

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# NHPT

# The New Haven Preservation Trust

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this report as my first year as Board President comes to an end. As a Director and Officer at the Trust for more than a decade now, I have had a lot of experience with the breadth of activities at this lively and committed non-profit. This Annual Report is, however, my first opportunity to thank those who have given of their time, energy, imagination, and financial resources to support us. Thank you to everyone listed on the Annual Report. Your support is truly invaluable.

The Trust launched 2023 on a remarkable high note, with a shout-out in the New York Times when New Haven was listed as one of its 52 places to visit (worldwide!) in 2023. The NYT was highlighting the Trust's advocacy for modernism in New Haven, a longstanding commitment that has seen, for example, the development of our dedicated [newhavenmodern.org](http://newhavenmodern.org) website. In 2023 we advanced that project as a collaborator with DOCOMOMO US, the national organization championing modern architecture and design, when their annual conference was held in New Haven. The Trust contributed months of organization (with thanks to Karin Krochmal, Jean Pogwizd, and Rona Johnston) and tours of Prospect Hill (Michael Waters), Wooster Square (Christopher Wigren), Government Center and the Audubon Arts District (Channing Harris), Science Hill, and Yale's Iconic Modernist Architecture (Ming Thompson). (The tours by Wigren and Harris were also given to a local audience as part of DOCOMOMO Tour Day, in October.) As part of the conference the Trust also ran a

free community event at Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church, on urban renewal in the Dixwell neighborhood. Charles Warner Jr. spoke about the vision and social impact of urban renewal, and the Trust was honored by the attendance of Edward E. Cherry, the first Black architect chartered in Connecticut and a leading contributor to the redevelopment of that area. An interview with Mr. Cherry about his life and career is available on the Trust's website.

Collaboration is a vital component of the Trust's activities, for example as part of the International Arts & Ideas Festival, which in 2023 included a tour of Fair Haven (Bruce Clouette), reflecting on its changing character over several centuries. The year 2023 also saw an exciting, collaborative venture with a new partner (Make-Haven) and a new perspective (hands-on preservation.) Presentations on styles of domestic architecture (Michael Waters) and historic hardware (Oliver Gaffney) drew a fascinated audience and showed the value of such events, which will be continued.

The year-long celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Donald Grant Mitchell concluded with a summary talk at the eponymous branch of the public library in Westville. Barbara Lamb, who orchestrated the bicentennial celebrations, reflected on the multiple impacts of Mitchell on the city and talked with the audience about how his achievements might continue to be remembered. The Trust was delighted to be one of the partners in this extended celebration, along with

a range of organizations throughout New Haven.

The Trust celebrated its two regular annual events with gusto in 2023. The New Haven Preservation Trust Awards were presented at The Union, built as the home of The Union and New Haven Trust in 1927 and now apartments, where the remarkable wrought-iron round tellers' station on the ground floor is still intact. The building, renovated by Newman Architects in 2016, received the Landmark Award. The House Preservation Award was given to the Gertrude and Seth Crutten-den House at 459 Dixwell Avenue, owned and restored by Steven Winter and Emily Sigman. The Merit Award was given to NXTHVN, at 169 Henry Street, where two former industrial buildings have been converted into a remarkable arts incubator.

The Trust's annual Celebration of Preservation was held at Raynham (now The Estate) on Townsend Avenue, land which was the property of the Townsend family for over two centuries but recently passed into new ownership. Even heavy rain was not sufficient to stop a large and enthusiastic attendance that afternoon, who enjoyed visiting the renovated house and hearing about the history of the building (Colin Caplan) and its future (Chuck Mascola) and participated in the Silent Auction.

Late 2022 saw the publication by the Trust of *The Builder Book: Carpenters, Masons and Contractors in Historic New Haven*, by board member Susan Godshall and Jack Tripp, with photographs by invaluable volunteer Jean Pogwizd. This biographical and photographic record of lesser-known contributors to the historic fabric of New Haven was presented by the authors to several audiences through 2023 and has been deservedly well-received.

