

2021 Annual Report



Mission

The mission of the Old Colony History Museum is twofold:

First, to collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the region of southeastern Massachusetts once known as the Old Colony. Second, through a vigorous program of outreach and education, we aspire to interpret the area's history in ways that are accessible, inclusive and meaningful to local residents and visitors.

Vision

This organization is committed to the principle that our region's future depends upon the shared knowledge of its past. Our vision is to fully utilize our collection in order to become a thriving regional center where visitors of all ages and origins develop a lifelong love of learning and an enduring connection to those who came before us.

By providing meaningful experiences with local history and culture, we envision an active engagement with members and visitors who are increasingly knowledgeable and continually inspired to become better informed participants in the transformation of our community.

Leadership

Staff

Administration

Katie MacDonald,
Executive Director

Elizabeth Bernier,
Assistant to the Director

Curatorial

Bronson Michaud,
Curator of Collections

Education & Programming

Saria Sweeney,
Community Programming
Coordinator

Facilities

Michael Curran,
Caretaker

Board of Directors

William F. Hanna, President

Paul T. Allison, Vice President of Building & Grounds

Kathleen M. Mulhern, Vice President of Personnel

Charles A. Thayer, Vice President of Development

Colleen C. Karsner, Secretary

Ann Trucchi Condon, Treasurer

Jordan H. F. Fiore, Assistant Treasurer

Warren Biss

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Dean Larabee III

Kenny Loubeau

Peter G. Mozzone

William Napolitano

Cynthia Booth Ricciardi

Christopher Scully

Richard L. Shafer

Honorary Directors

Joseph C. Betz

David F. Gouveia

President's Report

WILLIAM F. HANNA

Dear friends, each April, as we prepare for our Annual Meeting, it falls to me to offer comments on the state of the OCHM. To help with this I consult my reports from years past, and each reading reminds me yet again of how truly fortunate we are to have enjoyed such steady progress. For almost nine years the OCHM has been on an upward trajectory that has taken it far beyond even the most optimistic hopes of those who initiated it. Today we find ourselves recognized locally as a vibrant, reliable partner, and within our entire region as a first rate academic and cultural resource.

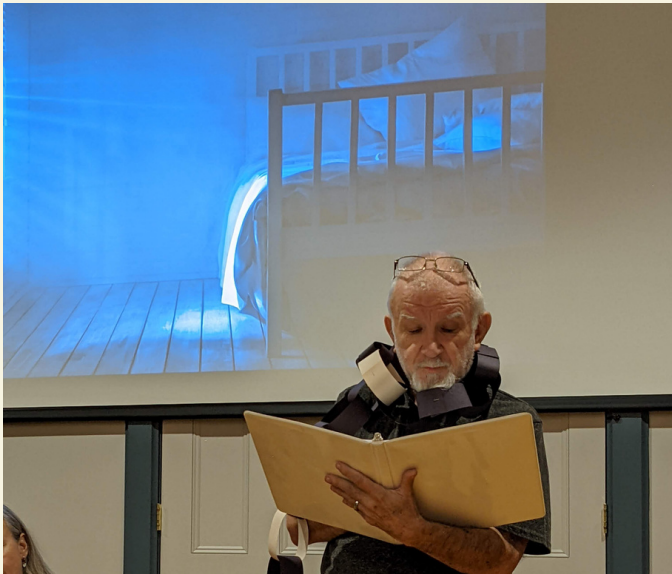
This has not happened by chance. It has taken the creativity and hard work of a gifted staff whose members are both impatient with the status quo and not afraid to implement change. For example, determined to make the best of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 they developed a wide array of innovative activities and programs, and in so doing redefined the concept of "community" as it applies to the OCHM. Capitalizing on the unlimited potential of the internet, our staff reached out to the worldwide "community" of history-lovers through our YouTube channel and other social media providers. Not only were their programs well received upon first appearance, but thanks to modern technology they will remain available online for the indefinite future. This represents just one facet of our expanded outreach; the 2021 Annual Report will give you more detailed information about several others.

