

A photograph of the entrance to the Juxtapose museum. The entrance features a large glass door and a window above it. The word "JUXTAPOSE" is written in a stylized, black, serif font across the top window. Inside the museum, several historical dresses are displayed on mannequins. A black dress is prominently featured in the center, and a yellow dress is on the right. The floor is made of light-colored wood tiles. The background shows a street scene with a car and buildings.

JUXTAPOSE

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019

LA CROSSE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# A MESSAGE FROM LCHS BOARD PRESIDENT

2019 and the first six months of 2020 have certainly brought a lot of changes; some hoped for and some that no one could have predicted. We should be at the height of our tourist season but instead we are planning how to safely serve small groups while maintaining a minimum distance. There is still a sense of the unknown and uncertainty shadowing all our plans.

There are some things of which we are confident that just six years ago were extremely unknown and uncertain. We have worked and have become a financially stable institution that has added staff, increased programming, acquired a flexible and accessible museum space, created an endowment that will assure the future care of the Hixon House, and are creating plans for a destination history center that will serve the people of the La Crosse area comparably to other cities of our size.

Our board has worked at self evaluation and development, our membership and programming have increased in number and diversity, and our historic buildings and grounds have been improved. We work closely with the United Fund for the Arts and Humanities, the La Crosse Community Foundation, Downtown Main Street, Explore La Crosse, the Enduring Families Project, and the other area historical societies.

Our volunteers are numerous, diverse, and dedicated, creating improved Hixon House and Historic Trolley tours, a weekly presence in the *La Crosse Tribune*, a high quality quarterly newsletter, a downtown advertising presence, and cornerstone events that improve every year.

We continue to make progress on the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History. We have almost completed the Basic level of this program and are more than halfway through the two highest levels. This step toward the American Alliance of Museums accreditation will be completed as we make serious plans for the new area history center.

Thank you for your trust and support.

-Candace Brown, LCHS Board President



LCHS Volunteers

Phil S Addis

# LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MISSION

La Crosse County Historical Society discovers, collects, preserves, and shares the history of La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

## VISION

Enriching lives through engagement with the history of La Crosse County.

## CORE VALUES

- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Stewardship
- Education
- Service

## LCHS LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

Candace Brown, President  
Robert Mullen, Vice President  
Marissa Dickinson, Secretary  
Angela Erdenberger, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

Greg Clark  
John Dudkiewicz  
Fred Hixon-Glore

Barb Janssen  
Tracy Littlejohn  
Jean Lund

### STAFF

Peggy Derrick, Executive Director  
Amy Vach, Curator



Enduring Families Project



Silent City

# A MESSAGE FROM LCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am very proud of all that LCHS accomplished in 2019. It's strange to reflect on how active and busy we were, compared to the quiet of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, and the present shut down of nearly all public programming.

In last year's report, I asked the question, "How does LCHS become the organization that can successfully fulfill our mission on a larger scale?" Now, looking back on everything we accomplished last year, I think I can say that we are fully engaged in doing that work. Our exhibition "Juxtapose" was a great success, in terms of both quality and popularity. We showcased artifacts and local history themes with an innovative and creative approach, and the public responded very positively.

Folk Life La Crosse came back in July, offering adults and kids hands-on introductions to old-time crafts and the living history that artisans embody.

Silent City, in its 20th year, was very well-attended, and for the first time, we presented it not only as a walking tour in Oak Grove Cemetery but as a stage production at the Pump House Regional Arts Center.

In the spring of 2019, LCHS became the fiscal sponsor to a group called the Enduring Families Project. Through this collaboration, we are playing a crucial part in the preservation and sharing of the history of African American settlement in La Crosse County.

We engaged with a record number of visitors and volunteers and did so while increasing donations and keeping our finances in the black.

Halfway into 2020, it is like looking back at a different time.

We are still in the midst of a vast, life-changing global epidemic. Now, on top of that, the entire country is alive with protests demanding racial justice and seems galvanized by a new recognition of the lack of equality and justice for people of color, especially African Americans.

