

A photograph of a historic building with a prominent stone and brick tower featuring arched windows and a conical roof. The building is partially obscured by a diagonal black overlay on the right side. Trees with autumn foliage are visible in the background.

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

2021

**PREPARED BY
DR CATHERINE HUGHES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

2021 in review, the year that COVID continued



- Phase 1 of Howard County African American History Revealed opened in February.
- Phase 2 opened in June.
- Phase 3 opened in September.

- Free admission days celebrated Juneteenth and Veterans.



Phase 3 of African American History Revealed: Baggie Hardimon exhibit.



1920s Haynes on display during annual Automotive Scavenger Hunt.



- Free outdoor Automotive Scavenger Hunt event was held for the second time in June.
- 2021 Annual Meeting was held in November.

At the beginning of 2021, with vaccines on the horizon, there was hope of emerging from the pandemic and being free of the fear that had curtailed our activities and forced us online or outside. Instead, we trudged on with modified protocols and continued mask wearing.

- Howard County Hall of Legends were awarded virtually in March.



Hall of Legends recipients Ruth Lawson, Donta Rogers for Carver Community Center, Jeff Newton for Kokomo Urban Outreach with 2021 HCHS president Sharon Reed.



From Dark Pages cast 2021 .

- From Dark Pages event celebrated 5th anniversary of show in October.

- Christmas at the Seiberling event was held in November and December celebrating Christmas through the Decades.



Throughout 2021, aside from exhibit openings and special events, there were monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, Committee meetings for Collections, Oral History and other key activities of the historical society, as well as fund raising and marketing efforts, ongoing research, digitizing, and exhibition planning. In person or by Zoom, we have continued the work of the historical society.

From the Mouths of Visitors

By Catherine Hughes, executive director

From July through October in 2021, visitors were invited to share responses and opinions about their experience at the Seiberling Mansion and Howard County Museum. Forty-six visitors in 21 groups who came to the museum on a regular day without any special event agreed to be interviewed. The purpose of talking with visitors was to find out more about who they were, and what they thought of their experience. Additionally, invitations to fill out an electronic survey were sent out to visitors who left their email in the visitor register . Twelve surveys were filled out and returned as a result. Data from the live and electronic surveys was combined.

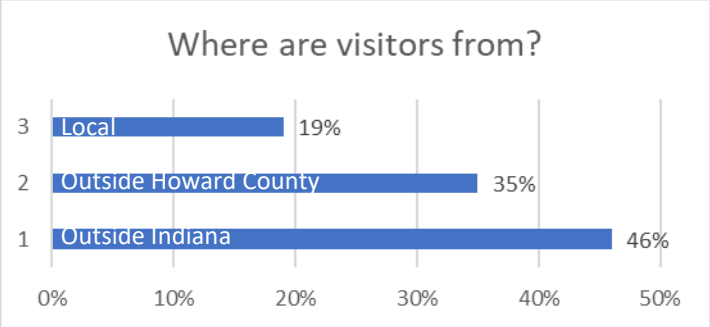
As museum professionals we often guess at what people might want to see or read about, or imagine that our own interests are shared by a majority. This is not always the case. Visitors to museums have different interests and motivations for their visits. They have multiple learning styles too. Some want to read, some want to talk, some want to listen. As we focus on broadening our exhibits, we want to learn the choices people make to come visit, and what they think of some of the new elements that have been added to the experience.

As we see from the visitor registration list , most visitors to the Seiberling Mansion and Howard County Museum have traveled to get here. In this small study, 45% live outside Indiana; 35% live outside Howard

County; and 19% live locally. Of 46 people who were interviewed, 61% were female; 39% male. There were only a few young ones interviewed with their families. 71% of those interviewed were over 45 years old; 23% were from 18-45 years old. The vast majority identified as white; .07% were people of color . Most of the sample group were museum goers in general, 49% visiting museums 2-3 times a year . Another 40% said they went at least once year to a museum; and 11% only once every few years.

When asked what brought them to the Seiberling, a common answer (29%) was “Something to do.” Another 29% said they searched Google and found the Howard County Museum. 18% described their visit as a social outing; while 9% were interested in history; and 9% interested in historic houses. Whatever their expectations, 87% felt their expectations were met. 10% said they were mostly met, while one person said they had no expectations. These results speak to an openness of mind on the part of many of our visitors. They want to do something fun, and even better to do it with family or friends.