These victories, of course, are made possible by your generosity, both in spirit and in the financial resources necessary to maintain a high quality program in a beautiful old building. Without your help all of the things that I so love to report each year would not be possible. I speak for the staff and the Board of Directors when I express my deepest gratitude. We recognize and appreciate what you allow us to accomplish.

As I prepare my remarks for the 2021 Annual Report, it appears that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. Saria is again visiting classrooms, Bronson is guiding his specialized tours, Elizabeth is stocking the gift shop for summer, and Katie is considering how to make the museum's garden even more beautiful than last year's edition. We're confident that with your continued support and best wishes the coming year will bring good fortune to the OCHM.

Highlights

2021





Director's Report

KATIE MACDONALD

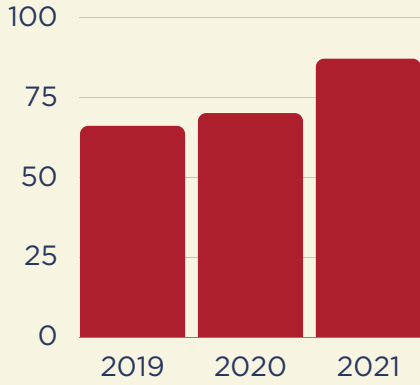
It is always a pleasure to be able to recap another year at the Old Colony History Museum. We continue to grow in dynamism, positivity, and enthusiasm with the ever-present goal of engaging with as many people as we can in as many ways as possible. We are always evaluating and evolving, and the result, which you will see both in these pages or during a visit to the museum, is a vibrant organization working to preserve and share our local history. I am excited to report that our visitation numbers in 2021 exceeded even those of our pre- COVID, record-setting year of 2019. As we continue to attract visitors to our physical space, we are also expanding our new ways of engaging our audience, whether it is with live Zoom programming or our ever-growing YouTube Channel. If nothing else, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have taught us to be adaptable in seeking new ways of reaching out to our communities. We'll take those lessons and continue to grow, just as we have for nearly 169 years.

In addition to growth in our visitation numbers, 2021 saw increases in library research appointments, new membership enrollments, website traffic, and program attendance. This work is reflected in growth in our gift shop sales, membership dollars, and the number of agencies awarding us grant funding. None of this is possible without the hard work of our talented team, staff, board, and volunteers, and you, our members!

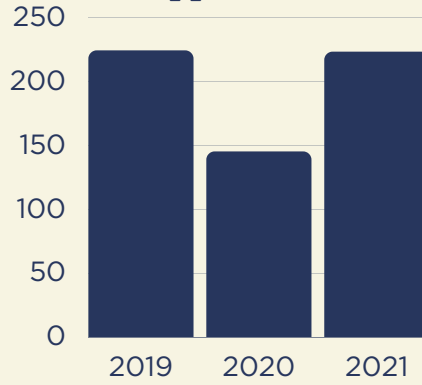
I hope this report finds you safe and well as we turn toward our 169th year here at the Old Colony History Museum. I hope we will be able to connect in the coming year, and I always hope that you, as members of our community, find our work meaningful, educational, and enjoyable. I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions with us. And, as always, I thank you for your support of local history.