Everyone-- not just those of us who were already interested in history, seems to be looking at the history of racism now. Racial inequities that have long been ignored are receiving attention in the media.

The best way for LCHS to acknowledge this moment in history and to dedicate ourselves to fighting racism in ourselves and our community is to re-dedicate ourselves to our mission. In 2015 the LCHS board of directors approved a plan that included a focus on historically under-represented segments of the community, and we try and keep this focus in mind with all our programming.

We can feel proud that we are already documenting African American local history and sharing it with the public. This effort is long overdue, and I am proud of the role that LCHS is playing to make the region of La Crosse County a better place for everyone to live.

-Peggy Derrick, LCHS Executive Director

# JUNE 25, 2020

# MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Count of voting members present
3. Approval of 2019 annual meeting minutes
4. Approval of board member appointments:  
Barb Janssen, Greg Clark, and Tracy Littlejohn
5. New business
6. Adjournment



Night at the Museum

# JUNE 12, 2019

# MEETING MINUTES

1. The Annual Meeting of the La Crosse County Historical Society was called to order at 7:22 p.m. at the FreightHouse, 107 Vine Street, La Crosse.
2. Twenty-eight voting members were present.
3. The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved with a motion made by Carol Mullen and seconded by Carol Theisen. Motion passed.
4. The resignation of Jon Rimmert, whose term was up, was accepted and he was thanked for his five years of service. Two board members who had been appointed since the previous Annual Meeting were recommended for appointment. A motion was made by Robert Taunt and seconded by Terry Visger to approve the appointment of Robert Mullen and John Dudkiewicz to the board. Motion passed
5. Changes to the LCHS Bylaws had been proposed by the Board of Directors. These proposed changes had been sent to the entire membership in the June 1 newsletter. A motion was made by Glenn Wolfe and seconded by Jean Skemp to approve the changes. Motion passed.
6. There was no new business.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. with a motion by Donna Finn that was seconded by Terry Visger. Motion passed.