There were 69 comments regarding people’s favorite part of their visit. The largest category of comments had something to do with aspects of the house (45%), whether it was the



architecture, woodwork or fireplaces. 25% of the comments highlighted a favorite exhibit or room, like the military exhibits, children's room, or African American history. 10% appreciated learning general aspects of history. 9% enjoyed imagining the history lived in the house and its residents. Others liked the video orientation best (5%) and the QR codes (6%). One person liked that rooms were not roped off.

When asked if there was anything missing from their visit, 46% said no and 54% suggested various activities or opportunities they would want to see. The suggestions varied with no consensus emerging. The list includes learning about servants who worked in the mansion; a gift shop; more on the history of the mansion's renovation, when it was IUK and what parts are original; more on Kingston and his carburetor; a guided tour; and a sign for parking. A few people wished for original furniture, kitchen, and bath, as well as more accessibility, even while they understood why the mansion does not have these items.

Since volunteer hosts greet all guests to our facility, guests were asked if they found information from the host helpful. 100% said yes. When asked to specify what they found helpful, 19% mentioned the hosts' suggestion to notice details of the house, like the fireplaces. 16% enjoyed hearing the history of the house. 16% found the hosts' orientation helpful, allowing them to explore. Others mentioned the ability to ask questions of the host, found the host's suggestion to watch the video orientation helpful, and hearing information about Kokomo's history. Clearly, hosts have a significant positive impact on visitors' experience.

The mission of the historical society is to collect, preserve and share the diverse history of all the peoples of Howard County. While the expectation is that visitors will walk away from their experience with new Information, we realize it always difficult to predict what our visitors will notice or learn . We can extrapolate from what people described as a favorite part. Noticeably, visitors are impressed with aspects of the mansion, whether it is a room or a detail of a room. We are lucky to be housed in such a gracious and stately mansion, with its gorgeous woodwork and fireplaces, and fascinating varied history.

In an attempt to dig a bit deeper, visitors were asked what surprised them, or to note something they feel they learned. Here people mentioned the history of Native Americans and African Americans in Howard County (33 %), industrial history of the area (25%), and some aspect of the house such as the size (14%). Surprise is always a good measure for learning, as people generally have better memory of things that elicit an emotional response.

A study such as this gives us direction and inspiration for the future. We have already ordered a sign for parking in the rear. We will be setting up a gift shop display case to allow visitors the opportunity to buy a memento of their time here. We continue to build up additional resources through the QR codes throughout the museum. It is heartening to see that visitors notice a variety of our exhibits, even mentioning more recent additions. We will continue the practice of occasionally asking visitors what they think, so their voices may continue to have an impact on planning at the Howard County Historical Society.

Projects that got your support in 2021

- Work has begun to repair the Seiberling’s porte cochere
- Work on an accessibility ramp onto east side of Seiberling Mansion begins this spring.



2021 Items in collection	54364	2021 New Items	156
Objects	11732	Objects	26
Photos	30748	Photos	95
Archives	10631	Archives	35
Library	1253	Library	0

About the Howard County Historical Society

The society and the county museum were both born during Indiana’s statewide centennial celebration of 1916. A local Chamber of Commerce exposition to celebrate the occasion included a large historical exhibit, which became one of the leading attractions at the event. At about the same time, the Kokomo Woman’s Department Club, along other civic-minded residents, started the historical society and dedicated the organization to the preservation and dissemination of local history.

The county museum opened in the Carnegie Library in 1923 using many of the artifacts displayed during the 1916 exposition. The collections rapidly outgrew the library, though, with artifacts reportedly stored in several scattered locations. The construction of a new courthouse in 1937 provided an opportunity to pull all of the collections together in one location, where they could be available for public display. A Works Progress Administration project moved the museum there in 1939.

In 1964, Indiana University was preparing to vacate its classrooms in the Seiberling Mansion, which it had owned since 1946, and move to a new campus. The community began to consider what to do with the mansion and the idea of a new home for the county museum was proposed. Almost immediately, the historical society began working toward that goal. In 1971, Howard County took possession of the building in partnership with the society.

