

# 2024 Annual Report



## Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum

July 2023 to June 2024



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We are delighted to share our accomplishments of this past year. One of our goals in FY2024 was to transform our exhibits and reinterpret rooms to provide visitors with new experiences and more opportunities for engagement. We invite you to take a [virtual tour](#) to see these changes and experience MBTS history firsthand.

# Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

## 2024 Board of Trustees

### OFFICERS

**Philio Wigglesworth**

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*President & Governance  
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**Rebecca G. Campbell**

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*Building & Grounds Chair*

**Constance Leahy**

**David Lumsden**

**John Round**

### STAFF

**Matthew Swindell**

*Associate Director*

**Nancy Klebart**

*Administration*

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been. Your Museum has seen an increase in visitors and community engagement, growth in membership, and record-setting fundraisers. We finished restoring and reinterpreting permanent exhibition rooms, and added new exhibits and programs – all to better serve the community, share our distinct history, and bring more Manchester-by-the-Sea stories to life!

Together, we celebrated the bicentennial year of the Abigail Hooper Trask House, built in 1823, and culminated our fiscal year with Abigail's iconic front-entrance portico restored and once again gracing the front of our building.

We added to the Collection and enjoyed a very successful Speaker Series program. In recognition of the importance of art to this town, we continue to produce art shows, offer children's art activities, and add works by MBTS artists to the Collection.

A number of initiatives outlined in our newly minted three-year Strategic Plan were undertaken, including reconfiguring our Archives/Admin rooms and taking measures to better protect and preserve the Museum Collections and Archives.

When we met at last year's 137<sup>th</sup> annual members meeting in September, you had voted to change the name of our Museum to Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum (MBTSM). As a result, we developed a new brand identity and marketing strategy to support the new name. These efforts – including a new logo, new MBTSMuseum.org website, and signage – have helped elevate public awareness of the Museum. Increasingly, we are attracting new members, broader audiences, and visitors far beyond Cape Ann and Massachusetts.

For most of this year, we were without a director, and much of what was accomplished was thanks to the efforts of our hard-working trustees, part-time staff, and volunteers. Thank you all for your dedication, time, talent, and support.

We closed our fiscal year with the hiring of Matthew Swindell as our new associate director. We are delighted to have Matthew in this leadership role. He is a historian with work experience at several area museums. Prior to his promotion to associate director, Matthew was our Museum's archivist. His research skills were invaluable to the Curatorial team in developing our new room narratives and exhibits this past year.

Thanks to you, our Museum is highly energized and delivering on its mission. We look forward to another successful year.

**Board of Trustees**



# Curatorial Chair Update

This past year has been transformational for MBTSM.

Informed by the Museum's motto, "History, Art, Community," and guided by the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan, the Curatorial Advisory Committee (CAC) initiated a number of improvements and changes to the Museum over the course of the year. Importantly, among them, the installation of protective UV film and custom heat-blocking shades throughout the Museum ranks high in terms of stewardship. We wish to convey our thanks to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), whose members recognized immediately the importance of this endeavor to protect all Museum Collections – including furniture, textiles, and interior finishes. Thank you MBTS citizens who voted at Town Meeting to approve the CPC-recommended matching grant.

## **NARRATIVE-DRIVEN EXHIBITION ROOMS**

The CAC also initiated the reinstallation of all the permanent exhibition rooms on the first floor of the Hooper-Trask House in such a way that the story of Manchester's unique and fascinating history is told through its Collections. There are now labels and storyboards throughout the spaces, which tell the narratives and allow visitors to understand the personages, events, and circumstances that have shaped this town.

One room has now been dedicated to the important story of the furniture-making era in Manchester. Volunteers tracked down all the Manchester-made furniture held in the Collection, and most of it is on display now. We continue to collect Manchester-made furniture and are looking forward to a gift of a sofa and two chairs from a local family. These pieces were brought directly from the

Dodge Furniture shop when it closed its doors in the mid-1960s. We are very grateful for this generosity.

In the permanent exhibition rooms, new, historically accurate paint colors (Hooper-Trask room and flooring) and energy-efficient lighting have been very visible improvements. The repainted, built-in shelving has been installed with permanent displays of Manchester souvenir china, examples of sculpture by Manchester artists, Katharine Lane Weems and Anna Coleman Ladd, and commemorative objects of significance to the Town. Other artworks – including paintings by Manchester artist Charles Hopkinson – are displayed in the anteroom to the Exhibition Room.

The Exhibition Room currently is home to the seasonal exhibit entitled "Summers by the Sea; The Masconomo House Hotel and the Resort Era." The hope is that this space will continue to be a venue for seasonal exhibitions.

