



**FISCAL YEAR  
2022-2023**

# **Annual Report**



**HISTORIC ROSEDALE**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Tom Spada



It's been a great year for Historic Rosedale and I am pleased to report so much good news to you as I end my tenure as Board Co-President.

1. **Finances:** Rosedale continues to improve. Will Potts, Janet Levy, Elizabeth Myers and Kathryn Freeman have worked hard to get our financial house in good working order. As you will hear from our Treasurer, 2022-23 is the first year in the last ten that we are finishing in the plus column. Much of this is due to dedicated sponsorship of employee salaries along with our Site Manager and Team Rosedale controlling and reducing expenses. We also increased revenue by opening Rosedale for grounds and house tours on more days in addition to adding school tours and renting our grounds and the Pavilion. A lot of hard work made this happen.
2. **The House:** The displays in the house are the best we have seen to date; again, thanks go out to our Rosedale Team. Each Room tells a part of Rosedale's History. Barbara McCray Jackson's African American Legacy Committee displays in the kitchen superbly tell and show us the history of the enslaved and freed who lived and worked at Rosedale. This is a must see.
3. **Facilities Report:** The exterior of the house needs significant repairs. The Facilities Committee - Ben Collins, Web Hatley, and James Contracting - drew up a plan to make repairs to the house. We recently received a \$10,000 Covington Foundation grant and \$6,500 from the Colonial Dames to begin this work. The focus will be on Phase I, repairing the upper dormers and installing chimney caps. The plan is to complete these repairs in the fall. We have applied for additional grants to subsidize further Phase I and Phase II repairs.
4. **The Sustainment Fund:** At the April Board Meeting it was approved to allow for monthly redemption of profits over our minimum requirement. In May and June, the Sustainment Fund produced approximately \$27,000 over and above the required six percent gain. That gain will be used for general operating expenses.
5. **The Gardens and Grounds:** Our gardens are so beautiful - the absolute best—thanks to our Head Gardener and her team. We unfortunately lost a few old growth trees to disease and weather damage but were able to raise funds to cover this significant cost, alleviating a negative hit to our grounds budget. Our enhanced Kitchen Garden has flourished with over seventy varieties of herbs and vegetables.
6. **Membership:** Membership has the potential to be a key to our well-being. However, we need to make improvements and keep moving forward with the quest for additional members to support our mission.

As I end my years of Presidency and Co-Presidency, I owe many thanks to all of you for making Rosedale a success. We have come a long way in the last three years. I could go on and on about the people who helped guide me, but I owe my personal debt of thanks to Agnes Weisiger, Janet Levy, Elizabeth Medearis Myers, Fred Wagner, Barbara McCray Jackson and Kathryn Freeman.

Respectfully, Tom





## WHERE WE ARE NOW

*Janet Levy*



I begin my term as President of the Board of Directors of Historic Rosedale with enormous gratitude to the staff, board members, and Friends of Historic Rosedale. The fiscal year of 2022-2023 has been busy, challenging, and fulfilling.

We experienced some staffing challenges, improved our bookkeeping system, and faced physical challenges in the gardens and the house. But, by the end of the fiscal year, we achieved a level of financial stability that Rosedale has not seen in many years. This is due to hard work by staff, creative grant-writing by staff and supportive board members, and generous giving from friends of Rosedale. A reasonably healthy stock market has also helped.

In the coming year, we will focus attention on the African American Legacy (AAL) program. Currently, we are recruiting for a new employee to work as coordinator of this program. We hope this new staff member will strengthen our relationships with the community, develop creative programming, and continue research into the genealogy and descendants of the enslaved families at Rosedale. An exciting upcoming exhibit for AAL is “Oasis Spaces” exhibit which highlights Green Book sites in North Carolina. The “Green Book” was a printed guidebook for African American travelers during the Jim Crow period, providing information about welcoming hotels, restaurants, and other services. Rosedale will display this exhibit during Black History Month in February, 2024.

The coming year will also see some major restoration work for the main house at Historic Rosedale. With grants from the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation and the Mecklenburg chapter of the Colonial Dames of America, we will begin the first of several stages of repair work on the dormers, porches, and other features of the house. This multi-staged project will culminate eventually in repainting the entire house. We also have ambitions for two major projects in the gardens. The first is completion of the Garden in honor of Dr. T. Lawrence “Larry” Mellichamp, a longtime friend and board member of Historic Rosedale. This garden will emphasize native Piedmont plants in memory of Larry’s scholarly and personal interests. The second garden project is a memorial space in honor of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Rosedale. The entrance to this garden will be a wrought iron gateway incorporating African motifs; the arbor will be created by Jason Blanchett, one of Rosedale’s blacksmiths.

