



AMES HISTORY MUSEUM

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BY CASIE VANCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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I am pleased to present AHM's 2023 Annual Report. Our staff and volunteers had an extremely busy year with moving into a temporary office and construction beginning on the museum expansion project! Other highlights of the year include:

- While the museum building is closed during construction, AHM staff, board, and volunteers continue to provide regular museum services including traveling exhibits, engaging programming, research assistance, and care of Ames history collections.
- October 2023 marked the 100th anniversary of Jack Trice's tragic death. AHM created a pop-up traveling exhibit covering Trice's early life in Ohio, journey to Ames, last football game, and legacy. The exhibit includes rarely-seen images of Trice and his wife, Cora Mae. It was on display at the Ames Public Library, Multicultural Center at the Memorial Union, and at other locations in the community. In December, the exhibit traveled to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee during the Iowa State bowl game!
- In addition to managing the construction project, staff and board members spent many hours in 2023 on operating plans for the new museum - admission rates, rental policies, research and design of exhibits, selection of furnishings and finishes, and more. We cannot wait to finalize the details and welcome the community to the expanded museum in late summer 2024!

The museum's success is not possible without your support. Whether you've supported AHM as a member, donor, or volunteer, each act of support and encouragement has helped move the organization forward. Thank you!

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# STAFF & BOARD

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nancy Hemphill, Becky Jordan,  
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Board members serve 3-year terms. The Board of Directors meets monthly. Visitors are welcome.

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Margaret Vance  
Dennis Wendell

## CURRENT STAFF

Casie Vance  
Executive Director

Alex Fejfar  
Exhibits Manager

Madeline Mongar-Brodie  
Collections Manager

Savanna Johnson  
Office Assistant

Our mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

## CONTACT US:

[info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org)

515-232-2148

[www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org)



# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



**4,401**

visitors and program attendees  
75 programs and events



**193,512**

engagement on social media  
7,905 Facebook followers

**270**

research requests answered  
919 digitized resources

**28**

donations of artifacts and  
archival materials  
5,686 collections records online



**2,296**

volunteer hours by 60 volunteers  
time valued at \$64,495



Follow AHM on social media



# 2023 FINANCIALS

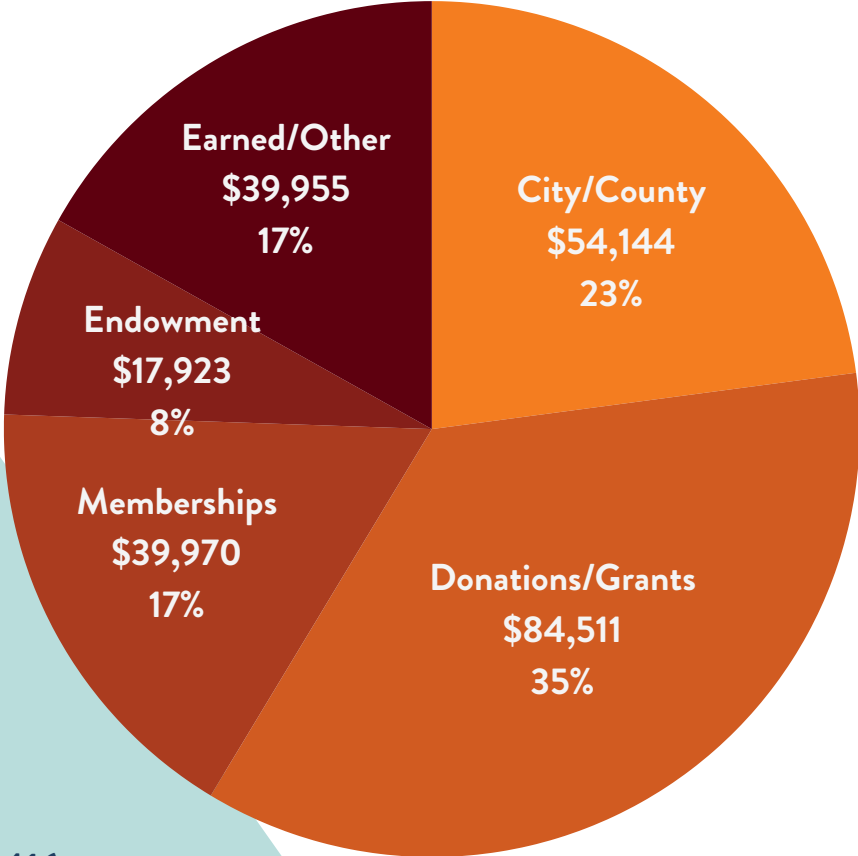
## MAKING HISTORY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Donations received as of December 31, 2023: \$2,397,693