By the Numbers

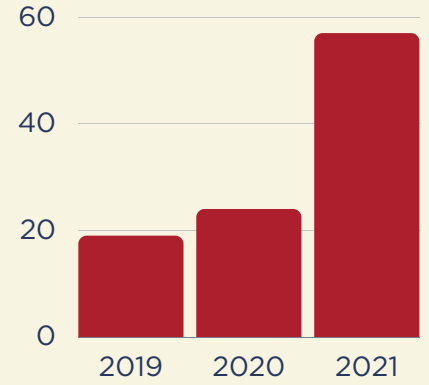
New Members



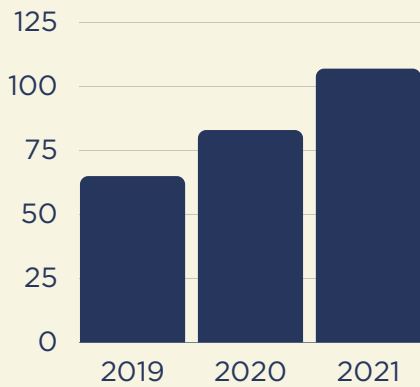
Research Appointments



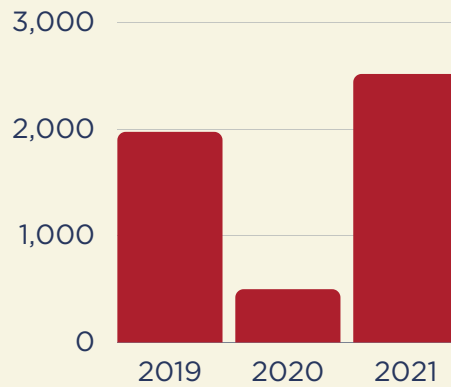
Library Requests



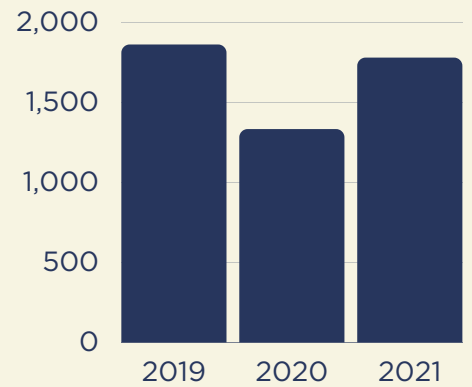
Programs Hosted



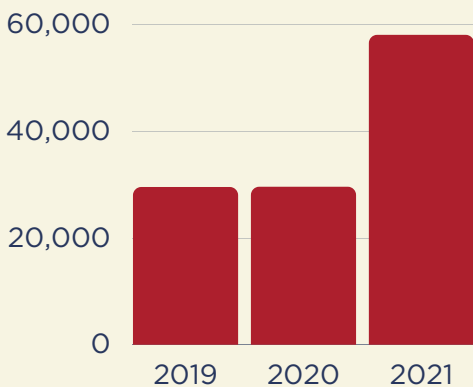
Program Attendance



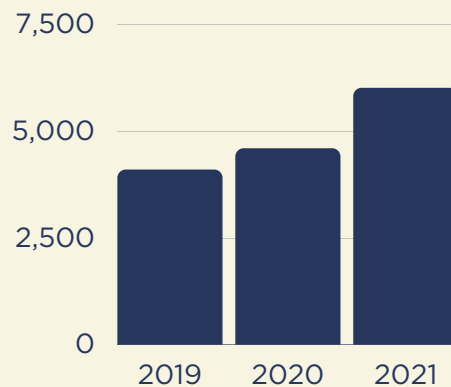
Student Engagement



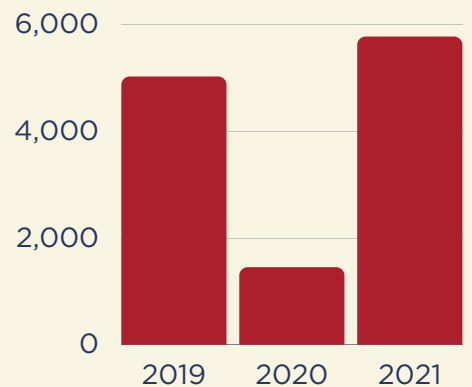
Website Visits



Social Media Followers



Total Annual Engagement



Collections

BRONSON MICHAUD

In 2021, the COVID pandemic not only forced radical changes to the ways in which we collected, preserved and exhibited local history, it also demanded new and more creative methods of bringing that history to the public. Throughout the year we met that challenge in a number of exciting ways. In April, for example, we designed, constructed and opened a new exhibit: the OCHM Garden: Growing Local History. We raised native plants, vegetables and herbs--all on our front lawn, and all with local historical connections. The public response was fantastic. Thanks to a generous grant from Mass Humanities which allowed us to increase our digital capacity, we were able to record and broadcast our progress with the garden throughout the summer and into the fall. Believing that a wider audience might find our experience instructive, we established our YouTube channel, where the garden project, as well as several other OCHM endeavors, can still be seen and enjoyed.

