

West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

**JIM JUSTICE
GOVERNOR**

**RANDALL REID-SMITH
CABINET SECRETARY**



West Virginia Department of
**ARTS, CULTURE
AND HISTORY**

THE MISSION
OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS,
CULTURE AND
HISTORY IS TO
IDENTIFY, PRESERVE,
PROTECT, PROMOTE AND
PRESENT THE
IDEAS, ARTS, AND
ARTIFACTS OF
WEST VIRGINIA'S
HERITAGE,
BUILDING PRIDE
IN OUR PAST
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND CONFIDENCE
IN OUR FUTURE.

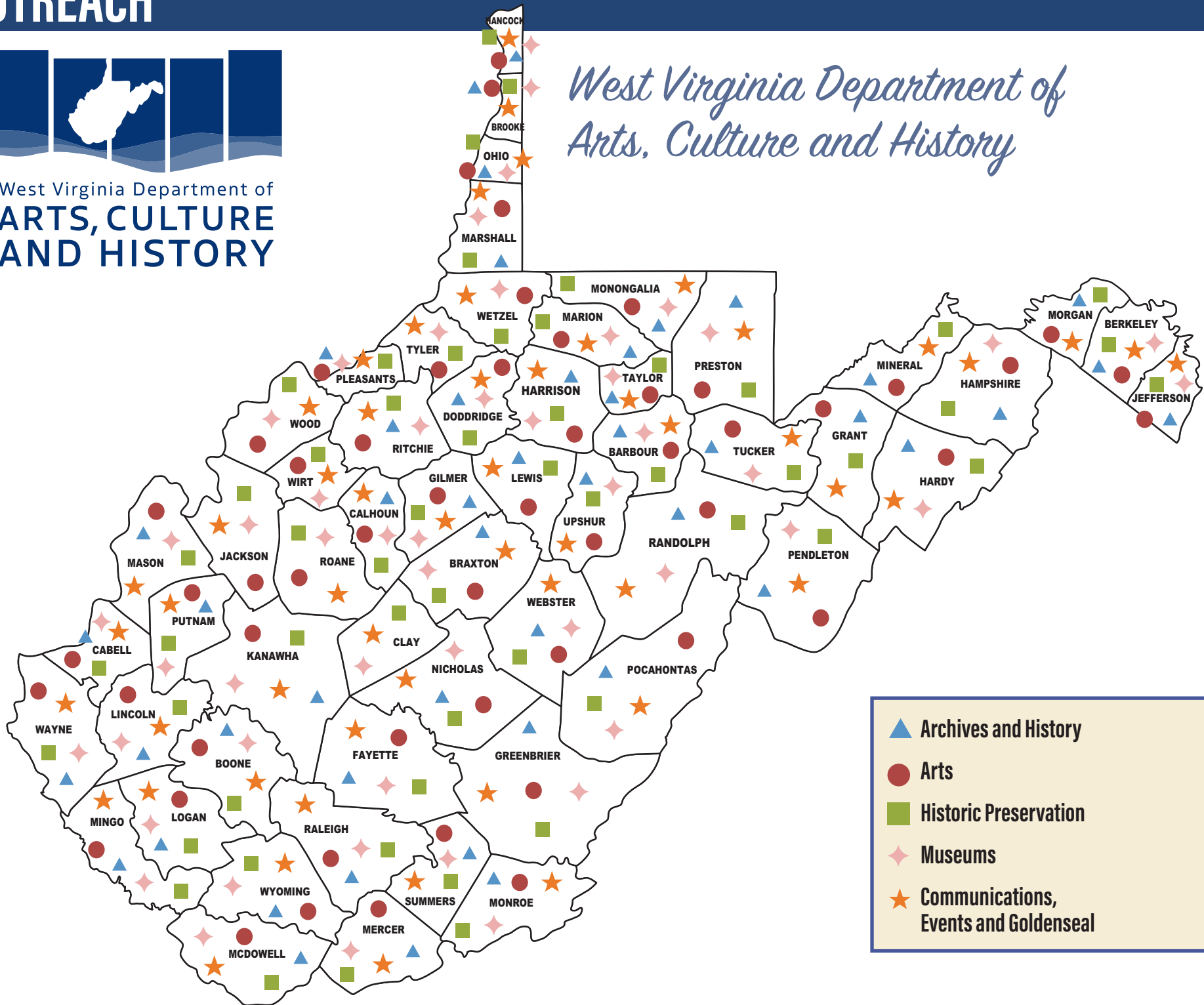
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OUTREACH



West Virginia Department of
**ARTS, CULTURE
AND HISTORY**

*West Virginia Department of
Arts, Culture and History*





The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History is dependent on our ability to network and develop relationships with people from around the state. Our ability to provide services, programs, and opportunities for our fellow West Virginians, in conjunction with our amazing partnerships, allows us to make our mission a reality. At the WVDACH, our aim is to identify, preserve, protect, promote, and present the ideas, arts, and artifacts of West Virginia's heritage, building pride in our past accomplishments and confidence in our future. We present those stories with events, lectures, presentations, student programs, arts programming, and exhibits that highlight the unique nature of our state. Finally, we promote ways to connect our past with the present and future in ways that will help West Virginians proudly continue our state's story.

Why do we do it?

Because, as West Virginia native and author Pearl S. Buck said, "If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." We want to have a positive impact on West Virginians and to help others understand our heritage, instilling an intrinsic sense of pride about our history and a respect for those who laid the foundation that has made our past unique and special.

How do we do it?

We do it in so many ways that I sometimes think people don't realize how many ways our department influences, affects, and helps our state. With Governor Jim Justice's dedication to the arts and his commitment to financially invest in the arts communities, we have been able to enrich the arts and arts organizations throughout the state in a way that we haven't previously.

By diversifying our efforts, we have the maximum impact throughout the state. We provide educational programming to students as well as lifelong learners, which offers an insight into the past and present.

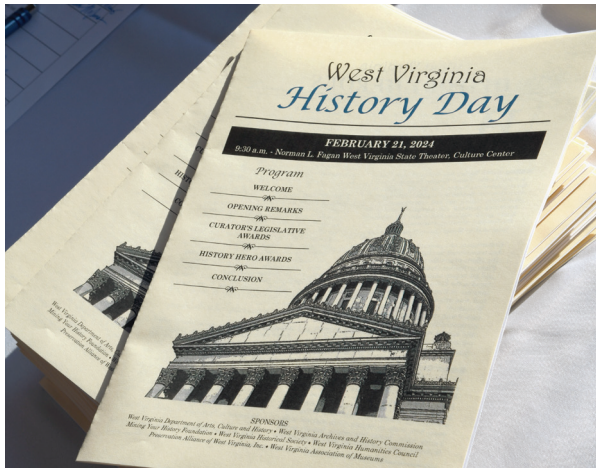
Ambassadors Camp, History Bowl, Marching Band competitions, and Poetry Out Loud give young West Virginians the opportunity to focus on their future and to meet with their peers from around the state, forming bonds that will last a lifetime. Through our grants programs, we support arts in our communities and the artists who live here. We also encourage counties throughout the state to contemporize data and records, and we encourage preservationists to protect our historical structures that showcase our past. Through events such as Vandalia Gathering and the Appalachian String Band Music Festival, we can revive our traditions and pass them on to our next generation through oratory and music.

What are the results?

A sense of pride in being a West Virginian and an improved attention to our historic properties and their value in communities. This leads to generous donations of artifacts, historical documents, and other items to our state archives and museum collections as well as an increase in communities that are embracing arts programs and projects to enhance their neighborhoods.

The most important one is the one that speaks to the energy and excitement of our future. Young people who attend our events are proud to be West Virginians and many of them reinforce their commitment to stay here in the State and help see it grow.

Cabinet Secretary
Randall Reid-Smith



Preserving West Virginia's Primary Source Documents

Mission

The mission of Archives and History is to collect and preserve West Virginia's public records and historical materials, to make these records available to the public and private sectors, and to disseminate historical information through publications and programs, so as to enrich the lives of past and present residents and future generations.

Archives and History maintains the Archives and History Library and the West Virginia State Archives; administers the highway marker program to designate historical sites; and provides support services and technical assistance to state, county, and historical organizations and institutions. Under the Code, the director of Archives and History serves as secretary to the citizen advisory Archives and History Commission and as staff to the Records Management and Preservation Board.

Archives and History Library

Between July 2023 and June 2024, 5,476 books and pamphlets were added to the library collections. Library staff continued to use the West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Library's cataloguing system, Sierra, to catalogue new books. Retroactive cataloguing continued in order to add books that had been dropped from the system during previous migrations or that had not been entered into the system when the library transitioned from a physical card catalogue to an electronic one in the 1990s. Shifting of the Library Collection occurred in both the Archives Library and Closed Stacks section in order to make room for new materials.

Social Media

Outreach through social media continued to be a strong focus throughout the 2023-2024FY. While Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram remained useful platforms for public outreach, particular focus was placed on Facebook and YouTube, as these two platforms are where we have the largest following.

Collections

A number of new collections were accessioned during the 2023-2024 year. New government records accessioned and processed included records from the Tyler, Mercer, and Wayne County Circuit Clerks Offices, as well as materials from the office of Governor Jim Justice. Processing of chancery and law files from Fayette County was completed, while work continued on records from Ohio County. Also added were 15 new manuscript collections, 12 new photograph collections, and 45 new special collections.

In addition, 257 yearbooks were added to the yearbook collection. Additions to the manuscript collections included fourteen boxes of materials relating to the Lewis family of Mason County. Multiple accessions were added to the Seltzer Family Collection, which provide additional information on the lives of Dr. Leo Seltzer, his wife Thelma Seltzer, and their daughter Joanne Seltzer. The Julian H. Priesler Collection contains the research notes of Julian Priesler, who wrote the book *Jewish West Virginia*.

Noteworthy photograph collections included the West Virginia Book Company Collection, which features photographs from the 1920s-30s of West Virginia coalfields that were originally used in *Coaltowns of West Virginia: A Pictorial Recollection* by Mary Ethel Legg. The Van Helmick Collection contains many photographs taken by Air Force photographer Van Helmick in the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War. Altogether, the State Archives accessioned more than 971 prints, negatives, slides, and postcards during the year.

Audiovisual Archives

During the fiscal year, newspapers covering the period from 2009 to 2023 were filmed totaling 90 rolls of microfilm. The Audiovisual Archivist digitized the Robert Gates Film Communication from Weber for the West Virginia International Film Festival, which they showed as part of a charitable fundraiser. New space was allotted within the Archives collections areas to allow for continued growth of the Audiovisual Collection.

Records Management

In the twenty-first round of Records Management and Preservation Board (RMPB) grants, 37 counties were awarded grants totaling \$551,339 for projects scheduled to begin on July 1, 2024. Lewis County and Morgan County were given the largest awards, both receiving \$30,000. Lewis County received funding to scan and index domestic civil case files (1993-1997/2010-2012), criminal case files (1993-1996), and domestic violence case files (2010-2012) in the Circuit Clerk's Office; to continue index recording documents into their records management software (Deed Books 457-482, inventory books 100-112) in the County Clerk's Office; and to scan and index 2010-2020 criminal reports, investigation reports, and criminal complaints, in the Sheriff's Office, which is a continuation of the previous grant cycle.

