



Arch Street
MEETING HOUSE

PRESERVATION TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year
2022 - 2023

October 1st, 2022 -
September 30th, 2023

320 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 413 - 1804 | historicismh.org



Back Photograph of Arch Street Meeting House (East End) taken by John R. Wells, 2420 Merwood Lane, Hobertown for XIX Century Architectural Show at Philada: Art Alliance Spring 1953, Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections



FROM THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I am writing this message soon after the annual Meetinghouse by Candlelight event on the first Friday in December. Students from four schools, Frankford Friends, Germantown Friends, George School, and Penn Charter, performed holiday music for more than 400 guests over the course of that magical evening. This event was the conclusion of a series of successful programs this past year. Did you attend the Annual Spring Kickoff featuring Doug Thomas as John Dickinson, Penman of the Revolution, or were you part of the over-the-top crowd at Ned Donoghue’s book launch (*Prisoners of Congress, Quakers in Exile*)? How about the American Historical Theatre’s dynamic presentation of William Still, Hannah Callowhill Penn, Lucretia Mott, and John Bartram? You may have attended a movie night, a community event, or PYM Continuing Sessions.

Arch Street Meeting House is truly our shared community space where you can see old friends, meet new ones, and become inspired.

Arch Street Meeting House is open to the public from March - December. In the heart of Old City Philadelphia, tourists, students, and other visitors come into the building to experience the peaceful West Room and discover displays about Quakerism and Quaker history in the East Room. Thousands more passersby venture onto the property to learn from the outdoor exhibits. This unique form of outreach, along with a love of historic properties, attracts me and my fellow board members to serve on the board of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust.

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, we welcomed Hazele Goodridge, George McNeely, David Unkovic and David Wickard to the Board of Trustees. At our annual meeting in November 2023, we approved Lisa Parry Becker as a new board member. I encourage you to visit often and get to know us better. We have big plans, and we are eager to engage you further in the mission of the Trust.

You will read elsewhere in this annual report about the records achieved this past year for attendance, events, rentals, and donations. This is a testament to the hard work of Sean Connolly, the staff, and a group of loyal volunteers. Our success depends upon the support of our donors, including individuals, companies, foundations, and other granting organizations. We are so appreciative of your interest and shared sense of purpose.

Thank you!

Lisa Ogletree
Clerk, Arch Street Meeting House
Preservation Trust

YEAR IN REVIEW


Thank you for your continued support of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust (ASMHPT). Your support this past year helped us achieve a huge increase in public visitation, develop new programs, and plan for major preservation work to protect this National Historic Landmark.

Visitation has completely rebounded and now far exceeds 2019 visitation numbers. That success would not have been possible without the important exterior exhibits that were installed back in 2022. Continued expanded museum hours allowed for more walk-in visitation and we plan to continue to increase our visitation hours in the build-up to the nationwide celebration of the United States' Semiquincentennial in 2026. New tour partners brought in hundreds of tour groups throughout the year and the meetinghouse was visited by over 50 schools on field trips. Outside of public and student visitation, the meetinghouse was abuzz with activity from rentals on over 170 days last year, including weddings, conferences, community meetings, and celebrations of life. In addition to all of this, ASMHPT hosted fourteen of our own programs.

The Board of Trustees, with the help of Partners for Sacred Places, created the framework for a capital campaign that will provide the largest capital improvements to Arch Street Meeting House since the 1990s. Major preservation and improvement efforts will be forthcoming in the next several years, including the addition of fire suppression systems, efficient heating and cooling systems, electrical and water improvements, and major renovations to our interior exhibits ahead of the Semiquincentennial in 2026.

All of this would not have been possible without your continued support of our mission. Your generosity continues to help us spread the word about Quakerism, Arch Street Meeting House, and Quaker history. I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming programs and until then thank you for making this past year a huge success.

Sean Connolly



Executive Director
Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust



Lisa Ogletree, Clerk of the Board of Trustees and Sean Connolly, Executive Director of ASMHPT.

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2023 Accomplishments

Arch Street Meeting House saw a significant increase in visitors in 2023, with over 52,000 individuals touring the historic site. This marks an 18,000 visitor increase from 2022, our previous best year on record.

New tour company partnerships and an expanded field trip program helped drive the increase in visitation along with the continued success of our outside exhibits. On the program front, we hosted a variety of education programs over the Summer, several Quaker-themed walking tours, lectures, and our core annual events Meetinghouse by Candlelight and the Annual Spring Kickoff.

The Board of Trustees engaged in important work planning for the Semi-quicentennial of the United States in 2026. This national celebration will shine a spotlight on Arch Street Meeting House and in turn Quakerism.