Also, during this year, Rosedale staff will be working on two publication projects. One is organized by the National Societies of Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) in honor of the upcoming 250th anniversary (2026) of the founding of the United States. This volume will highlight 58 properties including Historic Rosedale. The second project is a short, well-illustrated book about Rosedale itself, to be published by Arcadia Press. For the first time, we will have a modestly priced, lavishly illustrated book about Rosedale to offer to our visitors.

It is an ongoing challenge to balance regular responsibilities (e.g., house tours, school groups, garden maintenance, etc.) with special projects and innovations in programming. We are expanding the number of school groups and special events compared to recent years. To support new projects, in addition to the Coordinator of AAL, we hope also to hire a new administrative support person, who will also take on responsibilities for publicity. The board and staff of Historic Rosedale are committed to work together for responsible management and realistic budgeting, with imaginative programming, so we can continue to responsibly sustain our property and share this beautiful place with the Charlotte, North Carolina, and national audiences.



# AN EVENTFUL YEAR

*What a year it was! From popular events like our Haunted History and Paranormal Investigations to new collaborations with Opera Carolina and QC Concerts, it was a busy and productive time at Historic Rosedale.*

## AAL GATHERING

*One of our most important and moving events of the year was our inaugural descendants gathering. It was a reunion of families, genealogical review, and opportunity to capture oral histories.*

***African American Legacy (AAL) events continue to draw interest and garner praise for Historic Rosedale.***

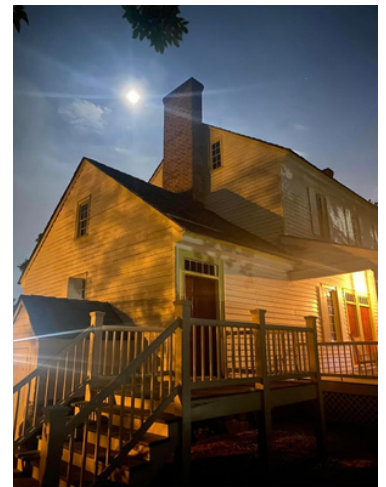


*Historic Rosedale hosted a variety of meetings and luncheons, for example the annual NACE Charlotte Chapter luncheon. Our grounds are being used by the community!*



*Our first community open house allowed visitors to sit back and reflect on all that Historic Rosedale offers.*

*Haunted History and Paranormal events indulge a different side of Historic Rosedale.*



## VISITOR TESTIMONIAL

*"My daughters initially did not want to go on a plantation tour yet Ishmael did a wonderful job balancing the conversation to tell the entire story of Rosedale. It's important to tell our collective stories! Please pass on our sincere gratitude for the excellent tour."*





# AN EVENTFUL YEAR

## QC CONCERTS

The 1815 house was the backdrop for a musical review worthy of high praise. Over 120 guests enjoyed this evening performance which supported both our nonprofits.



*Sweetgrass Basket Making Workshop is always a sold out event.*



*Early Southern Foodways was presented by the Chronicles of Adam.*

## OPERA CAROLINA

*This new collaboration brought the family production of The Tortoise and The Hare to the lawn at Historic Rosedale. An opportunity for many first time visitors to enjoy the site.*

## OYSTER ROAST

*Held on October 15th, the Oyster Roast was a great success, surpassing all others in fundraising goals to bring in much needed funds for restoration of the 1815 house and general operating expenses.*



## FY 2022-2023 VISITATION: 3,100

*A high for Historic Rosedale! Our visitation increased by over 30% and our reach in the community and pool of visitors to Charlotte continues to grow.*





## AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY PROJECT BARBARA MCCRAY JACKSON

The committee felt a sense of great loss and great accomplishment at the close of the year July 2022 - June 2023. We lost participants in the Legacy project through death: Randy Thomason, a descendant and committee member; Tawana Wilson Allen, descendant and committee member; and Rosemary Wiley, wife of descendant Harold Wiley. Each of these individuals contributed ideas to the development of our programs and philosophy, and will be remembered for their contributions.

The Legacy project was an integral part of the activities at Historic Rosedale as illustrated through the following events. The GATHERING welcomed descendants from Florida to New York for a day long activity of genealogy, oral interviewing, and reunion. We owe gratitude to UNCC Atkins library staff members for their ongoing assistance in interviewing descendants.

