A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

The past year provided a reawakening of interest in the majesty and meaning of our beloved Capitol as it once again opened to the public. Tours for members increased and our student tours for DC middle schoolers outpaced the numbers prior to the pandemic. The We the People Constitution Tour consortium members (the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the National Park Service, the National Archives, USA Guided Tours, and both the White House Visitors Center and Historical Association) continue to work together not only on the in-person tour but to provide a one-stop access to digital tools to teach the Constitution. Our best wholesale customer, the Capitol Visitor Center, placed orders for our commemorative merchandise coming close to the pre-COVID level. Our webinars continued to produce high-quality public history for an audience now spread well past the confines of the Washington, DC, area. In-person gatherings returned in full force: in July 2022, we celebrated the arrival of Florida’s Statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune in the National Statuary Hall Collection; in December 2022, we honored the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia for keeping the Capitol safe both on January 6, 2021, and beyond; in March 2023, we celebrated the women of National Statuary Hall as our observance of Women’s History Month.

While our programs are strong, bipartisan, and timely, the Society continues to face financial challenges. Our corporate support has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels at the same time that COVID relief funds which kept us whole for the last three years are wrapping up; we continue to search for foundation support and contributions to fund our in-person events. The bright spot in the financial picture is that we did secure a Congressional appropriation, known by many as an earmark, to expand our digital civic education work especially our Teaching the Constitution through Theater’s new play about the presidential election of 1876 that we are creating to teach about the electoral college. This new Congressional investment supports new activities, not the core budget of the organization. We are working to expand individual giving with some success in building a Leadership Giving Council and encouraging legacy gifts. The year ahead promises exciting new events to highlight the history of the Capitol and those who work there—from commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the American Indian Citizenship Act with a symposium to look at the contributions of Native Americans to our democracy, to continuing to enhance our civic education work. Telling the story of our Temple of Democracy, the U.S. Capitol, in a manner that supports “informed patriotism,” has never been more important. We are grateful for your support.
Recent results of “the nation’s report card” released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found that only 22% of American 8th graders are proficient in civics, and just 13% are proficient in history. Education consistently ranks as a top priority for communities across the nation, yet this report identified a decline over the past several years that challenges the future of full participation in our governmental decision-making. Given these disappointing statistics, our education programs take on even greater importance. During the pandemic, the Society – in partnership with the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the National Archives, the White House Historical Association, and the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society – created the We the People Hub to provide a one-stop location for teachers to find virtual teaching tools. This resource, developed first for DC public schools, is now available to teachers nationwide but has not been utilized as fully as hoped. With Donnis Barkley’s departure, leadership of the Society’s civic education programs transitioned to Eric Denyer, a social studies teacher who brings his classroom experience to improving the Hub’s functionality as students return to the classroom. Our education team is working to expand the We the People Hub to make it more user friendly and increase the number of users. A new section on the Hub’s home page is devoted solely to lesson plans for first-year teachers. We meticulously research our lesson plans to tailor them for educators teaching about the nation’s foundation, and to make them adaptable across various grade levels. These customizable plans allow teachers to focus their first days in the classroom on building rapport with their students and practicing classroom management techniques. The Society is hopeful that its work in civic education can help mitigate teacher burnout and aid the retention of high-quality teachers nationwide. Highlights from our materials include:

- Comprehensive resources tailored for first-year teachers
- Lessons on the Reconstruction Amendments
- Insights into the Articles of Confederation
- Detailed study of the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson, inclusive of the impeachment process
- Exploration of voting dynamics and environmental implications
Community Project Funding

Capitol History and Civics Digital Resource Development

In FY23, the Society secured an appropriation to create new digital teaching tools and better achieve our chartered mission to preserve and promote the history of the Capitol. Representative Mike Quigley of Illinois initiated our efforts to pursue a congressional earmark to support civic education programming, and Representative Dina Titus of Nevada, a political scientist and former professor of American Government, sponsored the USCHS request through her office. This Congressional funding, administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), supports the Society’s education programming, and grows its digital capacity. These resources will enable us to share the work of Congress, and the Society with Americans across the country. We intend to build a network of national, state, and local educators dedicated to civics and history education.

In spring 2023 the Society engaged Janna Deitz, Ph.D., a political scientist with research and teaching interests on Congress and civic engagement, to serve as Senior Advisor and Project Director managing NARA funds release and administration of this effort. Deitz’ academic and administrative background includes serving as tenured Full Professor of American Politics on the faculty of Western Illinois, Senior Director of Academic & Professional Development and Director of the Congressional Fellowship Program for the American Political Science Association, and most recently leading Outreach and Partnerships for the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. The Society intends to execute the work enabled by this congressional earmark as proof of concept for expanded civic education program funding that includes partnerships with congressional institutes and centers across the country.

This investment enables the Society to take a necessary step towards the digital era by improving public access to valuable resources and original documents on our We the People Hub. The Society intends to execute the work enabled by this congressional earmark as proof of concept for expanded civic education program funding that includes partnerships with congressional institutes and centers across the country.