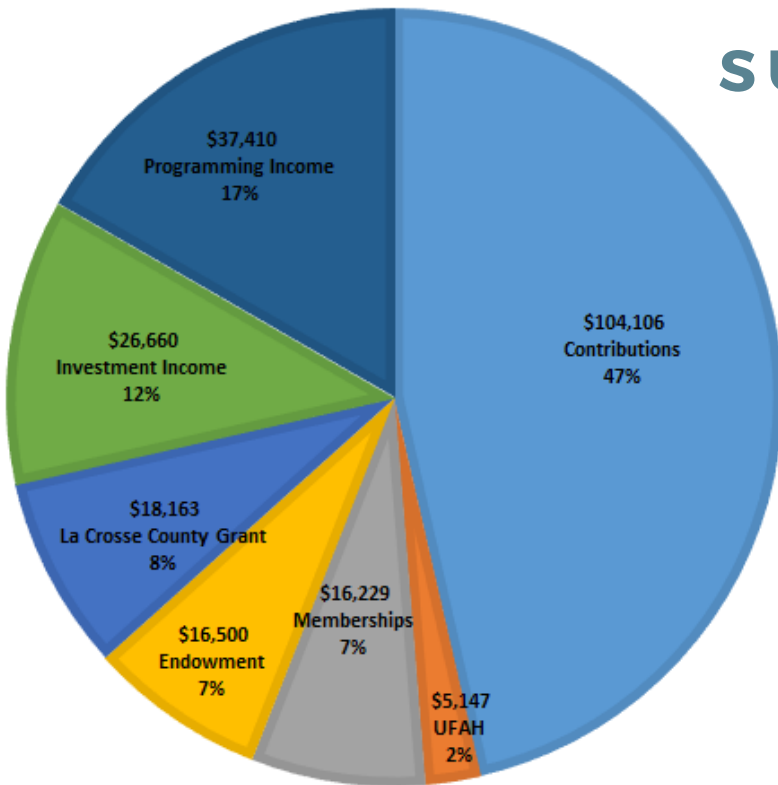
Submitted by Peggy Derrick

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

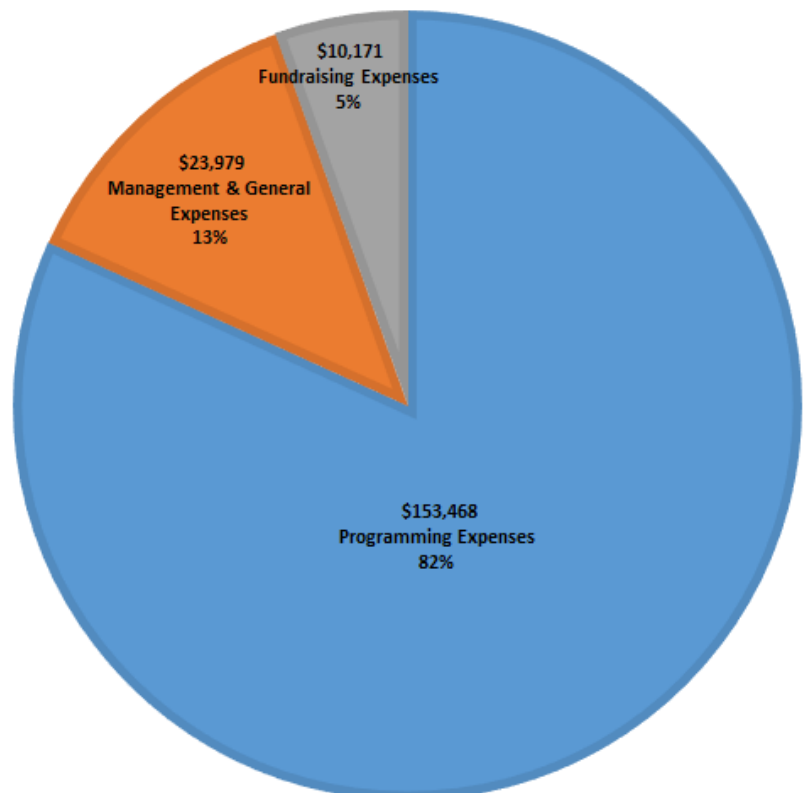
### SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$224,215



### EXPENSES

\$187,618



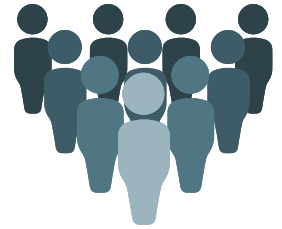
# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

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## REACH

We welcomed over **17,000** digital visitors



## MUSEUMS

We welcomed nearly **5,000** people to our museums and exhibits.

## ATTENDANCE

Over **4,000** people attended LCHS events and programming



## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contributed over **3,000** hours

## ARTIFACTS

Nearly **400** artifacts were added to the collection

## MEMBERS

Nearly **300** memberships



# IN MEMORIAM

LCHS lost two valued members and volunteers in 2019, whose passing leaves a permanent loss.

Charles Haas passed away on July 15. He was the longest serving member and volunteer at LCHS, and at the end was still serving as an editor of our quarterly newsletter. Until his retirement in 1993 Charles taught in the Speech Communications Department at UW-La Crosse.



Charles Haas

As a La Crosse County Historical Society volunteer, Charles painted, researched, served punch, led committees and served as board president for two of his ten years on the board of directors. He also volunteered as a docent at Historic Hixon House, giving public tours from the time the house reopened after its restoration in 2005 until 2018, when the stairs forced him to retire at the age of 92.

He was chief punch-maker for Historical Society events, using a recipe of Mary Heberd, a long-time member of the society. "Fred [Skemp] and I changed the formula a bit to make it a little easier with the vodka," he recalled in a 2017 interview. "It was acclaimed as very tasty. We always made sure we had a non-alcoholic option."

