# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society



# A YEAR OF GROWTH

Dear Members and Friends,

The Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society (NCHGS) has worked very hard over the past century to serve as the center of art, history, culture, research, and discussion in Northampton County. The year 2022 showed us that this goal has truly come to fruition.

Early in the year we recognized that our area was experiencing a residential "boom" due to the COVID pandemic. In addition to welcoming new families and students to the County, we also quickly understood that our existing members and guests wanted a deeper level of discussion in our tours, programs, and exhibitions.

This new challenge created an exciting year of hard work for our entire team. We adapted programs, created new offerings, and made significant changes and updates to our existing activities. As a result, our "Eerie Easton Walking Tour" became sold out on most evenings. Our field trip program was streamlined and now better serves our area educators. Our galleries are filled with guests of all ages and backgrounds as they enjoy our permanent and changing exhibitions. The wine auction, held outside the Sigal Museum, was an incredible success as it shared the museum and downtown Easton with a new audience. I am happy to report that attendance is now exceeding prepandemic numbers.

Changes and growth would not be possible without help. I want to thank our members, volunteers, and Board of Trustees for supporting us as we worked to steer out of the COVID 19 pandemic. We truly could not do it without you!

There were many staff changes throughout the year. We said goodbye to Brad Davis as Curator of Collections & Exhibitions and Taylor Garrison as Outreach Assistant. We are thankful for their extremely hard work on the team.



Members of the 2022, Lehigh Valley Wine Auction & Gala hosts: Left to Right: Laurie Hackett, Megan van Ravenswaay, and Anita Paukovits.

In 2022, we welcomed Beth Krumholz as our new Education Program Coordinator. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to add Monica Bugbee to the team as Registrar. Finally, Jamie Ettinger joined us as Outreach & Events Coordinator.

These new team members have been a wonderful addition as we look to the years ahead. In addition to new exhibitions and programs, we are working to prepare for 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We are also working to expand the Passport to History program to increase grant and program collaborations with our fellow museums and historical societies.

Our team is dedicated to providing the community with relevant exhibitions, programming, and activities. We will continue to serve as the center of art, history, and culture in Northampton County.

Megan van Ravenswaay, Executive Director

# JANE S. MOYER LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



- We completed a project to identify potentially hazardous books in the library collection. Specific clothbound books from the Victorian era were often colored with pigments containing lead, mercury, and arsenic.
- With the help of Lehigh University, we identified one book in our collection containing arsenic and several containing lead and chromium.
- Potentially hazardous books were bagged for the safety of volunteers, employees, and researchers.
- More books will be tested in the future.



# CATALOG PROJECT

- A large project to fully inventory the library collection and create a complete digital catalog of the materials was started in 2022. This will allow the catalogue to be accessible online for researchers.
- Large portions of the collection were reorganized. With help from library volunteers and interns, 175 new items were cataloged.
- 1900 items were barcoded and entered into the digital catalog.
- 1100+ previously digitized catalog records were updated and verified.
- A full shelf-read of the collection was conducted.
- The shelves were respaced to ensure proper storage and ease of access to the books.
- Duplicate book collection was accessed.
- Dozens of books from the library collection were transferred to the archive collection.
- The cataloging project will continue in 2023 with the help of interns and volunteers.

Lower Left: Toxic books research led to a virtual program "Verdant Assassin." Below: Library Registrar Monica Bugbee in the stacks.



# CURATORIAL





# HIGHLIGHTS

- Thanks to a grant received from the County of Northampton, construction on visible storage began. This space on the third floor of Sigal Museum will allow the public to view objects in storage.
- A "deep clean" was started on the existing permanent exhibitions at Sigal and the historic structures.
- Work began to assist the Hellertown Fire Department with the conservation of a Victorian era parade banner.



# PETER YDEEN "Easton Nights at the Sigal Museum"

""Easton Nights" is a temporary exhibition in the Sigal Museum's Chrin Gallery. It was designed and created in collaboration with local photographer, Peter Ydeen.

The exhibition features over 70 photographs which feature evening, urban landscape images. The images were taken throughout the cities, boroughs, and countryside in Northampton County. The exhibition closes May 2023.

Above: Self-portrait and photos from "Easton Nights " exhibition by Peter Ydeen. Lower Left: Visible storage construction. Below: "Easton Nights" exhibition opening for members.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & ACTIVITIES

Total Guests: 2,271 Total Income: \$11,511.97

- Passport to History Virtual Series: A History of Jewish Easton, PA
- Passport to History Virtual Series: Eerie Easton Walking Tour
- Easton Book Festival
- Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania's 2022 Rising Nation River Journey
- Situational Awareness Training Program at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center
- Lafayette College Career Fair 25 student interactions, 6 resumes collected
- Moravian University "Hounds Connect": Career Engagement Night with History Department Students
- NCHGS Guest Experience Survey to send to visitors.