We are excited for this new opportunity to inspire a deeper civic awareness of Congress and its role in shaping the nation’s history. Looking ahead:

- USCHS is working diligently to create high-quality lesson plans on topics like the Electoral College, Women’s Suffrage, notable Congressional leaders, and more. We design these lesson plans to engage, be user-friendly, and suitable for both students and educators.

- In collaboration with StoryWorks Theater, the Society is creating a new educational play focusing on the Electoral College using the story of the 1876 election. Part of our Teaching the Constitution through Theater initiative, this new play joins two others on our Hub that provide immersive learning.

- The Society is collaborating with teachers, libraries, and Members of Congress to offer hands-on workshops and Virtual Teacher Institutes. These events aim to further engage and inspire educators across the nation.

- USCHS is committed to enhancing accessibility. To this end, we are in the process of upgrading the We the People Hub to provide an interactive and engaging digital experience for users.

We The People Constitution Tours

After more than two years since the Capitol closed its doors to the public, the Society resumed its We the People Constitution Tours, providing a full-day field trip to 8th graders in Washington, DC, as a part of their U.S. History/Civics curriculum. The tour represents a significant collaborative effort that involves a consortium of organizations, including the White House Historical Association, the Capitol Visitor Center, the National Park Service, and the National Archives. Students receive a firsthand experience of democracy, visiting historical sites like the George Mason Memorial, the old Supreme Court, the White House Visitor Center, the National Archives, and the Capitol Building. The Society regularly invests from its general operating funds to allow an increase in participation. During the FY23 tour season—from October 2022 to March 2023—we served 1,331 students and 220 accompanying teachers; the total number of participants surpassed the pre-pandemic average.

This high-impact program encourages in-
formed participation in the democratic process and leaves students more likely to vote, engage in public service, and understand their rights and responsibilities as Americans. Feedback and participation rates suggest that the tour has a lasting impression on students, shaping them into informed citizens with a genuine understanding of the country’s democratic foundations. In summary, the We the People Constitution Tour is more than just an educational field trip, it is an essential investment in the future of democracy in the United States. It ensures that the youth are equipped with knowledge, respect for democratic processes, and the inspiration to actively participate in the betterment of their nation.

We are grateful to these foundations for their support of the We the People Program

- The Brown Rudnick Foundation
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- International Paper Foundation
- Several anonymous individuals and foundations

Capitol Kids

The Capitol Kids webinar series empowers children to enhance their understanding of American politics, civic movements, and related topics. The series presents an impressive range of books and authors, offering young readers a diverse and thought-provoking learning experience. From exploring little-known aspects of Washington, DC, to the Constitution and the Reconstruction Era, this series takes students on a captivating journey through American history, inspiring them to become active and engaged citizens in their communities. Some highlights from FY23 include:

Secret Washington, DC: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure

On September 22, 2022, JoAnn Hill presented Secret Washington, DC, her book about the hidden and lesser-known aspects of Washington, DC. The book uncovers the secrets of underground societies, abandoned buildings, and DC’s rich and complex history that goes beyond politics and lawmakering.

Rez Dogs

Broadcast on October 25, 2022, author Joseph Bruchac discussed his book, Rez Dogs, which tells a powerful story of a girl who learns more about her Penacook heritage while sheltering in place with her grandparents during the COVID-19.

The Constitution Translated for Kids

On January 25, 2023, this webinar featured Cathy Travis, the author of the award-winning educational book, Constitution Translated for Kids, a sentence-by-sentence, article-by-article explanation of the Constitution and its history. The book features the original wording of our government’s founding document in one column, with a simple language translation on the right.

Black Was the Ink

On February 15, 2023, civil rights attorney and author Michelle Coles discussed her novel Black Was the Ink, a young adult historical fiction about the Reconstruction Era and the first Black members of the U.S. Congress.

With continued efforts and slight enhancements, this program holds the potential to become a significant resource for civic education in the coming years.
Other Civic Engagement Activities

A Conversation with U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan
Education Specialist Eric Denyer discussed civic education during Rep. Chrissy Houlahan’s (D-PA 6) 78th town hall in Downingtown, PA. During their conversation, Denyer promoted the Society’s We the People Constitution Program and its essential role in improving students’ understanding of the U.S. Constitution. The discussion focused on the pressing need to improve civic education nationwide and the importance of programs like ours in achieving this goal.

Teaching the Constitution through Theater
USCHS has continued collaborating with StoryWorks Theater, particularly in the program “Teaching the Constitution through Theater.” The Society partnered with StoryWorks Theater in March 2023 for Civic Learning Week to teach constitutional principles through theater to foster a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution through inclusive and transformative educational experiences.

Three Branches Institute
In July 2023, the Society co-organized a three-day professional development workshop with the White House Historical Association and the Supreme Court Historical Society. During this event, the Society’s education team presented the We the People Hub and a presentation titled “Voices During Conflict,” focusing on Reconstruction, Andrew Johnson’s Impeachment, and the aftermath of the Civil War.

