Trumbull County Historical Society

2020 Annual Report
I am even more impressed than ever by our director, staff, volunteers, and board of the Trumbull County Historical Society after watching them work and flourish during the historic global pandemic of 2020. As I write this, the pandemic is still in full force yet it has not limited TCHS from pursuing its mission!

I would like to start with accolades for our Director Meghan Reed who led staff and board members through a tumultuous year and managed to expand our outreach through online platforms during social distancing. Ms. Reed also applied for and received numerous grants and sought donations to successfully maintain the projected revenues for the 2020 budget. I want to recognize and thank our major donors who are listed herein; without their support TCHS would have suffered greatly from lost revenues with the elimination of in-person programming and multiple fundraisers typically held each year. We managed to change gears and host a drive-thru version of our annual Oktoberfest on the Square, thanks in large part to organizer Sarah Hirt Buzulencia, Modern Methods Brewery, and our event sponsors!

I have said it before and it is worth repeating – working with the great leaders and supporters of TCHS is an honor. This group of dedicated, hardworking and passionate individuals have accomplished amazing things in 2020. Most notably, work began on the development of the Morgan History Center. TCHS purchased the historic home on Millionaire’s Row in the heart of Warren’s central business district in 2019 to create a research and welcome center space that will also serve as a focal point for a growing downtown cultural heritage district. We are on our way to completion with an estimated opening date of Spring 2021, and are excited to become a destination point for cultural heritage as well as an educational resource to our region. My goal as President remains to support and build on the preservation efforts that have been ongoing since the 1800’s throughout my tenure.

I encourage anyone who has an interest in history and a love for their community to join us! Become a member! Be a part of history!

Julie Green
President
A Message from the Director

2020 served as a year of learning in so many ways. Developing online programming in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, creating virtual alternatives for educators and parents, managing the renovation of the Morgan History Center as an expansion of our campus, and building our capacity and our team as we have never done before.

It has been a humbling year. In many ways this was the biggest year of growth TCHS has ever seen. We now have three staff members and a full-time AmeriCorps History Service Corps member to support our programs and collections. We received grant funds to meet our goals to create new exhibit and classroom spaces, properly preserve our collection of over 20,000 objects, and share the rich history of our community with both residents and with tourists.

As our organization has developed, we have grown to acknowledge both our strengths and our challenges, learning more about the communities we have not served and building bridges to ensure TCHS is a community resource that reflects all of Trumbull County’s residents.

I am so proud of our team, our staff, our board, our amazing volunteers and funders who understand the importance that history has on developing the economy and collective identity of Warren and Trumbull County. The grit, drive, and hustle of our staff has accomplished an impressive array of programming and preservation projects in partnership with local community members, nonprofit groups, businesses, foundations, and local government. It is because of these collaborations that we succeed with our work.

Right – Learn about our programming at www.TrumbullCountyHistory.org

Mission Statement

TCHS collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Warren and Trumbull County to educate diverse regional communities about the people and events that have shaped its rich history.
Our Team

**Meghan Reed**, director of TCHS, holds a B.A. in history and English from Washington & Jefferson College and an M.A. in Public History from the University of North Carolina–Greensboro. She started at TCHS in 2015, and since that time has led the transition from an all-volunteer to a staffed organization, specializing in strategic planning, financial development, and developing museums as community assets. She currently serves as the President of the W.D. Packard Foundation and sits on the Ohio Historic Preservation Planning Committee. In 2018, she was awarded the Emerging Museum Professional of the Year award from the Ohio Museums Association, and was selected as an MVP as part of the 25 under 35 awards in 2019.

**Sarah Moell** has been with TCHS since 2019 and currently serves as Curator of Collections & Research. She received her B.A. in History and World Religions from Ohio University and interned at the Lorain Historical Society before returning to OU for her Master’s in Nonprofit Public Administration and Museum Studies. While with TCHS, two of her main projects have been working on digitizing the collection and launching the Voices Oral History Project. Sarah currently serves as a Region 4 representative for the Ohio Local History Alliance.

**Gabriella Cantelmo** holds an undergraduate degree in Museum Studies and Art History from Walsh University, and is currently completing a Masters of Library and Information Science through Kent State. Joining TCHS as a Special Projects Associate in 2020, she comes to TCHS after working as the Museum Store Manager & Administrative Assistant at the Penobscot Marine Museum in Maine. Her experience spans across the museum field, with her passion being in collections and exhibit work.

**Annie Talmadge** came to TCHS in 2020 as part of the Ohio History Service Corps, a statewide initiative to connect local history organizations to capacity building resources. She holds an MBA from University of Findlay and a BA from Ohio University in Anthropology, during which time she worked as a research assistant studying historic death rates in Appalachia. She also served at the Hancock Parks District and at the Hancock Historical Museum before moving to Warren. This year, she became a Certified Interpretive Guide through NAIA.
Community Investment

$300,000 received in grants to support collections, education, and historic preservation projects. The largest of these funds, a $202,634 grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services, is a three-year cycle to create a museum quality collections storage facility for over 20,000 artifacts.