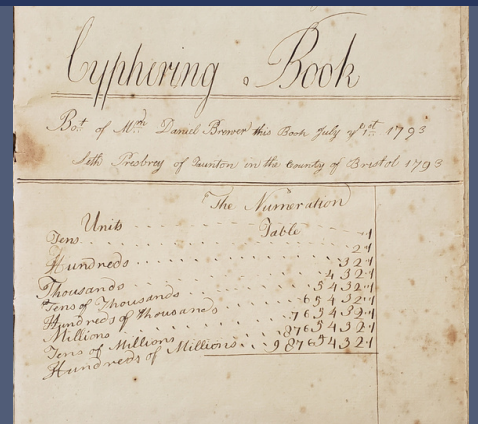
Increased digital capacity gave us other opportunities to connect with the public during 2021. For example, Up Close with the OCHM is a new YouTube series in which we share the history of some of the hidden gems of our collection. Additionally, throughout 2021, even as we employed technology to help us reach a wider audience, we continued to digitize our collections, working toward the ultimate goal of creating searchable databases to open our collections to researchers, both near and far.

As much as we've come to rely on worldwide technology, throughout 2021 we continued to improve on the delivery of more traditional services. In March and October, for example, we displayed more than 50 objects from the OCHM collection in newly-constructed cases at City Hall. Also, our library and archive collections were utilized by nearly 300 persons who booked research appointments, ordered image reproductions, or paid for over 200 hours of by-mail research. All of this took place while visitors from 40 different states toured our exhibits, attended museum events, or enjoyed a Beer with Bronson, which highlighted seldom-seen objects from the collection.



Collections

In 2021, we were able to lift the temporary freeze on donations. Sixty-two individual pieces were accepted into the OCHM collection. Notable among them were a full desert combat uniform worn from 2003-2006 by Kathleen Silva; a set of more than 500 silver chasing tools made and used by Antone and James Almeida while working at Reed & Barton Silversmiths; a 1793 school workbook owned by Seth Presbrey; and a collection of hundreds of photographs of tombstones from throughout the region.



Each of the objects entered into the collection in 2021 met the OCHM's collection goals, can be safely cared for, and are unique to the collection. Coming from 6 different towns outside of Taunton, each enhances the regional scope of the collection. Thank you to all of the donors, who are fully listed on page 13.

On a personal note, I look forward to sharing as much local history as possible with our ever-growing audience. Whether through online videos, our new spring 2022 exhibit, Beer with Bronson, or a library or museum visit, I hope to connect with you in some way.

Community Outreach

SARIA SWEENEY



After a year of isolation and virtual programming, 2021 saw us cautiously and carefully getting back out there. A blend of in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, taking place both at Church Green and farther afield, allowed us build and strengthen connections with members and communities near and far.

Expansion of our outdoor programs brought opportunities for one of the most important aspects of our programs: sharing the stories of those who came before us and trying to relate to their experiences. On our Cemetery Tours, we spent Saturday mornings at burial sites throughout the city. As the season wrapped in November, more than 60 people gathered within Mount Pleasant Cemetery's gates to learn of and honor the many veterans laid to rest there.

A Taste of Old Colony History, our program to cook up local history in our home kitchens also grew in 2021, and has had participants regularly joining in from Washington State, Arizona, Canada, and the UK!

Virtual Visits are a way to expand our regional presence. In 2021 we usually stayed close to home with tours of museums and historic sites that are just a few miles away. For example, thanks to Zoom we visited the Plainville Historical Society as well as the Carpenter Museum in Rehoboth but we were also able to (virtually) travel as far as Taunton, England for a tour! A highlight of this year's program was working with a local American Sign Language interpreter who donated her time during our July Virtual Visit to the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy in Chatham. Her kindness provided access for a young shark enthusiast who is hard of hearing.

Stephen and Monique Sampson of Greater Joy Productions researched and presented an original play entitled *The Toby Gilmore Story*. This brought a fascinating cast of characters to life during an afternoon of performances in the Museum's Gallery commemorating Black History Month. The play inspired thoughtful conversation between actors and audience during the Q&A that followed. We were especially honored to welcome a number Toby Gilmore's descendants to the Museum that afternoon!

