

Full Steam Ahead!



2024 Annual Report
Steamboat Era Museum



2024 Steamboat Era Museum

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Cover Photo: The *District of Columbia* on the Chesapeake Bay.

Photograph by Edward O. Clark, from the Jack Shaum Collection.



What a year! We are thrilled to have made important investments in our future during 2024. Any structure requires maintenance and TLC, and the Steamboat Era Museum is no exception. I'm pleased to report—as many of you have noted and commented on—that the Museum now has a new coat of paint and a new roof. Better signage is next on the list!

During his first year, Executive Director Gus Kasper led the way with energy and enthusiasm. Through his vision, we are adding items to our collection...and finding new ways to display instructive examples of artifacts and stories from the Steamboat Era. When the Museum opens in late March for the spring season, be sure to visit and see what new exhibits are in place. Thanks also to our Museum Manager, Candee Pevahouse, and our Membership Chair, Lin Ross, both of whom provide invaluable continuity and knowledge to the Museum.

In 2025, we will continue to build on our successful events such as our Speaker Series and the iconic Crab Festival. The Third Annual Speaker Series runs every second Saturday at 2PM at the Museum from January through April. The 2025 Crab Festival is scheduled for September 20th, 2025. By attending, you can help support the Museum while enjoying all you can eat crabs and much more! Tickets will become available in the summer of 2025.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank the members of the Steamboat Era Museum Board of Directors. We currently have a great mix of seasoned Museum veterans and new faces—each of whom brings valuable perspectives and talents to the Board.

Our youth programs continue to provide exposure and education to young people in the area. This past year, local children visited the Steamboat Era Museum to take part in the museum's first "Night at the Museum." Students learned how important steamboats were in the region and enjoyed playing games from the steamboat era.

Membership revenue, grants, and donations are the lifeblood of a successful Museum. This past year, we began an ambitious comprehensive Campaign to raise funds needed to ensure the longevity of our Museum and its mission. As the tag line on the cover of this Annual Report notes, we are moving "Full Steam Ahead" through the Campaign, which has been an initial success and which will continue during the coming year. Thank you in advance for responding to our requests and outreach.

With the advent of a new year, the prospects for and the possibilities of our Museum remain bright. The story of the Steamboat Era is a fundamental one—simply stated, steamboats altered the lives of everyone along the Chesapeake Bay. As the title of Anne Long McClintock's book says, "We are who we are, because steamboats were."

On behalf of the Museum Board, staff, and volunteers, I am excited to share the Annual Report for 2024. We welcome your involvement as a visitor, member, donor, or volunteer. Whatever your level of support for the Steamboat Era Museum, I hope that you have the opportunity to join us this coming year as we travel back in time to one of America's greatest untold stories!

Keith Kehlbeck, Board President
Steamboat Era Museum

Sprucing-up

The Steamboat Era Museum

In 2024 the museum turned 21 years old, making it time to undertake some critical facility maintenance. With a new roof, new paint, and re-stained deck, the museum is once again ready to serve another 20 years as a primary center of education and community engagement for the Northern Neck and beyond

Thank you to everyone who made this possible, including Streamline Roofing and Parlett's Painting for their quality work at fair prices!



Above right: After fresh coats of paint and stain, coupled with a new roof, the museum looks like a different building!

Above center: Streamline Roofing Crew working on the roof.

2024 Irvington Crab Festival

As the museum's largest fundraiser, the 13th annual Irvington Crab Festival was a smashing success yet again!

Supplied with a beautiful September day and enough crabs to stuff everyone, many guests enjoyed the silent auction in 2024. Featured items ranged from a 12 pack of Northern Neck Ginger Ale to multiple night stays at local Air BNB's; the silent auction was a great success for all involved!

Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, raffle basket donors, and guests. We hope to see everyone again at the 14th annual Crab Festival on September 20, 2025 !



2024 Crab Festival Sponsors

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Having Fun at the Museum!

This year the Steamboat Era Museum introduced new Children's Programs while continuing to offer old favorites.

One of our new offerings was a "Night at the Museum" where kids watched a movie and enjoyed a pizza party, scavenger hunt, and a craft!

Another was a field day, which coinciding with the summer Olympics, was called the Steamboat Era Olympics.

The Museum will continue to offer a new program in 2025: A Steam Engine Work Shop. Thanks in large part to the generosity of the Wiley Foundation, students will get to build and keep their very own Stirling Engine!



Above: A new game at the Night at the Museum event, "Pin the Stack on the Steamboat," developed by the museum's Education chair Mary Ann McKay!