Charles had been a devoted member since 1968, and had a special love for the Hixon House. He understood its importance to the history of the region, and became an expert on the lore and history of the house and its inhabitants. He was a valued source of information and a touchstone for the rest of us. He will be truly missed.



Jeff Stolz

Jeff Stolz, the guest curator of our exhibition "Juxtapose" died on September 16, just two months after the exhibit closed. Jeff was a longtime LCHS volunteer.

Jeff was a professor of costume design and theater at Viterbo University. For more than ten years he would bring his students to our textile collection to study construction methods in period dress. For curatorial staff that meant fun days working with Jeff and learning about the history of fashion. He was always examining historic garments with an eye to future exhibitions.

Fortunately, one of his ideas came to fruition in "Juxtapose," but we dreamed of more. LCHS has lost a valued member, and his creativity, talent, and humor will long be missed.



# 2019 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

## \$5,000+

Beutler, Arthur & Carolee  
Dahl, Harry  
Glore, Maude  
Glore, Fred Hixon  
Hixon, Andrew  
Wheelock III, Whitney

## \$1,000+

Lord, Jane  
Skemp, Robert  
Schwem, Marti & Bob Robinson  
Whitney, Benson  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
Mayo Clinic Health System  
Russel & Vera Smith Foundation  
State Bank Financial  
Sue Gelatt Foundation

## \$2,000+

Carskadon, Bill & Sue  
Hixon III, Joseph & Renate  
Loveland, Warren & Denise  
Reinhart, John  
Spector, Jack  
Gretchen Guernsey Leigh Fund of the  
La Crosse Community Foundation

## \$500+

Davy, Michael  
Freedland, Robert & Maureen  
Hill, Edwin & Nancy  
Hoel, Bill & Karen  
Howard, Douglas  
McGuire, Patrick  
Schroeder, Grace  
Skemp, Fred & Jean  
Gundersen Health System  
La Crosse Community Foundation  
Xcel Energy  
Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse

## \$200+

Beutler, David & Peggy Clews  
Evert, Scott  
Geiger Nielsen, Devon  
Gingerich, Sherry & Bill  
Lund, Jean  
Martell, Ellen  
Mullen, Robert & Carole

Record, Dick  
Reinhart, Riley  
Reinhart, Robert & Diane  
Skogen, David & Barbara  
Welch, Sr., William  
Milo & Beverly Mach Fund of the  
La Crosse Community Foundation

## \$100+

Beck, Paul  
Brandt, Brenda  
Brown, Candace  
Burns, Robert & Gretchen  
Derrick, Peggy  
Dudkiewicz, John  
Finn, Donna & James  
Gelatt, Gretchen  
Grant, Roger & Charlotte  
Haas, Shirley  
Harrison, Linda & Robert  
Hundt, Paul & Patricia  
Jennings, Marcia  
Lange, David & Karen

Le Roy, A. Joan  
Motivans, Anna  
Morrison, David  
Newcomer, Kermit & Barbara  
O'Meara, Margaret  
Pederson, John & Cathy  
Sebo, Jeri  
Sherwood, Linda  
Taunt, Robert & Leanna  
Theisen, Joe & Carol  
Thompson, Marguerite  
Vangen, Larry  
Visger, Ken & Terry  
People's Food Cooperative Inc