Community Outreach continued

As our garden grew, we invited OCHM members to a summer soiree! Guests gathered on the lawn and enjoyed snacks and sangria among the native flora of our outdoor exhibit. The evening ended with songs sung by the Taunton Civic Chorus. This was the first time we had seen many of our wonderful members in months--if not years--and it was great to see their faces again.

In the fall, we worked with a local small business, UpsideDown Escapes, to bring Taunton's 7th graders the coolest field trip ever! *A River of Puzzling History* asks students to work cooperatively and think "outside the box" to solve puzzles that described some of the amazing history that can be discovered along the Taunton River.

A number of outreach programs made fresh connections with adults and children from communities such as Seekonk, Mansfield, and Raynham. For example, we presented a total of 8 *Let's Make History* programs, both virtually and in person, to patrons of the Seekonk Public Library.

We celebrated Taunton's diverse heritage as we hosted a special exhibition in June entitled "Portuguese Heritage around the World" for Portuguese Heritage Month and were invited to be a part of the Bristol County Trial Court's Cultural Appreciation Day in October.

For the City of Taunton's *Lights On!* celebration in December, we hosted critters from New England Reptile Shows and welcomed a whopping 951 people into the Museum over the course of the night!

In late 2021, as we planned our next calendar of events for the coming year, we thought deeply about the kind of programs we want to offer and the audiences we hope to serve. It is our priority to continue to bring engaging, accessible, and exciting programming to our both members and the community at-large, and we look forward to building upon the connections we have made in the past.



Membership

ELIZABETH BERNIER

We welcomed 87 new or returned members in 2021.

Anne Alexander	Joanne Hoeth	Audrey Pollard
Kyle Andrade	Peter Houston	Maureen Pratt
Michele Andrade	Debra Howland	PRIDE, Incorporated
Ann Bernacchio	William F. Hubbard	Joanne Pritchard
Joan Blake	Jeffrey Illsley	Lisa Quijano
John Blake	Karen Jackson	Lillian Ricketts
Veronica Casey	Eileen Kelleher	Erin Ritz
Alissa Cassidy	Michael Kelleher	Diane Rusiecki
Sean Cassidy	Barbara Kiefer	Daniel Santos
James Chiesa	Bradford Kiff	Anne Sauerbier
Nancy Clark	Amy King	Lynn Sawlivich
Douglas Cook	Harold King	Donna Schoonover
Sheila Cook	Barbara Lagace	Ellenor Simmons
Douglas Costello	Ronald Lawrence	Carol Smith
Leslianne Costello	Tom Lincoln	Russell Smith
Benjamin Crossman	Ann Lubold	Terry Smith
Jordan Crossman	Jennifer Lubold	Sally Spooner
Jonathan Danforth	Louis Lubold	Steven Ste. Marie
Theresa deMello	Scott Martin	Taunton Federal Credit Union
Karen Dow	James Medeiros	Maureen Taylor
Robert Dow	Jess Medeiros	Victoria Tutino
William Egan III	Lilah Medeiros	Corinne Wagner
Kristina Fontes	Maxx Medeiros	James Walsh
Jon Geggatt	William Melahouris	Edward P. White
Morgan Guiliano	Timothy More	Jesse White
Russell Handsman	Steven Mouser	Peter J. Wiggins
Bill Henderson	Pat Olsen	Amy Wilmot
Stephanie Henderson	Ron Perry	Jean Zaniewski
Christopher Hoeth	Sean Peters	Ken Zaniewski



In Memoriam

During 2021, the Old Colony History Museum recorded the loss of 13 members. We regret their loss and extend our sympathies to their family and friends.