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Conference
Our education team attended the December 2022 NCSS Conference in Philadelphia, PA. We promoted the We the People Hub, Capitol Kids, and the Three Branches Institute, reaching out to hundreds of educators and exhibitors. Together, we can continue making a positive impact and strengthen our outreach in civic education.

Civics Learning Week
During the 2023’s Civics Learning Week, Society staff worked with CivXNow’s (iCivics) Air-Game team to promote our civic education programs. This involved reaching out to Congressional offices and offering valuable resources to educators across the nation.

Fundraising
In a touching gesture, the Morrill family and their friends generously donated to USCHS in memory of our dedicated volunteer, Jim Morrill. Their contributions cover the out-of-pocket expenses for three classrooms. This year, those students have the opportunity to learn about the Constitution, all in honor of Jim’s lasting legacy. Our Director of Development, Cherise Clark, is actively briefing the traditional funders of the We the People Constitution Tour as we reinvigorate the program. As we witness more schools booking tours than anticipated, we are seeking additional funding to cover the increasing costs of transportation, tour guides, student lunches, and essential educational resources.
The full reopening of the Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center after the pandemic was a significant moment for the Society, as it allowed our tour program to return to its pre-pandemic operations. This not only signified a return to normalcy for us, but also addressed the pent-up demand for in-person experiences, including tours. Society members are eager to explore these iconic landmarks and learn about American democracy, creating heightened interest and demand for our tour program.

Over the past year the tour program has grown and integrated seamlessly into the Society’s daily operations and enhanced its reputation through its quality, diversity, and outreach initiatives. The Society’s historically trained guides are known for leading some of the most unique and meaningful tours in Washington, DC. Our tours are led by a team of exceptional volunteer guides — including seasoned guides like Chief Guide and Public Historian Steve Livengood and Executive Vice President Samuel Holliday, former congressional staffers, longtime DC residents, members of the Society, and former Members of Congress. The diverse backgrounds of our guides ensure that the tours are informative and engaging and offer different interpretations of the Capitol’s history and significance. Vincent Gonzalez, our Public History Manager, played a crucial role in streamlining the tour booking system and serves as an exemplary tour guide. Additionally, the Society occasionally offers senior staff for speaking engagements:

“to foster and increase an informed patriotism of the land in the study of this living memorial to the founders of this Nation and the continuing thread of principles as exemplified by their successors...”
Steve Livengood delivered a memorable speech to students from Ogden High School in Iowa and The Archer Center, among other engagements. Mr. Livengood also spoke at the memorial service held in honor of our dear friend Donn Anderson, an event thoughtfully organized by the Capitol Page Alumni Association.

Our Society President, Jane Campbell, spoke to InternaPalooza, an essential orientation program for 500 Capitol Hill interns. Her participation provided these young professionals with invaluable insights and networking opportunities. Additionally, Campbell addressed the Northern Virginia Junior League and spoke at the opening of the Capitol Page Alumni homecoming celebration.

Samuel Holliday addressed the trustees of the Committee for Economic Development. These speaking engagements and contributions reflect our commitment to sharing our expertise and insights with a diverse audience, and we look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come.

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**Speakers Bureau**

The Society occasionally offers Senior Staff for speaking engagements as a benefit of membership. Instances of this practice in FY23 included:

- Steve Livengood delivered a memorable speech to students from Ogden High School in Iowa and The Archer Center, among other engagements. Mr. Livengood also spoke at the memorial service held in honor of our dear friend Donn Anderson, an event thoughtfully organized by the Capitol Page Alumni Association.

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**After-Hours Capitol Tours**

The Society offers historian-led evening tours exclusively to Capitol Committee members and our most generous individual members. •

On June 21, 2023, the Society hosted a special program for members and friends. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the tour, led by the knowledgeable and charismatic former Congressman Tom Reed, alongside our Chief Tour Guide, Steve Livengood. Livengood’s expertise and passion shone through as the group didn’t just see the Capitol but truly understood its historical significance. His knowledge of the Capitol’s architecture, artwork, and political milestones truly enriched this experience.

- We want to thank all our members, staff, partners at the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), and Capitol Committee members for helping make this evening successful.
Lunchtime Lectures

Lunchtime Lectures, now primarily offered as online webinars once or twice each month, attract an audience beyond Washington, DC. Before the pandemic when our lunchtime lectures were in person, the Society could only accommodate up to 60 attendees. Additionally, event recordings were made or distributed only when C-SPAN could dispatch a film crew. Now every webinar is recorded and available on our website for viewing at a time convenient to the user. The average number of registrants is approximately 200 for each offering.