# MEMBERSHIPS

## INDIVIDUAL

Alderman, Katie	Crescent Jewelers	Hogue, Janice	Monsoor, Mary	Schwem, Marti
Allen, Harriet	Crocker, Dr. Les	Holley, Maria	Muellenberg, Julie	Seelow, Sandra
Arzigian, Constance	Daley, Sr., Robert	Howard, Douglas	Nieckarz, Marilyn	Seielstad, Peter
Asher, Toni	Derrick, Peggy	Hundt, Paul	Nottingham, Ann	Silberschmidt, Laurel
Baier, Betty	Dickinson, Marissa	Janssen, Barb	Novak, David	Sill, James
Barney, Ann	Dolan, Pat	Kabat, Tim	Oak Grove Cemetery	Skemp, Robert
Beck, Paul	Doolittle, Mark	Kimball, Patricia	Patterson, Elsie	Snodgrass, George
Beekman, John	Ellenz, Dr. George	Knapp, Ruth-Ann	Pein, Jill	Spector, Jack
Bigelow, Lois	Erickson, Marsha	Kotnour, Nancy	Pickett, Jim	Stolder, Mary
Bissen, Barb	Flaherty, Lynda	Lazere, Monica	Pittman, Rita	Swingle, Mary
Black, Jeanine Ipsen	Freehoff, Sophie	Logan, Laurie	Plesha, Roger	Taunt, Robert
Brandt, Brenda	Fuss, Kathy	Lord, Jane	Pralle, Madonna	Tiffany, Lauren
Brendel, Charles	Goetzman, Verda	Loveland, Warren	Rada, Ron	Tuttle, Barb
Brose, Pamela	Granum, Richard	Lyga, Dr. Paul	Reinhart, John	Vach, Amy
Brown, Candace	Gschwind, Sr. MaryAnn	Markos Kilbey, Regina	Reinhart, Riley	Vinger, Don
Buckley, Joan	Gustafson, Rev. Ronald	Markos, Arden	Richardson, Bessie	Warner, Peg
Carskadon, Sue	Hanson, Mike	Mason, Jon	Ross, Dennis	Watson, Ariel
Casto, Grant	Harris, Ronald	McGarty, Fr. Bernard	Rudolph, Don	Wedeking, Russell
Cepek, Alice	Helgeson, David	Medinger, John	Schafer, Mary	Wehrs Chevrolet
Christy Moss, Denise	Hodson-Haag, Donna	Miller, Corrine	Schilling, Carol	Weisbecker, Richard
Cowen, Sandra	Hoelzen, Randy	Milner, Laura	Schnell, Marian	Werner, Rosemary
			Schroeder, Grace	Wrobel, Ray

## HOUSEHOLD

Abernathy, Brian & Joyce	Grant, Roger & Charlotte	Mormann-Krieger, Rebecca
Abraham, Richard & Mary	Green, Larry	Mullen, Robert & Carole
Albrechtson, Barb & Rick	Gundersen, Dr. Sig & Jean	Nelson, Dr. David & Ann
Albrechtson, Stephen & Connie	Heim, Joe & Pat	Nelson-Britten, Carol & Chuck Britten
Amundson, Dave & Ruth	Hertel, Josh & Maria	Nowland, Frieda & Ron
Arneson, David & Mary	Hessel, Susan	O'Meara, Margaret
Baehr, Linda & Dennis	Hill, Edwin & Nancy	Opland, Russel & Peggy
Baier, Terry & Diane	Hinze, Mary	Pearse, John
Bakalars, Mike & Bethany	Hixon Jr., William & Julia	Peterslie, Peter
Bergeron, Billy & Brandon Rigger	Hyde, Yvonne	Przywojski, Rick & Ruth
Beutler, David & Peggy Clews	Italiano, George & Linda	Ranger, Marc & Elizabeth
Birchler, Margaret	Jack, Steven & Angie	Roberts, Cameron & Carlene
Blank, Judith & William	Jenkins, Glen	Rude, Brian & Karen
Boe, Matthew & Katie Berg	Johnson, Dennis & Susan	Rudolph, Mike & Evelyn
Brown, Oren & Paulette	Johnston, Mike & Sue	Russell, David & Nancy
Casberg, Ken & Kathy	Jolly, Janis & Mark Stahlhut	Satory, John & Beth
Chapman, Frances B. Hixon	Keil, Michael & Karen	Schaper, Dennis & Cyndy
Clark, Greg & Mary	Kerbaugh, Dr. Chris	Schultz, Michael & Karen
Cleveland, Arduis & John	Kirkpatrick, Judy	Schwartz, Bill & Maureen
Cvikota, Kenneth & Shirley	Knudson, Ralph	Seager, Glenn and Lila
Darling, Jack & Patricia	Krajewski, Thomas & Juna	Smith, George & Marita
Davy, Michael	Krieg-Sigman, Kelly & Michael Sigman	Steingraeber, Carolyn & Mark
Doering, Anita & Bill	Kruse, Joseph & Barbara	Storch, Marc & Beth
Dolder-Zieke, Beth & Steve Zieke	Lange, David & Karen	Swingen, Susan
Erdenberger, Angela & Chad	Levendoski, Susan & Robert	Theisen, Joe & Carol
Evans, Anita	Lien, Alden & Helen	Thompson, Marcia & Dick
Fernandes, Marilyn & Felix	Macha, Betty & Allen	Valiquette, Lynne & Keith
Fiksdal, Brittany & Scott	Marcou, Bob & Diane	Visger, Terry & Ken
Finn, Jim & Donna	Markos, Donald	Weeth, Charles
Frost, Richard & Wachuta Teri	Markos, Richard & Terri	Wiebke, Monica & Brad Peterson
Gallagher, James & Janice	Martell, Ellen	Wilson, Patrick & Bobbie
Gassere, Alice Englehard	McGuire, Pat	Wittenberg, Jim & Cheryl Amsrud
Goode, David & Nancy	Metz, Marie	Wood, Margaret
		Young, Hugh and Bonny
		Young, Suzanne

