

A black and white photograph of a historic brick building with a group of people gathered outside on a cobblestone street. The building has multiple windows with shutters and a small entrance. The people are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including jackets and backpacks. The scene is set in a courtyard or narrow street area with trees in the background.

Arch Street  
MEETING HOUSE  
PRESERVATION TRUST

FISCAL YEAR  
2020-2021  
ANNUAL REPORT

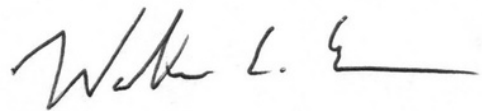
## *From the Clerk of the Board of Trustees*

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The Arch Street Meeting House experienced many positive developments over the past year. *Despite the constraints that the pandemic placed on all cultural institutions, we doubled our hours of operation by opening our doors to visitors from Wednesday to Sunday. Virtual tours were made available to school groups that were otherwise unable to visit in person. Led by the efforts of Executive Director Sean Connolly, a greater number of grants were secured to grow our staff, add exhibits and artifacts to a growing collection in the East Room, produce monthly newsletters, and host special events. We started to implement our Master Space Plan by renovating and remodeling the East Room kitchen, dismantling the second-floor catering kitchen, and moving our administrative offices from the basement into that area.*

*We are all looking forward to the installation of permanent outdoor exhibits and wayfinding signs this winter. They will enable passersby to learn about the Religious Society of Friends, the meetinghouse and burial ground, and several of the people who are associated with the history of Fourth and Arch Streets (prompting them to return during regular hours!).*

The financial and spiritual support of an increasing number of individuals and foundations provides the impetus for our success. Your continuing contributions to the Trust are so welcomed and appreciated. Please come for a visit and see what is happening to our treasured property.



Wally Evans, Clerk

*2020 - 2021*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you for your continued support of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust. 2021 was a year of great changes for Arch Street Meeting House, as it was for many cultural institutions across the city, state, and country. As we continued to navigate ever-changing rules, restrictions, and mandates, we briefly closed to the public at the end of last year. During that time we expanded our virtual presence, hosted many virtual programs, launched our virtual field trip, and connected with visitors online from all over the world. This would not have been possible without amazing dedication from staff throughout this difficult year – the Arch Street Meeting House team created content, programs and worked on long-term projects from home. Some staff continued to go into the office to perform vital maintenance and upkeep of the building. I'm so grateful for the staff for all that they did during those difficult weeks. As a result of their efforts, we emerged stronger than ever before.

We hired a new Membership and Communications Coordinator to help with these efforts, and created the new position of Site Manager to help manage the building. In March, when we reopened to the public, we had more accessible and frequent hours than at any time in the last decade. With a return of in-person visitation we connected with thousands of visitors this year. 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

# FY 2020 - 2021

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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