In April 2022, the Society introduced the Constitutional Amendments Series, an extension of the well-received “Toward a More Perfect Union” series. This new series offers a detailed exploration of each Constitutional Amendment. FY23 episodes from the series include:

- Co-Directors of the Duke University Center for Firearms Law, Professors Joseph Blocher and Darrell A.H. Miller, on the 2nd and 3rd Amendments
- Dean of the University of California-Berkeley School of Law and President of the Association of American Law Schools Erwin Chemerinsky on the 4th and 5th Amendments
- Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University Akhil Reed Amar on the 6th, 7th, and 8th Amendments
- Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford University Michael W. McConnell on the 9th, 10th, and 11th Amendments
- Yale University Historian and popular author Dr. Joanne B. Freeman on the 12th Amendment
- Associate Chair of the Duke University Department of History, Dr. Thavolia Glymph, on the battle for, impact, and legacy of the 13th Amendment.

- Professors Randy E. Barnett of George-town Law and Evan Bernick of Northern Illinois University on their book “The Original Meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment.”

Scholarly Symposia and Programming

Symposium on the Life & Legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune

The Bethune Series culminated in a hybrid-format symposium on the life and legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune on July 13, 2022 – the day her statue was formally accepted into the National Statuary Hall Collection to represent Florida. Nearly 500 people attended the event in person in the Congressional Auditorium and heard remarks from then House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC 6), whose district includes Dr. Bethune’s birthplace, Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL 14), and the Honorable Bill Daley, Vice President of Government Affairs for Wells Fargo, who previously served as the 32nd U.S. Secretary of Commerce and 24th White House Chief of Staff. A distinguished group of experts which included Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Dr. Thelma T. Daley, Dr. Allida M. Black, Dr. Camesha Whittaker, and Dr. Lawrence Drake spoke to Dr. Bethune’s impressive life story and living legacy. C-SPAN’s American History TV recorded and subsequently broadcast the program; their recording has been viewed more than 700 times online.

The Bethune Series of public history programs involved a collaborative partnership with the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Fund, which privately raised the money needed to commis-
sion the piece and develop public history resources about her life and legacy; the National Council of Negro Women, an organization Dr. Bethune founded; Bethune-Cookman University, the historically Black university Dr. Bethune founded in Daytona Beach, FL; and The Roosevelt Institute, in recognition of Dr. Bethune’s close friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt. The Bethune Series of commemorations was generously supported by a grant from Wells Fargo.

Program to Honor Women in National Statuary Hall
On March 29, 2023, the United States Capitol Historical Society organized a special program in honor of Women’s History Month. Society members and friends enjoyed an informative presentation by Dr. Michele Cohen, the Curator of the Architect of the Capitol, on the history and growth of women’s representation in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The event also included remarks from such dignitaries as Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL 25), Lois Frankel (D-FL 22), and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) shared inspiring remarks via video. Together, they provided valuable insights into the growth and evolution of women’s representation in the National Statuary Hall Collection. At the conclusion of the formal speaking program, former Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL 17) led guests on a tour to view the 11 statues of women currently depicted in the Capitol Visitor Center, the Hall of Columns, and National Statuary Hall, ending the evening on a high note.

Native American Suffrage Symposium
The Society is currently in the process of planning its 2024 Symposium to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Snyder Act, which granted Native Americans the right to vote in federal elections.

Publications
The Capitol Dome Magazine
• After a more than two-year hiatus, the Society released a new winter 2022 issue of our history publication, The Capitol Dome. Staff are now curating and editing articles for a new issue planned for publication in early spring 2024.

The We the People Calendar
• The 2024 calendar, which focuses on 1824 and its contentious four-way election, now hangs on hundreds of thousands of walls nationwide.
• With research complete in record time thanks to the dedicated efforts of history research interns and volunteers, editing and publication work on the 2025 calendar has commenced at its earliest point in several years.
An Illustrated Tour: Color Your Way Through Capitol Hill:
• The Society published An Illustrated Tour: Color Your Way Through Capitol Hill, a delightful coloring book designed to educate and engage younger audiences in civic education and Capitol History. The book was written by Heidi Smith, and illustrated by Courtney Parsons.

Capitol Fellowship Program
Since its inauguration in 1986, the Capitol Fellowship Program has provided financial support to more than fifty scholars researching important topics in the art and architectural history of the United States Capitol complex. The United States Capitol Historical Society funds and jointly administers the Fellowship with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Curator’s Office. After a more than two-year hiatus, the AOC Curator’s Office agreed to resume the Capitol Fellowship in January 2023. Two Fellows who were accepted into the program just before the pandemic have since returned to Washington to complete their studies:
• Mary Beth Zundo, an American Art historian and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is focusing her research on the geographical basis and viewer experience of Emanuel Leutze’s Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way, which is displayed atop the grand West Staircase in the House Wing of the Capitol.
• Dr. Maria Cristina Loi, a Professor of Architecture History at the Polytechnic University of Milan, is focusing her research on Thomas Jefferson and the U.S. Capitol. Additionally, the Society and the AOC Curator’s Office accepted a new fellowship applicant for FY24:
• Dr. Lisa Pieraccini, a lecturer on art history at the University of California, Berkeley, plans to research depictions of Native American women in the U.S. Capitol as they relate to an early sense of American identity.

