



2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

Explore. Engage. Educate.

## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I reflect on the past year with pride and excitement as I share the milestones shaping the Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park. Our annual report unfolds a narrative of progress, engagement, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. Our focus is set on the future with the completion of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, driving towards sustainable growth, innovative programming, and enhanced community impact.

Over the past year, in the wake of our Phase I: Charting Our New Course Campaign, we celebrated the completion of significant projects.

The Merrill Family Pavilion and deep water dock are testaments to our commitment to maritime heritage. Our mission of preserving maritime history takes a leap forward through our oral histories, the stories and voices of our past. The *Wilma Lee* hosted over 5000 guests; our concerts, lectures and signature events were hugely well attended.

Our educational programming, serving over 13,000 students this year, continues to inspire thousands to become stewards of the Chesapeake Bay. The ripple effect of our educational initiatives resonates far beyond our campus. Our summer camp program saw

a record 1,500 campers and was voted the best in Anne Arundel County in 2023 by the Capital Gazette. Our Box of Rain Program literally changes lives.

One major focal point next year is on opening the first maritime based nature pre-school in the country.

Meeting financial goals under strict budget guidelines speaks volumes about our commitment to fiscal responsibility. None of our achievements would be possible without the visionary leadership of our President & CEO, Alice Estrada. Her guidance, passion, and tireless dedication have been instrumental in steering our course. Alongside her, our staff that always does more with less, our amazing volunteers, our hands on Board of Directors, and our generous donors have been the wind in our sails.

Thank you for being an integral part of our story.

Warm regards,

Steve Picarde  
Chairman of the Board



Steve Picarde

### VISION

Inspire all communities to cherish our maritime heritage and become lifelong stewards of the Chesapeake Bay.



### MISSION

To educate youth and adults about the Annapolis area's rich maritime heritage and the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay through programs, exhibits and community events.

### CORE VALUES

**Lifelong learning** and education for all.

**Stewardship** of the Chesapeake Bay and our maritime heritage.

**Community** of people who share a passion for our mission.

**Partnerships** that extend our reach and expand our impact.

**Fun** events that bring our community together.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers

Steve Picarde, Chairman  
Ann Schweitzer, Vice Chairman  
Cindy Whittle, Treasurer  
Agnes Cobbum, Secretary  
Lenox (Buck) Buchanan, Chairman Emeritus

## Directors

William B. Cogar, Ph.D.  
Derrick Cogburn, Ph.D.  
MajGen Andrew Davis (Ret.)  
Jay Fleming  
Richard L. Franyo

Anne Harrington  
Michael Hughes  
Mark McCulloh  
Carol B. Sisco, Ph.D.  
RADM Frank Thorp IV (Ret.)

# STAFF

## Administration

Alice Estrada, President & CEO  
Mary Ostrye, Director of Finance

## Development & Marketing

Kelly Swartout, Vice President of Development  
Lizzie Spokely, Events & Development Coordinator  
Madeline Duffy, Communications & Marketing Coordinator

## Programs

Louisa Engle, VP of Programs & Community Engagement

## Education

Megan Fink, Director of Education  
Kirsten Barbera, School Program Manager  
Marco Rojas, Community Program Manager  
Susan Sanger, Enrichment Program Manager  
Gail Hutchinson, Education Program Coordinator

## Museum and Collections

Hayley Worland, Curator of Collections  
Catherine Morrill, Guest Services Coordinator

## Wilma Lee

Captain Rick Flamand, Lead Captain of *Wilma Lee*  
Captain Frank McGowan, Captain of *Wilma Lee*  
Captain Bill Schneider, Captain of *Wilma Lee*

## Operations

Sarah Krizek, Director of Capital Projects  
Sarah Higgins, Operations Coordinator  
Donny Hundley, Maintenance

## Venue

Paige Skrickus, Venue Manager  
Amber Herr, Venue Associate





## Program Partners

Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
The Office of Environmental Literacy and  
Outdoor Education at Arlington Echo  
Blacks of the Chesapeake  
Charting Careers  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chesapeake Light Craft  
Chesapeake Oyster Alliance  
Historic Annapolis  
Howard County Public Schools  
Marylanders GrowOysters  
Maryland Hall  
Maryland State Archives  
Maryland State Arts Council and the Art  
in Public Places Commission  
Thomas C. Price  
Sea Scout Ship 1959  
Seafarers Yacht Club of Annapolis  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
Oyster Recovery Partnership  
University of Maryland College of  
Information Studies  
Visit Annapolis  
Watermark Journey