# PASSPORT TO HISTORY

Passport to History Lehigh Valley is a partnership of over 60 (and counting) historic sites, archives, and resources in and around Pennsylvania's Lehigh and Northampton counties. Partners have developed a group website (lvhistory.org) and a Passport to History month which connects visitors with historical activities, events, tours, and exhibitions. NCHGS chairs the group.



Above: (left to right) Book launch with Jeffrey E. Finegan, Sr. Conducting toxic book research. The Bachmann Players being interviewed by WFMZ Below: Schwenkerfelder Library & Heritage Center, National Museum Industrial History, and the Sun Inn located in historic Bethlehem.



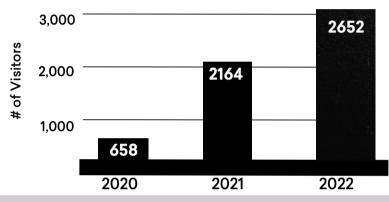






# OUTREACH & EVENTS

# Sigal Museum continues to thrive:



# OUTREACH & SITE RENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Visitor admission numbers are on a steady incline post pandemic.
- Free children admission passes were given out to party guests to increase admission sales.
- NCHGS hosted a volunteer appreciation event to honor our beloved volunteers. Dr. Linda Heindel was awarded the L. Anderson Daub Leadership award.
- The 1753 Bachmann Publick House was the perfect setting for Don Baughman's retirement party.
- The Discovery Room transformed into a palace fit for a king at Greyson's 6th birthday party.





Above: Young vistitors explore the Discovery Room's toys and games.



Above: Volunteer appreciation event. Left: Retirement celebration held at the 1753 Bachmann Publick House. Below: Greyson's 6th birthday party in the Discovery Room.



# EDUCATION

# HIGHLIGHTS

- 375 students from the local community came through the exhibitions as field trips returned to Sigal Museum.
- NCHGS enjoyed hosting Third St. Alliance, Wilson High School, Calypso Elementary, Northeast Middle School, Moravian Academy, Williams Township Elementary, Bright Explorers Homeschoolers, Palmer Elementary, Stroudsburg homeschoolers, and Wilson High School.
- The traveling trunks were utilized during inperson and virtual educational programs.
   700 students were served from three schools: Calypso Elementary, Harmony Elementary, and Easton Middle School.
- Five museum educators were hired to assist with the field trips. Welcome Ali Johnson, Nikki Mina, Gina Sampaio, Caitlin Dougherty, and Dustin Isenberg to the NCHGS team.





Above: Wilson Area high school art class field trip. Museum Educator Caitlin with students. Winter Village craft (Gumdrop Menorahs) Below: Students learn about the Lenape.

## YEAR ROUND

- Grab 'n' Go Kits: A dozen varieties of free DIY craft kits are available to kids and families.
- Heritage Day: Served 280+ participants at the Family Tent.
- Weekend Workshops: Served an average of 50 participants at each Easton Farmers' Market summer pop-up, staffed with volunteers.
- Winter Wonderland Arts & Crafts workshops: Over the course of five weekends, families attended free workshops in the auditorium.

# OPERATIONS



Above: The NCHGS team takes a field trip to the Brooklyn Museum's visible storage. Lower, top left: 1753 Bachmann Publick House. Lower, top right: Chrin Gallery. Lower: New Black history display at the Sigal Museum.

# HISTORIC STRUCTURES UPDATE

## 1753 Bachmann Publick House

- NCHGS replaced the 1753 Bachmann Publick House's cedar shake roof.
- 238 guests enjoyed visiting the structure during the new Second Saturday programs.
- The Bachmann Players greeted 155 guests on Heritage Day for tours.

## **Mixsell Illick House**

- Structural analysis was started.
- Ceramics collection inventory was begun.

## **Jacob Nicholas House**

 Collections received a deep clean and over 100 guests enjoyed Heritage Day tours.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sigal Museum's "History Here" exterior hanging banner and hardware was replaced. The new banner says "Sigal Museum" with the NCHGS logo at the bottom.
- Video surveillance cameras and recording equipment were installed at the Sigal Museum.
- Framed collections pieces are being relocated to visible storage spaces to optimize storage and provide more viewing opportunities for guests.
- Launched an addition to the permanent exhibition focusing on the history of the Black community in Northampton County.
- "Another Americans Autobiography" was deinstalled. "Easton Nights at the Sigal Museum" was installed.
- Grant funds helped purchase four beautiful display cases as well as build two large visible storage spaces on the Sigal Museum's 3rd floor.