Morgan County received funding to scan and index magistrate and circuit case files (1990-present) in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (a continuation of current and past grant

projects); to scan and index map cards (1800s-2022) using full time staff at the overtime rate in the Assessor's Office (a continuation of current and past grant projects); and to scan and index the deed books, deed of trust books 1-25, and will books 1-12 in the County Clerk's Office.

Grants underway in the 2023-2024 year averaged just over \$14,901. Sixteen grants exceeded \$14,901 (Boone, Fayette, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Mason, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Morgan, Roane, and Upshur). These counties had projects that included the purchase of shelving, scanners, or other equipment; encapsulation and/or conservation of record books; digitization of microfilm and records books; scanning of books and/or documents; and/or the indexing of records. Three grants awarded were for less than \$5,000 – Hampshire County was awarded \$1,728 to digitize grantee-grantor deed index of corporations from 1928-1998. McDowell County was awarded \$4,909 to encapsulate and digitize map books 16 and 17 (this is a continuation of past grant projects to restore the county's original map books), while Summers County was awarded \$3,000 to encapsulate and digitize will book 2 and digitize will book 1.

The Statewide County Records Preservation Project staff continued to collect and digitize deed books. Staff scanned 106 deed books for Cabell County, edited the digitized images, and converted them to smaller black and white files. Scanning of Cabell County's deed books was completed in early May 2024,

and staff began working with Pleasants County to scan their deed books in late May 2024. A total of 54 deed books from Pleasants County were scanned between late May and June 30, 2024.

Records Management and Preservation Grants 2023-2024

Barbour	\$10,000.00	Mason	\$14,982.00
Berkeley	\$23,271.00	McDowell	\$4,909.00
Braxton	\$9,091.00	Mercer	\$31,308.00
Brooke	\$13,858.00	Mineral	\$10,000.00
Cabell	\$23,487.00	Mingo	\$25,000.00
Fayette	\$7,515.00	Monongalia	\$14,061.00
Gilmer	\$22,154.00	Morgan	\$30,000.00
Grant	\$9,086.00	Ohio	\$4,353.00
Hardy	\$15,000.00	Pendleton	\$10,000.00
Jackson	\$4,546.00	Pleasants	\$10,000.00
Jefferson	\$8,864.00	Pocahontas	\$32,302.00
Kanawha	\$20,000.00	Putnam	\$6,673.00
Lewis	\$40,000.00	Roane	\$7,505.00
Lincoln	\$21,304.00	Wayne	\$25,838.00
Logan	\$11,082.00	Wirt	\$9,445.00
Marion	\$9,091.00		
Total			\$484,735.00

Inter-Agency Support

Staff aided several state agencies regarding their records and retention schedules and responded to requests for information on various topics. Archives staff continued to assist the Department of Education with preparation for the Golden Horseshoe test. Archives and History continued to play a substantial role in

the West Virginia History Bowl, with regional tournaments being held throughout February, and a play-in competition held on March 16, 2024, in Buckhannon.

During the 2023-2024 season, 55 schools from 22 counties participated in History Bowl. There were 94 teams at the regional tournaments and 24 teams at the Play-In Tournament. The double-elimination state championship was held at the Culture Center on April 30, 2024. The Archives Library served as one of the competition venues for both local regional competitions and the statewide tournament. Archives Staff also served as moderators for the Department of Education’s Academic Showdown State Finals on April 23, 2024, and as judges for the State Social Studies Fair on April 10, 2024.

History Bowl Counties Participating:		
Berkeley	Jackson	Nicholas
Boone	Jefferson	Ohio
Cabell	Kanawha	Putnam
Doddridge	Marshall	Raleigh
Grant	Mineral	Ritchie
Hancock	Mingo	Wood
Harrison	Monongalia	Wyoming
	Monroe	

Archives and History staff continued to provide support to other sections within the Department of Arts, Culture and History. The photo archivist provided 20 images to the museum section, one image to the State Historic Preservation Office, and one image for

Goldenseal magazine. Archives also provided 64 gratis images for individuals in state offices or elsewhere. A photo exhibit highlighting railroads in West Virginia was put on display in late 2023, and several archival exhibits went on display in the Archives Library, including an exhibit to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) and an exhibit on William Henry Edwards.

Outreach

Archives and History staff continued to focus on educational outreach to students during the 2023-2024 year. Various school groups visited the library for tours and to conduct research; not including participants in History Bowl matches, no less than 200 students were served through programming in the library. For most tours, staff set up several stations that the students rotated between to highlight various types of items from the Archives collections and explain the types of materials stored in the Archives (such as maps, yearbooks, microfilm, photographs, videos, etc.)

History Day at the State Capitol was held on February 21, 2024, with thirty-eight display groups in attendance. Twenty-Eight History Heroes were nominated, and twenty-five attended the History Heroes Award Ceremony at the Culture Center in person. The Archives Library served as the venue for the 2024 Society of Appalachian Historians Conference from May 20-21, 2024. The Archives staff hosted interns from Ambassador’s Camp and hosted an Archives themed escape room for Ambassador

Camp students on June 18, 2024. The Archives Education Coordinator and the Archives Director attended the INVEST Conference, a conference for educators across the state, on June 25, 2024. The Archives Director taught courses on the language and importance of archiving during the Governor’s School for Literacy camp on June 27, 2024.

HIGHWAY MARKERS

New Markers

Berkeley County
*Hack Wilson/Martinsburg
Blue Sox*

Fayette County
Marian H. McQuade

Jefferson County
Eugenia Washington

Kanawha County
The Slack Family

Logan County
Holden 22 Mine Explosion

Monroe County
*Johnson’s Crossroads/Johnson’s
Crossroads Cemetery*

Summers County
Blind Alfred Reed

FY2024 Highlights

- Records Management and Preservation Board awarded grants for the 2024-2025 fiscal year totaling \$551,339 to support projects in 37 counties
- 3,953 books and pamphlets added to collections
- More than 1,268 linear feet of manuscripts, special collections, and state government records, and 975 photographs and negatives added to collections
- Statewide county records preservation project digitized 168 record books
- 79 rolls of film shot in preservation microfilming of daily and weekly newspapers
- 247 research letters, 1,599 reference calls, and 12,478 e-mails handled
- 20 videos uploaded to the Archives and Archives Music YouTube channels
- Hosted 296 people in library during History Bowl matches
- Provided 372 free photocopies to other state agencies
- 30 Veterans Memorial biographies added to Archives and History website through efforts of volunteers and students

2024 History Advocate Legislative Leadership Award

Senator Eric Tarr
Senator Mike Woelfel
Delegate Vernon Criss
Delegate Eric Householder
Delegate George Street



2024 HISTORY HEROES

William David Bailey
Dean Connors
Robert “Cotty” Farley
Jon-Erik Gilot
Jeffrey R. Golinveaux
Kara D. Gordon
Gene Gray
Roy T. Hardy
Stephen and N. Catherine Howerton
Jane Hughes
Charles Anthony Julian
Kathy L. Kidd
Rick Lang
Karen Rebecca “Becky” Ivan Leach
Sara Loftus
Dawn Denise Plymale McComas
Mark McComas
Pedro “Peter” Ottaviano
Aaron Lee Owens
Dylan Patrick
Robin Rowe
Derrick Smith
Benjamin Susman
Julie Taylor
Peter Taylor
Terry Williamson
Bob Wing
Alfred “Fred” Ziegler



Promoting West Virginia's Arts

The State Arts Office, in conjunction with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, provides grants to artists, nonprofit arts organizations, communities, and schools across the state. Funding for these programs is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and matched by the West Virginia State Legislature. The mission of the State Arts Office is to support the creative economy through grants and services, build future audiences through arts education, and ensure every West Virginian has access to quality, impactful arts in their community.



In FY2024 the State Arts Office received \$3,846,842 in grant requests. From those requests, \$2,222,059 in funding was awarded across 239 grants. These grants provided work for 5,867 artists and engaged 251,102 youth and 442,377 adults. The number of youth served by these grant programs increased 25.8% from FY2023 to FY2024. In FY2024 the State Arts Office awarded:

- \$618,737 in Arts Partners grants providing support to 14 major arts organizations
- \$585,654.28 in Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources grants to 9 arts and history organizations for capital improvements to their facilities
- \$364,874 in Community Arts grants supporting 28 arts organizations
- \$162,792 in Professional Development grants to 53 individual artists
- \$145,001 in STEAM Power WV grants to 21 schools and organizations
- \$86,778 in Arts in Education grants to 9 schools and arts organizations
- \$74,150 in Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Fast-Track grants to 8

organizations to make emergency repairs or ADA upgrades

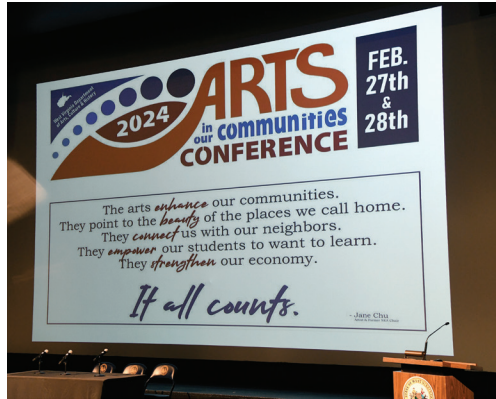
- \$39,590 in Creative Aging for Lifelong Learning grants to 10 artists and arts organizations to offer arts education programming to adults
- \$38,500 for folk arts programs at the WV Humanities Council
- \$35,626 in Community Arts Mini-Grants to 22 West Virginia arts organizations for community-based projects
- \$24,269 in Living Traditions: Folk Art grants to 7 artists and arts organizations
- \$24,137 for Youth Engagement through Public Art Grants to 7 youth and arts organizations
- \$14,848 in Travel and Training grants awarded to 31 artists
- \$3,403 in Arts Conference Expense grants to 15 arts professionals for travel costs to attend the statewide Arts in Our Communities conference
- \$3,700 in Arts in Education Mini Grants to 4 schools and arts organizations

The State Arts Office continued in-person constituent outreach in FY2024, including:

- Governor's Arts Caravan - grant writing workshops and listening tours
- Arts in Our Communities Conference
- Site visits

In addition to the 5 grant writing workshops/listening tour sites of the Governor's Arts Caravan, the State Arts Office staff made 31 site visits in FY2024. Of these visits, 14 were

to counties designated as economically at-risk or distressed by the Appalachian Regional Commission.



The information provided by constituents during listening tours, site visits, submitted in grant applications, and submitted in final reports provided data for the Arts Office staff to craft a new strategic plan. The plan went into effect in January 2024 and has 5 main goals:

- Support and grow the creative economy
- Promote arts in education to build future audiences
- Ensure equity, access, & inclusion
- Ensure the creation and presentation of high-quality works of art and arts experiences
- Promote arts advocacy

Another way the State Arts Office reaches its constituents is through *ArtWorks*, a monthly television show highlighting artists and arts programming around the state. The show can be viewed on cable television and on YouTube. Episodes filmed in FY2024 featured

events such as the West Virginia Juried Art Exhibition, the Mtn Craft Film Festival in Clarksburg, and the 10th Anniversary of the Rustic Mechanicals touring theater company. Doris Fields, who performs as Lady D, appeared on the show to discuss “Those Who Came Before,” her documentary project about Black Music History in West Virginia. *ArtWorks* also highlighted the success of artists, including painter Ruth Yang, mixed media artist Mandy Lester, and singer-songwriter Alex Richardson, whose original one-act play “Mountain Music” premiered at the Historic Fayette Theater in Fayetteville.