Interns
Through FY23, the Society offered competitive internship placements with available stipend support:
• The History Research Internship is heavily weighted toward primary source historical research and includes developing calendar content and scouting potential program speakers.
• The Civic Education Internship works with education staff to research, plan, and implement civic education resources for the We the People Hub, Capitol Kids webinars, and in-person events; also assists staff in coordinating partner organizations for the We the People Constitution Tour during the fall and winter.
• The Marketing Internship assists with the strategy and design of campaigns and materials to promote USCHS products. The Society maintains partnerships with the following Washington, DC-based programs:
  • The HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) National Center
  • The American University Cornerstone Program for first-year students and the American University-sponsored Washington Semester Program, which brings students from universities around the country to DC for one semester of their junior year.
  • The Archer Center, which brings students from all campuses of The University of Texas system to Washington and can provide them with university funding.

January 6 Oral History Project
The Society is part of #CapitolStrong, a coalition of democracy-focused national organizations which came together following the horrific events on January 6, 2021, to support the congressional community. The coalition worked with the Society to develop a nonpartisan way in which the January 6 experiences of rank-and-file Capitol staff are not lost to history. The Society agreed to conduct a large-scale oral history project as we believe the project’s objectives align with the mission of our organization and the best interests of the country we love. We will continue to conduct interviews for as long as interest continues. Since the project’s inception, the Society has maintained a special website for the January 6 Oral History Project: January6History.org. The website has, among other features, a questionnaire for prospective interviewees to share their January 6 stories, a curated news page so visitors can review January 6-related stories, and a page through which people can support this important work financially. The Society has conducted more than 40 interviews of people directly affected by the events of January 6, 2021. Importantly, these interviewees include a broad spectrum of people, including Democrats, Republicans, and non-political employees; senior staff, mid-level staff, and junior staff from both the Senate and House; as well as Capitol Police and those from the general public. Each interview focuses on the personal experiences of the interviewee.
Each year, the Society presents an educational program that honors a Congressional Committee. Working directly with Committee staff from both parties, the program combines a unique historical perspective with a welcoming social environment. Typically, 150 people comprised of Members of Congress, staff, and USCHS VIP’s, attend these special events.

On Thursday, November 17, 2022, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society celebrated the history and bipartisan accomplishments of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Joining the USCHS to co-chair this event were the Committee’s Chair and Ranking Member, Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Sam Graves (R-MO). Former Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and former Ranking Member Nick Rahall (D-WV) shared fond memories of their service with an enthralled audience of current and past committee members, staff, and Society supporters.

Capitol Alumni
- The Society continues its longtime relationship with the U.S. Capitol Page Alumni Association (USCPAA), which includes a joint membership benefit for the former Pages.
  - As part of the Page Alumni’s quadrennial Homecoming Celebration over Memorial Day 2023, the Society provided four Capitol tours with former Members of Congress and escorted the former pages back onto the House Floor. Jane Campbell delivered inspiring words at the opening ceremony, and Steve Livengood gave a moving speech at former page and Clerk of the House Donald Anderson’s Memorial Service.
- At the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, we believe in honoring the rich history and contributions of Congress and its dedicated staff. There is continued interest in creating a Congressional Staff Alumni Association (CSAA) within USCHS. In March 2022, the Society received the first installment of a three-year grant from the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation, which will contribute to the creation of this program.
  - The CSAA aims to create a supportive network that recognizes and values the essential work of Congress and its dedicated staff.
  - On April 23, 2023 the Steering Committee of the Congressional Staff Alumni Association discussed...
discussed their experiences working in Congress and recommended ways to increase the Society’s visibility and build a network of former Congressional staff who could become Congressional Staff Alumni members. The Committee’s leaders look forward to launching this program and are actively working with the Society to identify new ways to reach a wider audience.

The Society plans to resume a series of special, congressional staff-only programs which bring Capitol Hill alumni and experts on a particular subject to candidly discuss their experiences. The formal launch of the Congressional Staff Alumni Association will provide access to a broader pool of available speakers for this series.

**Congressional Portrait Program**

From its inception, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society raised private funds to acquire or commission art and artifacts to contribute to the Capitol collections. Early notable commissions include the Cox Corridors’ murals and the Lincoln the Legislator bust, both on the ground floor of the House Wing of the Capitol and the bust of Martin Luther King, Jr., which stands in the Capitol Rotunda. Since Congress banned the appropriation of funds for Congressional portraits in 1999, the Society contributed more than 90 portraits of committee chairs and Congressional Leadership for display throughout the Capitol Campus. In each instance, a portrait fundraising committee raised private donations that covered the cost of the portrait and expenses such as framing, insurance, and a portrait presentation event honoring the portrait’s subject. Historically, the portrait fundraising committees would contribute the closing balance of their fund to the Society’s general operating fund. In 2019, the Society formalized the Portrait Program by creating a portrait fund agreement, which established procedures for the portrait fundraising committee and, importantly, set a minimum required contribution to the Society’s general operating fund at the commission’s conclusion to cover the Society’s costs administering the program. FY23 saw the completion of several portrait commissions:

- Kevin Brady, in honor of his service as Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means.
- Elijah Cummings, in honor of his service as Chair of the House Committee on Oversight & Reform.
- Peter DeFazio, in honor of his service as Chair of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure.
- Eddie Bernice Johnson, in honor of her service as Chair of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
- Paul Ryan, in honor of his service as the 54th Speaker of the House.
- Greg Walden, in honor of his service as Chair of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce.

