American Independence Museum

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

AIM Trustee Dr. Hollis Merrick III, whose dedication and service to our mission was beyond measure. He is greatly missed.
Dear Museum Family,

For an organization by definition all about the past, your American Independence Museum is manifestly looking to the future. As you are likely aware, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is just around the corner in 2026, and your team is busy building its capacity to take advantage of this opportunity. And whatever you think “capacity” means, you are correct – volunteers, sponsors, partners, great ideas, gifts, grants, connections – we want it all!

I believe we will remember 2022, the Museum’s 31st year, as a foundational one. With pandemic-created uncertainty on the wane, this was a time for “getting back to normal”, but that did not necessarily mean “getting back to the same”. How refreshing it was that your Museum was able to host no less than 30 in-person events, each done with a fresh approach… and we so much enjoyed reconnecting with many of you.

We also welcomed our new Executive Director, Jennifer Carr, the Museum’s former Curator and Collections Manager. Jen’s love of Revolutionary history is boundless, and not only did she handle the Museum’s resurgent summer season with aplomb, she is undaunted by the opportunities ahead and is rapidly building a terrific team for the Museum’s next phase of growing our impact. We all feel lucky to have Jen at the helm.

I really do want to stress that the Museum wants and needs your help during this coming time of great celebration and opportunity. As you ponder the Museum’s Mission, Vision, Values and accomplishments in this Annual Report, please ask yourself how this organization might be a conduit for achieving your own impact – and let’s talk about it.

We appreciate every ounce of your help. As always, thank you so much for your fresh ideas, your encouraging words, your bold actions, your generous financial gifts, your curious visits and your most interesting questions. Your Board of Governors, Ambassadors, Staff and Volunteers are deeply appreciative of your engagement with the Museum. You make our work a joy!

Ozzie Ayscue
President, Board of Governors
STRICTEGIC FRAMEWORK

MISSION
To engage, educate and excite people of all ages to understand and celebrate the American struggle for freedom and self-governance, and to preserve and share our buildings, grounds and collection so they will be an inspiration for generations to come.

VALUES
- Inclusiveness
- Discovery
- Innovation
- Accountability
- Integrity

VISION
All people inspired to civic engagement.

Potter Steve Zoldak demonstrates his craft for guests at the American Independence Festival.
GOALS AND STRATEGIES TO STIR AND STRENGTHEN...

Our Collective Imagination
Stimulate imagination by sharing diverse, vivid, unique stories of the local people, places, events and artifacts of the Revolutionary era in honest, relevant, compassionate and unexpected ways.

Our Conversations
Inspire all people to come to our forum to learn about and wrestle with the big questions of the American Revolution that are still alive and informative today, such as who we are as Americans and how we want to be governed.

Individual Civic Engagement
Motivate and help people to participate directly and constructively by providing a home base for learning and an interface with civic leaders and active participants, both political and non-political.

Our Place in Exeter • The Seacoast
Create the ambulatory center of Exeter, an open, inviting and spirited whole campus that is provocative, enriching and enjoyable for all.

Our Broader Impact
Transcend our borders by working with mission-aligned partners and using the full range of available physical and digital media.

Our Core Capabilities
Cultivate a sustainable and resilient institution that can stay light on its feet, try new things and compete tenaciously for the peoples’ attention beyond our own lifetimes.
2022
YEAR IN REVIEW

We presented 30 in person programs this year! From onsite Tavern Talks, to visits from school kids, to summer camps and Beer for History events, to off-site visits at local senior centers and assisted living facilities with our new Adult Traveling trunk, we were busy in 2022! From May through November we also hosted three StoryWalks® along Stewart Park, making us a constant presence downtown.

