

# 2022 Annual Report



Photo by: Ron Cooper



HERITAGE CENTER

*Connecting Generations through gathering, preserving and sharing Mid-Willamette Valley History*

Willamette Heritage Center  
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# Board of Directors

## Executive Committee:

Lola Hackett, President

Richard (Rich) Davis, Secretary

Lori K. Woodbury, CPA, MST, Treasurer

## Board Members:

Aleta Ching

Norma Gekakis

Coburn Grabenhorst

Malissa Duniway Holland

Tyler Malstrom

Ila McCallum

Tom McMullen

Sean O'Harra

Sam Skillern

# Staff Members

Michelle Cordova, Executive Director

Linda Baillie, Event Reservations Support

Chris Coila, Facility Maintenance Lead

Jamie Garcia, Event & Security Supervisor

Josh Henderson, Education Manager

Karin Holton, Marketing Consultant

Kira Kinney, Collections Intern

Holly Klaus, Business Manager

Alex Lanham, Facilities Support

Toby Lanham, Groundskeeper

Kaylyn Mabey, Research Librarian/  
Collections Specialist

Kylie Pine, Curator & Collections Manager

Meagan Morris, Event Reservations  
Manager

Valerie Van Alstyne, Community  
Engagement Manager

Shayla Young, Event & Security Support

# Outgoing Staff

Shirley Hamilton

Hunter Harrison

Jacqui Jenkins

Mark Sanders



Photo by: Joseph Ean

**Mission** | WHC connects generations through gathering, preserving, and sharing Mid-Willamette Valley history.

**Vision** | We are a place for all to discover, engage and make history.

## Values

### Integrity

Adhere to preservation standards.

Pursue high standards of scholarship.

Responsibly utilize and manage resources.

### Inclusion

Engage with diverse communities.

Provide educational opportunities to all abilities and ages.

Actively work to eliminate barriers to access our resources.

### Inspiration

Seek out and be responsive to our community.

Share our spaces and collections to foster empathy and critical thinking.

Collaborate and encourage community engagement.

# Education

WHC welcomed 24 school groups (850 students, and 194 adult chaperones) for on-site field trips, and nine groups (137 visitors) for scheduled group tours.

**Zooming Back to History:** In 2022, WHC hosted eight speakers for the fourth and fifth seasons of this online speaker series focusing on the history of the Willamette Valley and greater Oregon. As an online series, our guests were able to enjoy speakers from states across the country, such as Oregon, Washington, Nebraska, and California.

- 112 people registered for Zooming Back to History and generated \$5,140.00 in revenue.

**Adult Classes:** In addition to grant support from Marion Cultural Development Corporation for our new woodworking classes, we were able to expand our class and workshop offerings to also include weaving and food preservation. Special thanks to our class and workshop partners: Salem Fiberarts Guild, Millrace Woodcraft, and Oregon State University.

- 33 adults registered for classes and workshops and generated \$3,830.00 in revenue.

**Little Free Library:** WHC received grant funding from the Rotary Club of Salem to build our own “little free library”. The books and activities in the library are being used on a daily basis by our friends and neighbors. Thanks to our volunteers, we were able to build the structure to our liking and fill it with history-themed materials.

- Rotary Club of Salem Literacy Grant: \$2,000.00.

**Signature Events:** The Education department strived to return to in-person educational programming in 2022 following the wake of COVID-19. Events such as Spring Break Family Day, Public Archaeology Day, Sheep to Shawl, and Magic at the Mill all featured hands-on activities for the first time since 2019.

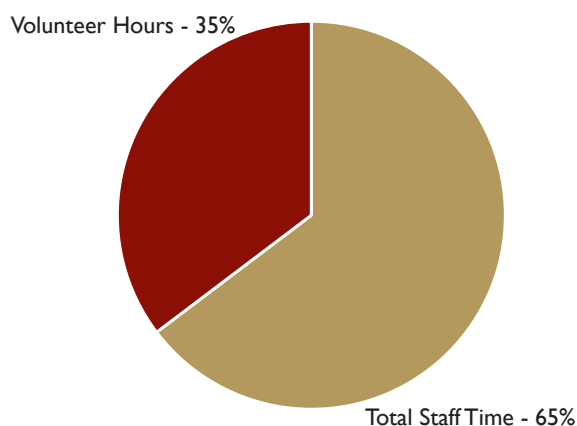
- Spring Break Family Day was a smash hit, welcoming 228 guests (children and their families).