Rev. John F. Andrews

Member since December 1991

Linda L. Belenger

Member since March 1987

Ruth E. Goold

Member since March 1987

Fred J. Hallenbrook

Member since May 1979

Georgia E. Hamlin

Member since December 2010

Diane Hammond

Member since December 2019

Carol L. Palmer

Member since May 1979

Kathryn Robertson

Member since January 2015

Eunice M. Short

Member since August 1992

Barbara A. Smith

Member since June 1999

Hank Snow

Member since February 1989

Chief David Westcoat

Member since October 1994

Irene L. Wrigley

Member since April 2012



Our Supporters

The OCHM depends on the generosity of the people and organizations that support our mission. There are many other types of donations we receive throughout the year, and we appreciate every single one.

GRANTS

Attleboro Cultural Council	Wareham Cultural Council
Berkley Cultural Council	Taunton Cultural Council
Dighton Cultural Council	Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Duxbury Cultural Council	Bridge Street Foundation
Easton Cultural Council	Mass Cultural Council Festivals Grant
Fall River Cultural Council	Mass Cultural Council Projects Grant
Freetown Cultural Council	Mass Humanities Digital Capacity Grant
Hull Cultural Council	Mass Humanities SHARP grant
Mid-Cape Cultural Council	The Rotary Club of Taunton
Middleborough Cultural Council	Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
Plymouth Cultural Council	SHRAB Regrant
Rehoboth Cultural Council	Southeastern Mass Visitors Bureau
Rochester Cultural Council	

CORPORATE MEMBERS

B & D Construction	Taunton Development Corporation
Biss Lumber Company	Taunton Federal Credit Union
Bristol County Savings Bank	Taunton Public Library
Bristol Wealth Group	Taunton-South Shore Foundation
PRIDE, Inc.	Trucchi's Supermarkets
Silvia & Quinn, PC	

GIFTS

In Memory of Linda Belenger

In Memory of The Hon.
Gordon M. Owen and
Carolyn Owen Leary

In Honor of Dennis Eve

DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

Norma B. Frost	George King III
Peter G. Mozzone	Elizabeth Mitchell
Dorothy Fitzsimmons	Marjorie L. Largey
Kathleen Silvia	Deborah Morrison
Bishop Connolly High School	Bristol County Savings Bank
Mija Almieda	Karen Dow
Ernest Cardoza	Vincent F. Luti
Elizabeth E. Vodola	Frederick Dimock
Rotary Club of Taunton	Sabrina Paradis
Sharon L. DeMello	Katheryn P. Viens

Donors to the Annual Fund

The following donors responded to our mailed Annual Fund Campaign at the end of 2021.

Funds raised support the conservation of a portrait on a first floor gallery, to be completed in 2022.

OC HM OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM
66 CHURCH GREEN
TAUNTON, MA 02780
508.822.1622
OLDCOLONYHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG

Yes! I would like to support the Old Colony History Museum with an Annual Fund gift of:

\$10 \$50 \$250
 \$20 \$100 Other: _____

I/We agree to our name(s) being listed within a giving range in the Old Colony History Museum Annual Report.
Your name as you wish to be listed: _____
 I/We would like this gift to remain anonymous.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
 Enclosed is my/our check payable to the Old Colony History Museum *or*
 Online at www.oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org/donate/ *or*
 Please charge my: Amex Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____

OCHM is a 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

William & Carol Hanna

Eric & Susan Schultz

Gregory Gibson

Kristen Von Malder

Peter G. Mozzone

Alexis Medeiros

Dave & Judy Cleathero

Jesse White

Kathy Mulhern

Deborah Halver-Hanson

Marjorie L. Largey

Frances Guay

Carol & Robert Funke

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Marc S. Emond

Elaine DeMoranville

Charles & Jacqueline Smith

Will Gwilliam

E. Otis Dyer

Mrs. Louise Rose

Lawrence Freed

Doug & Barbara Bingham

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Betz

Ms. Anne Chace

Lucille Higgins Atkinson

Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Viens

Eugene L. Christiansen

Cynthia Booth Ricciardi

Dr. Charles Thayer

Diana Shearstone

Elizabeth MacLean

Robert Bates

John & M. Jane Pereira

Maura & Jack Leddy

and a number of generous anonymous donors.