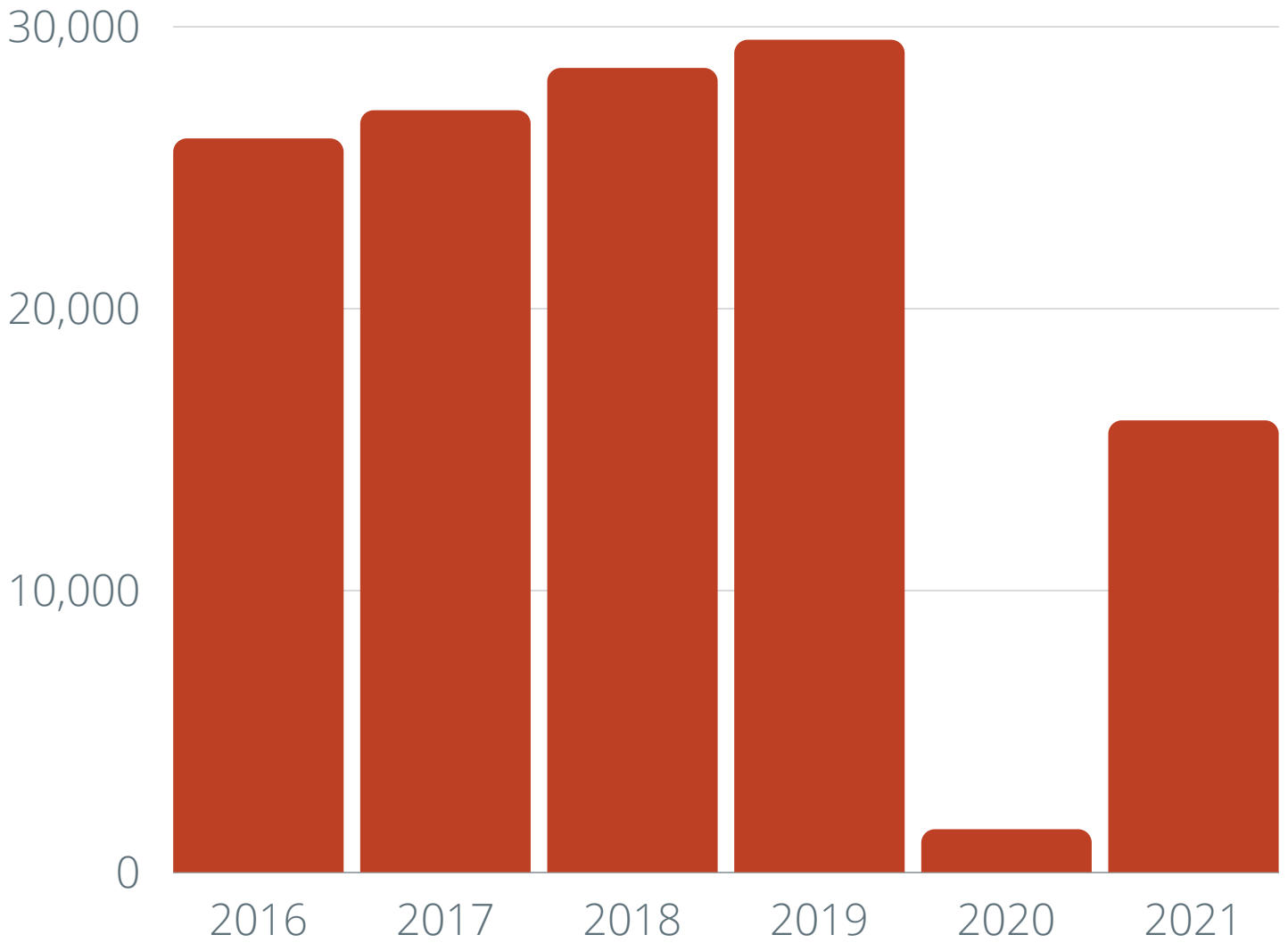
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Mini Capital Campaign successfully raised \$125,000 for new Outside Exhibits, with support from the Shoemaker Fund, the Tyson Memorial Fund, the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (MMFP), a \$35,000 bequest, and many of our loyal donors across PYM and beyond. These new exhibits will draw more visitors to the site in years to come and help us better engage with strangers to Quaker history. Other smaller exhibit projects included a new exhibit in the East Room on Arch Street's burial ground and the building's early designs and construction by Quaker Master Builder Owen Biddle.

Major improvements to the property included moving staff offices upstairs and a complete renovation of the first floor catering kitchen. This kitchen update will allow more renters to use the space and will give the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (MMFP) some much needed equipment for food preparation. Funding this project was in-part provided by a \$40,000 plus bequest for maintenance at the meetinghouse. Other projects included repointing all of the burial ground wall piers and updates to the Historic Structures Report (HSR).

Public programs and visitors returned to Arch Street Meeting House in force this summer. All told we had close to 15,000 visitors and engaged with over 3,000 students this year. Arch Street Meeting House hosted a virtual holiday concert last December, a chocolate and beer tasting, several garden events, a presentation by Quaker historian Dr. William Kashatus, programs related to our new or upcoming exhibits, a mural arts program, and six successful First Friday programs. We look forward to carrying that momentum into 2022.