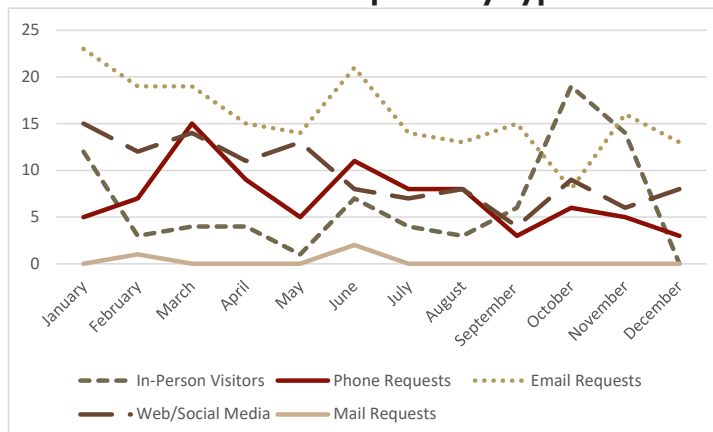
# Research Services

We were able to help with 470 individual requests - furthering scholarship and understanding of our community history.

**Research Request Processing Hours**



**2022 Research Requests by Type**



The Research Library and Archives staff and volunteers continue to provide research services and access to WHC collections material. In keeping with fellow Salem-based reference libraries practices we continue to provide services remotely where possible, but are happy to schedule in-person appointments for specific materials. We continue to digitize and add materials to the research portion of the WHC website to support this effort, such as the Marion County School Districts reference guide and the corresponding centennial publication *100 Years of Education in Marion County*, which were added this year.

# Collections

In keeping with our mission, the WHC continues to care for and provide access to extensive collections of artifacts, documents, photos and books.

## Milestones:

Partnered with Willamette University, Oregon Archaeological Society, City of Salem and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on a public archaeology project on site. Volunteers spent weekends during late March and April excavating and investigating areas on site associated with the Methodist Parsonage. After processing, materials uncovered will eventually become part of the WHC's permanent collection.

Entered into an agreement with the City of Salem to take over the Salem Online History Site. Working with a student intern, we successfully transferred content from the old platform onto the WHC website.

A beta-version of the new site can be found at: [willametteheritage.org/research/salemhistorhub/](http://willametteheritage.org/research/salemhistorhub/)



## By the Numbers:

**54** donations of new material were accepted into the museum's collections, including over **230** items.

**607** items were newly catalogued last year! This includes new donations and materials that have never been catalogued before.

**1,076** items were inventoried and rehoused by staff and volunteers.

### The Willamette Heritage Center now has:

**24,280**  
artifacts

**53,787**  
photographs

**4,696**  
series of archival records

**8,686**  
books

catalogued and accounted for in our collection management database.

## Exhibits

We hosted three new changing exhibits in 2022 and made continued to work on our permanent exhibits.

**The Song Goes On: Making Music in Salem** corresponded with National Make Music Day and featured a wide variety of WHC collections items relating to music in our community — including a big bass drum from Hebel's Cherrybud Boy's Band, Luella Patton Charlton's piano, and a concert poster from a Little Richard concert.



In **Finding Salem's Chinatown(s)** we worked with several partners to challenge myths and put facts, maps, photos, and documents on display illustrating the experiences of Salem's early Chinese American Community.

The new **Pop-Up Gallery Space** was also put to work — as a test try out some of the new interactive features and signage that will eventually be installed in **Caboose 507** after construction of the access ramp is complete.



kitchen to

**Permanent Exhibits** — Progress is being made on the permanent exhibits intended for **Caboose 507**. Building permits from the City of Salem were approved for the new ADA accessible ramp and viewing deck.

New and updated interpretive panels showcasing features of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill were installed in the first floor lobby of the Mill, the Warehouse hallway, and the alcove between the Dye House and Scouring Room.



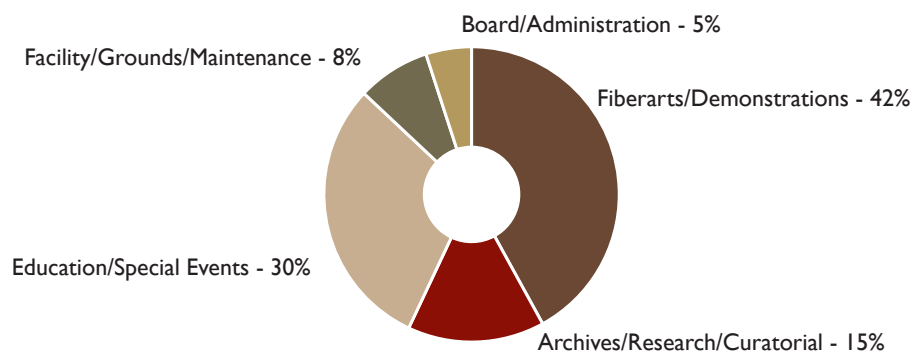


# Volunteers

More than 150 individuals graciously gave their time to support the WHC in 2022.

