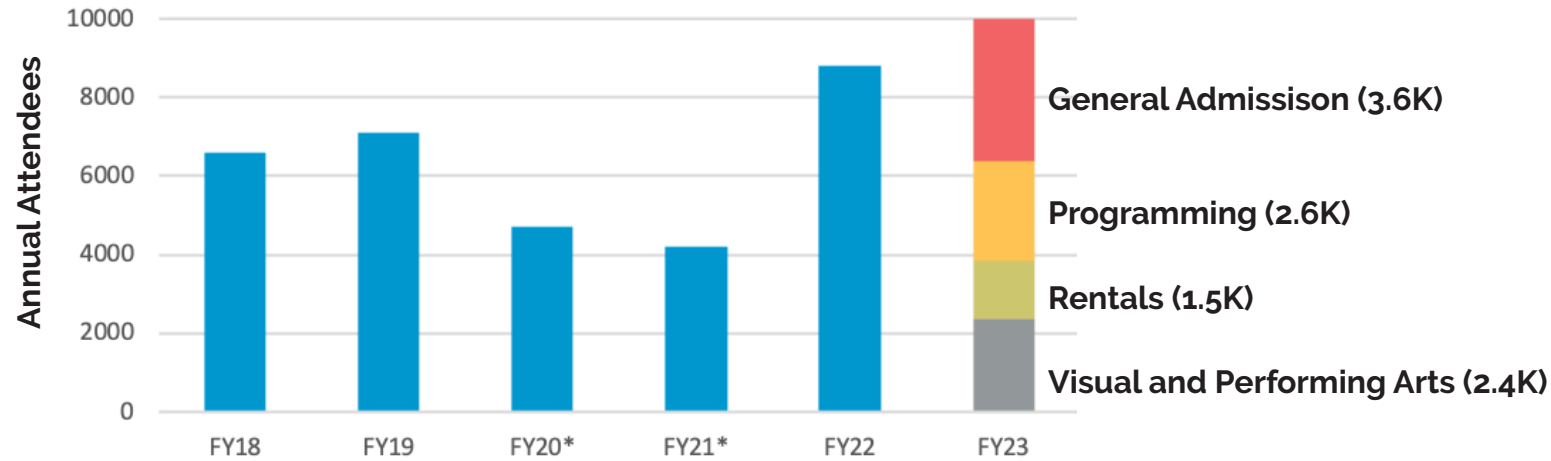


Neill-Cochran House Museum



2022-2023 Annual Report

## Annual Visitors

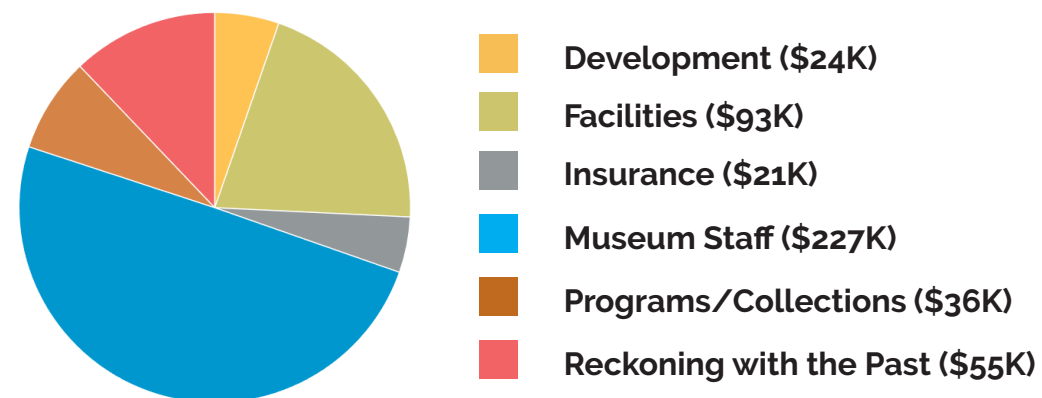


\*We are proud to have maintained these strong numbers in the face of COVID-19.

## Total Income this Fiscal Year: \$556K



## Total Expense this Fiscal Year: \$438K



Figures above (and information in this report) reflect fiscal year beginning June 1, 2022 and ending May 31, 2023.

Cover Image: Tavel Bristol-Joseph (Canje), Amanda Turner (Olamaie), and Damien Brockway (Distant Relatives). © Ricardo B. Brazziell - USA TODAY NETWORK

On behalf of the Board of Managers of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas (NSCDA-TX) and the Museum's Board and staff, we are honored to present the Sixth Annual Report for the Neill-Cochran House Museum.

During FY2023 we continued to mount meaningful and engaging art exhibitions with Mark Smith's *Hope Suite* and Rejina Thomas's *Signs and Symbols: The Trees Are Talking*. One powerful evening last September we gathered at the LBJ Presidential Library for a screening of the *Hope Suite* set to cello orchestration composed for the evening. We also welcomed many performing artists, including the ever-popular Ventana Ballet, Filigree Theater, Beerthoven, and Bottle Alley Theater. And we saw 10,000 visitors over the course of the year.