## **ARCHIVES**

The Archives Collection at MBTSM is at the heart of the organization, and every year relevant material is accessioned. CAC spearheaded the reconfiguration of the Archival and Administrative spaces at the Museum in order to make the spaces more efficient and user friendly and to offer more space for the Archive Collection. Thanks to Joni Davis, our inspired space designer.

Digitization of the Archival Collection continues to be an ongoing and strategic effort. The team also continues to implement recommendations from archivists with the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board.

## CONSERVATION

CAC also addressed overdue conservation needs this past year with the conservation of the “Ship, Forum,” a watercolor on paper by Antoine Roux, and the portrait of “Masconomo,” an oil by William Henry Tappan. Both of these paintings are important objects in the MBTSM Collection and are vital in telling the story of the town. Both conservation projects were funded by a directed gift to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign.

In addition, a custom plexi case was fabricated to protect the Museum's rare diorama, made in Surinam by Gerrit Carl Francois Schouten in 1837 and brought back to Manchester by Capt. Charles Fitz of Manchester.



*Portrait of Masconomo (d. 1658)*  
*William Henry Tappan, Manchester, Mass., early 20<sup>th</sup> century*  
*Oil on canvas*  
*Conserved and reframed in 2024 with Capital Campaign Funds.*

## ART COLLECTION

The Museum has been fortunate to be the recipient of some generous gifts to the Collection this past year.

Sue and Bob Thompson gave the stunning bronze self-portrait plaque by Anna Coleman Ladd (who maintained a summer studio in Manchester for some years), which depicts the artist in her WWI uniform. Anna Coleman Ladd's humanitarian act in the immediate aftermath of WWI is a particularly remarkable story. She used her artistic skills to try to help disfigured soldiers regain their identity by sculpting and fashioning prosthetic masks for the wounded veterans to wear. It is an unusually moving story, truly – the confluence of art and humanitarianism.

Christine Virden generously donated a woodblock engraving by Winslow Homer, a variant of his famous painting "Eagle Head," depicting swimmers emerging from a swim in the ocean at Singing Beach. The engraving is currently on display in the seasonal exhibition.

Last year, the Museum was able to purchase Hopkinson's "Girl in a Green Cloak" with funds raised by the Capital Campaign.



*Eagle Head, Manchester, Massachusetts  
(High Tide), Wood Engraving, 1870  
Winslow Homer*

The Capital Campaign, established during 2023 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Hooper-Trask House, has reached its goal of \$200K this year. Much of what has been accomplished by the curatorial team has been done thanks to Capital Campaign and CPC funding, including the restoration of the original portico of the Hooper-Trask House.

The restoration of the portico is now complete, and certainly is the culmination of a very exciting and fruitful year.

We are grateful to all those who have helped make this past year so transformative and exciting. In particular, I am grateful to the members of this committee whose contribution in terms of time and effort has been extraordinary. Thank you.

**Rebecca G. Campbell, Chair-Curatorial Advisory Committee**

**Susana Thompson**

**Matt Genta**

**Carol Bundy**

**Chris Virden**





# Programs Chairs Update

Thanks to our outstanding speakers – who presented an eclectic mix of topics with storyline ties to MBTS – more than 650 people attended the Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum Spring Speaker Series. Sold-out audiences learned about mushrooms in cemeteries, grave robbing, America’s first millionaires, the rise of the summer resort era, and golfing legends Margaret and Harriot Curtis.

Our thanks also go to Santander Bank for sponsoring the Speaker Series. We also gratefully acknowledge the many individuals and organizations who helped make our programs a success, including the Curtis family for hosting our June event this year at Sharksmouth, Skylar and Peter Crofton, George Smith, John Huff, and the Essex County Club.

We hosted several educational events at the Museum to appeal to families and children. We also held art shows, open houses, and workshops, including one given by Quinn Comproski on the innovative use of 3D imaging technology in museums. Attendance to our events continues to grow. Our most recent open house, during Festival by the Sea, attracted more than 320 visitors to the Museum and Seaside One.

We look forward to seeing you at future events and our Fall Speaker Series.