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History’s partnership with the Save The Music Foundation is an important tool for preserving and sustaining music programs for the state’s youth. By the end of FY2024, 145 middle schools in all 55 counties had benefited from this program. A total of \$5.32 million has been awarded in West Virginia. Schools received matching grants worth an average of \$40,000 in new musical instruments, ongoing program management, and instructional materials. These schools received FY2024 Save The Music grants:

- Cameron Junior/Senior High School, Marshall County
- Dunbar Middle School, Kanawha County
- Fairview Middle School, Marion County
- Glen Fork Elementary/Middle School, Wyoming County
- Hurricane Middle School, Putnam County
- Matewan Middle School, Mingo County
- Rivesville Elementary/Middle School,

Marion County

- South Preston Middle School, Preston County
- Terra Alta/East Preston Middle School, Preston County
- Triadelphia Middle School, Ohio County
- Warwood School, Ohio County
- Westside Middle School, Kanawha County

Partnerships, like the one with the Save The Music program, are vital to the mission of the State Arts Office. In FY2024 the agency continued to partner with the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC), supporting extended arts education residencies in West Virginia schools. The Arts staff has helped RAC create and support partnerships among schools, teachers, professional teaching artists, and arts organizations. Since 2018, RAC residencies have taken place in schools in 16 West Virginia counties.

In August 2023, State Arts Office staff and Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Arts, Culture and History embarked on the third Governor’s Arts Caravan. This 5-day tour included 5 grant writing workshops and listening sessions, as well as 11 site visits to arts organizations in 9 counties across the state. Grant coordinators were on hand to answer questions about grants and services and encourage applications from historically underserved areas and organizations.

In October 2023, the State Arts Office accepted applications for the fall deadline grants. These included Creative Aging for Lifelong Learning, Living Traditions: Folk Art,

STATE ARTS OFFICE

Professional Development for Artists, STEAM Power WV, and Youth Engagement through Public Art grants. All of these grant programs have recently updated and streamlined applications. These shorter, simplified applications make grant funding accessible to a larger range of applicants.

In November 2023, the State Arts Office collected ornaments for the First Lady's holiday tree. Thirty-three artists from 12 counties submitted ornaments that were displayed on an 18-foot tree in the Culture Center's Great Hall.

The State Arts Office also collected ornaments for the First Lady's Student Ornament Competition. The theme was "Celebrating Christmas in West Virginia" and 164 ornaments from K-12 classrooms in 27 counties were submitted. These ornaments were displayed on an 18-foot tree in the Great Hall. Winners were selected from four grade-level categories and winning classrooms were sent \$100 gift certificates for art supplies.

The winning schools were:

- Mercer Christian Academy, Mercer County
- Davis-Thomas Elementary, Tucker County
- Sissonville Middle School, Kanawha County
- John Marshall High School, Marshall County

In February 2024, the State Arts Office connected artists and arts organizations across the state through the annual Arts in Our Communities conference. One hundred twenty-nine artists and representatives from arts organizations attended the free 2-day event at the Culture Center in Charleston. The

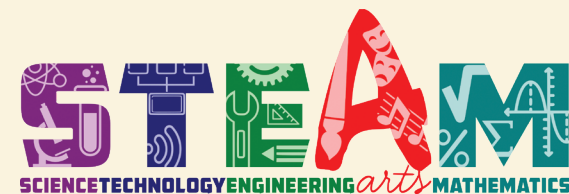
conference offers programming for artists, arts organizations, and arts educators. This year's conference featured hands-on art making workshops; a screening of WV documentary, *O'Pioneer*; a performance by 2022 Folk Artist of the Year Adam Booth; and a performance by performer and storyteller Aristotle Jones.



While the conference does not have a registration fee, some prospective attendees are unable to attend because of travel costs. A new grant program, the Arts Conference Expense grant, was introduced in FY2023 to offset costs associated with travel to Charleston. Artists and representatives of arts organizations were able to apply for up to \$500 in travel reimbursements to attend the conference. Now in its second year, \$3,403 was awarded to 15 individuals and organizations. This grant removes financial barriers and allows more West Virginians to attend the professional development opportunities offered at the conference.

After programming concluded on the first day of the conference, the State Arts Office hosted the Governor's Arts Awards. Cabinet Secretary Randall Reid-Smith emceed

FY2024 STEAM Power WV Grant Program



FY24 saw the continuation of the STEAM Power WV grant program. Funding for this initiative comes from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the Department of Education. Funded proposals integrated the Arts with one or more of the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) disciplines for projects engaging pre-k through 12th grade students in hands-on learning. \$145,001 in grant funding was awarded to 21 projects taking place at schools and nonprofit organizations. A STEAM Showcase event was held at the Culture Center in October 2023, with students and educators from around the state exhibiting their projects. The Showcase also included guest speakers, art-making activities, music and dance performances, and a presentation by the teachers and students of Andrews Heights Elementary School in Kanawha County.



the event and awards were given to artists, arts organizations, and legislators. The event was free and open to the public and featured performances by Brodrick Hammers on piano; poetry reading by Braylie Smolder; choral performance by Pirate Crew of Village of Barboursville Middle School; and show choir performances by The TomCats of Nitro High School, General Admission of Winfield High School, and Voices in Perfection of Capital High School. The following awards were given:

- Artist of the Year - Nichole Westfall, Cabell County
- Arts Organization of the Year - Bluefield Arts and Revitalization Corporation, Mercer County
- Arts in Education, Individual - Tommy Lee Nester, Mineral County
- Arts in Education, Organization - Capital High School Performing Arts Department, Kanawha County
- Emerging Artist of the Year - Peggy Owens, Pocahontas County
- Emerging Arts Organization of the Year - Colonial Arts Center, Upshur County
- Folk Artist of the Year - Amy Pabst, Roane County
- Folk Arts Organization of the Year - Arthurdale Heritage, Preston County
- Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement - Toneta Akers-Toler, Raleigh County
- Susan S. Landis Service to the Arts, Individual - N. David Stern, Kanawha County
- Susan S. Landis Service to the Arts, Organization - Artbeat Studio of Wood

County Society, Wood County

- Arts in Education - Senator Amy Grady & Delegate Marty Gearheart
- Community Arts - Senator Laura Wakim Chapman & Delegate Eric Householder
- Cultural Facilities - Senator Jack David Woodrum & Delegate Matthew Rohrbach
- Folk Arts - Senator Tom Takubo & Delegate George Street
- Lifetime Achievement - Senator Mike Woelfel & Delegate Vernon Criss



Directly following the Arts in Our Communities Conference, the State Arts Office held Arts Day at the Legislature in the State Capitol Building. Fifty-five artists and arts organizations set up booths outside the House and Senate chambers to showcase their work and inform their legislators of the arts offerings in their districts. Attendees were able to listen to live musical performances, see actors in costume, and watch a painting demonstration.

Poetry Out Loud programs were held at 50 schools and organizations around the state with 4,005 students participating under the

instruction of 167 teachers. The state finals were held at the Culture Center in Charleston and 44 students from 28 counties participated. Willow Peyton of St. Marys High School was named the 2024 state champion and John Spellman of Morgantown High School was the runner-up. West Virginia artists are an integral part of the program as performers, judges, mentors, and gift makers. Among those involved in this year's state finals were author and storyteller Bil Lepp, WV poet laureate Marc Harshman, musicians Aristotle Jones and Ray Singleton, woodworker Matt Thomas, designer and letterpress printer Emily Sokolosky, and artist and designer Nicholas Tankersley. Handcrafted hardwood trophies created by Matt Thomas of ThomasWork were presented to the state champion and runner-up. State Champion Willow Peyton represented West Virginia at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, where she was one of 9 students to advance to the final round. Poetry Out Loud students were also invited to perform poems at FestivALL Charleston, the WV Reading Association Conference, and Arts Alive, the West Virginia Department of Education's annual arts education showcase.

The State Arts Office is committed to building future audiences in our state's youth and supporting the growth of the creative economy of West Virginia. To do this, staff will continue reviewing the office's grants, services, and processes throughout the year to ensure they are the best fit for the artists and arts organizations they are designed to serve.

ARTS GRANTS DISTRIBUTED IN FY24

Direct grants by County:

Many grants extend beyond the borders of the county in which they are awarded.

BARBOUR COUNTY

Zoe Payne - \$500

BERKELEY COUNTY

Daniele Piasecki - \$2,350

CABELL COUNTY

Alchemy Theatre Troupe - \$7,941
Alexander Lee - \$2,500
Cabell County Board of Education - \$7,464
Courtney Chapman - \$500
First Stage Theatre Company - \$25,179
Foundry Theater - \$2,000
Joseph Cox - \$1,800
Joshua Perry - \$500
June Harless Center - \$5,602
Huntington Children's Museum - \$48,274.49
Huntington Museum of Art - \$66,941
Kathleen M. Kneafsey - \$4,202
Kyle Jacob Dyer - \$2,592
Michael Adkins - \$4,975
Miyuki Akai-Cook - \$4,142
Renewall - \$2,000
Rosalie Kullen - \$500
Sandra Reed - \$5,347
Tri-State Arts Association - \$1,149

CLAY COUNTY

Brian Michael Reed - \$2,800

FAYETTE COUNTY

Eleanor Marshall - \$2,236
Henry Beach Vickers - \$500

GREENBRIER COUNTY

Carnegie Hall - \$60,732
Cathy Rennard - \$500
Friends of White Sulphur Springs
National Fish Hatchery - \$1,600
Greenbrier County Board of Education - \$15,521
Greenbrier Valley Theater - \$41,867
Jessica Levine - \$5,000
Joshua Nathanael Seldomridge - \$4,500
Mary Leb - \$500
Quincy Gray McMichael - \$630
Sonia Jones - \$2,176

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

Henry Ireys - \$4,211
The River House - \$29,283

HANCOCK COUNTY

Hancock County Board of Education - \$7,094

HARRISON COUNTY

Bernie Wilke - \$442
Hannah McNemar - \$3,583
Harrison County Board of Education - \$19,510

HARDY COUNTY

Amy Victoria Johnson - \$2,500
Michele Moure-Reeves - \$4,882
Town of Wardensville - \$15,000

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Adam Booth - \$4,201
Appalachian Chamber Music - \$17,540
Brooklyn Gholston - \$477
Contemporary American Theater Festival - \$30,222
Friends of Music - \$20,000
Harriett Kirsten Lee - \$10,500
Jefferson County Board of Education - \$10,000
Nicole Smith - \$500
Old Opera House Theatre Company - \$152,579

KANAWHA COUNTY

Alex Miller - \$4,713
Caitlin Clawson - \$3,484
Celtic Calling WV - \$3,000
Charleston Ballet - \$33,727
Charleston Light Opera Guild - \$28,348
Charleston WV Blues Society - \$1,000
Children's Theatre of Charleston - \$4,400
Clairice Hemme - \$1,602
Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences - \$52,380
FestivALL Charleston - \$1,250
Friends of the Alban Arts & Conference Center - \$12,925

Fund for the Arts - \$2,000
Jessica McClanahan - \$375
Kanawha County Board of Education - \$44,879
Kanawha Valley FOOTMAD - \$8,800
Matthew David Smith - \$4,646
Matthew Ryan Wickert - \$2,413
Michael Teel - \$1,408
Michelle Claus - \$2,155
Renee Margocee - \$500
Tijah Bumgarner - \$5,000
WV Symphony Orchestra - \$63,554
WV Youth Symphony - \$4,170