The Capitol proudly displays many of our portraits, emphasizing the strong interlinked relationship between our Society and Congress. We are dedicated to providing long-lasting reminders of Congress and Capitol history that can endure for generations to come.

**Assistance to Members of Congress and staff**

The Society proudly serves as a resource to Members of Congress and Congressional Staff. Some examples of Congressional support activities in FY23 include:

- Society staff advised the Republican staff of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure on the displaying of portraits of past committee chairs in their committee room.
- Society staff provided a historical and training tour for the office of Representative Kat Cammack (R-FL 3) as part of their staff retreat.
- Then Director of Scholarship Samuel Holliday briefed the Democratic staff of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on statues that might be affected by a proposed bill aiming to remove Confederate statues from the National Statuary Hall Collection.
- Education Specialist Eric Denyer worked with the offices of Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and Representatives Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM 3), Carlos Giménez (R-FL 28), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA 6), and Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA 37) on how to share *We the People* Hub resources with teachers in their districts and states, and on the creation of specialized lesson plans.

In concert, the Society participated in a series of special, congressional staff-only programs which bring Capitol Hill alumni and experts on a particular subject to candidly discuss their experiences. The formal launch of the Congressional Staff Alumni Association will provide access to a broader pool of available speakers for this series.
Our Communications Department is dedicated to extending the Society’s reach to a broader and more diverse audience. We utilize our user-friendly website, active social media presence, and email campaigns to create awareness about our work in supporting the history of Congress. USCHS continues to focus on strengthening our digital presence and engagement strategies. As part of these efforts, we created new digital and printed materials to promote our civic education programs, memberships, and Society events.

Website
Our website underwent significant improvements – now reachable at CapitolHistory.org. Society staff and partners focused on improving high-traffic web pages to provide a better user experience so visitors can easily access information and register for events. The website offers historical articles, past webinar recordings, access to our history blog, updated education materials, and more. Our commitment to delivering relevant content and an exceptional online experience ensures that we continue to expand our reach and promote the historical legacy of Congress.

Newsletter
Development and Communications Manager Jazzmin Perry creates our newsletter that serves as a vital communication channel, connecting with a dedicated audience of nearly 22,300 subscribers on a weekly basis. Our subscriber base represents a fundamental link between our organization and its members, fostering engagement and ensuring they stay well-informed of our activities. The newsletter delivers regular updates on upcoming events and webinars, details of our collaborations with esteemed partners, and relevant Society news. In our ongoing efforts to enhance engagement, we are continually experimenting with various methods to increase our click-through rate, a metric that reflects how often subscribers click on the links provided in our newsletters. Furthermore, our newsletter plays a crucial role in distributing exclusive invitations to our member events. This not only simplifies the process of involving our members in our activities but also proves to be a highly effective tool for connecting them with the heart of our organization’s mission. It is our key tool for event recruitment, growing awareness of our programs, attracting new supporters, and bringing the Capitol closer to our members.

Social Media
We maintain an active presence on major social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, and Instagram, delivering daily historical updates throughout the workweek. Our unique #OnThisDay posts feature meticulously researched facts about significant historical events, making history accessible and engaging. Kelly Ryan, originally
the Cokie Roberts Intern for Communications and History now serves as the Communications Associate responsible for these daily postings. Our audience appreciates the long-form posts that share aspects of popular history of which many weren’t previously aware. These posts are often developed through the reading of scholarly research and primary resources. Our team is dedicated to making history come alive for our growing audience and looks forward to continuing this journey of historical storytelling on social media.

• In the past year, our Twitter (X) posts achieved remarkable success, with several surpassing 200 interactions. The most notable was our post about the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, which garnered nearly 74,000 interactions, becoming our most popular post to date.

• Another one of our most notable posts highlighted the infamous caning of Charles Sumner. This incident is a pivotal moment in history and is a fundamental topic in our Capitol tours, garnering a substantial 15,600 views.

• On our Instagram, we featured a post emphasizing the peaceful transition of power to President George W. Bush after a contentious election and Supreme Court case, highlighting the “checks-and-balances” style of government that safeguards against corruption.