**Mary Minott, Co-Chair**  
**Marianne Coons, Co-Chair**  
**Alison Anholt-White**  
**Rus Brown**  
**Constance Leahy**



*Cathy Brown speaking on the Curtis sisters at Sharksmouth event.*





**Mushrooms of the 1661 Cemetery: from Death to Life**

Local mycologist **Gary Gilbert** spoke on the history of the 1661 cemetery, its inhabitants, and the relationships between the woodlands there and their fungi in this old pastureland turned burial ground. 2/29/24



**Grave Robbing, Harvard's Medical School, and Chebacco Parish**

Historian **Rob Fitzgibbon** told the story of Dr. Thomas Sewall, the nineteenth-century Harvard-educated physician charged with grave robbing. 3/28/24



**America's First Millionaires: The China Traders of Essex County**

Ipswich writer **Doug Stewart** discussed Manchester-by-the-Sea's connections to the China Trade, highlighting local shipmasters, a spectacular shipwreck, and retired opium traders who built mansions here. 4/25/24



**Summers by the Sea: Masconomo House Hotel & the Resort Era**

MBTS Museum's **Matthew Swindell** officially opened the seasonal exhibit with a lecture on Manchester-by-the-Sea's transformation from a furniture-making mill town to an international summer resort destination. After viewing **Kory Curcuro's** film on the famous Booth family, the audience heard from **George Smith**, who now lives in the Booth House. 5/30/24



**Curtis Sisters: Golfing Pioneers and Women Athletes of the Century**

**At the Summer Soirée at Sharksmouh, Cathy Brown** shared the story of the legendary Curtis sisters, the golfing pioneers and humanitarians, who first learned to play the game on the grounds of Sharksmouh. 6/26/24

# Development Chairs Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have set a Museum record in our fundraising efforts this year. We exceeded our aspirational goal of \$200,000 for our Bicentennial Capital Campaign, were awarded seven grants, had a successful Annual Appeal, and received many gifts in kind and donations to the Collection and Archives.

To celebrate the bicentennial year of our Museum's home – the house that Abigail Hooper built in 1823 – we held a gala event at Sharksmouth overlooking the ocean. At the event, honoring Abigail and her entrepreneurial spirit and accomplishments, we announced an ambitious plan to rebuild the original portico that had been missing from the front of her house for almost 100 years and to raise funds for capital needs and special projects, such as installing UV protection, and to support the Collection and programming.

We are elated to have surpassed the Capital Campaign's \$200,000 goal. More importantly, we are so pleased with the enormous community support we have received for our Museum. We are grateful to all those who contributed and who celebrated the bicentennial year with us.

We also were fortunate to receive diverse donations to the Collection and Archives. Our Associate Director Matthew Swindell likes to say: "You never know what items will be coming through the Museum's doors." Indeed, Fiscal Year 2024 did not disappoint: gifts to the Collection and Archives that came in included an early 1900s wool bathing suit, flashcards of WWII planes to help children spot potential enemies along the MBTS coast, a Winslow Homer engraving, ship ledgers of Major Israel Forster, and an Anna Coleman Ladd bronze.

As Manchester-by-the-Sea's only museum, we have the enviable job of collecting, preserving, and sharing the fascinating stories of this vibrant and creative community. Thank you for supporting us in this mission.

**Susana Thompson, Co-Chair**

**Rebecca G. Campbell, Co-Chair**

**Leslie Beatty**



*Detail carving on chair made in Rufus Stanley Shop; chair in the MBTS furniture exhibit room.*



# Bicentennial Capital Campaign Donors

## You helped us exceed our \$200,000 goal.

### **\$20,000 and above Leadership Gifts**

Edward and Pamela Taft

Samuel R. and Rebecca Gardner  
Campbell (Ada Howe Kent  
Foundation contribution and  
Individual gift)

### **\$10,000 to \$19,999**

Jeffrey and Karla Kaneb

### **\$3,500 to \$9,999**

Cape Ann Savings Bank  
Alexandra Hastings & Thomas Frank  
Jody and Gar Morse  
Beth and Jonathan Payson  
Bob and Ashley Scott  
Susana and Robert Thompson  
Gail and Ernst von Metzsch  
Leslie Waldorf  
Clara B. Winthrop Charitable Trust

### **\$2,500 to \$3,499**

Lauren B. Gudonis  
Angus and Leslie Littlejohn

### **\$1,000 to \$2,499**

Alison Anholt-White and Nick White  
Peggy Auchincloss and Ian Strachan  
Ruth S. Bell  
Cathy and Mike Brown

Rus Brown; *Gift directed to support  
Speaker Series*

Toby Burroughs and Ken Knevel;  
*Gift in Memory of Dee and William  
Burroughs*

Philio Wigglesworth Cushing  
Congress Asset Management

Laurel and Craig Deery

Kate and Tom Dodge

Tom Durkin

Elizabeth Eaton

Matthew Genta

James B. Hawkes Family Charitable  
Gift Fund

Joan and Miles Kulukundis

Amory Loring Logan

George G. Loring; *Gift in honor of  
Sally Loring, past Museum Curator  
& President*