The sweetgrass basket weaving class attracted a full house, including two men this year. This popular activity will be offered again during Black History Month. A display of oak baskets, quilts, crafts, and other objects illuminated contributions made by enslaved and free African-Americans.

Elizabeth Myers, Kyle Smith, and Ronald Schumann are working diligently on the memorial garden project. Their plans include locating the site, designing it, and selecting plants and flowers to memorialize all individuals enslaved and free who worked at Rosedale.

The Juneteenth program was offered for the second time. The AAL program was instructional and reverential. Visitors could tour the gardens and visit the Blacksmith shop. Lawanda McCullor, graduate student UNCC was this year's intern. She did oral interviews, assisted in research, and was a participant in the Juneteenth celebration. Also offered to visitors this year were a demonstration of 19th century cooking offered by Dontavius Williams and a Craft Show. We participated at the Charlotte Museum History and gave a panel presentation at the annual meeting in Gastonia of the NC Museum Council.

The African American Legacy at Historic Rosedale plans to augment the projects and programs already undertaken. The hiring of a staff member will help fulfill plans to record and expand our presentations.





# WE REMEMBER THOSE WE'VE LOST

*Historic Rosedale has lost a number of our original champions and great friends. They will be sorely missed for their generous support, keen advice, and long term knowledge.*

Don Abernathy  
Tawnana Wilson Allen  
John Glover  
Ann Glover  
Dale Halton  
Larry Mellichamp  
Randy Thomason  
Rosemary Wiley  
Jim Williams  
Ann Williams



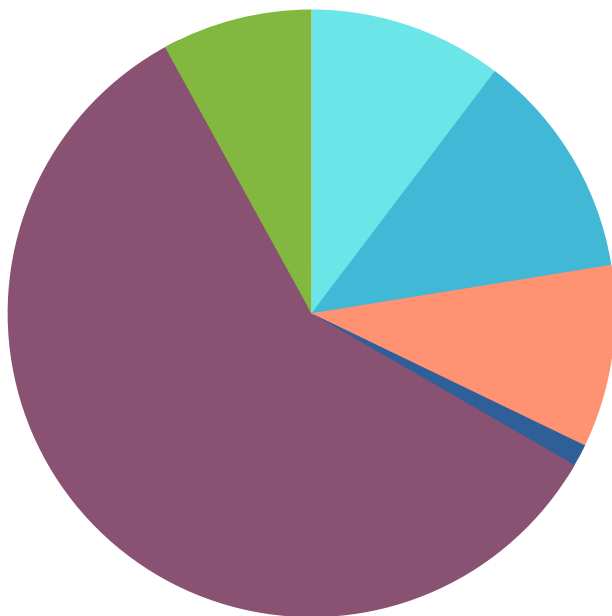
## *A Year's Overview*

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSTION

Operating Revenue  
\$234,470\*

Operating Expenses  
\$224,380\*

\*based on unaudited financials

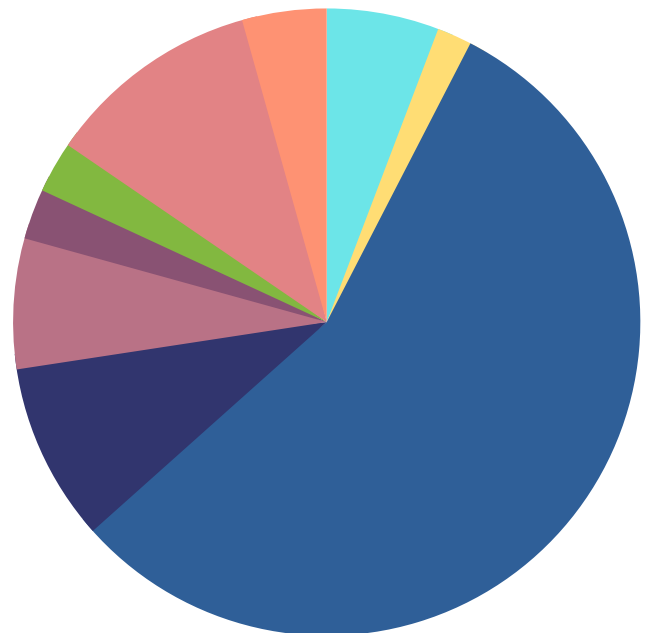


### Source of Funding

- Contributions 58.7%
- Tours 12.1%
- Membership 10.3%
- Special Events 9.7%
- Interest Earned 7.7%
- Misc Revenue 1.5%