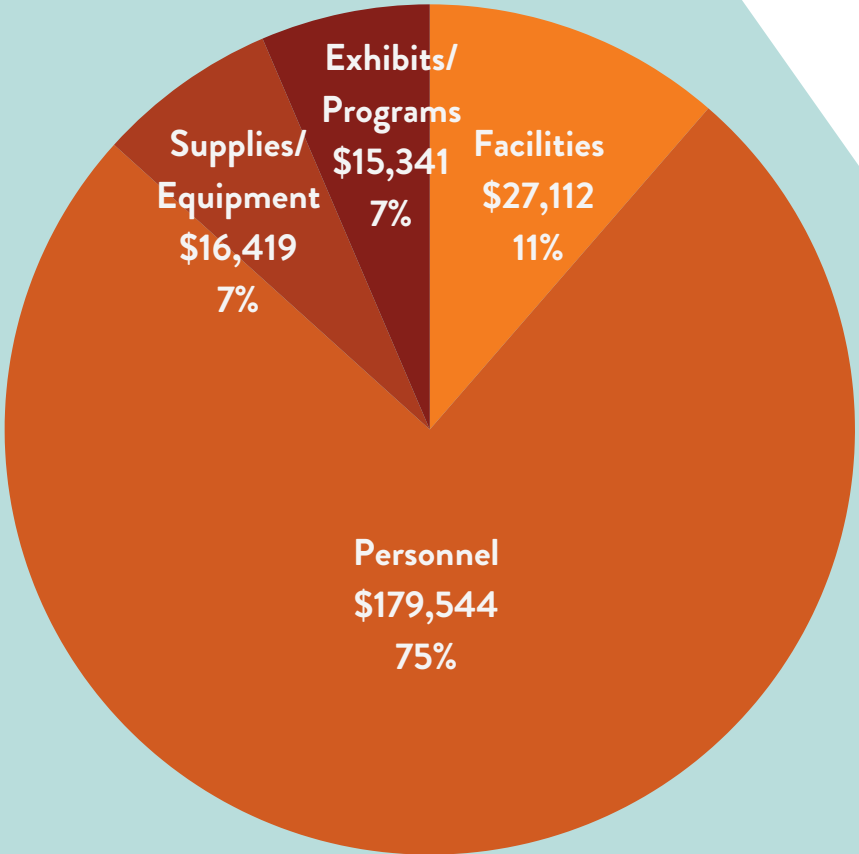
Pledges due 2024-2027: \$1,302,704

Total raised as of December 31, 2023: \$3,700,397

## OPERATING INCOME - \$236,503



## OPERATING EXPENSES - \$238,416



## ENDOWMENT FUND

Total in endowment funds as of December 31, 2023: \$415,730

## OPERATING RESERVES

Income minus expenses: -\$1,913 (taken from operating reserves)

Total reserves as of December 31, 2023: \$59,515

# 2023 VOLUNTEERS

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Tracey Stoll  
Kathy Svec  
Ardy Ulrichson  
Dean Ulrichson  
Kellen Vance  
Joyce Vegge  
Sharon Wirth  
Hank Zaletel

THANK YOU for  
volunteering!



# COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

- Nearly 300 objects were cataloged and entered into PastPerfect museum software. More than 5,600 artifacts in AHM's permanent collection are searchable and accessible to the public through PastPerfect Online on AHM's website.
- Interesting artifact donations received in 2023 include a Tip-Top Lounge jacket, a 1940s sign from the downtown depot, and original artwork by Ames artists Joy Munn and Velma Rayness.
- In addition to artifacts, AHM received several archival donations including Altrusa International of Ames materials, early 20th century postcards, detailed farmstead expense records from the Ringgenberg family, and a poster for a 1964 baseball game at Brookside Park between the Ames Merchants and the Kansas City Monarchs.
- The "Ames in Art" feature exhibit was on display through mid-May when the museum closed for renovations.
- AHM received support from the Discover Ames Community Grant Program to install a vinyl mural and create a pop-up traveling exhibit in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Jack Trice's death.