• Our Instagram posts about the historic 2023 House Speaker election, the significance of Washington resigning his U.S. Army commission, and the takedown of a Nazi spy ring in America were each among the top ten most liked Instagram posts in Society history:

Earned Media

The Society continues to build its name recognition and credibility among reporters, which led to numerous stories that either featured or included the organization. These publications included The Washington Post, National Public Radio, TIME, National Geographic, Bloomberg, Fox News, C-SPAN, Yahoo News, the Associated Press, Business Insider, Politico, and Roll Call among many others.

Webinars and Livestreamed Events

The Society is dedicated to reaching a wider audience by providing program content that caters to their interests. We expanded our Capitol History lens to organize programs which view topics of current interest in the context of congressional history. Sam Holliday ably leads this work with Vincent Gonzalez. Our efforts have paid off as we have witnessed significant growth in our core audience this year, doubling our average webinar attendance. We can attribute this growth to attracting some of the nation’s most accomplished scholars and thinkers to speak at our events. Some of our acclaimed programs from FY23 include:

• “How America Tried to Save the Jews from the Holocaust” with Holocaust historian, Dr. Rebecca Erbelding.

• “Battle For Speakership: What 1923 Can Tell Us About 2023” featuring historians Christopher McKnight Nichols and Maxine Wagenhoffer.

• “America’s First Plague: The Deadly 1793 Epidemic that Crippled a Young Nation” with Dr. Robert Watson, American History professor and Avron Fogelman Research Professor at Lynn University.

• “Looking Ahead to America250” with the Honorable Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States and current chair of the United States Semi-Quincentennial Commission.
The Society made significant improvements to our marketing this year. Specifically, we focused on reaching a wider audience by customizing our product marketing efforts. To achieve this, we reintroduced the printed catalog and updated the digital version with new products and pricing. Additionally, we now post weekly on Google and Facebook to promote featured products. Additionally, we partnered with a TikTok influencer who specializes in history and now post weekly on Google and Facebook to promote featured products. Before her departure in the summer of 2023, Director of Merchandising LaShun Lawson launched a sales-focused newsletter that reached over 400 previous customers, resulting in a 50% open rate and a 5% sales conversion rate. While there is room for growth, these numbers demonstrate that targeted messaging can effectively reach our core customers and attract real buyers.

In the fall of 2023, Janae Henry joined the Society as Senior Manager of e-Commerce and Merchandising. Henry brings e-Commerce and digital marketing experience to the work.

Commemorative Capitol Police Ornament

On December 19, 2022, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society presented the 2022 Freedom Award to the U.S. Capitol Police and Metropolitan Police of DC. The Society also distributed 1,900 Commemorative Capitol Police Ornaments to each member of the U.S. Capitol Police. This symbolic ornament honors the U.S. Capitol Police Force who, for more than two centuries, have put their lives on the line to protect the Capitol, Congress, and the democracy they represent.

National Book Festival

The Society was invited to participate in the 2022 Library of Congress National Book Festival. By far our most popular items were the Holiday Ornaments, not just for the current year, but past years as well.

New Products

- The Sympathy Bracelet and Pacific Necklace, available in both silver and gold, showcase genuine marble from the U.S. Capitol. You can find these exquisite pieces on our website and various new e-Commerce platforms. The “Wear A Piece of Capitol History” campaign is gaining momentum through social media and influencer marketing, and...
our initial sales have been highly promising.

• We continue to provide a range of educational materials for purchase. Examples include copies of the Founding Documents and coloring books such as *Exploring Capitol Hill*.

• Our selection also includes socks and hats featuring donkeys, elephants, and our iconic Capitol Dome logo for beanies. Our collection also includes bookends and cookie jars made from historic Capitol marble, as well as a range of commemorative products such as water bottles, coffee mugs, and socks with elephants, donkeys, and our iconic Dome logo.

**Inventory Management**

Our merchandising team implemented a more efficient and cloud-based process to manage inventory and sales. This system enabled us to have a realistic idea of the inventory we have, inventory we need, as well as trends in the market to predict when certain products will be more popular.

**Wholesale Business Opportunities**

Our largest wholesale buyer by far is the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center (CVC). Another opportunity exists with our corporate members and PACs which may be interested in acquiring holiday gifts for their supporters.

**Sales**

The merchandising team embarked on a strategic effort in FY23 to broaden our product offerings and expand our distribution platforms, with a particular focus on wholesale opportunities. Society staff are exploring a partnership with Military Exchanges to include our products in their outlets, as well as other high-volume transactions, partnerships, and in-person sales events to grow our sales volume.
Our highest honor, The Freedom Award, is given annually to recognize and honor individuals and organizations that have advanced greater public understanding and appreciation for freedom as represented by the U.S. Capitol and Congress.