$73,634 received in private donations.

Community Partners

The Edwards House closed for tours in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, and TCHS relied on digital content to reach the public! We did this primarily through Zoom and Facebook, where updates on the Morgan History Center renovations and the Black History Friday posts held the highest engagements throughout the year.

INCOME

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ASSETS

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LIABILITIES

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The support of many community partners and funders strengthen our work and allow us to increase the number of people we reach. This year, we impacted more people than ever before and increased our operation and program budgets to fund more staff, digitize more of our collection, create exhibits for the community, and preserve many of the items in our care.

Facebook: 140,341 reached through posts

Zoom: 1,150 participants reached for lectures and walking tours
In March 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 quarantine, TCHS transitioned our in-person programming to develop a series of virtual lectures and walking tours.

Above – One of the most difficult aspects of the pandemic for TCHS was losing our volunteer base who supported so much of our work at the office. To continue utilizing their skills and talents, TCHS launched the Trumbull County Encyclopedia, with entries submitted of people and businesses in our area to develop an accessible database for residents and researchers.

Right – Eight History at Home lessons were released for parents tasked with becoming teachers, and we sought social media and e-blast avenues to increase our capacity to get information to the public.
Operation: Restoration

Phase 1: In September 2020, we broke ground on the Morgan History Center, beginning primarily the interior restoration of the building. This phase included electric updates, constructing a new ADA accessible restroom, and interior flooring and paint.

The first exhibit to open in this space, Trumbull County A-Z, will be launched Spring 2021.

Phase 2: Exterior restoration, including roof repairs, exterior paint, and porch renovations

Phase 3: Construct an addition to the back of the building to house a museum quality collections storage facility and research center.

Donors to Operation: Restoration

Appalachian Regional Commission
The Raymond L. & Janice M. Bland Trust
Marcia Levy
Jackie Mills James
Sarah Hirt Buzulencia
Cindee & Mark Mines

Dave Ambrose
Brian & Jennifer Annandono
Laura & David Boich
Raymond Cline
Richard & Janice Fleischer
Julie & Jim Green
Janet Hazlette
Adele Jones
Leslie King
Patricia Latham & William Mullane
Dianne Martin
James McFarland
Colleen Patchin
Kerri & Gene Roberts
Jill Sakonyi
William & Dorothy Sauer
Eric & Sue Thompson
Jan Vaughn
Betty Kay Womer
VOICES Oral History Project

This oral history project focuses on elders in Warren’s Black community. Supported through the Raymond John Wean Foundation’s Community Investment grant and an Ohio Humanities planning grant, Voices is comprised of interviews that are available to the public, researchers, and educators on the Voices website.

In 2020, TCHS was able to launch the Voices website that houses over 100 clips from 18 interviews that are searchable by theme, topic, and person. It will be continuously added to as the project continues and more interviews are collected.

Visit the website and listen to the interviews at www.voicesoftc.org.

The Voices website includes a series of resources targeted to Grades 4-8 and High School/College students to best utilize the Voices interviews as learning tools. The packets include the following topics:

• Civil Rights Movement
• The Great Migration
• Segregation and Opportunity
• Prison Reform
• Cultures & Traditions

Listen to the interviews at www.voicesoftc.org.

Interviewees Charles Arnold, Michalene Hughley, and Robert Saffold
Collections and Archives

TCHS continued fulfilling our Inspire! Grants for Small Museums grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to inventory, rehouse, and digitize 5,000 high priority items in our archives. At the end of 2020 we passed the halfway point and are on track to complete this project by Spring of 2021.

In 2020, TCHS received the Museums for America grant through IMLS to inventory, rehouse, and digitize the objects within our collection. This grant will allow TCHS to make our entire collection available to the public through Catalogit, our online database.

Grant funds allowed this project to be supported by conservators Terri Schindel and Siegfried Rempel of the Museum Training Network out of Phoenix, Arizona. They were onsite with us for 10 days in November 2020 to review the project’s progress, train staff, and give insight into best practices.

Left – Conservators Terri Schindel and Siegfried Rempel debrief with TCHS staff on updates regarding the collections rehousing and inventory project.

Right – Over 80 archival boxes, comprising over 3,000 items, have been purchased, inventoried, and organized to properly preserve documents and photographs in our collection.

2020 Donors to the Collection

Sarah Hirt Buzulencia
Bryant Dow & Family
Martha & Richard Ellers
Fairfield County Historical Society
John Fowley
Julie Green
Frederick Harris
Rebecca Heindl
Darlene Luoma
Sue Mangino
Patricia Meola
Nancy Nadar
Monica Radkowski
Tony & Pam Scofer
The Skoworiski Family
Due to our success with this first funding round, we were eligible and did apply for an Implementation Grant to continue this work, which we hope to move forward into 2022 by supporting professional conservator work for nationally significant objects here in Trumbull County.