In anticipation of groundbreaking visitation in 2026, the Board of Trustees is working with Partners for Sacred Places to prepare the meetinghouse for major capital improvements which will preserve the building for a generation and promote Quakerism and Quaker history to the world.

This work was made all too important when the boiler suffered a catastrophic failure last February, removing heat from the building. A temporary boiler has been installed thanks to an emergency grant provided by **Partners for Sacred Places** and the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, along with support from the **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**. Luckily, a long-term replacement plan was already a part of the undertakings planned for 2026 so we look forward to that full replacement project very soon.



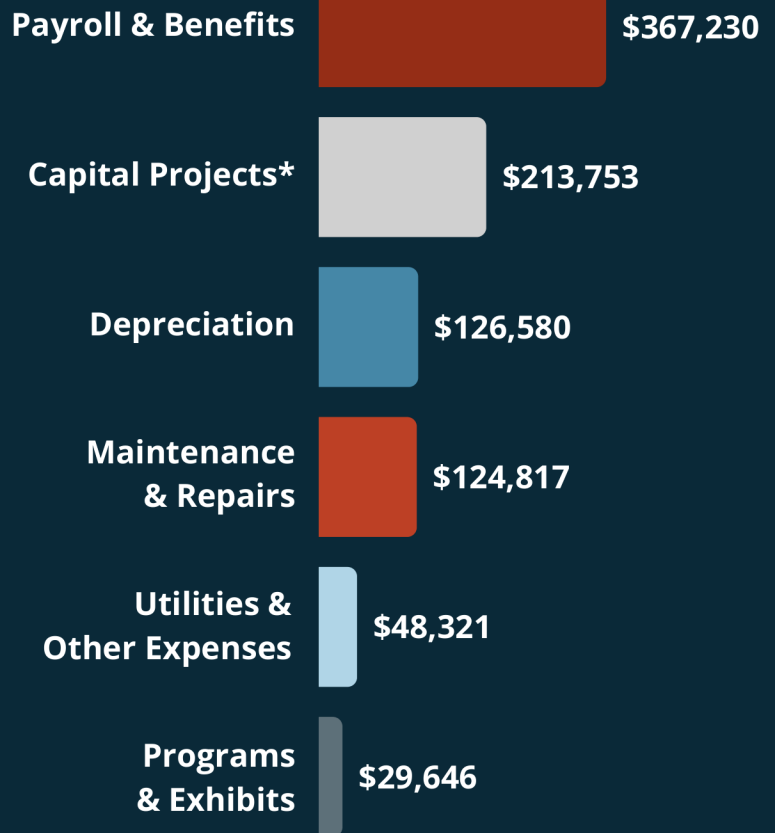
EXPENSES

FY22-23 Expense Breakdown

This year, our expenses were distributed more evenly compared to FY21-22. We increased our staff size to better serve school students and field trips, which resulted in higher **Payroll and Benefit** costs. As we prepare new interpretive plans for 2026, we did not undertake any significant exhibit changes this year, which led to lower **Program and Exhibit** costs.

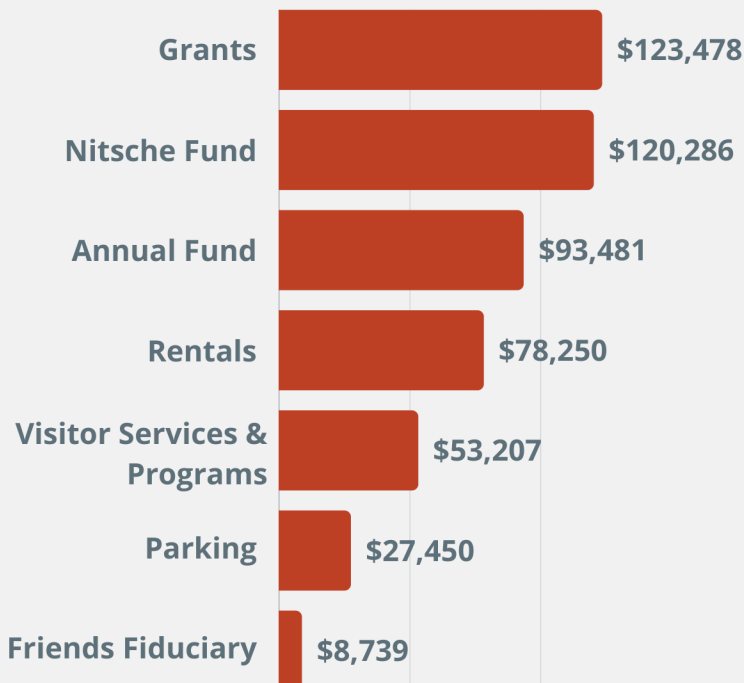
Development and Depreciation costs were consistent, while our **Utility** costs decreased due to a massive boiler failure, and we were able to reduce operating Maintenance and Repair costs as we brace ourselves for upcoming long-term Capital Maintenance Projects.

