

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Connecticut Historical Society
museum & library

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Dear Friends,

Our doors were open wide in 2022. In a time of great societal change, it is our community that lifts us and makes our work purposeful. After nearly two years of social distancing, the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) was pleased to see members and visitors enthusiastically reconnect with Connecticut's history and celebrate our vibrant cultural connections. This momentum was felt throughout the organization, as the CHS saw a 130% increase in attendance over 2021, returning to nearly pre-pandemic levels, at our many exhibitions, programs, and community outreach events.

As a capstone of the year, the CHS was awarded three Federal grants of \$1 million to fund key initiatives for our institution: Digitization of the American Revolution materials in the collection, Civics Education, and the Community History Project. These Federal funds will allow our organization to build towards the future—by cataloging and making more accessible the history of our past, sharing the importance of civic participation today, while capturing the history of tomorrow. We are grateful for the support of our entire Congressional delegation, especially Representative John Larson, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Senator Christopher Murphy for their belief in the importance of this work for the state of Connecticut.

The CHS was honored with an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations (CHLO) for our distance learning programs and *Common Struggle, Individual Experience: An Exhibition About Mental Health, Presented by Hartford HealthCare Institute of Living*. Further, the exhibition won a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

American journalist, best-selling author, and filmmaker Sebastian Junger was our 2022 Charles G. Woodward Distinguished Lecturer. Junger spoke about his work with war veterans and an examination of PTSD, as a complement to *Common Struggle, Individual Experience: An Exhibition About Mental Health*. His talk examined PTSD as a side effect of soldiers returning to a disconnected modern society.

The 7th session of the *Citizenship Project* was held in 2022. It is offered free to Green Card holders in preparation for the civics portion of their naturalization exam. Through this unique access to the collection, students gain firsthand knowledge required to pass the citizenship exam. The CHS is appreciative of the Henry Nias Foundation and their ongoing support of this important program.

Our Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program partnered with the Spanish Community of Wallingford, the Hispanic Health Council, and artist Carlos Hernandez Chavez for our *Dia de Muertos Community Celebration* hosting over 600 people which was a new record!

This exciting momentum towards broader engagement with our community is the net result of our work in 2022. We invite you to continue to participate, join, and give as we keep our doors open wide to all.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Kret
Executive Director and CEO

(Cover: The Bicycle Game exhibition on view through September 2023)



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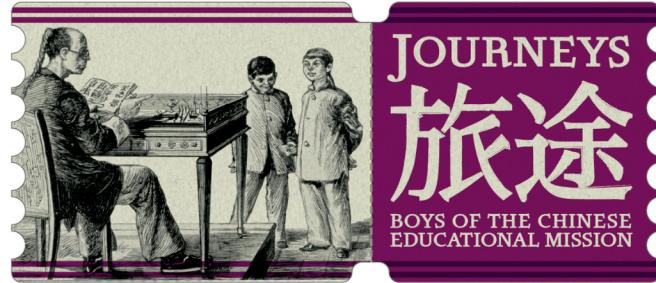
Your annual support makes it possible for the CHS to present educational, entertaining, and engaging exhibitions for visitors of all ages.



The Bicycle Game
(Open through September 17, 2023)

The 1890s saw an unprecedented surge in the popularity of bicycles, and Connecticut – thanks to entrepreneur Albert Pope and the Hartford-based Pope Manufacturing Company – was a leader in bicycle production. The Bicycle Game explores this moment in history in an interactive and playful exhibition designed for visitors of all ages, in groups or on their own. From trivia to bicycle racing to shuffleboard, visitors will need to rely on a host of skills to make their way through the game and preserve this important moment in Connecticut history. Visit The Bicycle Game and take history for a ride!

Exhibition made possible in part through the generous support of EyeWitness News / Channel 3, RMC Investment Advisors, Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., Barnes Group, Inc., Ellen M. Brown, and Connecticut Humanities.