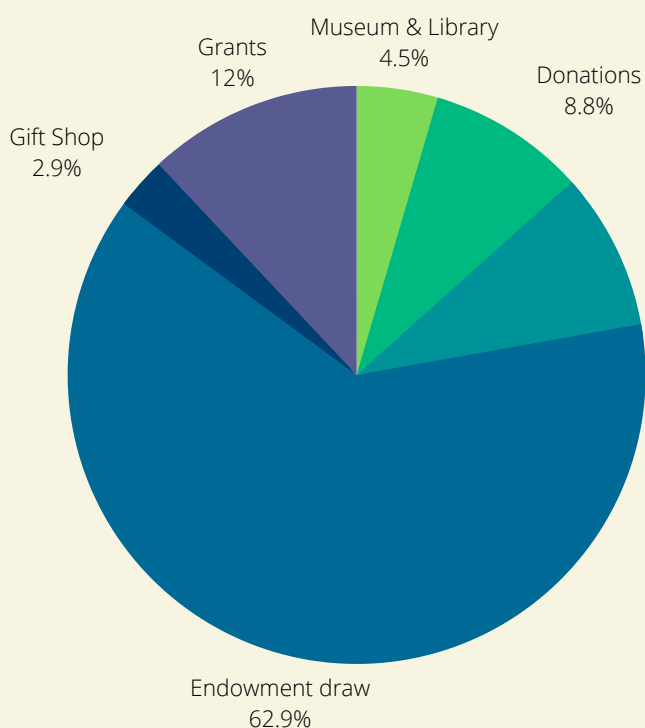
Thank you all!

Financial Report

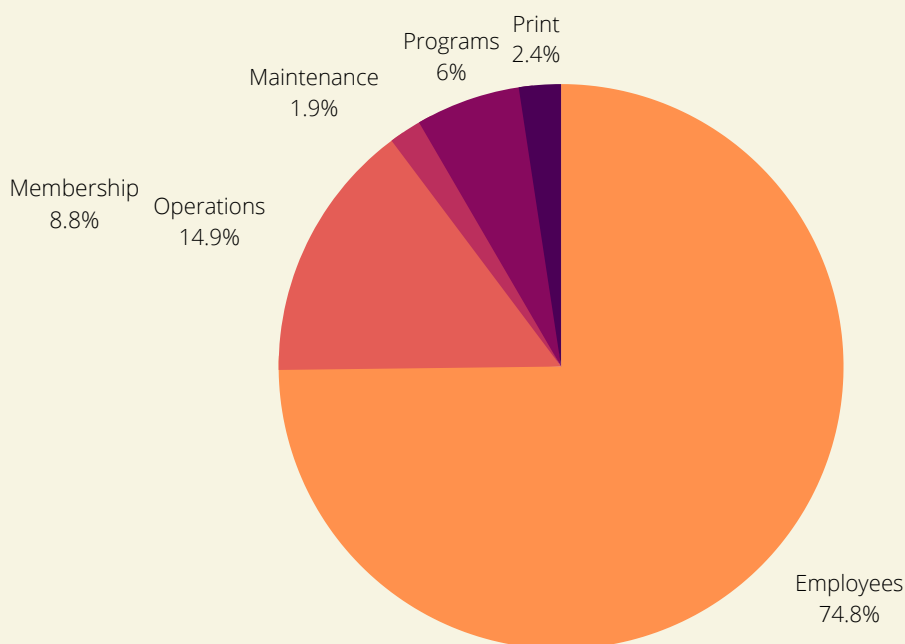
Please note: figures from prior years are from our accountants' reporting, but figures from 2021 are, as of yet, unaudited. Please reach out to the main office with any questions.