MARION COUNTY

Fairmont Chamber Music Society - \$3,499
Frank & Jane Gabor WV Folklife Center - \$283

MARSHALL COUNTY

Marshall County Board of Education - \$6,575
Moundsville Middle School, \$1,000
Strand Theatre Preservation Society - \$37,571.50

MERCER COUNTY

Bluefield Arts & Revitalization Corporation - \$27,500
Candace Wilson - \$500
Chuck Mathena Center - \$69,300
Leslie Ann Lambert - \$500
RiffRaff Arts Collective - \$70,775
Roger Wilson Jr - \$500

MINGO COUNTY

Hatfields and McCoys Foundation - \$4,150
WV Mine Wars Museum - \$1,500

MONONGALIA COUNTY

Andrew Sledge - \$3,775
Arts Monongahela - \$973
Caitlynn Buckler - \$1,381
Chelsea Bihlmeyer - \$500
City of Morgantown - \$95,000
Dana Brink - \$500
Dance WV - \$2,000
Erin Ellis - \$472
Irma Barazzone - \$4,626
Joseph Lupo - \$1,689
Kee Heon Nam - \$500
Maria Deely - \$1,760
Mary Grace Johnson - \$500
Mateo Fuentes - \$1,406
Michael F Loop - \$5,000
Molly Davis - \$245
Monongalia Arts Center - \$1,670
Morgantown High School Band Auxiliary - \$10,000
Northern WV Dance Council - \$12,075
Shalya Marsh - \$5,323
Westwood Middle School - \$4,074
WV Public Theatre - \$1,166

MONROE COUNTY

Chance McCoy - \$3,157
Tessa McCoy - \$3,897

MORGAN COUNTY

Morgan Arts Council - \$33,150

NICHOLAS COUNTY

City of Summersville - \$10,000
City of Richwood - \$1,930

OHIO COUNTY

Eric Dye - \$834
Grow Ohio Valley - \$2,000
HoH-Share - \$7,211
Oglebay Institute - \$240,195
Ohio County Board of Education - \$10,000
Richard Morgan - \$500
West Liberty University - \$16,822
Wheeling Symphony Society - \$69,036

PENDLETON COUNTY

Warner Drive In - \$51,130.29

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Caroline Hertko - \$1,481
Cristin Bartlett - \$1,424
High Rocks Educational Corporation - \$22,380
Pocahontas County Arts Council - \$3,739
Pocahontas County Opera House Foundation - \$18,999
Ryan Krofcheck - \$649
Yew Mountain Center - \$4,035

PRESTON COUNTY

Arthurdale Heritage - \$12,755
Natalie Sypolt - \$1,084
Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee - \$10,000

PUTNAM COUNTY

Pat Cross - \$500

RALEIGH COUNTY

BEX Arts - \$5,588
Beckley Art Group - \$6,510
Norma Acord - \$444
Theatre West Virginia - \$20,000
WV Professional Dance Company - \$38,468

RANDOLPH COUNTY

ArtsBank - \$10,454
Augusta Heritage Center - \$23,981
Appalachian Forest Heritage Area - \$2,000
Eric Armstrong - \$390
Randolph County Commission - \$4,455
Randolph County Community Arts Council - \$15,651
Rosalie Haizlett - \$5,179

RITCHIE COUNTY

Marjorie Anne Swadley - \$3,723

SUMMERS COUNTY

Appalachian South Folklife Center - \$11,400
Casey Murano - \$604
Henry Jeffrey Diehl - \$4,134
Shea Newton - \$4,446

TAYLOR COUNTY

Beth Keener-Flanery - \$3,600

TUCKER COUNTY

John Ryan Brubaker - \$3,712
Kimberly Trathen - \$2,251
National Youth Science Foundation - \$7,500

UPSHUR COUNTY

Almost Heaven BBQ Bash - \$1,200
Buckhannon Community Theatre - \$400
Crystal Ann Brown - \$4,673
Kiara Williams - \$3,750
LeeAnn Brown - \$3,730
Sasha Marie Hibbs - \$651
Suzan Morgan - \$2,248
Timothy Hibbs - \$219

WEBSTER COUNTY

Holly River State Park Foundation - \$1,200
Stephen Hardway - \$2,970

WETZEL COUNTY

ArtsLink - \$18,471

WIRT COUNTY

Wirt County Board of Education - \$4,851

WOOD COUNTY

Artsbridge - \$24,532
Downtown PKB - \$3,582
Erica Goldsmith - \$3,187
Mid Ohio Valley Symphony Society - \$30,061
Parkersburg Art Center - \$50,997
Virginia Killian - \$5,000

HIGHLIGHTS

July 2023

Arts Caravan

August 2023

Appalachian String Band Music Festival

September 2023

Start of Governor's Cup Marching Band Series

Opening of Woody Williams Exhibit

October 2023

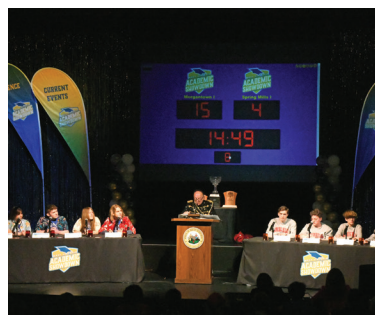
STEAM Showcase

WV Marching Band Invitational

Governor's Cup Marching Band Finals

Drumline Competition

Halloween Party



November 2023

2023 Juried Exhibition

US Capitol Christmas Tree Celebration

December 2023

First Lady's Christmas Ornament Unveiling

Joyful Night

First Lady's Student Ornament Contest

January 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

State of the State Reception

February 2024

History Day

History Heroes Ceremony

Governor's Almost Heaven Student Art Exhibition

Congressional Youth Arts Competition

Arts Day at the Legislature

Arts in Our Communities Conference

Governor's Awards for the Arts

Chuck Yeager 100th Birthday Exhibit Opening



Academic Showdown Finals

50th Anniversary of Goldenseal Exhibit

Opening

May 2024

Vandalia Gathering

Annual Juried Quilt Exhibition

Governor's Public Service Recognition Ceremony

A Steinway Celebration! with Barbara Nissman



March 2024

Poetry Out Loud

Regional Social Studies Fair

Inspired Series Exhibit Opening - Landscapes

Bunny Brunch



June 2024

Ambassadors Camp

West Virginia Day Festivities

Capitol Dome Mural Dedication

Arthur I. Boreman Statue Dedication

Governor's School for Literacy through Arts, Culture & History

Kickoff of the Army's 100th Anniversary



April 2024

West Virginia Dance Festival

West Virginia History Bowl Finals

Arts Alive



Protecting West Virginia's Past

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to support and assist in the efforts of West Virginians to preserve and protect our state's various prehistoric and historic structures, objects, and sites. From June 2023 to July 2024, we increased our efforts to collaborate with the state's residents and assist them in their efforts to preserve our state's historic resources. We are able to accomplish this via our National Register of Historic Places, survey and planning grants, development grants, and historic tax credit programs. We also maintained and broadened our network of local, state, and federal partnerships.

During this fiscal year 2024 new National Register nominations were listed, totaling 137 individual resources. The nominations span a range of places and themes and include farms, cemeteries, churches, schools, and historic districts. One notable nomination is the Wright-Hunter Cemetery, a historically Black burial ground in Beckley, believed to be the first Black cemetery to be individually listed in the National Register in West Virginia. Our office also continued to update our internet geodatabase as we added 2,351 architectural sites, 32 architectural surveys, 90 archaeological sites, 177 archaeological surveys, 26 National Register properties, and 30 cemeteries. These forms are

Certified historic tax credit project YMCA, Charleston

available to the public via our website.

Seventeen Development Grants totaling \$522,000 were awarded by our office. Projects included structural work in the basement of the Pence Hotel in Bramwell and replacement of the gutters on the West Roundhouse (a National Historic Landmark) in Martinsburg. We also awarded 11 Survey & Planning Grants totaling \$175,104. Funded projects include the preparation of an individual National Register nomination of the Carter G. Woodson School in Charleston and four (4) Archaeology surveys. Eleven (11) counties were impacted by our grant programs. (See complete lists of grants.)

It was another active year for our historic tax credit program. We received



8 Part One tax credit applications, 8 Part Two applications totaling approximately \$18,231,483, and 15 Part Three completed applications totaling approximately \$95,748,338 in qualified rehabilitation expenses. The total investment in rehabilitation is \$23,922,525 from across these 15 projects. Successful applicants received credit on 20-45% of identified and approved expenditures through the state and federal programs.

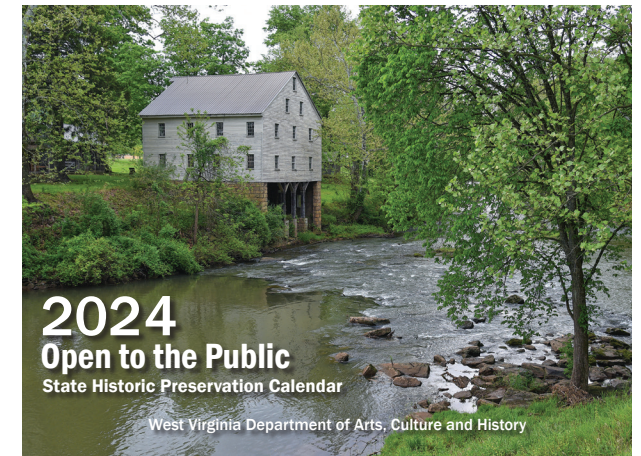
In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, our office provided comments to state and federal agencies. Staff completed approximately 2,137 letters regarding assessing the potential effects on historic resources by proposed projects. Our office also entered into 5 memoranda of agreement and 3 programmatic agreements.

Major outreach efforts from our office include the publishing of our 2024 calendar *Open to the Public*, featuring sites that are open for public visitation, and *Navigating the Mountain State*, a set of printed materials (a brochure and poster) that focuses on the history of the state's Green Book sites. *The Green Book* was a mid-twentieth century travel guide for African Americans which listed businesses in each state that were friendly to African Americans and other non-whites. Our publications are part of our wider efforts to identify and recognize historic resources related to marginalized communities.

We also offered a number of educational opportunities. As part of our federal program activities, we held our annual training for the state's Certified Local Governments (CLG) virtually in which we discussed financial

assistance programs for historic properties, grant writing tips and tricks, and explored available resources for researching buildings. During the 2023-2024 collegiate year, our office partnered with West Virginia University and Shepherd University to educate a combined total of 58 students interested in historic preservation. In total 305 West Virginia residents attended our training sessions and presentations from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Our office also started the development of our five year statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan. This plan will guide the goals and efforts for our office and other preservation organizations. We held ten meetings with city and county historic landmark commissions to discuss the local challenges to preservation, their communities' strengths, and their long-term goals. The statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan is an ongoing effort and is scheduled for publication in 2025.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

State FY24 Development Grants

The Development Grant is funded by the West Virginia Legislature.
The grants are 50/50 matching grants. Twenty grant program recipients were selected.
The WV SHPO awarded a total of \$522,000 to 17 projects.

Barbour County

- Philippi Municipal Building Commission received \$40,000 to remove bricks, repair foundation, and replace bricks after foundation repair on the Philippi Grand Theater
- Woodlands Development Group received \$17,000 to replace the roof on the Woods-George Building, Philippi.