# MEMBERSHIPS CONTINUED

## CENTURY

Bacon, Kent & Julie  
Beutler, Arthur & Carolee  
Callies, Chuck & Carla  
Campbell, Roy & Laurie  
Pederson, John and Cathy  
Dudkiewicz, John  
Glendenning, Mark & Margaret  
Governmental Employees Credit Union  
Growt, David & Audrey  
Haas, Shirley  
Harlan, Lynn & John Tonnis  
Kinney, Maureen  
Layton, John  
Lysne, Sally Nelson  
Markussen, Vicki  
MacMillan, Elizabeth

McMillen, Milton  
Merchants Bank  
Newcomer, Kermit & Barbara  
Overgard, Florence  
People's Food Cooperative, Inc.  
Sebo, Jeri  
Sherwood, Linda  
Skemp, Fred & Jean  
Solberg, John & Nancy  
Stephens, Patrick & Joanne  
Wakeen, Fred & Deb  
Webster, Stephen & Katherine  
Welch, William  
Wiffler, James  
Wolfe, Glenn  
Zeman, Bob

## SUSTAINING

Blomquist, Barry & Eva Dahl  
Donskey, Kirk  
Geiger Nielsen, Devon  
Gelatt, Dan  
Greiner, Joel & Jacquie

Hoel, Bill & Karen  
Lund, Jean  
Mattison, Mark & Wendy  
Record, Dick

## HISTORY GUARDIAN

Bosshard Parke Law  
Clemons, Arla

## HERITAGE CIRCLE

Binsfeld, Anthony & Barbara

## LIFE MEMBERS

Ballard, Alexandra  
Dahl, Harry  
Fortney, Marc & Carol  
Foster, Barbara Hunter  
Geiger, William Dodd III  
Glore, Fred Hixon  
Glore, Maude  
Hansen, John & Donna  
Hixon, Andrew  
Hixon, Dylan

Hixon, Shanti  
Mathy, Leah  
Mathy, Steve  
Reinhart, Robert & Diane  
Schwalbe, Tye  
Skogen, David & Barbara  
Walz, Richard  
Weber, Don & Roxanne  
Whitney III, Wheelock  
Whitney, Benson & Mary Farnam



LA CROSSE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 157

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# DISCOVER THE SILENT CITY

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES INSPIRED BY LOCAL HISTORY



VOTES

FOR WOMEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

OAK GROVE CEMETERY