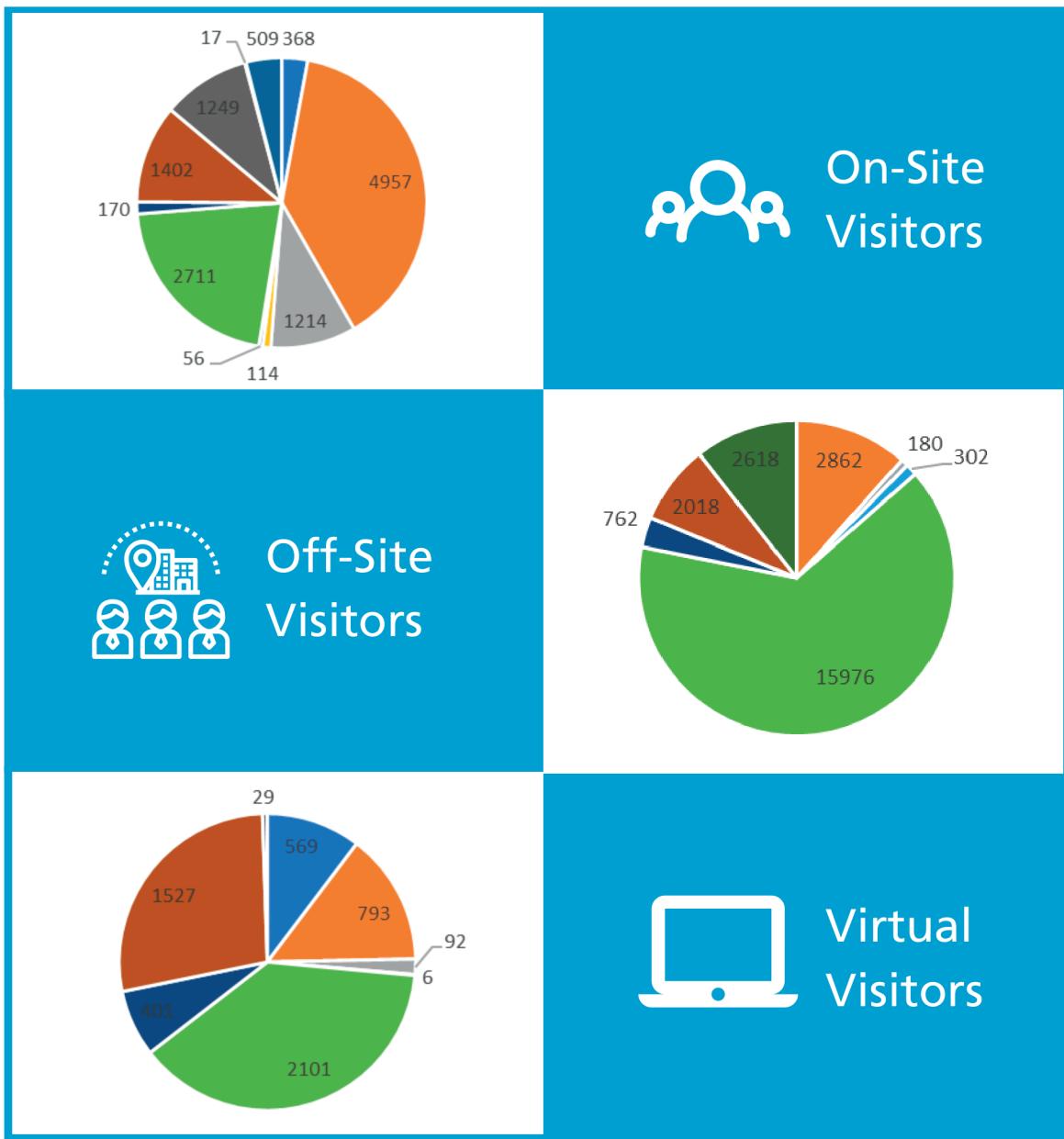
Journeys 旅途: Boys of the Chinese Educational Mission (Open through July 30, 2023)

This exhibition honors the 150th anniversary of the Chinese Educational Mission (CEM), a cultural and educational exchange program from 1872 – 1881. Headquartered in Hartford, the CEM enabled 120 Chinese boys, most of whom were barely teenagers, to study in New England with the goal of modernizing China by educating its future leaders abroad. It is a story of hopes, dreams, sacrifice, and the life-changing experience of international exchange. *Virtual Exhibition available at CHS.org.*

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- *Hamilton Heroes and Villains* (First Floor Gallery)
- *Formative: Frederick Law Olmsted in Connecticut* (Main Hallway)
- *Building History & CHS Innovates* (Education Hallway and Auditorium Lobby)
- *The Lawson Family: Fighting for Freedom, and a Musical Legacy* (Nawrot Nook)
- *Juneteenth, National Independence Day* (Nawrot Nook)
- *Colorful Connecticut* (Nawrot Nook)
- *Influence of Uncertainty in the Atomic Age* (Nawrot Nook)
- *The Work Must Be Done: Women of Color and Voting Rights* (Traveling banners)