Berkeley County

- Berkeley County Roundhouse Authority received \$9,100 to replace gutters and downspouts on the West Roundhouse in Martinsburg.

Calhoun County

- The 1982 Foundation received \$50,000 to replace the roof on the Calhoun County High School, Grantsville.

Hampshire County

- Town of Romney received \$50,000 to repair/replace substructure and roof in the south west and north east corners of the west wing on the Romney Historic Dairy Barn.

Jefferson County

- Halltown Memorial Chapel Association received \$31,000 to replace roof, gutters and downspouts, brick pointing, and repair/replace windows and front and rear doors of the Halltown Colored Free School.

- 515 E Washington LLC received \$22,000 to replace the roof on the Stephenson Female Seminary in Charles Town.

- Shepherdstown Community Club Inc received \$50,000 to replace the roof and modernize electric and fire safety on the War Memorial and Annex buildings.

Kanawha County

- The Vestry received \$2,160 to repair gutters and clean downspouts on St. Mark's Episcopal Church in St. Albans.
- Gresham Development LLC received \$31,255 to repair/replace windows on the Staats Building, Charleston.

Marion County

- Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church received \$40,000 to repair foundation, replace roof, and repair masonry on the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Fairmont.

Mercer County

- Bramwell Foundation received \$48,200 to repair the foundation in the basement of the Pence Hotel.

Ohio County

- Market Street Now, LLC received \$50,000 to remove/abate asbestos, install shingles, and restore finials on the Professional Building in Wheeling.
- Jared Stone received \$15,300 to repair/replace windows, and

repair/replace soffit, fascia, frieze board and architrave on the Wheeler House, Wheeling.

Pendleton County

- Historic McCoy Bed & Breakfast LLC in Franklin received \$31,500 to replace roof, repoint chimneys, and replace chimney caps.

Randolph County

- Randolph County Historical Society received \$24,885 to repair masonry on the Bosworth Building in Beverly.

Upshur County

- Fosters Marketing Group Inc. received \$9,600 to replace the roof on the Liberty in Christ Church, Buckhannon.

Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Projects

PART ONE APPROVALS Evaluations of Historic Significance

Jefferson County

- R- Old Firehall, Shepherdstown
- R- Abraham Shepherd House, Shepherdstown
- Leonard House, Harpers Ferry



Ohio County

- Hawley Building, Wheeling
- R- 112 N. Front Street, Wheeling
- Wheeling Machine & Welding Building, Wheeling
- 2310 Chapline St, Wheeling



Wood County

- R- Nelly-Little House, Parkersburg



PART TWO APPROVALS Description of Rehabilitation

Barbour County

- Woods-George Building, Philippi



Greenbrier County

- McClung's Price Place, Lewisburg

Jefferson County

- R- Old Firehall, Shepherdstown
- Leonard House, Harpers Ferry



Kanawha County

- Daniel Boone Plaza, Charleston

Mercer County

- Wheby's Grocery, Princeton



Ohio County

- Hawley Building, Wheeling

PART THREE APPROVALS Certification of Completed Work

Cabell County

- St. Nicholas Hotel, Huntington

Greenbrier County

- R- Miller House, Alderson

Jefferson County

- Cottage on the Creek, Shepherdstown
- Valley Hardware, Charles Town
- Stephenson's Female Seminary, Charles Town
- R- Old Firehall, Shepherdstown
- Shepherdstown Opera House, Shepherdstown

Kanawha County

- National Bank of Commerce, Charleston
- Y.W.C.A., Charleston

Ohio County

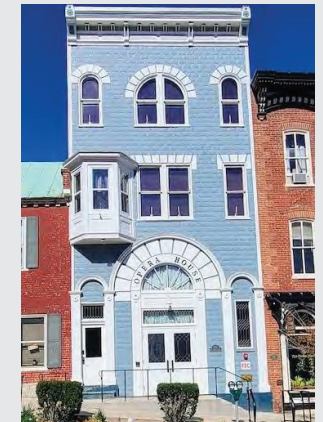
- Berry Supply Building, Wheeling
- 1306 Market Street, Wheeling

Randolph County

- Hotel Tygart, Elkins

Wood County

- R- Nelly-Little House, Parkersburg



*R = Residential Credit

National Register of Historic Places



Barbour County

- Valley Furnace, Valley Furnace vicinity

Berkeley County

- Citizens National Bank, Martinsburg

Jefferson County

- Frederick Rosenberger Farm, Kearneysville vicinity
- Rees-Daniel Farm, Kearneysville vicinity
- Nathan Haines Farm (Boundary Increase), Charles Town vicinity

Kanawha County

- Downtown Charleston Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Logan County

- Cap Hatfield Gravesite, Stirrat vicinity

Marion County

- Amos Farmstead, Fairmont vicinity
- Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Fairmont

Mercer County

- First Baptist Church of Bluefield, Bluefield

Monroe County

- Waiteville School, Waiteville

Morgan County

- Saint Charles Catholic Mission Church, Paw Paw
- Paw Paw Old Mayor's Office and Jail, Paw Paw

Ohio County

- Wheeling Central Business District (Additional Documentation)

Raleigh County

- Wright-Hunter Cemetery, Beckley

Randolph County

- Maplewood Cemetery, Elkins
- Davis & Elkins College Historic District, Elkins

Wayne County

- Wayne County World War I Memorial, Wayne
- Henry and Julia Hoard Stark House, Ceredo

Wood County

- Downtown Parkersburg Historic District, Parkersburg

State FY 2024 Survey and Planning Grants

The Survey and Planning grants are funded through the annual Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service for use primarily by Certified Local Governments to conduct historic preservation activities. The WV SHPO awarded a total of \$175,103 to 11 projects.

Cabell County

- Batra Hospitality Group received \$45,000 to assist with the PreDevelopment report for the Coal Exchange Building Redevelopment in Huntington.

Greenbrier County

- City of Lewisburg received \$12,250 to assist with the Archaeology survey for the Barracks.
- City of Lewisburg received \$14,105 to assist with the Lewisburg Historic Survey Update.

Hampshire County

- Town of Romney received \$28,000 to assist with the Historic and Architectural Survey of the Town of Romney.

Jefferson County

- Corporation of Shepherdstown received \$25,000 to assist with the development of a Comprehensive Heritage Education Program.

- Harpers Ferry Bolivar Historic Town Foundation received \$12,600 to assist with the Comprehensive Planning of the Weaver-Gillison House Survey.

Kanawha County

- American Legion Post 73 received \$9,000 to assist with the National Register nomination for the Carter G. Woodson School in St. Albans.

Mercer County

- Town of Oakvale received \$1,050 to assist with the survey of the Norfolk & Western Railway Depot.

Preston County

- Arthurdale Heritage Inc., Arthurdale, received \$10,560 to assist with the archaeology survey of the Fairfax Cemetery.

Randolph County

- Beverly Historic Landmarks Commission received \$7,000 to assist with the archaeology survey of the Logan Lot.

Tucker County

- Tucker County Commission received \$10,538 to assist with the archaeology survey of the Tucker County Poor Farm Cemetery.



Tax Credit Applications
(R= Residential Applications)



Presenting West Virginia's
Artifacts

Attendance	
West Virginia State Museum	95,146
Grave Creek Mound	
Archaeological Complex	13,163
West Virginia Independence Hall	4,638
Camp Washington Carver	3,990
Highlights	

The Museums Section is dedicated to inspiring, educating and enriching the lives of the public by instilling a deeper understanding and sense of pride through the collection, preservation and exhibition of diverse cultural and historic traditions, focusing on every aspect of West Virginia history, culture, art, paleontology, archaeology and geology from all geographic regions - representing the people, land and industries.

Museum Education hosted the “We The People” sponsored conference for West Virginia Public Broadcasting. “The Citizen

and the Constitution” forum was made up of middle and high school teachers from across West Virginia. Education continues to upgrade touchscreens with new programming for students and adults. Webpage revamped to allow ease of use and compatibility of the application over numerous platforms and devices. Collection of on-line lesson plans & educational resources continue to grow. Phase 1 of the Augmented Reality project with the WVU Computer Sciences “Quest Team” led to positive feedback about the next phase, state-of-the-art immersion into Mountain State History. Museum Education online following rises due to increased online presence. Social media engagement is up by 35% from last report.

State Museum exhibitions during this period include Congressional 2024 Art Competition; 2024 West Virginia Juried Quilt Exhibition; 50th Anniversary of *Goldenseal*; Vision of the 80s: Award Winning Artists; Inspired Series: West Virginia Landscapes; Three-Dimensional Art; 2023 West Virginia Juried Exhibition; Mediums and the Visual Arts; 2023 Agriculture Poster Contest and

the Governor’s Almost Heaven Student Art Exhibition focusing on Star Gazing.

The museum staff focused on many projects, including updating museum technology, replacing the compressor to operate electronic programming.

Artifacts, text and labels for the Capitol Complex exhibition “Nature Designs a State that Fuels a Nation” was a priority. This exhibition will increase the footprint of the West Virginia State Museum and tie into America250 to showcase the significance of the state to the world through our natural resources



and the many industries of West Virginia as we led the nation in production and discoveries.

The West Virginia State Museum collection highlights include a wood ballot box used in elections in Schoolhouse in Shrewsbury, ca. 1910 and donated by Danny Sheldon, Shrewsbury; Portrait of donor's grandfather Mordecai V. (Moggie) Gardner (1892-1963), a noted West Virginia sportsman, his wife Josephine, and his sister Mrs. Korla Caldwell from Charleston, painted by Moggie's son Martin Columbus Gardner, the donor's father, and donated by Martin V. Gardner,

Des Plaines, Illinois; Salt-glazed cobalt blue decorated stoneware pitcher from the Brown and McKenzie Pottery of Hardy, ca. 1870-1900 and donated by Estate of Charles C. Scott, Culloden; Set of four blue decorated clear glass mugs from the 7th Annual Member-Guest Golf Tournament at the Bluefield Country Club, 1927 and donated by Jackalyn and Chadwick Oldham, Polo, Missouri; Union Army Private Wiley W. Walker's (1834-1862) West Virginia "For Liberty" Bronze Medal, passed in the Buffalo Regimental Military Hospital of pneumonia and donated by Karen Walton,

Grand Rapids, South Dakota; Steel oil well drilling bit used at West Virginia sites, ca. 1925 and donated by Paul Schrecongost, Charleston; Ruffner Hotel Grandfather Clock from the hotel located on the corner of Kanawha Boulevard (formerly Kanawha Street) and Hale Street in Charleston, 1915-1970 and donated by Estate of Jimmie G. Call c/o Matthew B. Call; Furniture, clothing, decorative items and textiles belonging to the Farner family of Bolt, ca. late 1800s to mid-1900s and donated by

Linda Farmer Granacher, Lexington, Kentucky; Princess Diana Dolls, traps, tinplate dipper, coopered firkin with cover, copper kettle, farm lantern, coffee pot and knitted doll sweaters from Pierce family of Dunbar and donated by Judy C. Pierce, Simpsonville, Kentucky; Charleston's McMillan Hospital Nurses School Cape worn by the donor's mother Vivian Carter Newbough (1928-1981) and donated by Michelle John, Wheeling; a variety of artifacts including the groundbreaking shovel for the James H. "Tiger" Morton Juvenile Detention Center dedication that related to the career of Mr. Morton and presented To Governor Robert