# DEVELOPMENT

# **GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022**

Hotel Tax Grant for NCHGS \$25,300 for programming, exhibits, marketing, and more Hotel Tax Grant for Passport to History \$15,000 for a Marketing Consultant GROW Northampton County \$20,000 for museum projects and historic structure projects C.F. Martin Guitar Foundation \$2,500 for exhibition improvements County of Lehigh 2023 Tourism \$2,000 for Passport to History Marketing Consultant America Rescue Plan

\$75,000 for general operations \$14,710 for general operations





Above: 2022 Wine Auction & Gala Chair Robert Mondavi Jr. Lower Left: The 2022 Lehigh Valley Wine Auction

# HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Lehigh Valley Wine Auction and Gala was a huge success. We were pleased to host Rob Mondavi, Jr. as our gala chair at Saucon Valley Country Club. The auction took place in front of Sigal Museum on Northampton Street in downtown Easton. Patrons enjoyed a night of music, food, and paired wines under the stars! Both events raised much needed funds for NCHGS and our partner, the Children's Home of Easton.



## FINANCIAL REPORT AS AUDITED BY BUCKNO LISICKY AND COMPANY ON DEC 31, 2021

#### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis December 31, 2021 and 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020			
Cash and cash equivalents Investments Beneficial interest in perpetual trust Inventory Property and equipment, net	\$ 471,217 2,891,470 138,099 1,171 5,051,229	\$ 583,274 2,403,312 131,792 4,925 5,209,919			
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$_8,553,186</u>	\$ 8,333,222			
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
LIABILITIES Security deposits payable PPP loan payable TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$     500 500	\$			
NET ASSETS Without donor restriction With donor restriction TOAL NET ASSETS	8,185,188 	7,867,618 435,764 8,303,382			
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 8,553,186</u>	\$ 8,333,222			

#### 2022 Lehigh Valley Wine Auction event at the Sigal Museum









#### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Statement of Revenues and Expenses - Modified Cash Basis

Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021					2020						
	Without Do	nor	Wi	th Donor			W	thout Donor	Wi	th Donor		
	Restrictio	on	Re	striction		Total	1	Restriction	Re	striction		Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT												
Program:												
Admissions	\$ 1,8	347	\$	-	\$	1,847	\$	1,567	\$	-	\$	1,567
Membership dues	70,1	04		-		70,104		39,432		-		39,432
Library revenue	1,2	86		-		1,286		902		-		902
Education programs	3,5	74		-		3,574		650		-		650
Museum store sales	12,7	20		-		12,720		5,043		-		5,043
Contributions and gifts	304,8	26		-		304,826		38,803		47,087		85,890
Grants	163,2	98		18,371		181,669		77,404		86,320		163,724
Special events	181,5	86		-		181,586		172,802		-		172,802
Exhibit sales		-		-		-		285		-		285
Rent	45,2	49		-		45,249		42,116		-		42,116
Miscellaneous		12		-		12		5		-		5
Investment return, net	385,0	07		83		385,090		315,259		11		315,270
Change in value of perpetual trust		-		10,048		10,048		-		12,157		12,157
Net assets released from restrictions	96,7	68		(96,768)	_	-		69,407	_	(69,407)		-
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	1,266,2	77		(68,266)	_	1,198,011		763,675		76,168		839,843
EXPENSES												
Program expenses	621,5	77		-		621,577		542,620		-		542,620
Supporting services:												
<ul> <li>Management and general</li> </ul>	192,7	46		-		192,746		167,584		-		167,584
Fundraising	134,3	84		-	_	134,384	-	58,597		-	_	58,597
TOTAL EXPENSES	948,7	07		·-	_	948,707		768,801	_		_	768,801
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	317,5	70		(68,266)		249,304		(5,126)		76,168	1	71,042
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	7,867,6	18		435,764		8,303,382		7,872,744		359,596		8,232,340
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$ 8,185,1		\$	367,498	\$	8,552,686	\$	7,867,618	\$	435,764	\$	8,303,382









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#### Easton Heritage Day 2022



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Thank you to the County of Northampton for supporting "Easton Nights at Sigal Museum"

Peter Ydeen's "Easton Nights at the Sigal Museum" opening in Chrin Gallery at Sigal Museum

## Lehigh Valley Wine Auction & Gala Sponsors

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### 2022 Lehigh Valley Wine Gala



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