# PROGRAMS & ENGAGEMENT

- Another successful lecture series took place February through May. The lectures were hybrid - at Ames Public Library and streamed via Zoom. Lecture recordings are available to view on AHM's YouTube page.
- Hoggatt School was open each Sunday afternoon from June 4 through July 30. Programs included American flag history, schoolyard games, broom-making demonstration, and more.
- The groundbreaking ceremony for the museum expansion project was held on June 17 in conjunction with AHM's annual ice cream social.
- Staff and volunteers participated in many community events including 515 Week, Art Walk, Music Walk, 4th of July parade, Octagon Art Festival, Pridefest, and Downtown Trick-or-Treat.
- The annual benefit dinner in August was attended by 146 people. Awards were given to Sharon Wirth, the Burgason Family, and Johnie Hammond. The event was 1950s-themed and included successful live auction, raffle, and fund-the-need auction. The event netted more than \$25,000 for the museum's operating budget!
- AHM partnered with Ames Public Library for several lectures, Ames Main Street and Ames Historic Preservation Commission for History Walk, University Museums for Yuletide at the Farm House, and many other organizations for exhibits and projects.





# EXPANSION PROJECT



- In April, AHM was awarded a \$400,000 Enhance Iowa Community Attraction & Tourism Grant from the State of Iowa. AHM successfully raised more than \$125,000 in matching funds.
- In June, AHM staff and volunteers packed up the building and moved into temporary storage, including offices and archives.
- The construction project broke ground June 17, with interior walls demolished by AHM staff and volunteers soon after.
- Henkel Construction Company began onsite work in September. Henkel's crews completed demolition, roughed in electrical and mechanical, replaced the roof and raised the ceiling height of the second floor for new galleries, installed a basement drainage system in the Pantorium, and began construction of new walls.
- In December, Henkel erected the 880 square foot addition, which will connect the two buildings and provide centralized wayfinding with an elevator and staircase. Each panel of the precast concrete walls was set into place with a crane.
- Work will continue into the new year, with a grand opening for the expanded museum planned for late summer 2024.

The museum expansion project includes restoration of the historic Ames Pantorium, renovation of the museum building at the corner of 5th and Douglas, and an addition to connect the buildings.

The expanded museum will include unique spaces for community use, five times more exhibit gallery space, and room to house and care for artifacts and archival materials onsite.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## 2023 PROJECT AND EVENT PARTNERS

Andy & Leslea Abrahamsen  
Ames Branch of the NAACP  
Ames Chamber of Commerce  
Ames Foundation  
Ames Golf & Country Club  
Ames High School Alumni Association  
Ames Main Street  
Ames Public Library  
Ames Public Library Friends Foundation  
Ames Silversmithing  
Avec Design + Build  
Back Alley House Plants  
Bar La Tosca  
Gloria Betcher & Doug Biggs  
Blank Park Zoo  
Burgie's Coffee  
Center Grove Orchard  
Chocolaterie Stam  
City of Ames  
City of Ames Historic Preservation Commission  
Clayton Farms  
Community Academy  
CPMI Event Center  
Crumbl Cookies  
Discover Ames  
Discover Ames Community Grant Program  
Dog-Eared Books  
Emerhoff's Footwear  
Linda Emmerson  
Everts Flowers Home & Gifts  
Bill & Deb Fennelly  
The Filling Station  
Dana Fischer  
Jon Fleming  
Flight Bar + Grille

Green Hills  
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Henkel Construction Company  
Hy-Vee Lincoln Center & West Lincoln Way  
Iowa Arboretum  
Iowa State University Alumni Association  
Iowa State University Committee on Lectures  
Iowa State University Department of History  
Iowa State University Memorial Union Multicultural Center  
Jack Trice 100 Commemoration Committee  
JAX Outdoor Gear  
KASI-AM Radio  
KHOI Community Radio  
League of Women Voters of Ames & Story County  
Life Choices at Bethany  
Terry Lowman & Mark Kassis  
Chris Martin  
Mayhem Collectibles  
Mel's Sweet Occasions  
Moorman Clothiers  
National Animal Disease Center  
National Civil Rights Museum  
Northcrest Community  
Octagon Center for the Arts  
Photosynthesis  
Prints Copy Center  
Pumpkin Patch  
Reiman Gardens  
Seven Oaks Recreation  
Sign Gypsies Ames  
Sweet Caroline's Kitchen & Cocktails  
Tres Teal  
University Museums, Iowa State University  
Fritz Wehrenberg & Jennie LeGates  
Worldly Goods



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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## MAKING HISTORY CAMPAIGN DONORS AS OF 12/31/2023

### **\$400,000**

Enhance Iowa Community  
Attractions & Tourism Grant

### **\$250,000+**

Kay and Roger Berger  
Bob Bourne

### **\$100,000-\$249,999**

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