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sharon Reed, President
Dave Dubois, Vice President
Tammy Greene, Treasurer
Linda Ferries, Secretary

Judy Brown
Mike Carson
Teresa Fields
Jia Hardimon-Eddington
Mary Ellen Harnish

Larry Hayes
Peggy Hobson
Alyssa Pier
Randy Rusch
Anne Shaw

Lainey Schroer
Lynn Smith
Rev. Will Smith
Cathy Stover

STAFF

Catherine Hughes, Executive Director
Stew Lauterbach, Curator
Heather Fouts, Office Manager
Bill Baldwin, Maintenance

Gale Leiter, Imaging Technician
Randy Smith, Curatorial Assistant
Jill Snyder, Volunteer and
Membership Coordinator

The mission of the Howard County Historical Society
*To engage our community to know, appreciate, and actively
promote the diverse history of Howard County.*

By the numbers...

- 3,582 MUSEUM VISITORS (UP FROM 1431 IN 2021)
 - ◆ VISITOR WHO TRAVELED FARTHEST WAS FROM: SOUTH KOREA
- ELLIOTT HOUSE HAD 52 RENTALS: 18 PARTIES, 12 SHOWERS, 10 GRAD PARTIES, 7 WEDDINGS, 4 MEETINGS, AND 1 MEMORIAL.
- BILL BALDWIN USES 40 YARDS OF MULCH FOR THE GROUNDS EACH YEAR
- HOST AND BOARD VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 3,838 WORK-HOURS
- THIS IS AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION VALUED AT \$76,760! *
- THE JINGLE BELL BOUTIQUE RAISED \$2073.56 FROM VOLUNTEER-MADE ARTISAN GOODS.
- TOP PERFORMING FACEBOOK POST: DELCO RADIO EMPLOYEES' 50 MILLIONTH RADIO HAD A REACH OF 14,700 VIEWS.
- 2.7K VIEWS OF THE CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL TOUR
- 5019 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS (INCREASED FROM 4,656 IN 2021)
- 64,359 FACEBOOK PAGE VIEWS: (INCREASED FROM 40,353 IN 2021)

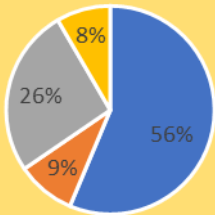
*CALCULATED 1 HOUR=\$20

Financial Statement

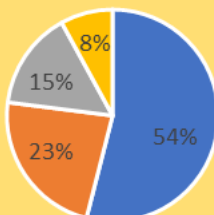
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

		2019		2020		2021
■ Gov't grants & contributions	56%	\$166,562.1	54%	\$174,800	50%	\$17,4800
■ Charitable grants & contributions (foundation grants & donations)	9%	\$27,026.05	23%	\$73,906.15	23%	\$79,870.06
■ Programs (admissions, memberships, events)	26%	\$77,156.72	15%	\$46,773.19	20%	\$71,191.73
■ Investment income	8%	\$24,867.21	8%	\$26,788.05	7%	\$25,842.28
Total	100%	\$295,612.1	100%	\$322,267.4	100%	\$351,704.1

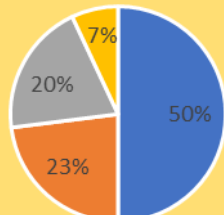
2019 Revenue



2020 Revenue

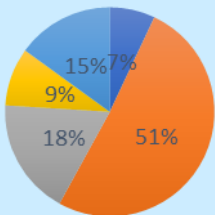


2021 Revenue

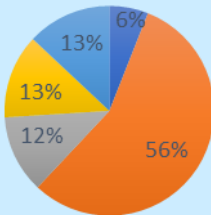


EXPENSES

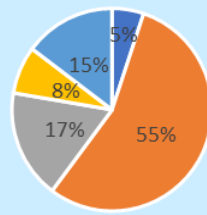
2019 Expenses



2020 Expenses



2021 Expenses



- Administrative
- Salaries
- Programs
- Maintenance
- Utilities

	2019	2020	2021
Administrative	\$20,213.50	\$18,043.50	\$15,730.11
Salaries	\$156,085.00	\$166,733.00	\$169,692.45
Programs	\$53,122.30	\$34,900.69	\$53,628.96
Maintenance	\$28,205.49	\$37,905.88	\$45,367.79
Utilities	\$45,455.75	\$38,048.69	\$23,361.31
Total	\$303,082.04	\$295,631.76	\$307,780.62

2021 Balance Statement

Dec 31, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 · Checking-Main Account 66,437.33