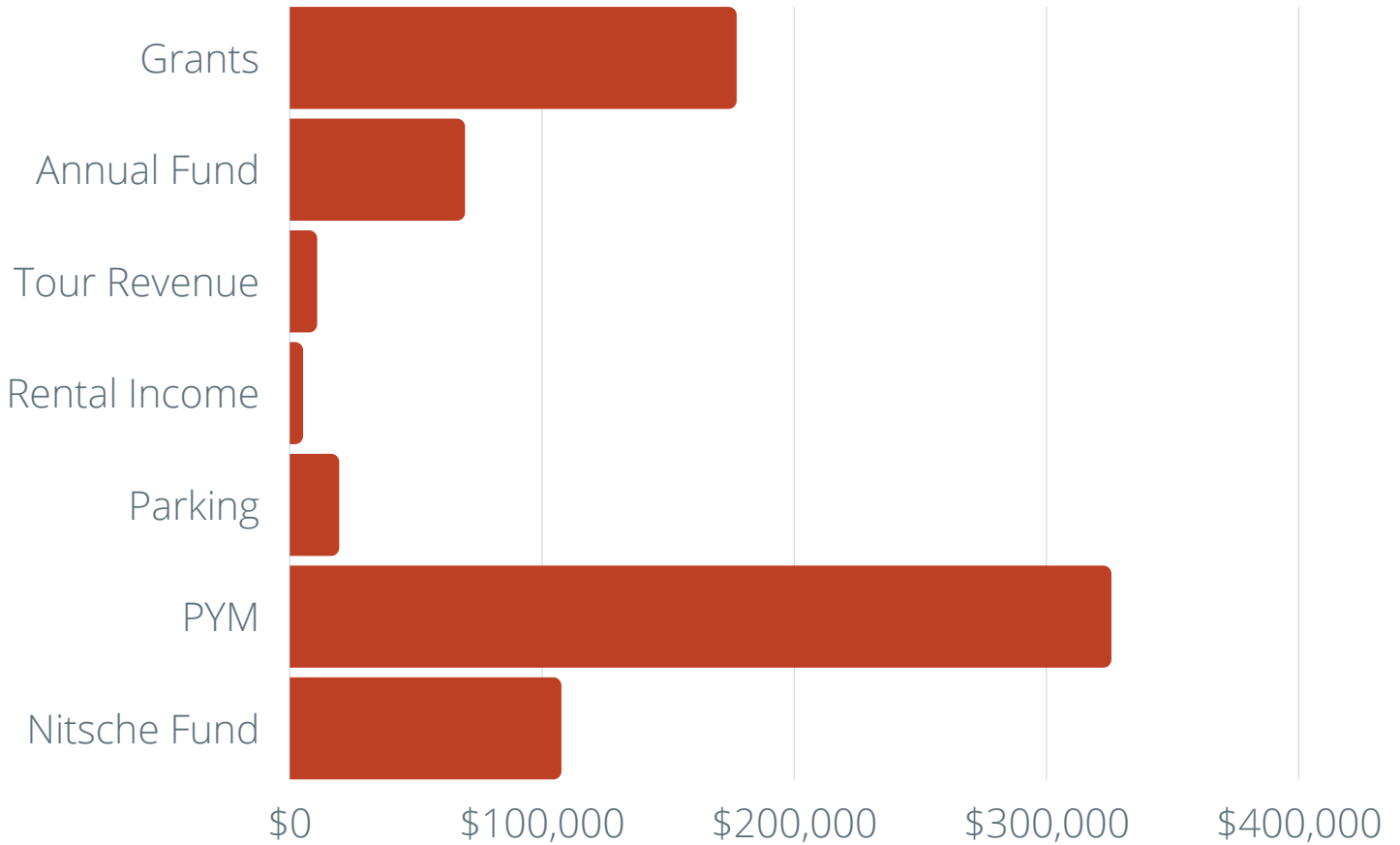
The Board of Trustees engaged in some important planning and development work as they look forward to the next five years' worth of capital improvements and major system updates. The Board of Trustees and the Executive Director continue to explore grants and celebrate the amazing successes of this year, such as our successful application to be designated an Education Improvement Organization which allows us to apply for EITC (Education Improvement Tax Credit) funding through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other funding successes this year include large grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), the US Small Business Administration and continued growth from individuals to our Annual Fund.



# VISITATION

After taking a huge hit in 2020 visitorship rebounded in 2021. The City of Philadelphia does not anticipate the return of 2019 visitors numbers until 2024 or 2025. Yet in 2020 we still saw a significant return of visitors to the site. School field trips did not occur in the Spring of 2020, which resulted in us not achieving pre-pandemic levels of visitors. But we are expecting a return in Spring of 2022.