### Use of Funding

- Salaries 54.35%
- Insurance 10.75%
- Facilities 8.78%
- Gardens/Grounds 7.42%
- Administration 5.53%
- Special Event 4.16%
- PR/Development 3.53%
- Programing 3.48%
- Misc Expenses 2.00%







# MEMBERS & DONORS

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

The Dickson Foundation  
Mrs. Dale Halton  
Mrs. Agnes Weisiger

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

Infusion Fund and its generous donors  
Marion Stedman Covington Foundation

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Mecklenburg Committee, NSCDA  
Ed Weisiger, Jr.

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Faison Enterprises, Inc.  
Janet Levy  
Larry Mellichamp  
George Rohe  
Tom Spada  
Christina Wright  
Rick Zuber

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

Janice Abernathy  
J. David Barnhardt  
Scotty Vanhoozier Ben Collins  
Carol B. Dabbs  
Larry Dagenhart  
Davidson Horticulture Symposium  
Ann Glover  
Beth Harris  
Clyde Hatley  
Cleve Howard  
Barbara Jackson  
Dewitte G. McIntyre  
Hamilton McKay  
Elizabeth Myers  
Will Potts  
Carol Sawyer Tom Hanchett

## **\$500 - \$999**

John Church  
Connie Connelly  
Shannon Curtis  
Alice Glover  
E. Alexander Glover  
Catherine Luckenbaugh  
Charles and E.C. Myers  
The American Welding Society  
Jeff Willoughby  
Tony Zeiss

## **\$250 - \$499**

Phil Baucom  
Richard Conboy  
Marion A. Cowell  
Rennie Cuthbertson  
Joseph Davis  
Hugh Dussek  
Jane Estep  
Jenifer Francois  
Donald and Kathryn Freeman  
Frank Horne  
Harold Howe  
Hollie Isom  
Susan Jaffe  
Archie Litaker  
Susan Mayer  
Lila Rankin  
Ruth Rendleman  
Robert Salvucci  
Frank Schrimsher  
Shirley B. Schrimsher  
Ronald Schumann  
Cary Sherck  
Barbara Taylor  
Jim Thompson  
Carla Vitez  
What Book Book Club  
Eugenia J. White  
W. Fletcher Wright

## **\$100 - \$249**

John Andrews  
Stuart Beeson  
Elizabeth Benson  
B.F. Bracy  
Allen Brooks  
Margaret Carter  
Lisa Clanton  
Frances Clardy  
Susan Cline  
Alice Del Pinal  
Stephen Dockery  
William Donaldson  
Roddey Dowd  
David Erdman  
Aimee Garcia  
Closs Gilmer  
Elizabeth G. Glover  
Heidi Gollinger  
John Victor Grainger IV  
Amie Gray

## **\$100 - \$249**

Eugene S. Griggs  
Halifax Convention Chapter, DAR  
Anne Henderson  
Steven M. Hensley  
Ricky Hill  
John Ingram  
Sally James  
Suzy and Clark Johnson  
Caryn Lee  
Robert L. Lindsey, Jr.  
Elizabeth Locke  
Robert Long  
Edgar Love  
Jim and Suzy Marshall  
Robert Maund  
Margaret Maxwell  
William Maynard  
Jacqueline McCarthy  
Tracy Moore  
Luther Moore  
Caroline L. Myers  
Janet and Lowell Nelson  
William A. Nichols  
Dawn Patterson  
Brian Phillips  
Birshal Poole  
Jill Rogers  
Allen Rogers  
Katherine Rutledge  
Stephanie Safrit  
Sarah Savarese  
Joseph Schrader  
Scott Schrimsher  
Kyle Smith  
David Snider  
Bill Spier  
Diane Stout  
Richard Suddreth  
Janet Thomas  
Brad Touma  
Simon V. Ward III  
Tom Watson  
Kay Weatherspoon  
Harold Wiley  
Doug Williams  
Frances M. Wooten