## Foundations and Organizations

Annapolis Yacht Club Foundation  
Baywoods of Annapolis  
Pete Bowe & Barbara Stewart Foundation  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area  
Community Foundation of Anne Arundel  
County  
Hand Foundation  
J.M. Kaplan Fund  
The Klaassen Family  
Grayce B. Kerr Fund  
Kramer-Schaefer Family Fund  
Maryland Environmental Trust  
Mathias Family Foundation  
McCabe-Caeser Family Fund  
Owens Family Foundation  
Tighe Merkert & Irene Syrnk Family Fund  
Nature Sacred  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
George S. Rich Foundation  
Rogers-Wilbur Foundation  
Samuels Family Fund  
Sisco Family Fund  
Taishoff Family Foundation

## Government Grants

Arundel Community Development  
Services, Inc.  
Arts Council of Anne Arundel County  
City of Annapolis  
Federal Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
Maryland Department of Housing and  
Community Development  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA)  
Maryland State Department of Education  
(SAI)  
Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC)  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
National Park Service, Chesapeake Office  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration (NOAA)  
State of Maryland

## Corporate Support

Altos Agave  
A Team Family Law  
Annapolis City Marina  
Absolute Fire Protection  
Annapolis Electric Boat Rentals  
Annapolis Subaru  
Bayside Auto Group  
Baywoods Resident Association

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & ADVANCEMENTS

In 2023, the Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMM) Board and Staff collaborated on a 2023-2025 strategic plan with five key priorities;

- Enhance Program Impact
- Promote Diversity & Inclusion
- Strategic Marketing
- Ensure Sustainability
- Strengthen Infrastructure

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AMM is a vibrant community hub that brings together residents and visitors to explore our region's maritime heritage and Chesapeake Bay. Thousands visit the Museum to enjoy cutting-edge exhibits and take time to experience AMM's 12-acre Park Campus. In 2023, we successfully hosted the following events:

- **2023 Winter Lecture Series** attracted 1,450 life-long learners;
- **Oyster Roast and Sock Burning** engaged 1,200 oyster enthusiasts from around the country;
- **Tides & Tunes and September Sunsets** concerts engaged over 9,000 residents; and
- **18th Annual Boatyard Beach Bash** netted \$170,000 for education programs.



## VOLUNTEERS

AMM could not operate without the dedication of our volunteers. In 2023, our volunteers logged in nearly 10,000 hours, helping with:

- Archives & Collections
- Education Programs
- Winter Lectures
- Events
- Wooden Boat Crew
- Crewing on *Wilma Lee*
- Museum Docents
- Gardening



## VENUE

For 11 years, AMM has received the Couples' Choice Award from Wedding Wire. Our venue rental revenue is critically important to our operations, contributing greatly to AMM's sustainability. The Merrill Family Pavilion has opened for weddings, events, and corporate retreats with rave reviews.

*"It was magnificent. The pavilion has waterfront views with sailboats, truly giving an Annapolis charm. Highly recommend Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park for your wedding venue!"*  
Bride, first wedding at the Merrill Family Pavilion



## VP OF PROGRAMS & ENGAGEMENT

**Louisa Engle** is the Vice President of Programs and Community Engagement, bringing 17 years of program management and leadership from Whole Foods Market. Louisa will oversee more than 30 programs at AMM.



## PARK CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

### MERRILL FAMILY PAVILION

On June 1, 2023, the Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMM) celebrated the grand inauguration of the newly-built, 2,600 sq. ft. pavilion, dedicated in honor of the Merrill Family. This remarkable facility serves as a covered outdoor classroom for family programs, school field experiences, and

summer camps, expanding AMM's educational offerings to the public and schools. A custom stone fireplace and distinctive cupola creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere, while fostering a strong sense of community along Back Creek's waterfront.



### Deep Water Dock on Back Creek

During the summer, a 250-foot-long hybrid fixed and floating dock was successfully installed. This meticulously crafted dock enhances rare public access to the Chesapeake Bay. Additionally, the new dock will serve as a secure shelter for our historic skipjack, *Wilma Lee* during inclement weather. Plans are underway to construct a 400-foot ADA accessible boardwalk to link the pavilion to the new dock.