I also want to record here the daily work of the Trust and especially of our professional preservationist, Sarah Tisdale. For example, the Trust works regularly with the City, including support for building owners with projects before the Historic District Commission; it provides advice and

information for owners of homes in the city; it administers the Trust's own Historic Structures Fund, which provides small matching grants, and offers a Plaque program, with well over 200 date plaques now displayed on buildings throughout the city. It also has an active presence on social media - May, preservation month, was celebrated in 2023 with almost daily posts providing a chronology of structures throughout the city.

In 2023 the Trust's efforts to preserve were bracketed by a significant achievement and a significant loss. The Trust was awarded a grant by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for research to nominate Long Wharf Pier to the National Register of Historic Places. Long Wharf Pier was built in the 1680's and has been in continuous use ever since; most famously, in 1810 William Lanson lengthened the wharf by ¼ mile out to the shipping channel. It has played a fundamental role in the New Haven economy. The Trust is honored to bring national attention to this structure.

On the less-happy side, 2023 saw the demolition of the last of the Bigelow Boiler factory buildings, once the anchor of the city's thriving industrial center. Despite vigorous support from the Trust and SHPO staff for retaining and reusing a portion of the brick factory, the city chose to demolish it. This leaves only a few vestiges of the past still standing in the River Street National Historic District.

And finally, just as 2023 ended, the Trust hung four new, large photographs - of the Green, City Hall, Union Station, and New Haven Fire Headquarters - at Union Station, in the escalator hall. We hope the images will be admired by many travelers as they make their way to and from the trains, as an announcement or reminder of the remarkable historic fabric of New Haven.

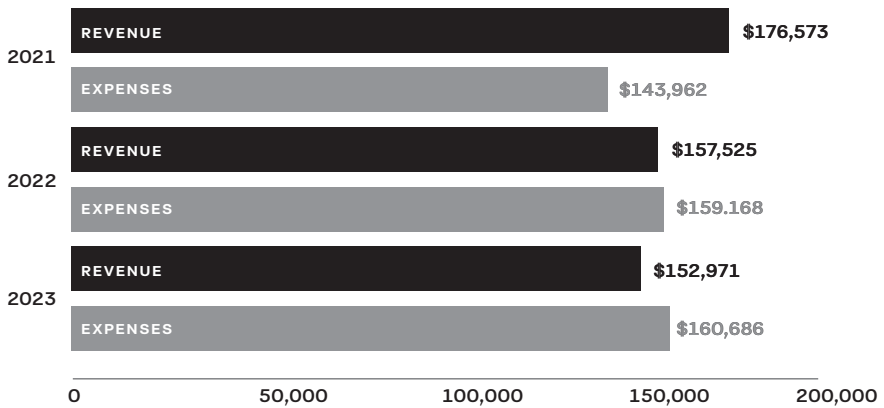
*Charlotte Ree*

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY *Pending Audit*

Statement for 2021, 2022, and 2023 (Unrestricted Funds)

	2021	2022	2023
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership	\$20,381	\$21,860	\$23,845
Fees-for-Service	\$2,989	\$10,205	\$5,975
Grants	\$88,713	\$61,930	\$53,660
Events	\$6,059	\$2,485	\$15,551
Contributions	\$58,431	\$61,045	\$53,940
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$176,573</b>	<b>\$157,525</b>	<b>\$152,971</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration	\$66,679	\$65,396	\$67,148
Program	\$11,333	\$20,174	\$11,223
Personnel	\$65,950	\$73,598	\$82,315
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$143,962</b>	<b>\$159,168</b>	<b>\$160,686</b>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$32,611	(\$1,643)	(\$7,715)
RESERVES, RESTRICTED FUNDS, ENDOWMENT, CASH-ON-HAND	\$420,844	\$358,112	\$377,960

## Historic Operating Revenue and Expense Comparison



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for any errors in this list.  
Please let us know of any  
corrections needed.*

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