On December 19, 2022, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society presented the 2022 Freedom Award to the U.S. Capitol Police and DC Metropolitan Police departments for their enduring work to keep the Capitol and the Congress safe. The ceremony featured remarks by Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger and DC Metropolitan Police Chief Robert J. Contee III, who accepted the Freedom Award on behalf of their premier law enforcement agencies. The 2021 Freedom Award recipients, Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), presented the award. Finally, our event featured Society President, Jane L. Campbell, who shared a history of the Capitol Police and the DC Metropolitan Police. C-SPAN2 recorded and broadcast the program.
Corporate and Individual Giving Support

The addition of new members to the Corporate Sustainability Committee energized its work as members partnered with Society staff to design and enhance our program offerings for corporate members. The full reopening of the Capitol in 2022 significantly helped this effort. Our revitalized team engaged in peer-to-peer outreach efforts with colleagues and focused on recruiting members from new and emerging industries.

Capitol Committee Programs

The Society has been working hard on continuing to offer programs for the wonderful and generous members of our Capitol Committee. The newly strengthened Capitol Committee under the joint leadership of Paul Boykas, Neil Naraine and Anna Schneider will work with the Society’s Director of Development, Cherise Clark, to design the best programs for corporate members.

Legacy Gifts

Former Society President/CEO Ron Sarasin passed away in late March 2023 after a long illness, surrounded by his family. To honor his memory, his wife Leslie suggested that friends donate to the Society. You can access the Society’s tribute page and make memorial gifts using this URL: https://capitolhistory.org/sarasin/.

Additionally, the family of Joseph Conners, a photographer who contributed his work to the USCHS calendar, suggested contributions in his memory. We’ve made improvements to the Legacy Giving page on the USCHS website. Donors can now designate the Society as a beneficiary in their will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. The Society can also accept gifts of stock, real estate, and personal property, among other options. Legacy giving is an excellent way for donors to support the Society’s programs for many years to come.

Foundation Support

While our We the People Constitution program again offers in-person tours, we continue to invest significant funds for the expansion and enhancement of our digital resource Hub. As outlined in the education section, we are grateful to the following foundations for their continued support of our signature education program.

- The Brown Rudnick Foundation
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- International Paper Foundation

Foundation support provides only twenty percent of the cost of the We the People Constitution Tour program. We continue to seek additional sources of funding.
## APPENDIX A:
Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report

### UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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### UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**
Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

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<tr>
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<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$489,178</td>
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<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
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<td>1148</td>
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<td><strong>Supporting Activities</strong></td>
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### UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**
Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
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<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>To net cash flows from operating activities</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized (gain) loss on investments</td>
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<td>Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program loan</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Increase) decrease in assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Retention Credit receivable</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Unconditional promises to give</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
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<td>Increase (decrease) in liabilities</td>
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<td>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>Purchases of and interest and dividends retained in investments</td>
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<td>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>Principal payments on finance lease liabilities</td>
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<td>Cash at end of year</td>
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### SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE
Cash paid for interest                                         | $4,057   | $5,177   |
APPENDIX B: CAPITOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leadership Council ($25,000.00 & Up)
- Horizon Therapeutics
- Bank of America
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- Raytheon Technologies
- PwC
- The Amy and Edward Knight Foundation

Constitution Signers ($15,000 – 24,000)
- Altria Client Services LLC
- American Beverage Association
- Diageo
- Dominion Energy
- Finseca
- International Paper
- New York Life Insurance Company
- Norfolk Southern Corporation
- Prudential Financial
- Shell Oil Company
- Transamerica
- The Home Depot
- The National Automobile Dealers Association
- UPS
- Visa, Inc.
- Volkswagen Group of America

Founder Level Members ($5,000 – 9,999)
- Anheuser-Busch Foundation
- BASF Corporation
- CAF America
- EMD Serono, Inc.
- Ferring Pharmaceuticals
- Grifols
- MetLife
- National Beer Wholesalers Association
- Northwestern Mutual
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Phillips 66
- Procter & Gamble
- The American Society of Civil Engineers
- The Russell Group
- Toyota Motors North America, Inc.
- US Bank

Brumidi Society ($10,000 – 14,999)
- AARP
- American Beverage Association
- American Council of Life Insurers
- Amway

APPENDIX C: 2023 USCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers:
- Donald G. Carlson
  Chairman, USCHS Board of Trustees
  PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (Retired)
- Dontai Smalls
  Vice Chair, USCHS Board of Trustees
  UPS
- David Regan
  Treasurer, USCHS Board of Trustees
  National Automobile Dealers Association

Trustees:
- Jeanne de Cervens
  Secretary, USCHS Board of Trustees
  Georgetown University

- The Honorable Jane L. Campbell
  President/CEO, United States Capitol Historical Society

Hogan Lovells
Joseph W. Dooley
National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Lee Dunn
Google Cloud
Ron Elving
NPR
Sam Fulwood, III
American University
The Honorable Chuck Hagel
24th Secretary of Defense and former U.S. Senator from Nebraska
Mary Moore Hamrick
George W. Bush Presidential Center
John R. Haskell, Ph.D.
Library of Congress (Retired)
Betsy Wright Hawkins
Article One Advisors, LLC
James Head
BDO
Mark Hopkins
Chicago Central Area Committee
Olivia Igboke-Wise, Esq.
Amazon Web Services
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