* **Capital Projects** focused mainly on engineering for large-scale renovations for heating and cooling systems as well as fire suppression systems. Additional capital costs were incurred due to boiler failure.



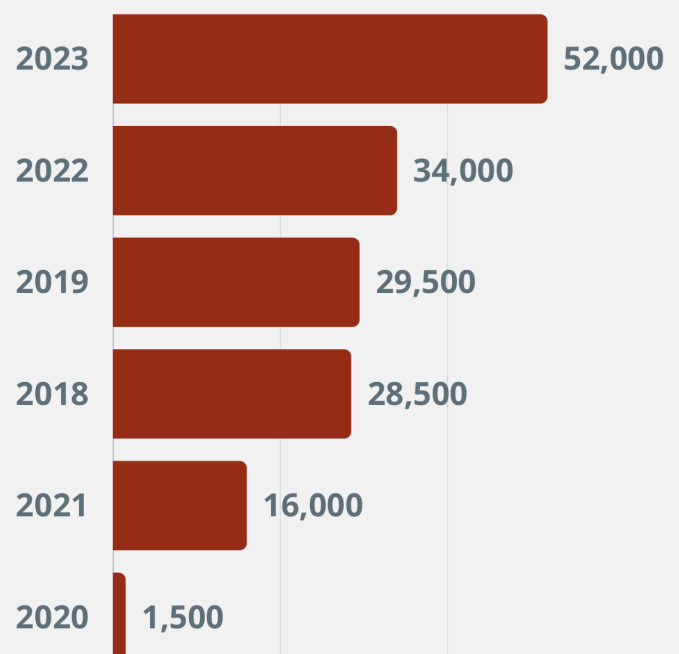
REVENUE

Due to new agreements with local tour companies, ASMH had a healthy increase in Visitor Services and Programs revenue, and overall income came in high. This year, we raised rental revenue due to a variety of community groups and private bookings. Grants and increases in Annual Fund donations helped end the fiscal year on a solid footing.



VISITATION

Site visitation across all categories exceeded expectations with record walk-ins and rentals. School groups also rebounded, close to but not exceeding their pre-Covid peaks. 2023 is certainly a visitation year for the books.



GRANTS & ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT THIS YEAR

Continued success in grant-making and the annual fund allowed ASMHPT to start Fiscal Year 2023-24 with the first fund balance and truly balanced budget since the organization was founded in 2011. This stability will allow for more time and effort to be spent on important long-term preservation projects and expanded program access.

This success was driven by supporters of ASMHPT and has allowed for operating support provided by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to be reduced two years in a row. Our thanks to all of you for making that possible!

SNAVE Foundation

National Fund for Sacred Places

Partners for Sacred Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
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Philadelphia Cultural Fund

Jonathan E. Rhoads Trust

Society of Colonial Wars in the
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PYM Quaker Building &
Grounds Granting Group

Keep PA Beautiful & The GIANT Corporation

Alpine Cameron Trust

Newtown Monthly Meeting

General Society of Colonial Wars





Funding provided by **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Healing the Planet** Grant Program and **The GIANT Company** supported the installation of a new Community Fridge and Food Pantry on the historic grounds of Arch Street Meeting House.

Grants awarded by the **Philadelphia Cultural Fund** and the **Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission** supported workshops and public programming throughout the year, including Old City Fest, Educational Saturdays, a lecture by the American Vegan Center on the legacy of Benjamin Lay, and more.



To prepare designs and engineering for a fire suppression system, ASMHT was awarded funding from the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's** Keystone Historic Preservation Grant, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

National Fund for Sacred Places and other capital grant support has provided the ASMHT staff and board members with foundational backing for exhibit design and engineering plans. This will ensure that we are well-equipped for phase one of the upcoming major improvements to the meetinghouse.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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**Support the legacy of
 Quakerism by making a
 donation today.**



The Board of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust minutes its deep appreciation to Wally Evans for his sustained support for the mission of the Trust. November 15th, 2023.

Wally Evans has served as a tour guide at Arch Street Meeting House for many years, coming on a weekly basis to share his knowledge about the building, Quakers and history with visitors...Wally Evans is a founding member of the Board of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust, which held its first meeting on June 18, 2013. Because initial terms were staggered, ASMHT has been able to benefit from Wally's leadership on the Board for ten years.



Arch Street MEETING HOUSE

PRESERVATION TRUST

MISSION

Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust preserves, operates, and interprets the meeting house and grounds which will serve to increase public understanding of the impact and continued relevance of Quakers and Quaker history.

VISION

Arch Street Meeting House will be the preeminent destination for experiencing and learning about Quakers' unique contributions to society throughout history.