## MUSEUM, COLLECTIONS, ARCHIVES & LIBRARY



### Meet AMM's New Curator

Meet Hayley Worland, AMM's new Curator of Collections. With a Master's in Library and Information Science and a certificate in Museum Scholarship and Material Culture, she's passionate about preserving maritime history. Hayley's expertise in Oral History and Archival Preservation aligns with her dedication to expanding and safeguarding Annapolis' maritime heritage.

Mitchell Owens and his wife, Molly, who are descendants of Owens Yachts, have generously contributed to the Collections and Library program. This program aims to transcribe and digitize the oral histories of the Owens family and other Annapolis notables. Their gift will facilitate a finding aid to ensure easy access to these recordings for the public.



AMM displayed a temporary marine art exhibition featuring donated pieces from Dr. George and Joan Schonholtz's collection. The exhibition highlighted exceptional artworks by renowned artists including John Morton Barber, Paul Landry, Ben Neill, and William Stille that now belong to AMM's collection.



Acclaimed marine artist, John Morton Barber, and his wife, Kathy

### PT Boats Constructed in Annapolis: Photographs Donated to AMM's Archives

Alan Coleman donated 1940s photographs of the Annapolis Yacht Yard, WWII PT boat construction, taken by Coleman's uncle, David Sterling Whittington. Whittington, originally from Crisfield, Maryland, transitioned from home and furniture building to boatbuilding in the 1920s. He worked at the Annapolis Yacht Yard during WWII, primarily on PT boats, and later retired in the 1960s.



AMM Volunteers **Claire Brady, Tim Leahy, Gwen Mayes, Molly Owens**, along with Guest Services Coordinator **Catherine Morrill** are certified Chesapeake Bay Storytellers. This certification

enables them to provide engaging programming on Chesapeake Bay nature, history, ecology, stewardship, and guided tours, making the experiences at AMM exceptional.

## HISTORIC SKIPJACK, *WILMA LEE*

In 2023, a total of 5,000 adults and students embarked on the historic skipjack *Wilma Lee* to experience Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay from a unique water perspective. Among these passengers, 30% were students actively participating in activities such as water quality testing, oyster harvesting, exploring maritime history, and studying Bay health.

Our stewardship of the *Wilma Lee* began in 2018, with confidence that her maritime legacy would outweigh refurbishment costs. Since then, we've warmly welcomed over 14,000 passengers aboard, passionately sharing AMM's maritime heritage. Our commitment to preserving this history remains steadfast for AMM.





## ENGAGING EDUCATION

AMM's outdoor education programs are crucial for supporting Maryland's Environmental Literacy Requirement and offering STEM/STEAM learning. The Education Center involves thousands of students annually in field trips, maritime heritage, summer camps, and specialized programs, aiming to instill lifelong environmental stewardship and a connection to nature. In 2023, the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) recognized and certified AMM as a **Maryland Green Center**.



In the summer of 2023, **1,511** campers had an unforgettable experience, fishing, paddling, and exploring Back Creek. They also embarked on the historic skipjack, *Wilma Lee*, to dredge oysters and birdwatch. This year, **AMM's Summer Camp Program** was recognized as the best summer camp in Anne Arundel County by the Capital Gazette.



Anne Arundel County Public Schools' new Superintendent, Dr. Mark Bedell, joined a school group on the *Wilma Lee* to learn more about AMM's education programs, specifically our Oyster Education Program, which reaches over 1,500 sixth graders annually free of charge to participating students and teachers.

### Box of Rain

Generous donors support Box of Rain (BOR), empowering under-resourced youth through programs like the Summer Maritime Program, Navigating TIDES Afterschool Program, and the winter Build-a-Boat Program led by AMM's Community Program Manager, Marco Rojas. This year, BOR students crafted a 12-foot passagemaker dinghy provided by Chesapeake Light Craft, sold to Blacks of the Chesapeake for their exhibits. Mayor Gavin Buckley celebrated their achievements with a 2023 dinner in downtown Annapolis.



### Maritime-Themed Nature Pre-School

The Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park has secured \$375,000 in funding from Congressman Sarbanes through a Community Project Funding initiative. This funding will support the planning and development of a groundbreaking maritime-themed nature preschool, located at the west end of the Park Campus.