The American Independence Festival welcomed over 900 guests as our first one-day celebration since the pandemic. Held entirely on the museum’s campus, the Festival included the Traditional Artisans Village, militia groups representing the Patriot, British, and French perspectives, a reading of the Declaration of Independence by a Gilman descendant, and a Beer Garden on the Ladd-Gilman House patio. The Dunlap Broadside was on exhibit, marking its first return to the Festival since 2019!
Historic Preservation is a constant effort, so we hired our first Facilities Manager, Rebeccah Seely, who has been busy planning several large projects to preserve our buildings, including a new roof for the Folsom Tavern, campus-wide drainage work to mitigate water infiltration, plaster repair in the Ladd-Gilman House, and new HVAC systems for both buildings. Welcome Rebeccah!
THE PEOPLE
WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

American Independence
Center Trustees
Dr. Hollis Merrick III, Chairman
James Benenson III
David Burnham
Stephen B. Jeffries
Paul Marcus

Board of Governors
Ozzie Ayscue, President
Hugh Robinson, Vice President
Robert A. Casassa, Secretary
Brian Lortie, Treasurer
Rebecca B. Dunham
William Jordan
Mark Leighton
Paul Marcus
Diane Devine Mizusawa
Joe Pace
Niko Papakonstantis
Susan Parker
Judy Rowan
Catherine V. Salterio
Paul Staller
Barbara Wilson
Mike Wilson

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Ronald C. Brown Jr.
Susan Y. Desjardins
Rebecca Dillman
M. Jacqueline Eastwood
Julie Gilman
Charles Goss
Jessica Hammond
Sean Heuvel
Dave Hobson
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Sean Mahoney
Karen McDonnell
Amy McLaughlin
Agostinho N. Nunes
Fran Parker
Renée Plummer
Russell Prescott, Sr.
Florence Ruffner
Sally Brown Russ
Joseph Taggart
Charlie Tarbell

2022 Museum Staff
Emma Stratton
Executive Director
Jen Carr
Executive Director, Collections
Manager and Curator
Sara Ouimet
Bookkeeper
Donna Kelly
Bookkeeper
Sabina Ion
Content and Marketing Manager
Sarah Jaworski
Program Manager
JoAnn Keeler
Development Manager
Rob Levey
Consultant, Grant Writer and Webmaster
Rebeccah Seely
Facilities Manager
Intern
Joe D’Alessandro

Board Members, past and present, enjoy Members’ Evening on the Ladd-Gilman patio
THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our volunteers are at the heart of our work. They give tours, serve on our committees, and help in all aspects of our work.

Lillian Alsonso
Barbara Anderson
Douglas Aykroyd
Elizabeth Aykroyd
Brian Beck
Greg Bisson
Elizabeth Blanchard
Matthew Breen
Donna Buxton
Mary Ann Cappiello
Don Clark
Bob Davidson
Hon. William Delker
Donald Denning
Rebecca Dillman
Greg Driscoll
Tony DelVecchio
Geno DiFiore
Maris DiTolla
Dot Fisher
Sharron Fontaine
Melissa Foy
Amanda Frohn
Greg Gilman
Julie Gilman
Bob Glowacky
Tom Grant
Christy Slavik Hamilton
Randy Hammond
Liam Heberley
Eli Huebner
Joonyoung Heo
Ann Hohenberger
Dana Holleran
Ella Horvath
Eli Huebner
Kathy Jackson
Jonathan Jaworski
Dawn Jelley
Erica Johnson
Christina Maloney
Arlene Medeiros
Robin Millward
Bob Mitchell
Mercedes Monaco
Justin Morelli
Heather O’Brien
Fran Parker
Justin Porter
Ron Raiselis
Tara Raiselis
Erskine Ramsay
Melissa Roy
Pam Schwotzer
Leigh Sloss
John Sycz
Bobbi Vandenbulcke
Dave Vaught
Mike Welch
Jennifer Wheeler

Thank you to those who worked alongside us.
Thank you to the following individuals who supported the preservation and growth of the American Independence Museum in 2022.

