events, ongoing donation programs, the Annual Appeal, and relationship-building events. With the committee's help, a development plan was designed to guide strategies for the year's fundraising efforts.

This year, TCHA worked with Thrivent to host a planned giving presentation for members in the spring. There was also a collaboration with Keller Williams Lafayette Success Group to launch a bicentennial- themed 1825 campaign to raise \$1,825 for TCHA; which would be matched by Keller Williams.

TCHA also received support from local businesses in the donation of prizes for the Bicentennial Bingo game and Pokemon Go Historic Marker contest.

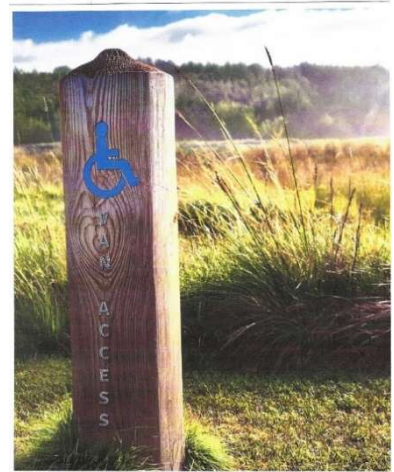
The Annual Appeal Letter was written by Board President, Jeff Schwab and mailed out in August. Follow-up emails and letters were sent throughout the fall.

*See full list of grants, sponsorships and donations in the Executive Director's report.*

## Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

This report provides a highlight of activities for the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Ouiatenon Preserve Committee for the year 2025. Committee members include: H. Kory Cooper (Chair), Joseph "Del" Bartlett, Colby Bartlett, Leslie Martin-Conwell, Phyllis Dotson, David Hovde, and Ashima Krishna.

- Over the course of 2025 the committee developed a plan for moving forward the creation of interpretive signage at the OP overlook. With approval from the TCHA Board Brooke Sauter will be contracted to assist the committee in designing interpretive panels. The goal is to have at least 4-5 panels designed, manufactured, and in place by the 2026 Feast of the Hunters' Moon.
- OPI and TCHA were busy with a number of activities associated with the University of Southern Indiana's archaeology field school in May and June, including a day of public outreach and site tours.
- The committee has discussed replacing the existing handicap parking signage with something more aesthetically pleasing and less obstructive of the view of the preserve but that will still meet federal guidelines. See below.



*Handicap Parking Space Signage*

## Program Committee

2025's programming season was an incredible success. Our wonderful committee members, volunteer presenters and sponsors 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, Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette, Duke Energy, The Market by Midwest Prime, Battle Ground Lions Club and the American Legion Post 11. With their support and the help of over 100 volunteers, 2025 programs (exclusive of the Feast) had 2,563 attendees. That is an increase of 998 attendees over 2024!



*TCHA member and Bicentennial Selfie Bingo grand prize winner, Randy S., enjoying a treat at the Original Frozen Custard. He solved the clue "Enjoy a cold treat under their blue and white awning"*

The large increase in attendees can be attributed to many additions to our usual schedule for the celebration of Lafayette's Bicentennial. In the fall of 2024, the Program Committee established a sub-committee to specifically work on a walking tour series. Partially sponsored by Duke Energy, eight walking tours were held between March and October. In addition to the tours, we held a special show and tell lecture with three contributing authors to *200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells Its Stories*. The three authors shared why they wanted to participate, additional information they couldn't fit in the 600-word limit and their process for writing and researching.

Rounding out our Bicentennial programming was Bicentennial Selfie Bingo. Participants were invited to visit historical sites, local gems and other Lafayette landmarks by solving the clues. At each location they could take a selfie and submit it online. Each completed BINGO was entered into a grand prize drawing.

Taste of the Past dinners with Chef Lauren Reed continued to be successful. The addition of a sold-out Valentine's Day dinner increased the income from these programs while this year's themes of "Dinner on the Monon Rail Line" and "Lafayette's Bicentennial" were big hits!

As 2025 came to an end, we began the process of hiring a Program Manager to lead both our regular programming as well as take the lead on the programmatic aspect of the Feast, including Feast School Days. Interviews are in process now and we look forward to adding to the TCHA team in the coming months.

Finally, special thanks go to our entire committee for working hard to put on an interesting and balanced slate of programs. 2025 committee members were Cassie Apuzzo, Claire Eagle, Walt Griffin, Amy Harbor, David Hovde, Lucy Lugo, Brooke Sauter, Bridget Slack, Whitney Walton. If program planning interests you, please contact Claire at [director@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:director@tippecanoehistory.org). Any TCHA member can be on the committee!

#### **Publications Committee:**

The Bicentennial Publications Committee wrapped up its work with the release of the book *200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells Its Stories*, celebrating the bicentennials of the City of Lafayette and the County of Tippecanoe in September.

The Publications Committee resumed work in the fall reviewing TCHA publications and prioritizing works to be updated and reissued either physically or electronically. The first project, now underway, is updating and republishing "The Battle of Tippecanoe" booklet current sold at the Battlefield Gift Shop.



*Audrey Johnson from Of Thee I Sing performing  
at our "Dinner on the Monon Rail Line"  
Taste of the Past dinner*

## Grants, donations, and sponsorships for 2025 are listed below

### Grant Income

Indiana Humanities	\$ 2,930.00
North Central Health Services	\$ 5,122.95

### Sponsorships

American Legion Post 11	\$ 300
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