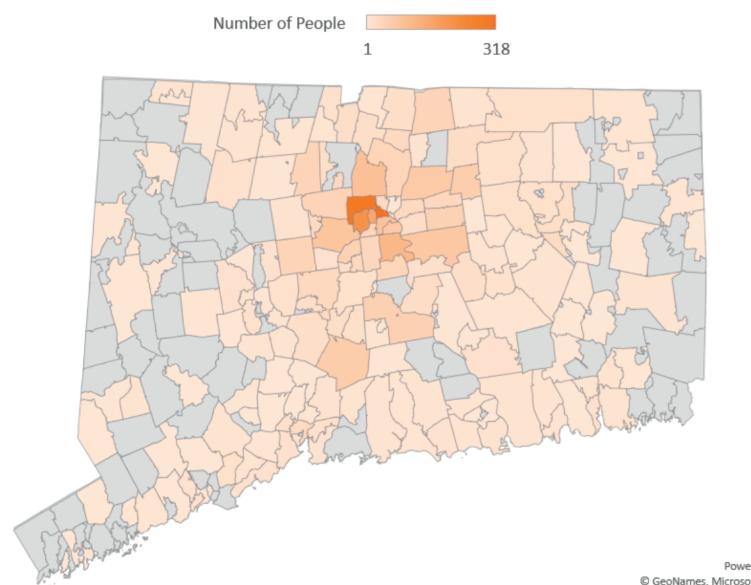
The CHS serves its audiences through many different approaches. Visitors may participate in exhibitions, family programs, adult tours, or school programs. Discover below the many ways visitors engage with CHS.



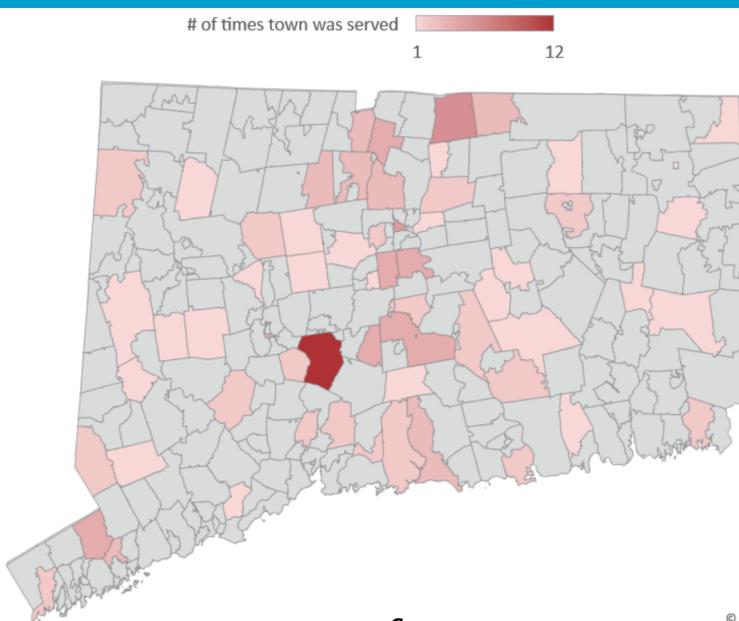
- Research
- Youth (non school)
- Family Programs
- Exhibitions
- Shop
- Public Outreach
- Rental
- Adult Tours
- Adult Programs
- Old State House

The CHS reaches residents from towns across Connecticut, through visits to the museum and library, our adult outreach programs, or traveling field trip programming.

CHS visitors come from across the state



Towns served by school & public outreach



The CHS hosted hundreds of programs that were presented on-site, off-site, and virtually. The program totals below demonstrate the depth of our reach.

12 Short Attention Span Literary Clubs

4 Summer Outdoor Concert Series

30 Family Programs



35 Tours and Gallery Talks

3 Homeschool Days

24 Lectures

3 Opening Receptions

3 Citizenship Project Cohorts

20 Community Partner Events



410 Field Trips

84 Adult Outreach Programs



The CHS hosted thousands of students and general visitors in 2022. Here's what they are saying...

“Amazing history! From their historical tavern sign exhibition to their interactive Connecticut history display...you'll be amazed at the fortitude our ancestors had to endure as they established this great state!

Melissa, visitor

“Being able to see and compare artifacts provides a hands-on experience that students always learn from and remember.

Meriden, 4th grade



The Connecticut Historical Society (www.CHS.org) is a privately funded, independent, not-for-profit educational organization that includes a museum, library, the Edgar F. Waterman research Center, and the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program. Founded in 1825, the CHS is Connecticut's statewide historical society, and a Smithsonian Affiliate.