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Gifts for special initiatives – from our Master Landscape Plan to our Collections Fund, and more

$1,500 Governors Lane Steps
In honor of Jude Hall
– Renay Allen Hitzrot
In honor of all those who have served our country
– David and Kathy Brown

$501–$1,000
Elizabeth Blanchard
Mark Buckles,
  In honor of Lt. Samuel Wallingford *
David H. Burnham *
Jonathan H. Cilley, Jr., M.D. *
Donald R. Denning Jr.*
Jonathan C. Dickey *
Sumner and Fran Parker Fund
Patricia W. Hindman
Susan B. Parker
William Parker,
  In honor of the marriage of
  Eugene DiFiore and Maris DiTolla
Justin Porter *
Erskine Ramsay II *
Robert L. Stevens *
Joseph and Wendy Taggart *
Mark Weaver
Franklin Wyman III *

$5,001 and above
Stephen and Kimberlea Jeffries *

$1,001–$5,000
Ozzie Ayscue and Kathleen Mahoney
John Bristol
Todd Burne *
Douglas and Evelyn Chamberlain,
  In honor of Dr. Hollis Warren Merrick III *
Susan Desjardins and Peter Lennon
Maris DiTolla and Eugene DiFiore
Randall Hammond and Andrew Thomas,
  In Honor of Hollis Merrick III, MD *
Judy and Ed Rowan
J. Smoot and Karen McDonnell
Paul Staller and Deirdre O’Byrne
Hon. Trevor D. Traina *
David M. Trebing *
Barbara and Ed Wilson

GENERAL OPERATIONS
Support of general operations through membership and gifts to our 1776 Annual Fund.

$251–500
William S. Bartlett, Jr.
Marc and Janet Bono
J. Reeve Bright *
Karl and Connie Brommer
Walter E. Daniel IV *
Robert and Jennifer Davidson
David and Barbara Fittro
William C. Fredericks *
James W. Gerard V *
Mary and George Geuras
John Griecco
Captain Thomas B. Hagen, USN (Ret.) *
Roger H. Hallowell III *
Jeffrey D. Hill *
Mark J. Kington *
Diane Kollmorgen
Janna Levesque
Brian and Lisa Lortie
Philip Lovejoy and James Moses *
Sean Mahoney Charitable Fund
SUPPORT

John Munkhoff
Ken and Anne Norwood *
Samuel D. Perry *
John S. Rando, Jr. *
William E. Rapp *
Hugh and Elizabeth Robinson *
Dallas D. Sherrill II *
M. David Sherrill *
Mary Smith Merrick,
  In honor of my darling Hollis *
Charles and Ann Stebbins *
Sally Crawford and Peter Wells *

$101-$250
Justin D. Abelow *
Robb A. Allan *
Capt. William Arnold, USN (Ret.) *
Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd
Philip Baylor
Jonathan Bitting *
John R Bockstoce,
  In honor of Charles A. Tarbell
Matthew M. Breen, Esq. *
Don and Mary Jo Briselden
Charles L. Buckles, Jr. *
Michelle Burns,
  In honor of Maris DiTolla
  and Geno DiFiore’s Wedding Day
Ed and Cindy Bush
Bob and Sara Casassa
Douglas A. Chamberlain *
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Child *
Louis F. Clarizio
Capt. Edward L. Cochrane Jr., USN (Ret.) *
Stephen Connelly *
Pat Cullen
Nicolette Cutler
Patricia Demers
Chelsea Depot

Caitlin DeSoye,
  In honor of Maris DiTolla and Geno DiFiore
William and Rebecca Dunham
David W. Eaton *
Leslie Ellis
Jason Faria
Henry Ferrell III and Gwendolyn English
Allison Field and Gary Olszewski
Elizabeth Field
Dot Fisher
Charles Folsom, Folsom Family Association of America
Alexander M. Gagnet *
Peter and Roberta Garrison
Michael Gatto
Thatcher L. Gearhart *
Libby Ginnetti
Louis M. Girard *
William Grant
Anonymous
Richard C. Grosvenor *
Roger H. Hallowell IV *
Penrose Hallowell *
Nathan and Helen Hazen
Andrew Hertig
Sean M. Heuvel *
Sally Hollaman
Stephen W. Isaacson *
Trish Jackson
John and MaryAnn Kane
Turcotte Kati
Cathie and Walt Keirans
Susan Scannell and Kevin Fleming
Hans and Felicia Klotzbach *
Kjell Kran
Helen and Richard Kruppa
Edward T. La Farge *
Clifford D. Lamson *
Samuel L. Lamson *
Joseph Laux *

* Indicates donor is a member of the
  Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire.
SUPPORT