### Corporate Support Continued

Boatyard Bar & Grill  
Brown Advisory  
Clean Advantage Corporation  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
The Connecticut Copperthite Pie Baking Co.  
Covington Alsina  
CTS  
EarlySpace, LLC  
Eastern Regional Electric, Inc.  
The Ellerson Group  
Environmental Quality Resources  
Fidelity Investments  
Genesis of Annapolis  
George's Beverage Company  
Giant  
Global Event Management (GEM)  
Greenberg Gibbons Commercial  
Hammond Wilson Architects  
Homestead Gardens  
Horn Point Marina  
Jefferson's Bourbon  
JP Morgan Private Bank  
Kappel & Associates  
Katcef Brothers, Inc.  
Kate Hopkins  
Let's Move Crew  
Ligon & Ligon  
Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland  
LL Investments, Inc.  
Local Coast  
MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate Services, LLC  
Maryland's Best Agriculture  
Maryland's Best Seafood  
MH Media Strategies  
Masterpeace Imagine + Creative  
Mike's Restaurant & Crabhouse  
Morgan Stanley  
The Murray McGehrin Group  
Petitbon Alarm Company  
Pittsburgh Foundation  
Safeway Trucking Corporation  
SailTime Annapolis  
Scarborough Capital Management  
Schuyler Line Navigation Company  
Sisco Associates  
The Snyder-Ervin Group at Morgan Stanley  
South Annapolis Yacht Center  
SpinSheet/PropTalk  
T.T.R. Sotheby's  
Thompson Creek Window Company  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Tri State Marine  
Volvo Cars Annapolis  
West Marine

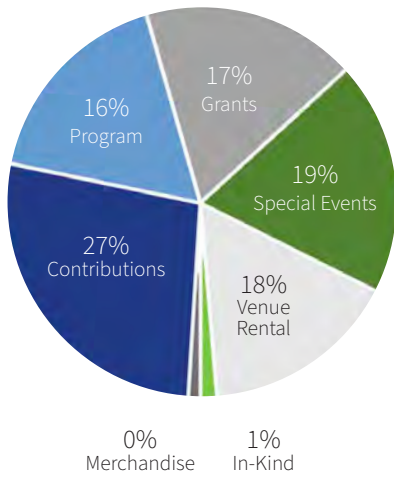
### In-Kind Support

Absolutely Perfect Catering  
Annapolis Canoe and Kayak  
Annapolis Market House  
Ashling Catering  
Bayside Catering  
Be My Guest  
Blackwall Hitch  
Bowl of Cherries  
Bread and Butter Kitchen  
Chic-Fil-A  
Chesapeake Chefs  
Chesapeake Light Craft  
Diversified Marine Service/Bay Shore Marine  
Eleven Courses Catering  
Federal House  
Flamant  
Gilbane Building Company  
Hammond Wilson Architects  
Jay Fleming Photography  
Ken's Creative Kitchen  
Main & Market  
Naptown Scoop  
Palate Pleasers  
Safe Harbor Annapolis  
Saucy Salamander



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

### 2022 Operating Revenue



### 2022 Revenue

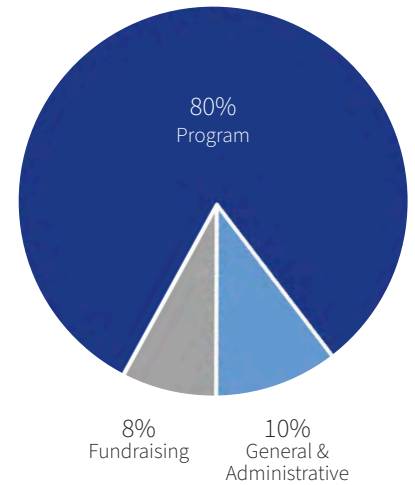
|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions                   | \$735,411          |
| Grants                          | \$466,504          |
| Venue Rentals                   | \$476,290          |
| Special Events                  | \$517,970          |
| Program                         | \$437,819          |
| Investment Income & Merchandise | (\$36,728)         |
| In-Kind                         | \$26,757           |
| <b>Total:</b>                   | <b>\$2,624,023</b> |

### 2022 Expenses

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Program         | \$1,830,002        |
| General & Admin | \$233,199          |
| Fundraising     | \$177,395          |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$2,240,596</b> |



### 2022 Operating Expenses



Source: Audited financial statement for year-end December 31, 2022. Financial statements include all financial activity, both capital and operating activity. Venue revenue covers fundraising and general administration costs so that contributions are 100% for programs.

## AMM BY THE NUMBERS



**106,000** explored our Park, programs, exhibits, & community events



**40%** of our students are from low-income families



**25,359** youth and adults have participated in our education programs



Nearly **10,000** volunteer hours completed



**109%** increase in summer camp participants