Volunteers are vital to the day-to-day operations of WHC. They do everything from staffing the front desk, data entry, cataloguing artifacts, sewing costumes, demonstrations of blacksmithing, weaving, and other fiberarts, teaching children how to card and spin wool, providing interpretive tours, maintenance projects, special event support, and serving on the Board of Directors.

## Number of Volunteers by Service Area



Overall, in 2022, volunteers donated over 8,200 hours of their time to support the WHC. That is equivalent to almost 4 full-time employees, whose labor — according to the Independent Sector's average hourly volunteer rate — is valued at \$245,590.

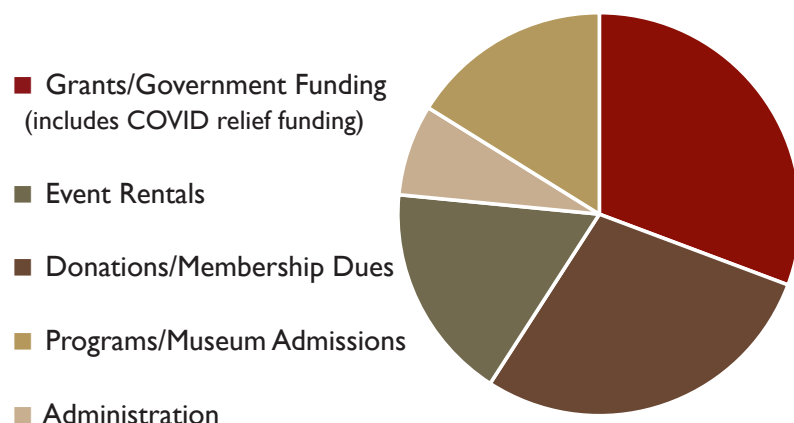
(source: independentsector.org)

# Finances

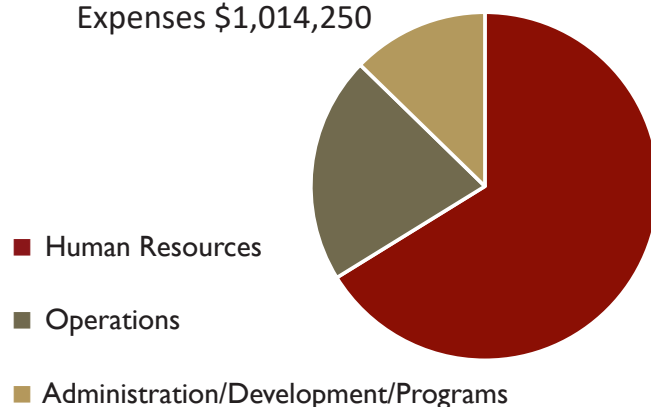
For the second year in a row, WHC realized a net profit at year's end.

Net Income: \$49,742

Revenue \$1,063,993



Expenses \$1,014,250



## Thank You to our Supporters!

### Members

As of December 31, 2022, WHC had 443 members, 25 of which belong to the Heritage Club (those who give \$1,000 or more annually)

### Grantors

- Business Oregon
- City of Salem Cultural & Tourism Promotion Advisory Board
- Marion Cultural Development Corp.
- Oregon Cultural Trust
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Oregon Heritage Grant
- Rotary Club of Salem

### Sponsors

- A Covered Affair
- Boone Ridge Independent Living
- CJ Hansen Co.
- Danner & Soli
- First Interstate Bank
- Grove, Mueller, & Swank PC
- Infinity Micro
- Kraft Custom Construction
- MAPS Community Foundation
- PGE
- O'Neill Pine Company
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State Capitol Foundation
- Salem Electric
- Salem Fiberarts Guild
- Santiam Brewing
- Select Impressions
- The H Group

# New Acquisitions and Highlights



216 bound volumes of Capital Press publications like the Hollywood Bowl from 1928 thru present time. (WHC 2022.0223.0001)



Wool blanket produced at Paris Woolen Mill (WHC 2022.001.0001)

Mexican National Crew [Southern Pacific Railroad] with Harry C. and Waldo E. Hill, negative from Ed Austin collection. (WHC 2022.003.0001)



The WHC research team met their ambitious goal of adding the 200th Thomas Kay Millworker biography to the website in 2022. Enjoy their efforts and connect with history by reading millworker stories at [www.willametteheritage.org/tkwm\\_employees/](http://www.willametteheritage.org/tkwm_employees/) (M3 1974-015-0007)



[willametteheritage.org](http://willametteheritage.org)



## 2022 Events & Programs | The WHC hosted the following signature events and programs in 2022

### Signature Events

Sheep to Shawl  
Spring Gala  
Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat  
Magic at the Mill

### Special Exhibits

The Song Goes On:  
Making Music in Salem  
Finding Salem's Chinatown(s)

### Educational Programs

Zooming Back to History  
School Field Trips  
Spring Break Family Day  
Public Archaeology Day  
Adult Education Classes  
Food Preservation  
Weaving  
Woodworking