In October, we commenced restoration of the Slave Quarters, part of the Reckoning with the Past: The Untold Story of Race in Austin (RWP) project. The genesis for this work came in 2016 when we realized that the structure we had always called "the Dependency" was built as a slave dwelling. Over the next six years, we conducted research in collaboration with Dr. Tara Dudley (UT-Austin School of Architecture) and her students. This work has already resulted in an exhibition and subsequent book, *Reckoning with the Past: Slavery, Segregation, and Gentrification in Austin* (2021), now in its second printing. Earlier this spring Ted Lee Eubanks, a certified interpretive planner, completed a new interpretive plan for the Slave Quarters.

In FY23 the Powell Foundation, the Summerlee Foundation, the Moody Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Still Water Foundation, the Austin Community Foundation, and the Texas Historical Foundation all supported this important work. Over the next fiscal year we will receive support from the City of Austin Heritage Tourism division and Preservation Austin and have completely funded the project's current needs, both in restoration and in interpretation.

This spring's fundraiser for the RWP project, *An Evening with Three Iconic Chefs*, brought together a wide cross-section of the Austin community to enjoy small plates provided by three standout Black Austin chefs – Tavel Bristol-Joseph, Amanda Turner, and Damien Brockway. Tavel and Damien were honored as James Beard finalists just weeks before our event. After dinner, the chefs participated in a moderated panel to discuss their culinary influences and the Austin dining scene. This inspiring evening both raised funds for the project and generated impact for the broader Austin community.

Frequently we are asked how the RWP project cross-pollinates with our broader site experience. This spring we installed a historic teaching garden in collaboration with a BSA Scout's Eagle project. The project cleared overgrown beds along the south and west facades of the 1980 addition to make way for a new garden. One section of the garden focuses on the years around 1855 when our site was under construction and the other includes herbs and plants Mary Cochran Bohls remembers from her childhood, as well as a peach tree that recalls the orchard that once occupied the land north of the House. A new metal cistern provides water for the garden and highlights the important role water storage played in Austin during the 19th century (and today).

The buzz surrounding the RWP project has brought new relationships to the Museum, most excitingly with the Austin Police Department Cadet training program. APD wants their officers to understand the city they are serving and considers Austin history to be a vital part of that education. Every APD cadet now visits the NCHM to learn about Austin history. This is one way we can give back to our community and all of us - staff and NCHM board - are honored to have that opportunity.

Thank you for the support that made our achievements of the last year possible. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum one day soon.

*Ann W. Harder*  
Ann W. Harder  
President, NSCDA-TX

*Karen Pope*  
Karen Pope  
Chair, NCHM Committee

*Rowena Dasch*  
Rowena Dasch  
Executive Director, NCHM

# An Evening with Three Iconic Chefs

On March 4th, the Neill-Cochran House Museum welcomed three iconic Austin Chefs - Tavel Bristol-Joseph of Canje, Damien Brockway of Distant Relatives, and Amanda Turner of Olemaie - to share their craft and experiences. 150 guests enjoyed an evening of great food and a panel discussion with the three chefs led by Virginia Cumberbatch.



## Thank You to Our Supporters



### Full Table

Laraine Gilmore and Rowena & Kevin Dasch  
Mrs. Sonia W. Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Johnson  
Susan & Chris Mack  
Nicholson Luxury Travel

### Half Table

Baker Botts  
Judy Farrell  
Titos  
Yeti

### Reserved Seating

Emmer & Rye  
Peter Flagg Maxson & Jack Taylor  
Six Square - Austin's Black Cultural District

### General

Austin INFINITI  
Eileen Arnold Moody

# Thank You to Our RWP Sponsors

The Reckoning with the Past: The Untold Story of Race in Austin (RWP) project officially broke ground in late October. The staff and visitors have enjoyed seeing preservation in action as we restore the NCHM Slave Quarters to its original state. To learn more about the project, or to become a sponsor, visit [www.nchmuseum.org/slave-quarters](http://www.nchmuseum.org/slave-quarters).