1030 · Savings-Collection Mgmt. 12,596.45

1040 · Checking-Porte Cochere 28,945.77

1070 · Savings-TH Escrow 5,471.09

Total Checking/Savings 113,450.64

Other Current Assets

1100 · Investments

Total 1100 · Investments 72,310.75

Total Other Current Assets 72,310.75

Total Current Assets 185,761.39

Fixed Assets

1501 · Accum. Depr. -549,593.00

1502 · DSH Improvements 230,609.29

1503 · Elliott House 148,922.00

1504 · Heating & Cooling System 290,863.76

1505 · Library 130,855.70

1506 · Mansion Improvements 345,932.79

1507 · Museum Display Cases 8,000.00

1508 · Thompson House 80,000.00

Total Fixed Assets 685,590.54

TOTAL ASSETS 871,351.93

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities 3,520.00

Total Liabilities 3,520.00

Equity

3100 · Building Fund 732,151.63

3110 · Retained Earnings 92,181.70

Net Income 43,498.60

Total Equity 867,831.93

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 871,351.93

To those who supported our mission with gifts to the Annual and Porte Cochere Campaigns in 2021

2021 Porte Cochere Contributors

		Bill & Marty Menges
		Sondra Neal
James Allman	Elan Furs	Dave & Lisa Olmstead
Don & Gail Beaton	Teresa Fields	David & Melody Rayl
Glen Boise	Rosalie Gollner	Don and Marti Pries
Judith Brown in memory of	Glenn Grundmann	Darrell & Jule Rider
Dave Broman	Larry Hayes	John & Marie Roberts
Judith Brown	Bob & Joan Hoch	Randy Rusch
Bill and Sharon Carter	Indiana Historical Society	Allen Safianow
Community Foundation of	Heritage grants	Dana Scruggs
Howard County	Medora Kennedy	Goldie Snavelly
Dave DuBois	Dave & Linda Kitchell	Linda Stout
Charles & Mary Duncan	Doris Lingelbaugh	Cathy Stover
Efroymsen Family Founda- tion	James Long	David Summers
	Thomas & Marsha Maple	Matthew & Ellen Tate

2021 Annual Fund Contributors

Jim Allman	Tri Kappa-Beta Lambda	Bill & Lynn Shirley
Don and Gail Beaton	James Long	Linda Stout
Glen Boise	Dave and Linda Kitchell	David Summers
Ann Bradshaw	Shirley Lee	Dean Tetrick
Margaret Butler	Tom & Marsha Maple	Amy Thompson
Mary Cree	Mary Peabody	
Ken and Linda Ferries	David and Melody Rayl	
Teresa Fields	Kyle & Lisa Rayl	
Sandy Grant	Darrell & Jule Rider	
Rebecca Heath	Craig Severns	



The Howard County Historical Society received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Indiana Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

With gratitude, we recognize those who sponsored HCHS programs in 2021:

Duke Energy	WZWZ 92.5 FM/WMYK Rock 98.5 FM/ WIOU 1350 AM
Community First Bank	Sharon Reed
Financial Builders Credit Union	Jansen's Tax Service & Asphalt
First Farmers Bank & Trust	Sara Pitcher
Indiana University-Kokomo	Davis & MacDonald Law Firm
Stout Funeral Home	City of Kokomo
Kingdom Cards & Games	Solidarity Credit Union
Crystal Wand Creations	Howard County Community Foundation
Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo	Second Baptist Church
Security Federal Savings Bank	Mid-America Beverage
Dave Dubois, Realtor	Larry Hayes, Hayes Bros Construction
The Wyman Group	

Thank You!

The Community Foundation of Howard County: Ensuring Our Future

HCHS is the beneficiary of these endowment funds in the Community Foundation of Howard County:

John Murray Thompson Memorial Fund
Madge Morrison Long and Maxine Morrison Memorial Fund
Ruth S. Hotchkiss Memorial Fund
Sesquicentennial Celebration Fund
Howard County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Beulah Marner Cobb Endowment Fund
Bette Bannon Endowment

Your gift to a Community Foundation endowment will provide financial resources for the society's mission in perpetuity. To learn more, contact the Community Foundation of Howard County at 765-454-7298.

Midwest Maintenance historic carpenters are hard at work on the Seiberling Mansion's porte cochere.



The Howard County Historical Society received a \$50,000 grant to rehabilitate the original porte cochere attached to the Seiberling Mansion, built in 1891. The porch-like structure on the west side of the building needs its roof and columns repaired and reinforced. The project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund and is administered by the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.