Assets	As of 31 December		
	2021	2020	2019
Cash	\$ 434,233	458,428	502,917
Inventory	\$ 9,500	8,505	8,505
Property and Equipment	\$ 1,099,827	1,099,827	1,043,995
Less accumulated depreciation	\$ (774,716)	(774,716)	(735,220)
Invested Funds	\$ 4,641,278	4,159,386	4,018,862
Total Assets	\$ 5,410,122	4,951,430	4,839,059

Operating Revenue: \$303,310

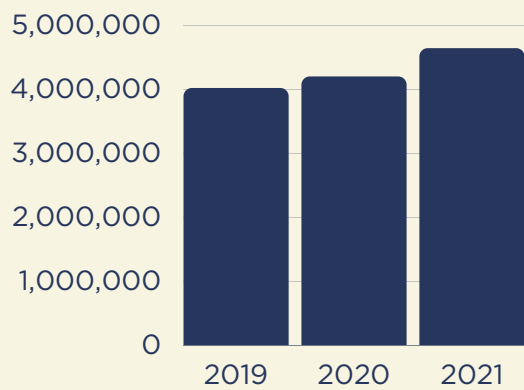


Operating Expenses: \$287,146

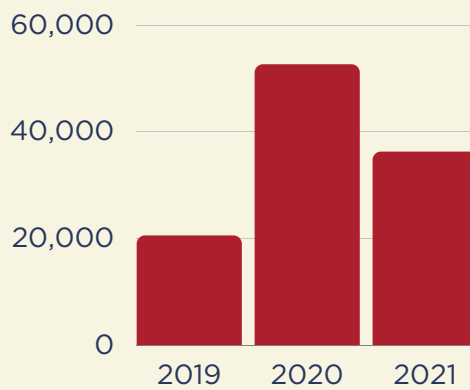


Financial Highlights

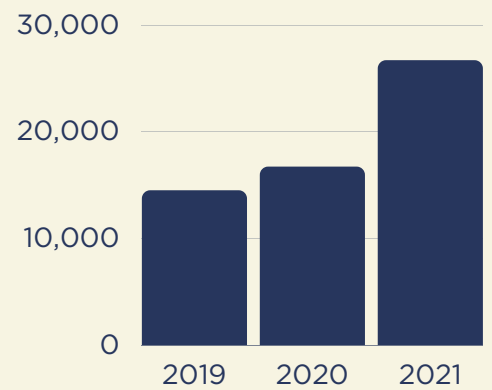
Endowment



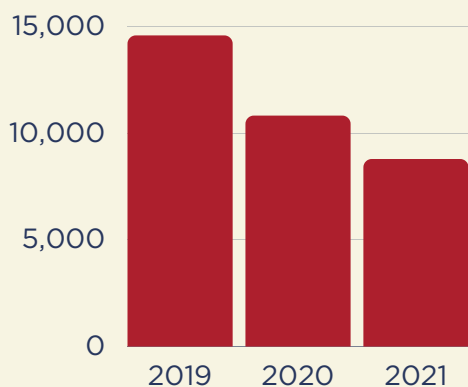
Grants



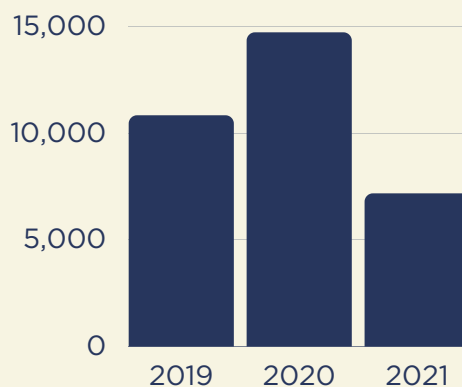
Membership



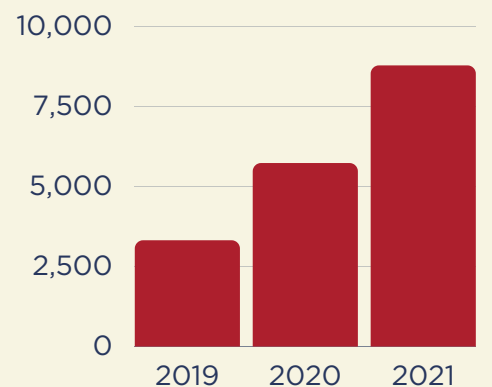
Admissions



Donations



Gift Shop Sales



Stay Connected!



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ochm.medium.com

And be sure to sign up for our monthly e-mail to get the latest news and events!

www.oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org/email-update/