Special Projects

In 2020, TCHS was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant to begin planning activities as part of the national “A More Perfect Union” initiative. Developing projects related to the United States’ 250th anniversary in 2026, “A More Perfect Union” supports work that deepens and diversifies our understanding of the American identity.

TCHS is using these funds to begin planning a countywide traveling exhibit for 2026. Funds allowed us to partner with 10 other countywide history-based collecting institutions (historical societies, libraries, etc.) to begin the process of identifying “Trumbull Treasures” for possible inclusion in the exhibit. Grant dollars paid for two conservators from the Museum Training Network in Phoenix, Arizona, to be onsite with us for ten days and complete on-site Collections Assessments with each of the participating groups to better understand the unique needs of each volunteer-run organization.

Conservators Terri Schindel and Siegfried Rempel work with the Kinsman Free Library and the Kinsman Historical Society to complete an onsite assessment of their historical collections.
2020 Members

Life Members
Gerald Aurand
Eileen Blaney
Gina Bodor
Nancy Brant
Cafaro Foundation
Tami Candella
Martha Ellers
Genevieve Germaniuk
John & Lynn Gibson
Albert Guarnieri
Eileen Hazel
Phyllis Hess
Gerald Kahler
Patricia Kearney
Dr. James R. LaPolla
Dr. Wayne Lawrence
Marcia Levy
Arlene Logan
James P. Marsh
Michael & Lauren Mathews
James D. McFarland
William McGuire, Esq.
Jackie Mills
Charlotte Moore*
Gary Rich, Esq.

Ruth Sharec
Terry & Judi Sheridan
Diane Starr
Michael Stephens
John B. Taylor
Shelley Taylor
Raymond Vanderpool
Donald George Williams
Mike Wilson
Barbara Wright
Kevin Wyndham

John Stark Edwards Society
($500-$1,000)
Richard Ellers
Julie & James Green

Louisa Morris Montgomery
($250-$499)
John & Teri Lacy
Patricia Latham
& William Mullane

Thomas Denny Webb Society
($51-$249)
Bill Abell
Linda & Raymond Barnum
Laura & David Boich
Don & Cheryl Bonini
Chris & Eric Brugler
Michael & Sarah Buzulencia
Margaret & David Chiarella
Liz Clark
Robert Duda
Korey Gall
Dr. Gregory & Lisa George
Dr. Lance Grahn
Thomas Groth
Anthony Iannucci
Brent & Barbara Katzenberger
Bill Kaye
Sue Kindelberger
Alexander Lardis
Ed Lavelle
Dianne Martin
Dan & Sharlene Mathey
Cindee & Mark Mines
Curtis & Gerri Moll
Tom & Linda Petrilla
Diedre Petrosky
Nancy & Bob Reed
Mitzi Sabelia
Alex & Cynthia Savakis
Robert & Jennifer Snedden
Matthew Steffy
Sheldon & Rebecca Taft
Eric Thompson
Jan Vaughn
John & M.A. Vlad
Mark & Cindy Waltko

Edward & Janet Bolino
Bobbie Brown
Debbie & Lee Bynum
Charles & Karen Dahmen
William & Mary Dennis
Vincent J. Flask
Rick & Janice Fleischer
Mary & Bruce Gump
Kathylu & Jim* Herriman
John & Annita Homlitas
Kristy Johnson
Pasquale & Carrie LaRocca
Irene & Ron McCollum
Janet McGeough
Megan Mines-Hall
Bill & Fran Nolan
Colleen Patchin
Barbara Paulik
Donna & Scot Phillips
Carolyn Price
Kerri & Cecil Roberts
Patricia & Wayne Rodgers
Fred & Janet Schweitzer
Dr. Robert Walton
James & Jean Winger
Wendy & Mark Wagner
Michael & Deborah Zador

Individual ($25)
David Ambrose
LuWayne Annos
Shirley Bell
Jeff Brookbank
Joyce Brothers
Rosemary Campany

Family ($50)
Gladys & Carl Antonelli
Ronald & Susan Armbruster
Terry & David Bayowski
Dennis Blank

2020 Members

Patricia Scarmuzzi
Dolores Scerba
Kathy Seemann
Sue Shafer
Nancy Stanley
Eric Templeton
Sally Thomas
Melanie Vincent
Nicole Walker
Ted Walsh
David Wilson
Betty Kay Womer
Greg Wykle
Roy Yancey
Donald Yauger
Barbara Young
Karl Zerovich

* Deceased
Postcard image of Warren’s City Hall on Courthouse Square. The building served as City Hall from 1874 until fire destroyed the building in 1916.