David and Mary Lumsden

Charles and Stella Nahatis

Nicie and Jay Panetta

Bob and Susan Peck

Kathy and George Putnam

John Round

Dan and Stephanie Senecal

Keith and Ellen Shaughnessy

Richard T. Singleton

Amy Snodgrass

Lee Spence

Sue Thorne

Christine Virden

Cornelius and Corinna Waud

Clare "Kitty" Parsons Weaver

James Westra

### **\$500 to \$999**

Anonymous (1)

Lisa Bonneville and George Davis

Marianne Coons

Robert G. Crocker

Ellen Flatley

John and Sally Huss

Constance Leahy

Dr. and Mrs. John Ledbetter

Rob and Kim MacNeille

Magnuson-Vriesendorp Family

David R. McHale

Mary Minott

Fred and Liz Morris

Christiane Munkholm

Louisa C. Porter

Mary and Ron Skates

Betsy and Tom Spang

Caroline Spang

Barbara Sullivan

### **\$250 to \$499**

Anonymous (1)

Linda Crosby

Robert Faulkner

Brian Goff

Marion and Stephen Hall

Andrea and Buzz Hofmann

Anne Kneisel

Olivia and John Parker

Richard Pescatore

Richard Sullivan

**\$100 to \$249**

Katharine Abbott  
Catherine Allard  
Leslie and Rob Beatty  
Maile Black and Rod Kessler  
Martha Brown  
Alida Bryant  
John and Susan Buck  
Sheila Carrassi  
Frances Caudill  
Addison "Thad" Closson  
Elizabeth and Thomas Colbert  
Frances Colburn  
Pearce and Phoebe Coues  
Marlene Dolan  
Gary Gilbert  
Nancy Hovey  
Sheila Linehan  
Sophia Martz  
Joan McDonald  
Biff Michaud  
Franny Osman and Family  
Barrett and Lydia Petty  
Susan Poswistilo  
Mr. and Mrs. George Putnam Smith  
Susan Shuwall  
Lee Simonds  
David and Patricia Slade  
Lynda Surdam  
Cheryl Todisco  
Joan Wogan

**Up to \$100**

Gerald G. Dackert  
Peter and Jan Eschauzier  
Nancy and George Finn  
Davie Greene  
Eleanor Hatcher  
Thomas P. Kehoe  
Cherrie Lamphear  
Susan Mirak  
Hardy and Betsy Nalley  
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Polese



*Visitor in furniture exhibit  
room*

# Annual Appeal Donors

## **\$3,000**

Lauren and Paul Gudonis

## **\$1,000**

Rebecca G. Campbell

Philio Cushing

Michael Garvey

Bart and Sue Geer

Peter and Lucy Robbins

## **\$500**

Anonymous (1)

Richard Bedell

Philip and Constance Leahy

Angus and Leslie Littlejohn

Mary Minott

Family of Polly Townsend

John Winthrop

## **\$150 to \$250**

Nathalie Binney

Martha Brown

Linda Crosby

Christopher Cummings

Tom Durkin

John Huss

Jeffrey and Karla Kaneb

Joan Kulukundis

Carol T. Noble

Wayne Steinhoff

Richard Sullivan

Jerry Talleri

Clare "Kitty" Parsons Weaver

## **\$100**

Mrs. Gordon Abbott, Jr.

Diane Allenberg and James Latham

Sam and Claire Cabot

Sheila Carrassi

Sarah and Albert Creighton

Nick and Deb de Sherbinin

Francoise Delaforcade

Sharon Deveney

Linda Edelstein

Matt Genta

Richard Macklem

Roy and Martha Mayne

Everett and Pamela Morss

Joan Nesbit

Muriel Parker

Barrett Petty

Lynda Surdam

Mia Taradash

Sue Thorne

Joan Wogan

## **Up to \$100**

Bethell Family Charitable Fund

Martha Elder

John and Andrea Glovsky

Marion and Stephen Hall

Thomas P. Kehoe

Cherrie Lamphear

Jacek Makowski

Philip Merola

Hardy and Betsy Nalley

Darvin Schanley

Gretchen Wood



# Donations along with Museum Membership

Barbara Almy  
Allison Cohen and Andrew Gardner  
Chris Cummings  
Martha Elder  
Ann Harrison and James Starkey  
Olga Hayes and Ken King  
Richard Goutal  
Constance Grayson  
Jerry and Dorothy Jodice  
Joan Kelley  
Michele Kulick  
Elizabeth Loomis  
Jannett McIntyre  
Christiane Munkholm  
Charles and Sarah Pyle  
Jorge and Teresa Ramirez  
William and Carolyn Sanford  
Brian Schanning  
Peggy Shaff-McKenna  
Ann Stewart  
Robert and Cynthia Tallett  
Alan and Charlotte Wilson