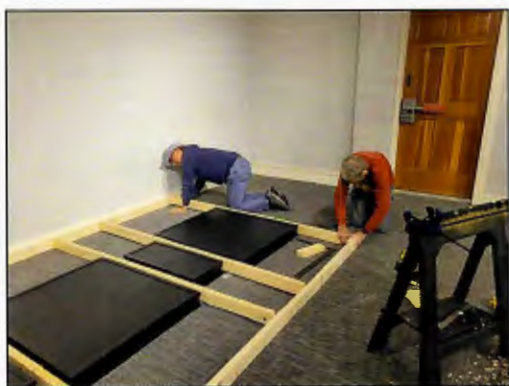
Left: After building their boats, children race them in the kiddie pool.

Volunteer Spotlight:

In 2024, Fred Pevahouse and Greg Kirkbride undertook a unique project: building a movable wall. Why did the museum need a movable wall, you might ask? Executive Director Gus Kasper is dividing one of our rooms into two smaller ones to make way for annually changing exhibits and we needed the wall to be movable to make room for lectures and programs when needed.

Fred and Greg spent dozens of hours cutting, painting, measuring, and drilling. The result: a custom built, professional-grade movable wall.

Thank you Fred and Greg for all you do for the museum!



Thank you to our 2024 Volunteers!

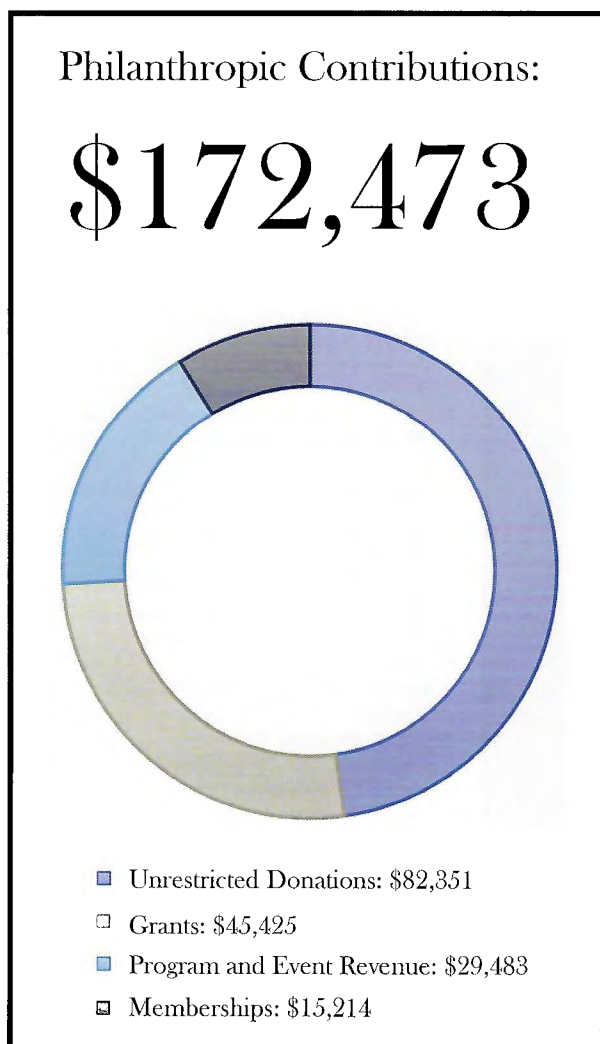
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2024, By the Numbers:

The Steamboat Era Museum is incredibly grateful to have received many generous grants and donations in 2024. With these funds we were able to introduce new programming, begin installing new exhibits, preserve dozens of new artifacts, and so much more.

An organization is only as strong as those who support it and, thankfully, the museum has generous supporters that have kept it strong for 25 years.

Thank you to everyone who supported the museum in 2024!



175+

New artifacts preserved

2

New Exhibits Under Construction

1,862

Total Visitors

2

Major Maintenance Projects Completed

4

Lectures Held

New Acquisitions



In 2024 the Steamboat Era Museum received dozens of generously donated artifacts that have greatly enriched our collection. Indeed, well over **175 new objects** were recorded in our collection database! The museum would like to thank three donors in particular for their generous contributions:

Over the course of 2024, Jack Shaum donated dozens of artifacts from three of the last Chesapeake Bay night boat lines. Two items he donated are pictured here: the starboard running light from the 1924 steamer *District of Columbia* and a breakfast menu from the Old Bay Line (middle and bottom left)



Marlene and Jay Malcan donated almost their entire collection of steamboat artifacts collected by Hans Marx, Marlene's father. Marx was an avid steamboat photographer whose work will continue to live on in our collection. Included in their donation was more than 3 hours worth of film that the museum hopes to digitize.

Lastly, Paul Foster donated several artifacts that belonged to his grandfather Captain Robert S. Foster of the Old Bay Line. Included among these was a medal he was awarded and his retirement watch (top left and bottom right).



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection over the last year!



Thank you to our Members and Donors!

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