## **\$99 and under**

Amy L. Adams  
Jack Alexander  
Martha Bedell Alexander  
John Beeson  
Charlie Boyd  
Paul Breithaupt  
Louise Brice  
Catherine B. Browning  
Charles Carson  
Janet Clark  
Elizabeth Cobb  
Mark Colone  
Charles Conner, Jr.  
Hannah Craighill  
Susan and Charles Dalton  
Linda and Terry Dalton  
Joseph Dulaney  
Janet Dyer  
Roland Elliott  
Nancy Goolsby  
Peter Granow  
Margaret Hamilton  
Keith Hart  
Diana Hawkins  
Kate Hill  
Dorothy Hodges  
Sally Hughes  
Nancy Kiser  
Kevin Leibel  
Margaret A. Martin  
Stokes Mayfield  
Civil McGowan  
Linda McIver  
Alice Michaux  
William Newell  
Lisa Newman  
Laurie Norman  
Ben Nunnally  
Paula Owens  
Elaine Papadimitrio  
Julianne Patterson  
Leslie B. Peterson  
Pamela Rosen  
Ann Berry Schrimsher  
Ned Seaman  
Kathryn Sherard  
Herbert R. Spaugh, Jr.  
Kathy Spence  
Mary Starnes  
Dia Steiger  
Lucy Stephens  
Charlie Stewart  
Janet Steyl  
June White  
Fielding Williams



*Without the dedication and support of the above noted individuals and organizations, Historic Rosedale would not be funded. We thank each and everyone one of you for your support. Historic Rosedale does not receive state or government funding. Every effort has been made to properly identify our supporters. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions in the names of supporters listed.*



2022-2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-President: Janet Levy, PhD

Co-President: Tom Spada

Vice President: Elizabeth Medearis Myers

Secretary: Susan V. Mayer

Treasurer: Will Potts

### Board Members:

Ben Collins

Shannon Curtis

Hugh Dussek, PhD

Beth Harris

Web Hatley

Pete Heynen

Barbara McCray Jackson

Susan V. Mayer

Tracy Moore

Margaret Glover Schrimsher

Barbara Taylor

Fred Wagner

Tom Watson

Agnes B. Weisiger

Tina Wright



HONORARY LIFETIME BOARD DIRECTOR

George Rohe



## 2022-2023 AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Barbara McCray Jackson

Secretary: Tina Wright

Committee:

Adreonna Bennett

Carlton A. Brown

Bee Jay Caldwell

Kathryn Freeman

Cherlynn Lambeth

Janet Levy, PhD

Lawanda McCullor

Elizabeth Myers

Ben Nunnally, D.B.A.

Ronald Schumann, PhD

Kyle Smith

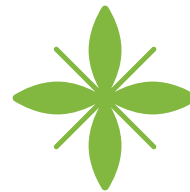
Thomas Spada

Thomas Watson

June White

Harold Wiley

Tamara Williams



## 2022-2023 STAFF

**Elizabeth Medearis Myers**

*Head Gardener & Site Director*

**Hannah Davis**

*Community Engagement & Rentals*

**Kathryn Freeman**

*Development, Finance, Publicity*

**Cheralyn Lambeth**

*Programming & Tours*

**Sandy Maguran**

*Assistant Gardener & Tours*

*Interpreters:*

**Ishmael Dula**

**Cameron Walsh**

*Blacksmiths:*

**Jason Blanchett**

**John McPherson**



## OUR MISSION

The Mission of Historic Rosedale Foundation is threefold: to educate, to preserve and to continue to build a more diverse and inclusive platform for interpretation. We shall: 1) Present an authentic view of five generations of the Frew, Caldwell and Davidson families, and the enslaved and freed African Americans that lived and worked on the land; 2) Preserve and interpret the 1815 historic house and the surrounding buildings emphasizing the important role these buildings held in the history of Charlotte, NC; 3) Provide and maintain a peaceful green space with Treasure Trees, garden borders, native and heirloom plants within a highly developed urban corridor.





## VOLUNTEERS

We would not be able to do what we do without Volunteers - be they Garden Helpers, Oyster Roasters, or Docents. You are ALL an important part of our success. Congratulations.



## GUESTS

This year we proved "build it and they will come"! It is the visitors to our site - for tours, events, and simple time in the garden - that make every day worthwhile. We are blessed you chose to visit us.



## DONORS

We cannot exist without the patronage of our members and donors. It is they who keep the doors open, the bills paid, and the staff here to complete our mission of preservation, interpretation and education.



## PRESENTERS

We are supported by a cadre of knowledgeable scholars, researchers, professionals, and presenters. They help us learn something new everyday and share it with you all. Thank you for your talents and time.



# OUR SINCERE THANKS