*Souvenir dish with image of furniture mill, MBTS  
Souvenir Chinaware Display.*

# In Kind Gifts

**Northeast Nursery, Dyane and Andrew Cotreau** – for holiday greenery and wreaths to decorate Museum.

**Utopia Farms** – for providing and installing plants for the Museum’s courtyard summer garden.

**Cicoria Tree Service** – for tree removal services in Museum’s side yard.

**Leslie Galacar** – Greeting cards for Museum Gift Shop.

**The Curtis Family** – Books – *The Aunts* by Isabella Halsted – for Museum Gift Shop.

**Burrage Family** – Lateral files and furniture for the redesigned Archives/Admin rooms.

**Marion Hall** – Original painting of Hooper-Trask House for use on website. Also, use of her artwork (see below) on greeting cards for Museum Gift Shop.

**Lavender & Moss** – Flower arrangement for Festival by the Sea raffle.



*Eagle Head, watercolor, Marion Hall*

# Grants & Sponsorships

**Cape Ann Savings Bank** donation to Bicentennial Capital Campaign to support programing, exhibits, and special projects.

**Cape Ann Community Foundation Grant** for a new Museum summer venture to create new revenue stream and enhance visitors' experiences.

**Santander Bank Sponsorship** for Spring Speaker Series.

**Essex Heritage Partnership Matching Grant** to develop a program on Manchester and the War at Sea and privateering; to coincide with 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

**Community Preservation Act Matching Grant** for rebuilding front-entrance portico of the Hooper-Trask House.

**Community Preservation Act Matching Grant** to protect Collections and Archives from UV damage by installing UV-film and heat-blocking shades throughout the Museum.

**The Hooper Fund Grant** for a series of children educational programs to be held at the Museum.

**Gurley Eye Care Associates** – sponsor of the Annual Holiday Tea.

**Sue & Bob Thompson** – sponsor of Drone Video Tour of Museum.





# Gifts of Artwork, Artifacts, & Archival Materials

We have benefited from the generosity of these donors:

**Gift of Susan Wilkinson Parker:** Four ship ledgers of Major Israel Forster, ranging from 1800 to 1847.

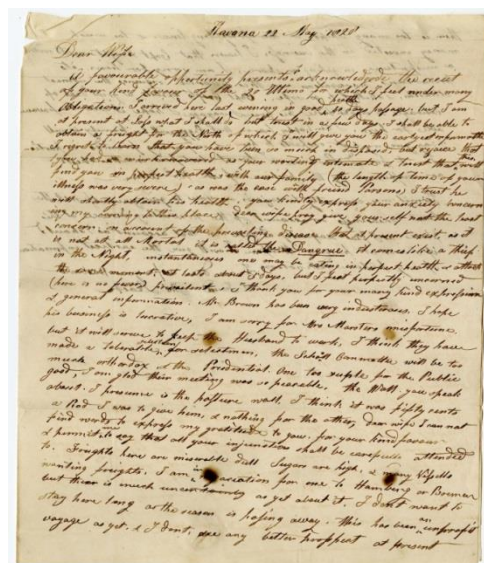
**Gift of Susan Wilkinson Parker:** Three 1828 letters from Captain Thomas Leach to his wife, Hannah Leach.



*Portrait of Hannah Norton Leach  
Circa 1805 to 1810, Oil on panel  
Attributed to John Brewster, Jr.  
(American 1766-1854)*



*Portrait of Capt. Thomas Leach  
Circa 1805 to 1810, Oil on panel  
Attributed to John Brewster, Jr.  
(American 1766-1854)*



*Letter from Capt. Thomas Leach  
written in Havana, dated May 22,  
1828, to his wife, Hannah Leach at  
Manchester, Massachusetts. Later that  
year, he died at sea off the coast of  
England.*

**Gift of Cheryl Lee Lamphear:** Militia List, May 1, 1910, Manchester, Mass.

**Gift of Mary Maynard:** Book, Reproduction of Charles R. Story's Diary.

**Gift of Rob Whitson:** Quartz arrowhead discovered in Manchester, Mass.

**Gift of Susana and Robert Thompson:** Bronze bas-relief plaque by Anna Coleman Ladd (1878–1939). The bronze was created by Ladd, a Manchester-by-the-Sea artist, in her Paris studio in 1918. The 9 x 6 1/4-inch bronze depicts a woman with outstretched arms; thought to be a self-portrait of Ladd in her WWI Red Cross uniform. Signed A C Ladd, Paris, 1918. (Gift is displayed in the art gallery room.)

**Gift of Steve Brown:** “American Furniture” book edited by Luke Beckerdite; includes article co-authored by Steve on “Classical Proportioning in Eighteenth-Century Furniture Design.”