Edward Lloyd
William H. Longley *
K. Prescott and Susan Low *
James R. MacGregor *
The Most Rev. Brian R. Marsh *
Hannah Matteson
Gretchen McBride
Christopher A. McClary *
Sean B. McCoy *
The Honorable Peter T. Metzger II *
Stephen and Tracy Michalczycy
Diane Devine Mizusawa
James T.C. Moore *
Michael and Gloria Morison *
Jeremy and Heather Nadeau
Sherri Nixon
Rob and Mary Omberg
Joe and Sarah Pace
Niko Papakonstantis
William W. Park *
William F. Peck and Anne N. Peck. *
David Perkins, Esq. *
Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering *
Col. Thomas F. Pike, Jr. *
Jim Poole
Martin and Pamela Poulin
Capt. Andrew M. Rankin II *
Rudolph S. Rauch III *
Sean P. Redmond *
Grahame P. Richards, Jr. *
Grahame P. Richards III *
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Michael S. Rounds *
Edward K. Rutledge *
Richard W. Sage *
Stephen F. Schreiber *
Amanda Sirois
Robin Small
Brian Smalley
Richard Spain *
Joe and Sue Stagnone
Charles W. Stewart *
Peter Stifel *
Richard and Mary Stone
Michael and Christine Studley *
Dr. Nathaniel L. Taylor *
Llewellyn M. Toulmin Ph.D. *
Jonathan B. Treat II *
John and Eugenie Trevor
Charitable Fund *
Bobbi Vandenbulcke
David Vaught and Anita Kydd
Richard Violette
Thomas L. Wait *
Norman and Marie-Eve Walker *
Arthur Walker
James J. Ward *
CDR Bruce C. Webb USN (Ret.) *
Joseph Wellington
Peter R. Wells Sr.
Rev. Bennett B. Wethered
Eric Whittall and Marybeth Marx *
Col. William S. Wood *
Chris and Jolie Yonker*

Up to $100

Peg and Rich Aaronian
Susan and Patrick Ahearn
David Allen
Joshua Bashalany
Sally Bashalany
Doris Belanger
Margaret Belletete
Katy Benjamin
Linda Biagini
Karen Boodey
Sarah and Antony Booth
La Famille Boufford
Cynthia Boyle
Marc Bozenski and Martha Long
Terence Brailsford
Joanne Brancheau
Grant C. Brooks *
Paul Brown
Nanette Bulger
Paul S. Burke
Donna Buxton / Buxton Water
William and Anne Campbell
Shawn Carboni
Edward and Virginia Carmody
Bob Casassa
Wayne Chatfield-Taylor II *
SUPPORT

Stephanie Comley
Pam Conary
Daniel Cornelius
Nancy County
Carole Crosby
William and Prudence Crozier
David Cunningham
Pamela Currier
Richard M. Cutter
N. William Delker and Annmarie Timmins
Anthony Delvecchio
Joe Dicicco
Dianne Dickson
Rebecca Dillman
Patricia DiMartile
Heidi Dunham
Olga and Samuel Fain
Judith C. Farrell
Denise Fears
Stephanie Ferro
Jill and David Flanders
John Fleming
Sharon Fontaine
Jeff and Melissa Foy
Mary Freitas
Amanda Frohn
Tomas Fuller
Anne Gabel
Christopher Gallagher
Jeffrey Garstka
James and Donna-Belle Garvin
Vicki and Norm Geis
Mark and Cathy Gilman
Quentin Gilman
Richard Girard
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Herman V. Griffin, Jr. *
Meghan Gross
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John and Leslie Haslam
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Ruth Hooten
Lawrence Howard and Edith Howard
Millicent Hughes
Stan and Irina Hultin
Brian and Heather Inyart
Dawn Jelley and Eric Downer
Walter W. John *
Stephen and Julie Johnson
Leo and Sharron Kamitian
JoAnn E. Keeler
Nancy Kelleher
Dick and Ellie Kilbourne
Paul and Kristine LaChapelle
Douglas Ladd
Gary and Judith Lamphere
Mark Leighton
Susan Lohse
Col. Donald C. Lynde USA (Ret.) *
Steven Machala
Muriel MacMamahon
Carpenter Family
Brice Maloney
Vincent Marconi
Edda and Sandy Martin
John and June McClean
Kathleen McDonnell
Julie Mellor
April Melo
Fred and Helen Menefee *
Robin and David Millward
Shawn Morrill
Dave Mortensen
Joseph and Nancy Mulqueen
Dana Murdock
Sarah Nelson
Paul Neuman
Lauren Nilsen
Heather O’Brien
Heather Olson
Mark and Renee Portu
Robert L. Pratt and Victoria R. Brennan
Danielle Pray
Maureen Quilliam
James Reep
Susan Riley and Murray Movitz
Barbara Rimkunas and Michael Nickerson
SUPPORT