"Bob" Wise; glass from the Northwood Glass Company, Wheeling, ca. 1901-25 and donated by Richard Fauss and Debra Basham, Elkview; Bluefield Mountain Festival Woodcarving Show Judges-Award winning band of hand-carved and painted figures made by William Algeo Weed II, Charleston, ca. 1990 and donated by Kathryn Willoughby, Huntington; Apple Butter Kettle in a wrought iron tripod stand used on Turkey Creek, Fayette County, by the Cogar family, ca. 1900 and donated by Gerald Taylor Cogar, Converse, Texas; Sesquicentennial Shop Hop Quilt designed by Eileen Farren and sewn in 2013 by staff of Sew Many Blessings Quilt Shop in Huntington, 2013, and donated by Sew Many Blessings Quilt Shop; Patriotic Memorabilia relating to the death of Corporal Joseph Akers of Ceredo on November 25, 1944, in World War II in the Battle of the Huertgen Forest and the long and tedious process of scientifically identifying him by Betty's DNA remains, resulting in his funeral with Full Military Honors in 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery and donated by Betty L. Aldrich, Auburn, Indiana; Hand cranked vertical tool sharpening stone mounted on an angle iron stand with a worker's seat, made ca. 1910 and donated by Gary R. Barton, Hurricane; Dorothy Thompson, a premier hand weaver of West Virginia made this polychrome hand woven and maker labeled Baby Blanket in Davis, ca. 1945 and

donated by Chrissy Havorka, Charleston. Museum preservation, documentation and conservation is the constant goal of all museum staff. A focus is always on maintaining the collection in an environment whether on exhibit or in storage to provide preservation needs for every artifact. Staff works with the collections, the governor's office and mansion to provide conservation needs. The staff also worked with museums, historic sites and individuals to provide up to date information on care of a variety of artifacts.

At Camp Washington Carver the annual Appalachian String Band Music Festival was well attended by individuals from all over the world. The camp was a destination for weddings, gatherings and reunions. Maintenance and grounds were constantly a focus of staff to provide a welcoming setting for visitors.

Grave Creek Mound offered a variety of programs such as Green Your Winter Blues; Fossil Day Program; Archaeology Program; Marshall County Student Art Show; Mother's Day Crafts; Garden Planting Day; Scout Archaeology Merit Badge; Second Saturday Film and Event Series; Marble Golf; National Association on Mental Illness; and Historic Preservation Lecture Series.

Hands on activities included Wonderful Windows in honor of Historic Preservation Month; Make a Fan; Happy Honeybees; Pretty Pinwheels; Tissue Paper Flowers.

Lydia Jolene Beckett-Henry color photographs of nature themes or animals and Betsy Cox of Glen Dale were featured artists.

At West Virginia Independence Hall, programs and projects consisted of the History Escape Room event titled "A Timeless Gathering;" Region 6 History Bowl Tournament; Faire May and Dee & Paddy & Company perform Irish Music Concert; the unveiling of Arthur Boreman Statue; Battle of Hurricane Bridge by Dr. Philip Hatfield; Wheeling Secessionists: Dr. Eliza Hughes and Mary Hughes performed by Jeanne Finstein and Judi Hendrickson; Ohio Valley Civil War Roundtable lecture by Carleton Young "Voices from the Attic;" "The Removal of Judge George W. Thompson by Pierpont;" West Virginia Day Celebration; Ohio Valley Civil War Roundtable lecture by Harry Smeltzer "1st Battle of Bull Run: 69th New York State Militia's Actions."

The many programs offered by the State Museum, including educational, exhibitions, collections and outreach the museum, served every county in the state.





The Communications and Events staff coordinates and promotes events within the agency. This section works in partnership with the other sections of the department, the Governor's Office, the First Lady's Office and other state agencies. Through traditional communications like statewide media releases and contemporary social media activities, the staff provides news about the activities at each of the department's sites.

The fall season kicked off with one of our department's biggest events - the twelfth annual West Virginia Marching Band Invitational. This year's invitational was held in October at Philip Barbour High School in Philippi, West Virginia. Thirty-three bands were able to compete at this event. Cabell Midland High School from Cabell County was named the overall Honor Band, the Old Gold Division Grand Champion, the Class A Champion and the winner of the 2023 Governor's Cup Marching Band Series. Hurricane High School from Putnam County won the Blue Division Championship. Elkins High School won the Drumline Competition. Dr. Scott Woodard, director of instrumental music, interim associate provost and associate

vice president for academic affairs at West Virginia State University, associate conductor of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and music director of the Charleston Chamber Orchestra; and Deborah Westbrook, former band director at Preston High School, Preston County were inducted into the Marching Band Director Hall of Fame during the event.

In November, the department helped host the annual First Lady's holiday ornament reveal. This year's ornament was made by John DesMeules of Beckley, West Virginia, and then painted by Christie Saunders, Barboursville, WV. The artists crafted 500 ornaments that were on sale at the West Virginia State Museum Gift Shop and at Tamarack in Beckley, West Virginia. The 2023 ornament was a hand-blown round glass ornament swirled with gold and white accents, featuring a sandblasted area on the front, which served as canvas for a painted scene of two children beneath a Christmas tree, wrapped in a starry night with the words "shine bright."



COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS



Each year, in December, the department plans and presents the annual Joyful Night celebration at the State Capitol Complex. This event kicks off the holiday season at the Capitol with the lighting of the state Christmas Tree which was 50 ft. Balsam Fir hand-selected by the Governor from Randolph County's Kumbrabow State Forest. One of the highlights of the department's holiday decorations are

trees decorated with the ornaments from past First Lady's Ornament Competitions. Featuring themes selected by the First Lady, the ornaments come from kindergarten through high school students from around the state. This year, the student ornament competition with its theme "Deck the Halls with Doggy Paws" had 164 participants.

In April, we were excited to once again host the

West Virginia Dance Festival - the only state funded dance festival in the nation. This year more than 300 middle, high school, and college dance students were able to engage in dance classes taught by world renowned instructors from all over the country as well as view performances from their peers and professional guest artists.



Memorial Day weekend, the department held our annual Vandalia Gathering. This three-day event was very well attended and we are happy to see crowds returning to pre-covid levels. West Virginia's highest folklife honor - The Vandalia Award - is presented to those who embody the spirit of our state's folk heritage and are recognized for their lifetime contributions to West Virginia and its traditional culture. The 2024 award winner was Ginny Hawker of Elkins, West Virginia, who was presented the award for helping to keep alive the traditions of Primitive Baptist singing.



In June, the Culture Center routinely hosts the state's annual West Virginia Day celebration. Along with the tradition of cutting the state birthday cake, WV Day marked the addition of the announcement of the winner of the First Lady's Hot Dog Sauce Competition.

In the Capitol rotunda, the murals, originally envisioned by Cass Gilbert, were dedicated. In Wheeling, at West Virginia Independence Hall, a statue of West Virginia's first Governor, Arthur I. Boreman, was also dedicated on West Virginia Day.

Students stay in the dorms at the University of Charleston and participate in programs at the State Capitol to learn about West Virginia history, culture and arts awareness. This year, we had more than 70 students join us for camp.

In its second year, our department planned and executed the Governor's School for Literacy through Arts, Culture and History. More than 60 students from around the state attended this five-day camp. Students stayed in the dorms at the University of Charleston and participated in classes related to literacy, and

capped off with a performance of "Honey in the Rock" presented by Theater West Virginia at the Cliffside Amphitheater at Grandview State Park. On their last day, the students presented digital presentations about their week at camp and what they learned.



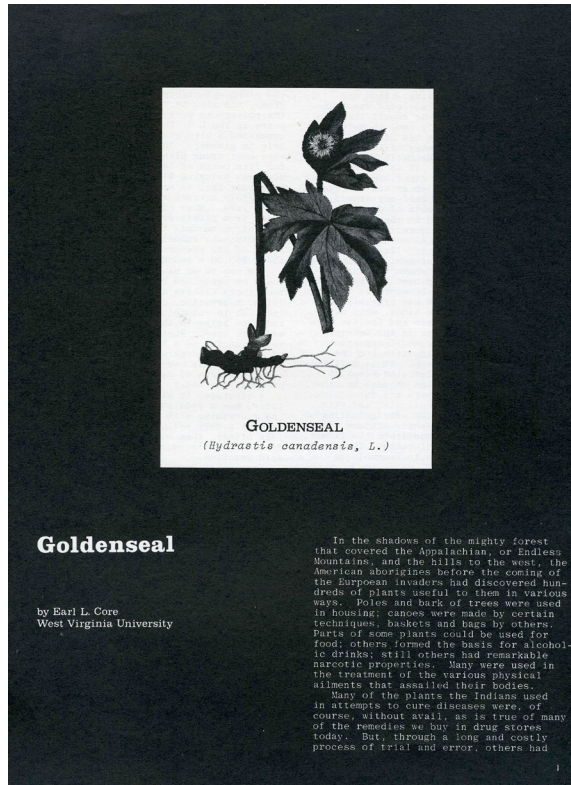
This year, we once again hosted our Ambassadors Camp. This camp typically hosts 2 students from each county who have just finished their eighth grade year and are nominated by their county superintendents.

college tours at West Virginia State University and Marshall University. The participants had a field trip to southern West Virginia visiting the Tamarack, the Beckley Exhibition Coal mine, the New River Gorge and their trip was



Each year we strive to improve and expand on all activities and to better publicize and reach new and existing visitors and guests to the department sites and events. We welcome all guests to experience our signature events.

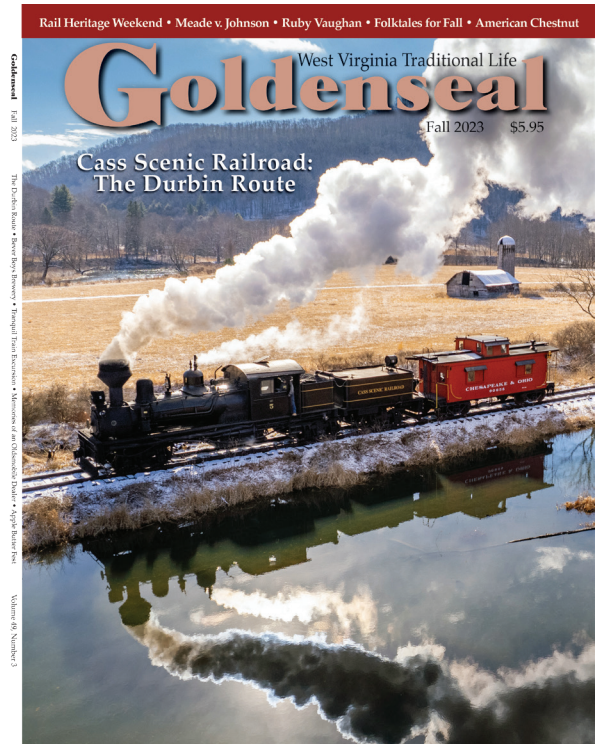
West Virginia Traditional Life Goldenseal



GOLDENSEAL, published by the DACH, is our state's magazine of traditional life and is issued quarterly. During FY 2023-24, GOLDENSEAL featured 77 articles about West Virginia art, culture, and history.