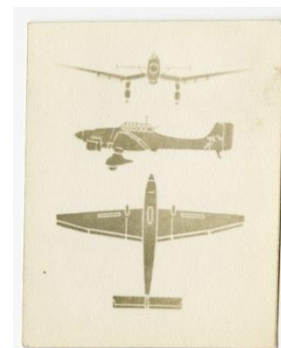
**Gift of Kim Cilley:** Manchester-by-the-Sea 250th Anniversary Medallion.

**Gift of Pamela Nelson:** Men’s wool bathing suit, blue with red stripes, from early 20th century. (Gift is displayed in the *Summers by the Sea* exhibit.)

**Gift of Cheryl Lee Lamphear:** 54 flashcards given to the public to help identify WWII enemy airplanes along the coast of MBTS.

**Gift of Mary Lou Heintz:** Lithographs reproducing watercolor paintings by Thomas S. Baker, who lived in Manchester, Mass.

**Gift of Sandra Manning Kirby:** Painting, Memorial School, Manchester, Mass. Painted in 1952 by Loren Doucette.



**Gift of Christine Virden:** A wood engraving by Winslow Homer of the beach at Eagle Head, in Manchester, Mass. Published as part of the August 6, 1870 edition of the Boston periodical, *Every Saturday*. (Gift is displayed currently in the *Summers by the Sea* exhibit.)

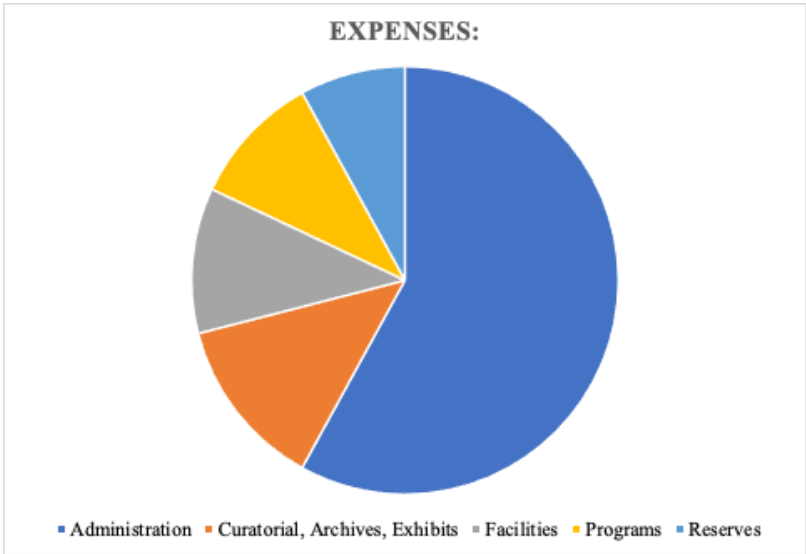
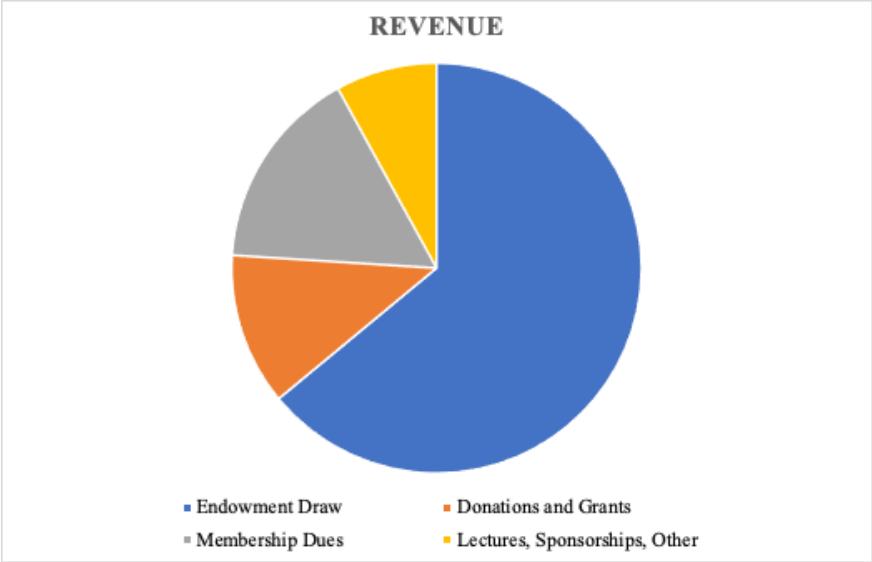
**Thanks to the following for donating historic photos, glass-plate negatives, postcards, blueprints, maps, prints, and ephemera:** Marjorie Barnett, Charlotte M. Calnek, John Davis, Paul Dozier, Katerina and Timothy Gates, Matt Genta, Jane L. Goodrich, Susan O. Hand, Thomas P. Kehoe, Marianna S. Moody Revocable Trust, Stephen Rosenthal, John T. Saco, Michael Sergi, Matthew Swindell, Jacquelyn Vinci, and Christine Virden.