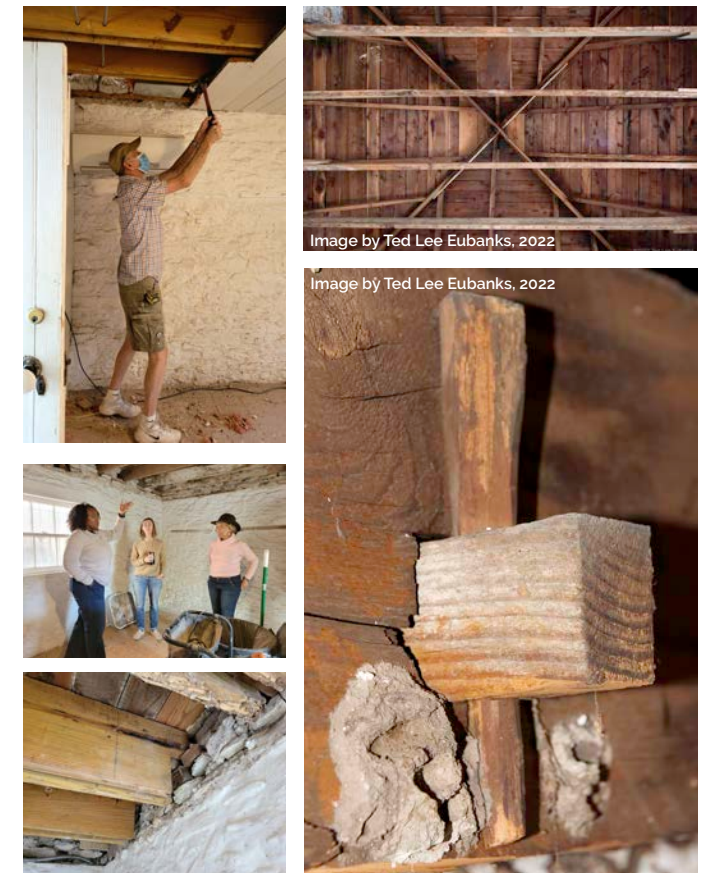


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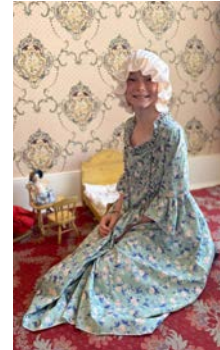
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*"The staff and administrators of Neill-Cochran House Museum were such a delight to work with. They went above and beyond to help make The Filigree Theatre's production of The Lady From the Sea a success." -Elizabeth V. Newman, Artistic Director, The Filigree Theatre*



*"It's an experience unlike any other." -Alicia P. Evans*



### NCHM Museum Staff

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- Paul Cato  
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- Rowena Houghton Dasch  
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- Karen Kincaid Brady  
Business and Programming Director



*"A very cool place to visit. I went there for a wedding, walking around the museum was like experiencing life in that beautiful house. Highly recommended!" -Tina Huang*



*"So gorgeous! I went for The Nutcracker and it was so creative and engaging." -Angel Summers*

- Not Pictured
- Evan Allbritton  
Intern
- Loren Fiebrich  
Visitor Services
- Alex Zhang  
Intern

# 2022-2023 NCHM Members

NCHM Membership provides exclusive benefits like free admission to the historic house museum and slave quarters at any time, reduced cost for guided tours and programming, and a 10% discount at our gift shop. Higher-level memberships enjoy access for two to Modern Times, Stories on the Lawn, and historically focused travel opportunities. Visit [nchmuseum.org/get-involved](http://nchmuseum.org/get-involved) to join this fun and vibrant community.

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## Thank You to the Members of the Legacy Society

Members of the Legacy Society pay us the greatest compliment by placing the NSCDA-TX in their future giving plans. Through our Legacy Now or Legacy Later program, we welcome everyone to invest in the long term stability of the Neill-Cochran House Museum. Please Contact Rowena Dasch at [rhdasch@nchmuseum.org](mailto:rhdasch@nchmuseum.org) for more information.

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## Thank You to Our Historic Teaching Garden Donors

On March 5th and April 8th Litty Dasch led BSA Troop 72 in breaking ground and installing an Historic Teaching Garden behind the NCHM. The project fulfilled Litty's requirements to become an Eagle Scout. Thank you to all our donors for making this possible.

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Thank you to all our generous donors. With your support, the Neill-Cochran House Museum brings history to life. Donations are recorded for our fiscal year which runs June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. If there is an error or omission, please contact us at 512.478-2335.





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**LAST STORY**  
 told by Gene  
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**100+** **5** performing  
 arts groups in  
**THREE MONTHS**  
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 Books  
**5** **STUDENT**  
**FIELD TRIP**  
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**TWELVE**  
**BAGS**  
 of yard trash  
 removed for  
**Teaching Garden**

**675**  
**children**  
 welcomed  
 to the  
**MUSEUM**



**Neill-Cochran**  
**House Museum**

**17**  
 new plants in

**ONE**  
**HISTORIC**  
**GARDEN**

**150**  
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 and

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 welcomed at

**AN EVENING**  
**WITH THREE**  
**ICONIC**  
**AUSTIN**  
**CHEFS**

**140+** **Volunteers**

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 ON  
**HALLOWEEN**

**200**  
 horse herb  
 plants  
 planted in  
 the lawn

**10,000** **Visitors**

**3** **ground-**  
**breaking**  
 exhibits