The Fall 2023 issue of GOLDENSEAL featured a nice selection of fall leaning articles. The cover story from Alan Byer highlighted the newly restored Durbin Route on the Cass Scenic Railroad, with cover photo by Walter Scriptunas. Alan also shared his memories of the Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad in this issue. State Folklorist Jennie Williams shared on the Fiber Arts Apprenticeship between lifelong friends Barbara Weaner and Enrica McMillon as part of the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program. Raymond Alvarez did a great job summing up West Virginia's first civil right case. Photographer Dale Kinnison recounted his experiences at the West Virginia Rail Heritage Weekend and shared some photos taken there. The late Dr. C.R. Thomas recounted youthful shenanigans in "The Bever Boys Brewery." David McCormick shared the history of the Brewing and Bottling works of Harper's Ferry. Freelance writer and photographer Jennifer Broadstreet Hess shared her experience on the Tygart Flyer, a diesel powered locomotive out of Elkins, on a trip to WV with her daughter. Author Danny Kuhn debated the truthfulness of alleged Civil war veteran Edward Kelly, his great grandfather. Charles Sheets

shared memories from his father's time as an Oldsmobile dealer in Pocahontas County. Also in this issue, Folktales for Fall made a comeback with two slightly spooky stories from contributors Joe McHugh and Anneliese Blevins. West Virginia's efforts to restore the American chestnut are discussed by Carl E. Feather and Jeff Kochenderfer in two separate articles. The American chestnut played an influential role in early Appalachian's self-sufficiency and the loss of the trees—once found in all 55 counties—was detrimental to their way of life. Myra Alley Kingsburg shared the story of how her grandmother



implemented a hot lunch program in 1950s Fayette County Schools. Candy Thompson recounted her experience at the Macomber Community Church's annual apple butter festival, and Carl Feather wrapped up the issue with another WV Backroads featuring a Preston County family farm's transition to preserving and sharing heirloom apple varieties.

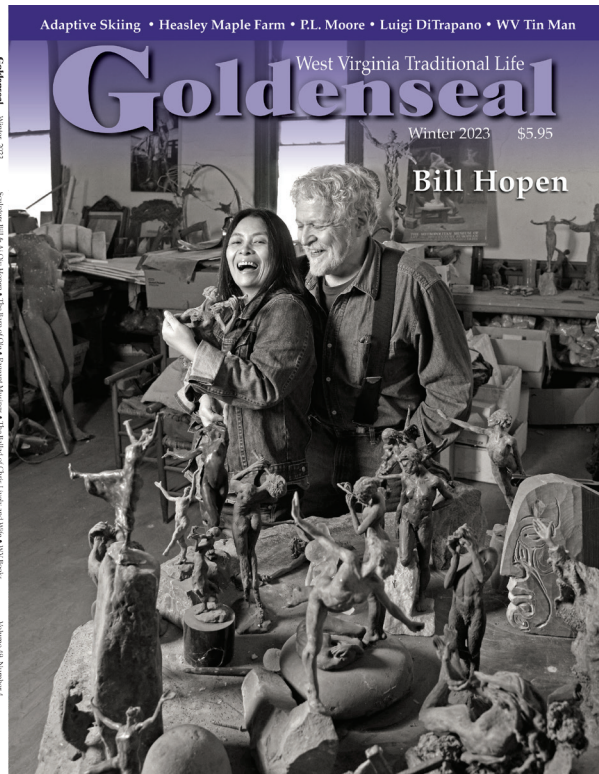
The Winter 2023 issue of GOLDENSEAL featured sculptors Bill and Ai Qiu Hopen. Bill, a West Virginian by choice since the mid-70s, worked as an artist in residence in Clarksburg from 1979-81. His first commissioned sculpture was "Mother with

Children," a marble carving for the international Mother's Day shrine in Grafton, Taylor County. Folks may have noticed some of his work when walking the grounds at the Capitol Complex. He and his wife Ai Qiu, a renowned sculptor in her own right, reside in Sutton where their studios are located. The story of Bill and Ai Qiu is one of inspiration and talent, and a fine example of how welcoming the small towns of West Virginia can be. In this issue, our State Folklorist Jennie Williams shared about her experience at the Augusta Heritage Center where she managed their social media and attended classes over the summer of 2023. Jeff DeBellis contributed an informative article about the adaptive skiing program in Canaan Valley. This is a life changing program that enables adults and children alike a chance to experience the freedom and thrill of winter sports on their own, when they may not have been able to otherwise. The late Dr. C.R. Thomas shared an amusing story of his "Father's Annual Wrestling Match." Dr. Thomas passed away in September of 2023, as you will read of in Mike Snyder's GOLDENSEAL Goodbye dedicated to Dr. Thomas. Carolyn M. Carlton shared the history of her family's 100 year old barn, still standing in Preston County. The late Rosemary Balister shared a poem and a painting—her memories of a Pocahontas County Barn. Contributing author Ben Copenhaver shared his recollections of his "Most Satisfying Hunt,"—his grandson's first. Mike Snyder shared his memories and a poem that he wrote in honor of Noil Carr, a "Mountaineer Moonshiner," and friend of

During FY 2023-24, Goldenseal shared stories from 28 of our state's 55 counties:

Barbour	Mercer
Braxton	Mingo
Brooke	Monongalia
Cabell	Ohio
Fayette	Pocahontas
Greenbrier	Preston
Hardy	Putnam
Harrison	Raleigh
Jackson	Randolph
Jefferson	Taylor
Kanawha	Tucker
Lincoln	Tyler
Marion	Upshur
McDowell	Wood

his. Longtime subscribers may remember the name Noil Carr from the March 1974 issue of *Hearth and Fair* where Mr. Snyder first shared his "Profile of a Mountaineer," regarding the life of Noil. Also found in this winter issue: an educator's hard-won classroom wisdom; one Harrison County football team's "Perfect" year; A Mountain State tragedy and ballad; the story of the DiTrapano Family; Pageant Days; Jean Hazel fondly recalls her grandfather P.L. Moore; a visit to Heasley Maple Farm in Preston County; WV Book Round up; and The Monongahela National Forest 2023 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Lastly, Carl Feather wraps up





another issue with a West Virginia Backroads featuring the West Virginia Tin Man—Wheeling artist Robert Villamagna.

Our Spring 2024 issue featured a cover story from John Preston of Greenbrier County, reflecting on his time spent finishing a cello started by the late Harold Hayslett of South Charleston. This issue also begins the celebration of GOLDENSEAL's 50th year. To mark that occasion, we created a podcast, and we also featured a few then-and-now style pieces in each issue of 2024. In our Spring issue you will find three such pairings regarding ginseng, the Mortgage Lifter tomato, and WV

quilt traditions: a Fall 1992 article from James Beecher Hinkle, ginseng philosopher; followed by an interview with Chuck Crews, a Greenbrier County resident and certifiable mountain man who spends his free time trapping and foraging; a Summer 1994 article by John L. Marra interviewing Bob Estler followed by a present day visit with the family regarding the legacy of the Mortgage Lifter; and lastly a winter



1990 article from Janice D. Lantz concerning Mountain State Quilt Heritage followed by an article from contributing author Edwina

Pendarvis about the Piecemakers quilting group of Huntington. Also in this issue: our regular column from State Folklorist Jennie Williams “Showcasing the Folklife Apprenticeship Program”; an article by Myra Alley Kingsbury sharing the story of her Grandmother, Grace Walker Campbell—known to her loved ones as Mawzy; a brief interview with Grow This WV; a conversation about seed saving with Dr. Lewis Jett of WVU Extension; a look back at the 2023 Vandalia Gathering; stories from our 2023 Liar’s Contest first place winners; and the award winners of the 2023 West Virginia Quilts and Wall Hangings Juried Exhibition. As usual the issue is wrapped up with another West Virginia Back Roads from Carl Feather regarding the Sunset Ellis Restaurant in Shinnston.



The Summer 2024 issue of GOLDENSEAL features a cover story on Mt. Zion Baptist Church, one of only two historically Black churches in Fairmont, Marion County. The congregation celebrated 122 years of service in July. On the cover (photo by Danny Leary) is Mother Birdie Williams, a longtime member of the congregation. The article, written by Barbara Grigg, features excerpts from interviews with elder members of the congregation regarding the church and their life growing up in Fairmont. Our State Folklorist Jennie Williams shared an interview with instrument repairman Bob Smakula who will be retiring this year. Bob has been repairing instruments in Randolph County for decades now, and is a beloved member of the Elkins community. We feature two then-and-now articles in this issue. First a reprint originally published in 1981 by Colleen Anderson of her 1974 interviews with the Craftspeople of Arthurdale, followed by an update on Arthurdale (who celebrated their 90th Anniversary this year) by Carl Feather. Our second then-and-now features a reprint of a 2013 article by Nancy Merical regarding the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair which celebrated the sixty-third year of their festival. In the same vein as our then-and-now articles, contributing author Alan Byer shared a great piece focusing on the making of the movie Matewan, and the West Virginians involved with the film. Kyle Lovern shared the West Virginia roots of pro baseball player Stan Musial. Gary West shares the recollections of Stan Beafore and the Fairmont Little League of 1951 and the

Fairmont Pony League of 1953—both teams made it to the Little League World Series. June 6th, 2024 marked the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy during WWII. We feature three articles in this issue as acknowledgment of that anniversary: Edwin Daryl Michael shares his memories of WWII as a young boy in Shinnston; Donald Lambert shares the history of the 40-8 Boxcar located in Welch, McDowell County; and Sharon Sprouse Bramhall shares the story of Second Lt. Paul Barton, a Clarksburg native and hero in more ways than one. Also in this issue: contributing author Rod O' Donnell shared the story of the National Track & Field Hall of Fame, which was originally destined to be located in Putnam County; West Virginia Author Kathleen Jacobs shared her thoughts on WV Literature; and Carl Feather wrapped it all up with another WV Backroads, this time featuring Davis glass artist

Scott Meyer.

During FY 2023-24, the West Virginia State Museum and GOLDENSEAL Magazine worked together to create a showcase of photos and artifacts related to past GOLDENSEAL subjects and the museum collections. Like GOLDENSEAL, the exhibit aimed to showcase the people and stories of West Virginia. The culture and community of the Mountain State, as covered by GOLDENSEAL over the last 50 years, was highlighted in the exhibition through sections related to the history of the magazine, music, rural life, industry, and artists and craftsmanship. The photographs of state photographers Steve Payne, Rick Lee, Michael Keller, Tyler Evert and Steve Brightwell, who contributed regularly to the magazine, were used throughout the exhibit, which was on display April-October of 2024.





Library Section of the WV Department of Arts, Culture and History

We proudly serve 170 West Virginia public libraries through a variety of ways, consisting of and ranging from financial assistance, technological assistance, and consultation services. We also run our own two libraries: the Statewide Reference Library, and the Regional Library for the Blind & Print Disabled. In essence, we help public libraries so they can help West Virginians. The Library Section aims to improve the quality of West Virginians' lives across the state, because the freedom to read, think, and learn should never be hindered by inaccessibility.

Administration

The Library Section receives both state and federal funding. The state provides operational funds for the agency. Additionally, the West Virginia Legislature supports public libraries by providing state funds to the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) and Service Center Grants programs. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Legislature also appropriated funds to provide both Library

Facilities Improvement Grants and grants for public libraries to offset population reduction.