**Thanks to the following who loaned items to the Museum:** The Curtis family for loan of self-portrait oil painting of Charles S. Hopkinson for the Hopkinson painting exhibit unveiling event; held at the September 2023 annual meeting reception. Matt Genta for loan of three Charles S. Hopkinson paintings and a pelican plaster figure by Katharine Lane Weems. Anonymous lender of bronze bust by Anna Coleman Ladd.

# Financials

## Summary of FY2024 Operating Revenue and Expenses

2024 Budget: \$171,000



**Amy Snodgrass, Treasurer & Finance  
Committee Chair  
David Lumsden  
John Round  
Rus Brown**

# Committees & Volunteers

## **Curatorial Advisory**

Rebecca G. Campbell,  
Chair  
Carol Bundy  
Matt Genta  
Susana Thompson  
Christine Virden

## **Programs**

Mary Minott, Co-Chair  
Marianne Coons, Co-Chair  
Alison Anholt-White  
Rus Brown  
Constance Leahy

## **Development**

Rebecca G. Campbell, Co-Chair  
Susana Thompson, Co-Chair  
Leslie Beatty

## **Finance**

Amy Snodgrass, Chair  
Rus Brown  
David Lumsden  
John Round

## **Building & Grounds**

Matt Genta, Chair  
Marianne Coons

## **Branding/Communications**

Alison Anholt-White, Chair  
Marianne Coons  
Susana Thompson

## **Governance**

Philio Cushing, Chair  
Leslie Beatty  
Tom Durkin

## **Hiring**

Mary Minott, Chair  
Alison Anholt-White  
Rus Brown  
Rebecca Campbell  
Matt Genta

## **Our Volunteers**

Simone Argento  
Finn Birkeland  
Martha Chapman  
Em Cicala  
Linda Crosby  
John Huss  
Tom Kehoe  
Libby Mulry  
Jeff Parker  
Sue Parker  
Lee Reissfelder  
Sam Reissfelder

History Art Community



# The Portico



The iconic entrance portico, with classical columns, once again graces the house built in 1823 by Abigail Hooper, a successful store proprietor and banker. When planning for the bicentennial year of the house, the Museum envisioned restoring the portico to serve as both a literal and symbolic portal to welcome visitors to new experiences. A year later, the portico stands proud, enhancing the streetscape and welcoming all.

The successful reconstruction of the portico is a testament to the collaborative efforts of many. Our sincere gratitude to: all of our Bicentennial Capital Campaign donors; Luciano Andrade, whose firm built the portico; Rob MacNeille and Brian LaBau from C&M for their detailed portico drawing used in the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, and to Manchester-by-the-Sea's Community Preservation Committee, Historic District Commission, Building Department, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

A special thanks to Matt Genta, Becca Campbell, and Sue Thompson of the Museum's Curatorial Advisory Committee, whose oversight of the project – from researching historical documents and photographs of the original portico to the design phase to interviewing contractors – was invaluable. We also thank Marianne Coons of the Museum's Building and Grounds Committee, who assisted Matt – whose experience as an architect was indispensable – in managing the month-long construction phase.

Together, we have achieved a remarkable milestone in preserving our Museum's architectural history.



# Our Mission

To celebrate and serve the community by:

- Fostering an appreciation of the quality and diversity of life – past and present – in Manchester-by-the-Sea.
- Collecting and preserving archival materials, art, and artifacts of significance to the Town.
- Engaging community interest and involvement through the Collections and programming.

In every aspect, the Museum aspires to the highest standards and seeks to engage the broadest audience.

# A Year in Review

## July 2023

### First Milestone of Bicentennial Capital Campaign

100 percent of Trustees contribute and pledge to Campaign.

## August 2023

### Reinterpreting and Restoring Rooms

Abigail Hooper Trask and Capt. Richard Trask parlor completed and restored to original colors and furnishings.

### Festival by the Sea Open House & Outdoor Exhibits Reopen:

Salt Cod Fish Yard and Singing Beach Bathhouse.



## September 2023

### 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Members vote in new By-Laws and Museum's new name: Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum.



*Museum unveils its new Hopkinson painting at Annual Meeting*

## October 2023

### Fall Art Show & Sale Event

Visitors were treated to the works of local artists and a welcome artist reception.