At the CHS, we cultivate deep understanding of the history and culture of Connecticut, and its role in the United States and the world, through reflection of the past, active engagement with the present, and innovation for the future through our collections, research, educational programs, and exhibitions. The organization's renowned collection includes more than 4 million manuscripts, graphics, books, artifacts, and other materials accessible at its Hartford campus, on loan at other organizations, and online.

Your support makes it possible for us to make Connecticut's history available to all. Thank you!

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The Connecticut Historical Society gratefully acknowledges our benefactors and those they have honored through gifts to the endowment (by the year they were created), which supports, strengthens, and advances this institution.

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The John Trumbull Society honors and recognizes those loyal supporters who have told us they have included the Connecticut Historical Society in their estate plans.

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Woodbury Public Library

Historical Societies and other organizations

Capital Community College
Cheney Family Fund
Cheshire Historical Society
Chester Historical Society
Colchester Historical Society
Colebrook Historical Society
Columbia Historical Society
Connecticut Landmarks
Connecticut Science Center
Connecticut Valley Garden Club
Connecticut Women Artists, Inc
Cromwell Historical Society
Enfield Historical Society
Farmington Historical Society
Federated Garden
Clubs of Connecticut
Franklin Historical Society
Garden Club of Hartford
Goshen Historical Society
Hampton Antiquarian and
Historical Society
Hebron Historical Society
Historical Society of East Hartford
Killingworth Historical Society
Lebanon Historical Society
Ledyard Historical Society, Inc.
Madison Historical Society
Musical Club of Hartford, Inc.



Common Struggle: Individual Experience, presented by Hartford HealthCare Institute of Living exhibition was awarded state and national awards from Connecticut League of History Organizations (CHLO) and American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

Newington Historical Society & Trust, Inc.
Newtown Historical Society
Norfolk Historical Society
Old Saybrook Historical Society, Inc.
Plainfield Historical Society
Rowayton Historical Society
Seymour Historical Society
Simsbury Historical Society
Southington Historical Society
Stonington Historical Society
Stratford Historical Society
Suffield Historical Society
The Silo at Hunt Hill Farm
Torrington Historical Society
Trinity College
Vernon Historical Society
Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum
Wintonbury Historical Society

Sponsors

Sponsors make a difference in the community by supporting programs, exhibitions, and projects at the Connecticut Historical Society.

The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
Barnes Group, Inc.
Berkshire Bank Foundation
Ellen M. Brown
Connecticut Cultural Fund
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Connecticut Humanities Council
EyeWitness News/Channel 3
The Gawlicki Family Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
The George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities

The Henry Nias Foundation
William G. Pomeroy Foundation
Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
RMC Investment Advisors
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

**The preceding annual report recognizes all gifts received between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. Great care has been given to the preparation of this report. If you notice errors, please contact us by phone at (860) 236-5621 or by email at ask_us@chs.org so that we may correct our records. Thank you!*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Endowment Fund	\$ 39,539,316	\$ 48,824,856
Perpetual Trusts	13,338,341	16,678,237
Current Assets	1,809,435	2,132,068
 Property & Equipment	 4,499,466	 4,379,452
Other Assets	49,315	96,200
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 59,235,873</u>	 <u>\$ 72,110,813</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Current Liabilities	\$ 527,270	\$ 556,660
Long-Term Liabilities	636,889	236,889
 Net Assets:		
With Donor Restrictions	36,556,028	44,836,532
Without Donor Restrictions	21,515,686	26,480,732
 Total Net Assets	 \$ 58,071,714	 \$ 71,317,264
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 59,235,873</u>	 <u>\$ 72,110,813</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

<u>Income</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Endowment	\$ 1,735,903	\$ 1,693,008
Perpetual Trusts	783,570	654,111
Interest	25,034	22,778
 Admissions/Fees/Shop	 142,807	 77,573
Contributions	501,855	709,937
Government Grants	993,983	495,809
 Total Revenue	 <u>\$ 4,183,152</u>	 <u>\$ 3,653,216</u>
 <u>Expense</u>		
Exhibitions	\$ 423,956	\$ 387,126
Collections Care	940,293	992,640
Research Center	207,272	160,491
Education & Programs	561,100	457,774
CT Cultural Heritage Arts	312,654	148,886
Development	970,376	702,720
Administration	996,499	758,736
 Total Expenses	 <u>\$ 4,412,150</u>	 <u>\$ 3,608,373</u>
 Results of Operations	 <u>\$ (228,998)</u>	 <u>\$ 44,843</u>