This year, Grants in Aid consisted of \$9,989,571, with GIA Supplemental Grants being \$807,500. Offset Population Reduction Aid consisted of \$292,212. One million dollars went to Facilities Improvement Grants. Services to Print Disabled consisted of \$161,717; Technology Services consisted of \$271,853; and the TV Studio was granted \$50,000. Operating Expenses were \$1,597,844.

Federal Grants

The Library Section receives an annual Library Services and Technology Grant (LSTA) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The majority of LSTA funds are used for statewide digital resources and for grants to assist libraries and library consortia with cataloging and automation expenses. To receive allotments from IMLS, the Library Section must have a current five-year plan that has been approved by IMLS and corresponds with LSTA priorities.

LSTA Expenditures for the FFY 2022 Grant consisted of \$540,435 for Consortium

Software Reimbursements, \$938,753 for Statewide Digital Resources, and \$26,458 for WV READS Resources.

Information Technology

The Library Section, and with several public libraries, assisted the WV Office of Broadband Enhancement to complete the West Virginia Broadband Survey and Speed Test. In March 2024 the FCC standard changed the minimum federal broadband standards to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. The Library Section, as a consortium, acts on behalf of participating libraries to file for Federal E-rate program funding. The application filed for E-rate FY2024 consisted of 143 libraries and received a funding commitment of \$864,073.20.

Television Services

The Library Television Network produced 173 television shows and resumed production



on the *Inside the PSC* show hosted by the West Virginia Public Service Commission that was on hiatus for several years. Along with this we distributed another 330 shows to 8 of their affiliate stations around the state to cover additional viewing territories at no cost to them. Also this past year marked the 200th episode of the West Virginia Author show together with Mountain State Press and their multiple hosts from throughout the years.

We produced several special productions throughout the year which include:

- A Poetry Out Loud promotional video that highlights the state finals showcasing outstanding performances. Used as an on-line tool for students & teachers preparing to participate in the competition.
- Producing 300 closed captions DVD copies of the Poll Workers Training Videos for the upcoming elections for the Secretary of State's Office.
- Editing 33 separate videos from the 2024 Dance Festival, 3 full length videos of the 2024 Vandalia Gathering, assisted with a video presentation for the Arts Education Grant, editing a Barbara Nissman piano

concert and provided video support for an art workshop on felt needle work class hosted by Liz Haley.

- Producing a video presentation for the Partnership of African American Churches to help get funding for several medical clinics to be built around the state.
- Digitizing several video tapes that were the last of their kind for West Virginia Parks & Recreations videos.
- Producing an Independence Day Holiday Public Service Announcement.

Special Services: Blind & Print Disabled Services

The Regional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled provides information and reading materials in accessible formats to West Virginia residents who are unable to use standard print because of a visual, physical, or reading disability.

In fiscal year 2024, the WVLC Special Services Department and our three sub-regional libraries (Huntington, Parkersburg, Romney) worked to circulate materials and function as Reader Advisors for patrons in

their communities. In total, the Charleston and sub-regional Special Services Departments combined to circulate 189,726 downloadable resources and 3,394 large print, DVD, and braille items.

Newsline is an audio service of the National Federation of the Blind and offers over 500 publications, weather forecasts, breaking news alerts, and job listings via telephone, email, computer, or smart device. A few popular national and regional resources include the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Charleston Gazette*, *Huntington Herald Dispatch*, *Parkersburg News Sentinel*, *The Martinsburg Journal*, and *Times West Virginia*. In October 2023, the Charleston office distributed the new refreshable braille e-reader machines issued by the National Library Service (NLS).



BARD Downloadable Statistics:

	Charleston	Huntington	Parkersburg	Romney
Audio	16,030	3,484	2,545	2,721
Braille	1,868	1,251	28	74
Audio Magazine	564	14	69	13
Braille Magazine	117	0	0	0

(BARD) Braille-Audio-Reading-Download

Special Services Title

Circulation Statistics

TOTAL: 189,726

- Charleston: 161,593
- Huntington: 9,871
- Parkersburg: 10,879
- Romney: 7,146
- Magazine on Demand: 237
(May - June 2024)
- Large Print/DVDs/Braille: 3,394

Newsline Statistics

- Number of Subscribers: 273
- Total Calls: 15,906
- Total Call Minutes: 223,244
- Average Call Time: 14.04 minutes
- Total Online Accesses: 163,199
- Total Content Accesses: 166,00

Library Development

Statewide Reference Library

The Library Development Department of the West Virginia Library Section runs the West Virginia State Library. The State Library operates the public Reading Room in the Culture Center, serving patrons in-person and also through email and phone calls. A West Virginia Library Section Library Card is available to all West Virginia residents regardless of where they live in the state.

Statewide Library Statistics

In the 2024 Fiscal Year, over 2,000 library cards were made, and nearly 89% of those cards were made from January 2024 to June 2024. From July 2023 to December 2023, 240 library cards were made. From January 2024 to June 2024, 1,939 library cards were made. Since January 2024, we have seen an extraordinary increase in library card requests.

Not only have we had a drastic increase in patron account creations, but these patrons are actively utilizing our resources. The total number of circulations on Hoopla July 2023 to June 2024 is 17,555, with these mainly being audiobooks and ebooks. In the same time period, 838 new users were added. From July 2023 to June 2024, Libby (aka WV-READS/OverDrive) had 27,610 checkouts. Libby also had 923 unique new users added during that time period. Many of our patrons also use our databases. From July 2023 to June 2024, we had 1,482 total database clicks on our website A-Z Databases. The sites with the most clicks were EBSCO, AtoZ Databases, and WVInfoDepot.



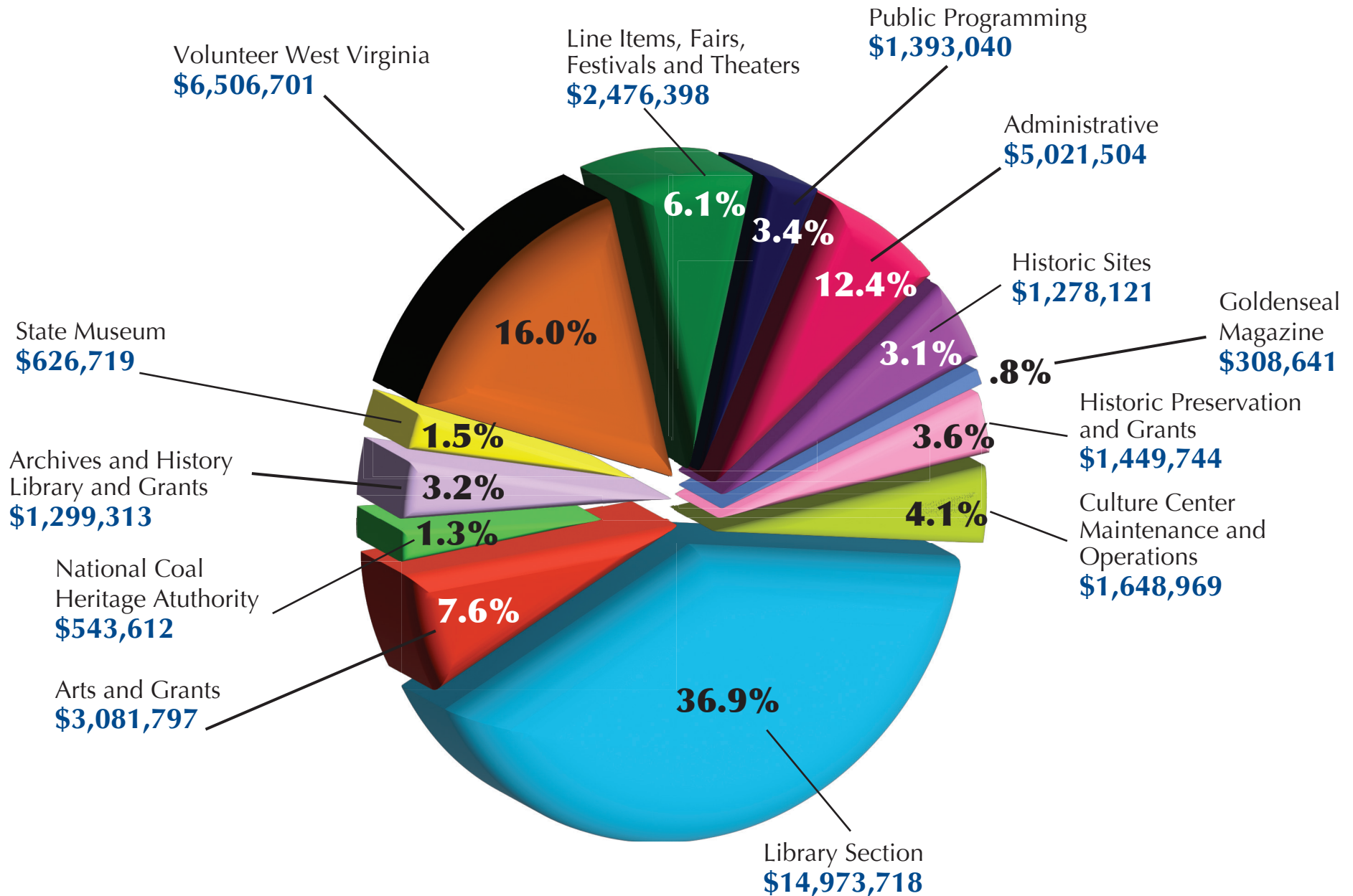
We had 1,908 physical circulations of items from our Reading Room. Four hundred seventy-one circulations, or 24.7%, were Books on CD (audiobooks). 412 circulations, or 21.6%, were Book Discussion Group Kits. Three hundred fifty-six circulations, or 18.7%, were DVDs. Most of our physical circulations were checked out to WVLN ILL Libraries, taking up 52.1% of the checkouts.

Public Events

In November 2023 we hosted Family Read Week, encouraging families to go to their local libraries and read books together. We helped table at the 2023 West Virginia Book Festival. As the home of the West Virginia Center for the Book, we attended the National Book Festival in D.C. both in 2023 and 2024, and we collaborated with the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project. We attended numerous events hosted by public libraries, including StoryFest hosted by the Morgantown Public Library, and the Marion County Public Library System's Summer Reading Kickoff event.



**FY2024 Total Expenditures – \$40,608,279*



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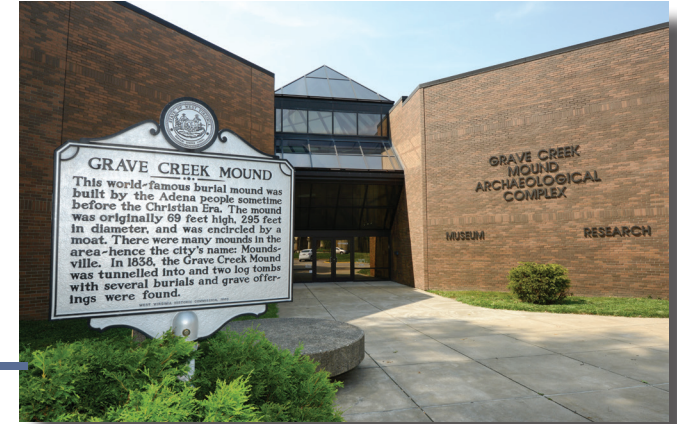
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MUSEUM SITES



Culture
Center
CHARLESTON, WV

Grave Creek Mound
Archaeological
Complex
MOUNDSVILLE, WV



Camp
Washington-Carver
CLIFFTOP, WV

West Virginia
Independence Hall
WHEELING, WV