Jonathan and Phyllis Ring
John Ryan
Don Salvatore
Mike and Deb Scheetz
Ellen Schou,
In memory of Frances Folsom Sowden Kroh
L. Michele Schulz
Pam and Mike Schwotzer
Sheryl and Dean Scott
Michael Scott
Herb and Ann Sears
Rebeccah Seely
Elaine Shinkle
Denise Short
Ann Showan-Slade
Devon Skerritt
Stacy Smith
Donald Spalding
Michael and Pamela Spencer *
Aaron Spiller
Jim and Barbara Stratton
Heather Taylor
Jo Ellen Thomas
Jeff and Corky Thomson
Paul Timmerman
Michael and Diane Veprauskas
Paula Walsh
Andrew H. Ward Jr. *
LCDR and Mrs. Ryan B. Weddle, USN *

Gerry Weidema and Joseph Simeone
John and Sheila Welch
David and Barbara Welch
Mike Welch
William J. Wiggs Jr. *
Barbara Wiley and Michael Tuccolo
David Wold
Kristin Woolever
Nicole Woulfe
Cynthia Young
Laurie and Anthony Zwaan

In-Kind Support
Cisco Brewery
Earth Eagle Brewings
Exeter Parks and Recreation
Exeter TV
Gundalow Company
Pipe Dream Brewing
Sap House Meadery
UNH Brew Lab
Arty Francoeur
Dot Fisher
Kathleen Bailey
Nancy Smith
Ozzie Ayscue
Yeti Landscaping

Guests engaged in a game of Graces on the AIM lawn
# Support

## Business Partners
Supporting our special programs and initiatives ranging from our American Independence Festival to our Traveling Trunk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 – $1,500</td>
<td>Kennebunk Savings RiverWoods Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>Donahue, Tucker &amp; Ciandella, PLLC</td>
</tr>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>Cambridge Trust</td>
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</table>

## Business Support
Additional support is provided through matching gifts and direct donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$501-$1,000</td>
<td>Liberty Mutual</td>
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<tr>
<td>$101 - $500</td>
<td>AT&amp;T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to $100</td>
<td>Exeter Chapter DAR Exeter Jewelers Guidehouse William H. McCarter / William McCarter Law Offices</td>
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## Foundation and Non-Profit Support

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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 and over</td>
<td>The Hearin-Chandler Foundation Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 - $9,999</td>
<td>The Bauman Family Foundation Eventide Foundation New Hampshire Humanities Council The Warren M. Little Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $1,000</td>
<td>Land &amp; Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Members</td>
<td>Chester Public Library Durham Public Library East Kingston Public Library Exeter Public Library Griffin Free Public Library Hampton Falls Free Library Kelley Library New Durham Public Library North Hampton Public Library Wiggin Memorial Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2022 by the Numbers

PROGRAMS

13,660 miles traveled by the Traveling Trunk, across seven states, twelve communities, serving 1,870 students

1,919 people experienced our on-site, off-site and virtual programs

1,096 Museum tours guided and self-guided

30 In-person programs presented

1 In-person Festival

FINANCIAL

301 Museum members

127 New donors

VISIBILITY

127,000 views on our most popular Instagram reel

196 Facebook posts

175 Instagram posts

10,423 views on TikTok

23 News stories on our website

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

3,125 Facebook

2,624 Instagram

832 Twitter

OPERATIONS

1 New staff member

3 New volunteers

CONNECT WITH US!

@americanindependencemuseum @aimuseum

One Governors Lane, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

www.independencemuseum.org • 603-772-2622 • info@independencemuseum.org