



## January 2023 Director's Report

Well, we finished the year! Happy New Year to all! We have indeed had a successful year, but I won't be recapping that with this report. We are working on an annual report and hope to have that by the end of the month. We are closed for the month of January and will be using that time to get our floors stripped and waxed for the coming season as well as some other small projects that we are working on.

We are going to have our annual report soon, so a lot of the data we acquired with our treasurer's report will be available. It was pretty much a break-even year, with close to \$70,000 in income and expenses. We did spend over \$20,000 in maintenance this year. We are committed to preserving the Pump House.

With that in mind, we are working on plans for a capital improvement campaign which will be announced shortly. It goes without saying the outside brick and stonework is in sad repair and will take almost \$270,000 to bring it back so that it lasts another 100 years. That's the value of an old building, built to last. It was built in 1883! We are entering it's 140<sup>th</sup> year! The state has committed around \$129,000 for this project, so they agree it needs fixed. Such a great building housing local art for all of the area to share and showcase local talent.

This project goes right along with the Choose Chillicothe Committee that I sit on. The committee finished its work and made a public presentation last week attended by over 100 people. The park is one of the major focuses of the committee, along with Riverside street and the old Tiffin School lot. In the park, it is recommended that just east of the Paint Street entrance an amphitheater be created, the skate park be moved across the street towards Water Street and a Pump Track for mountain bikers added. A new pickle ball court would go in where the skate park is presently, and all new parking added. Go to [choosechillicothe.com](http://choosechillicothe.com) and see the whole plan. Very impressive.

One of the nice collaborations we had this year (and we had many) was with the Mighty Children's Museum and their skate park. From about Thanksgiving until New Year's they stayed warm in our building to sell tickets for skate rentals and skating. Their attendance was about the same overall but saw an exponential growth as the season flowed. It took a while for the word to get out on their new location. They would like to be there with us next year and keep the location. They want to help us with our decorations for the holiday season. We have tried to get the Shine ON committee which does a fantastic job of lighting to park to come over our way, but so far, they have not been able to do so. This year, Stephen Steele and I found some old lights in the basement and lit all the bushes around our building. But they certainly could be better. I feel that with the help from the MCM we can light it up much better next year. The MCM plans to lobby the Shine On committee to that end. My wife is on the committee, so my lobbying is limited. Ha!

So, as MGM confirms, Pump House building location is out of the way of the main traffic in the park. I recently talked with Bill Bonner about getting road signs put up directing visitors to us. I outlined to him the placement of three signs that would significantly help us in that regard. To my surprise, he informed me that signs were a part of the park improvements recommended by the Choose Chillicothe Committee. According to Bill, plans are moving forward for that project. I am anxious to see a formal announcement on this.

Our Holiday show was more successful than anytime since I've been here, and this was my third. John Victor especially helped market and sell the event. Patrick Sims was also a big help. It turned out to be the biggest show of the year, with almost \$3,000 in sales. We had a great opening with very good attendance. Cheri Noel, volunteer and board member, put out her usual fantastic spread of food for the guests and almost all of the artists were there. It helps when the artists are there for the opening!

Our February Show, The Best of Ross County, is opening February 2, from 6:30-8:30. It is sponsored by The Atomic Employee's Credit Union. Schools have not had so much off time this year, so we hope to get back to the levels of the past where we have art both upstairs and down. The show will be judged, ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. It is always a good show. The 2023 calendar is complete and available on our web site.

In March the board plans our Annual Meeting. Through a grant written by board members and volunteers Alice Reynolds and Vicki Pritchard, art classes will be available to members and announced soon. Board President Mike Throne was recently elected to lead the Ohio Chamber Association of Chamber leaders, and plan to use his skills to help lead the board with the help of a facilitator to develop a scope and sequence of the direction of the Pump House into the future!

Other happenings in our downtown include Restaurant Week January 11-30, the annual Chocolate Walk which will be February 11<sup>th</sup>, and a Bar Crawl March 18<sup>th</sup>, following St. Patrick's Day March 11<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a sign for events listed on Paint Street that will be located in the alley beside the ice cream store posting events for visitors to engage. It is great to see our Chillicothe Downtown flourish and even better to be a part of it!