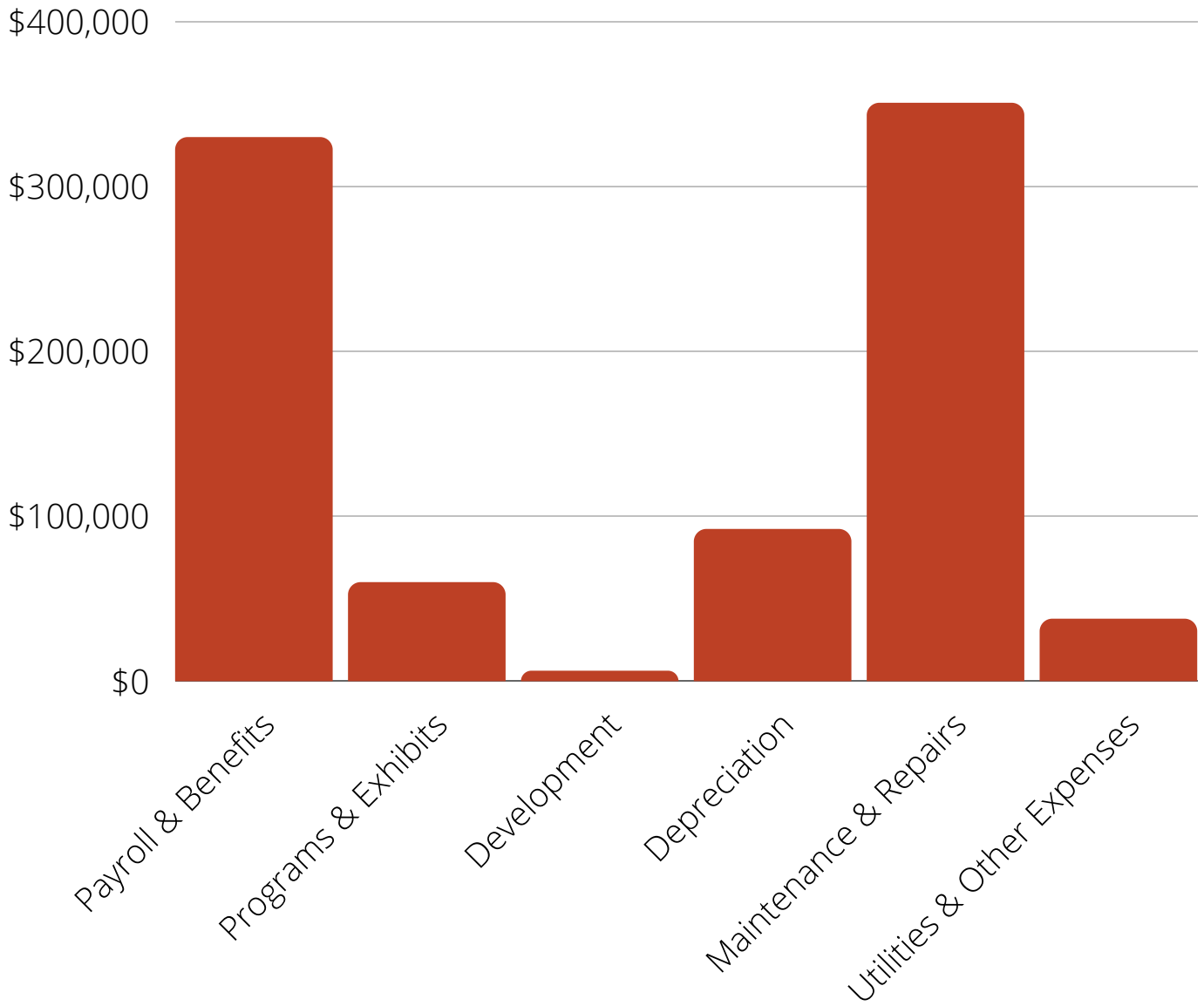


## REVENUE

Income came in high this year with the assistance of new grant funders and a successful mini capital campaign for outside exhibits. But rental income and visitor income from school field trips remained exceptionally low due to Covid-19.

## GRANTS THIS YEAR

- SNAVE Foundation
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
- Shoemaker Fund
- Tyson Memorial Fund
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
- Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
- Newtown Monthly Meeting
- Museum Council of Greater Philadelphia
- Living History Centre
- Alpine Cameron Trust
- US Small Business Administration
- General Society of Colonial Wars



# EXPENSES

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Expenses, like income, remained high this year. Material costs for maintenance remained exceptionally high due to shortages in raw materials and shipping delays. New staff positions also resulted in higher expenses.



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George H. McNeely (Resource Development)

Thomas P. Williams (Resource Development)

# STAFF

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Sean Connolly, Executive Director

Gary Jackson, Maintenance Coordinator

Kayla D'Oyen, Membership and Communications  
Coordinator

Stefan Williams, Maintenance Coordinator

Jennifer Gray, Visitor Services and Rental Coordinator

Ariana Potichnyj, Site Manager



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# Arch Street

## MEETING HOUSE

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