## November 2023

### New Members Join Board of

**Trustees:** Alison Anholt-White, Leslie Beatty, Tom Durkin, Marianne Coons, and Tom Lance.

## December 2023

### Holiday Party

Decorated in festive greenery, the 200-year-old Abigail Hooper Trask House welcomes members.

### Another Bicentennial Capital Campaign Milestone Reached

\$100,000 raised; half way to goal.

### Annual Holiday Tea



### Museum Open House

Holiday ornament making and craft activities during MBTS Christmas-by-the-Sea weekend.



### **New Holiday Cards**

Features artwork of first electric lighting of Christmas tree on the Common in 1914. Cards were the Museum Gift Shop's best seller.

## **January 2024**

### **Furniture Exhibition Room**

**Opens.** Exhibit includes video on Manchester's furniture-building economy and local craftsmen and businesses.



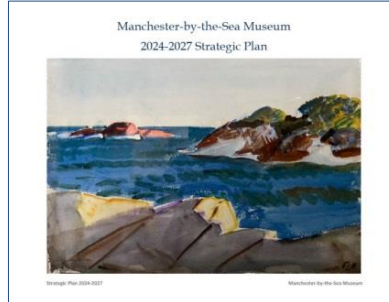
### **Joint Children's Program with MBTS Library**

Audrey Carman, librarian, and John Huss, storyteller extraordinaire, entertain young visitors.

## **February 2024**

**Speaker Series: Mushrooms of the 1661 Cemetery: from Death to Life**

**Three-year Strategic Plan Adopted by the Board of Trustees**



## **March 2024**

**Speaker Series: Grave Robbing, Harvard's Medical School, and Chebacco Parish**

### **Forum Ship Painting Restored**

Watercolor on paper of one of Capt. Richard Trask's earliest ships involved in the Russia trade.

**Work begins on *Summers by the Sea* Exhibit.**



## **April 2024**

**Speaker Series: America's First Millionaires: The China Traders of Essex County**

**Town citizens voted to approve CPC-recommended matching grants for UV protection and restoring Portico projects.**



**Museum Receives a Matching Grant from Essex Heritage.**

**Maritime Exhibition Room Opens.**



## May 2024

### Summers by the Sea: Masconomo House Hotel & the Resort Era

#### Lecture and Exhibit Opening

Examines the transformation of MBTS from furniture mill town to summer resort destination, the famous Booth family's influence, souvenir art, Singing Beach and the rise of leisure time, and a hotel that shaped the resort era zeitgeist.

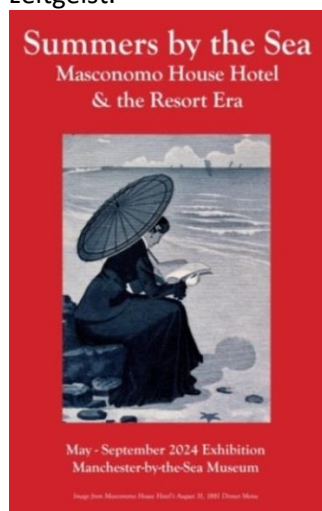


Exhibit features paintings, souvenir chinaware, hotel items and ephemera, photos, and a wall mural and map of Singing Beach bathhouses. Since its opening, the exhibit has been seen by visitors from as far away as Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

### First Graders Visit Museum



### Archives Redesign Project

Joni Davis (right), Matt Genta (center), and Ross Magers move donated file cabinets and furniture into Archives rooms.



## June 2024



New Sign with Museum's New Name and Logo Installed.

Museum Receives Grant from The Hooper Fund for a series of children educational programs.

Masconomo Portrait, oil on canvas, conserved and reframed.



Donor Appreciation Open House held at Museum and Seaside One.

**Speaker Series: Curtis Sisters:  
Golfing Pioneers and Women  
Athletes of the Century**



*Margaret and Harriot Curtis c.  
1920*



**Cape Ann Community  
Foundation Awards Museum a  
Grant** to develop a new venture  
to enhance visitors' experiences  
and increase downtown foot  
traffic to benefit both the  
Museum and local businesses.

## July 2024



**UV-blocking Film Installed on  
Windows.**

**Work Starts on Building the Portico.**

By the end of the month, the Portico once again graces the front of our Museum and the house that Abigail built with her own funds, a remarkable accomplishment for a single woman in 1823.



*Abigail Hooper Trask, c. 1840*



*Above: Postcard of MBTS Train Station*

*Cover: Harbor Scene, Manchester, Mass., Circa 1880s, artist unknown, oil on canvas.  
Depicts Manchester on eve of the resort era; painting displayed in "Summers by the Sea" exhibit.*

*In the Collection of Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum*

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