# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



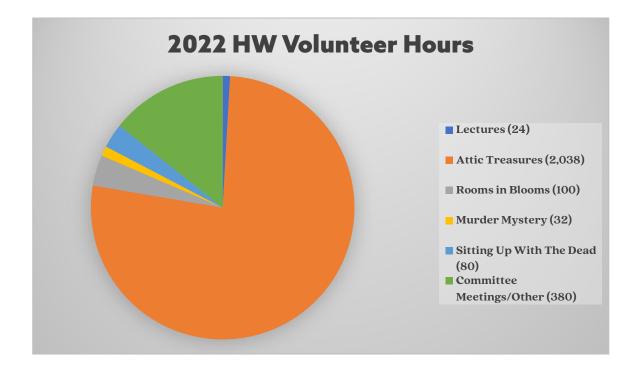
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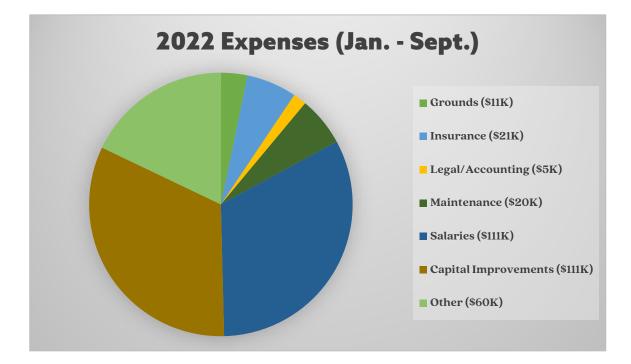


**NOVEMBER 2** 

**Historic Waco** 

## **2022 in Review**





## A Message from the Director

Hello! It's hard to believe that our annual meeting is upon us again, and I wanted to take this time to discuss the many changes we have made at Historic Waco.

After receiving feedback from a focus group and numerous visitors, Historic Waco underwent a rebrand courtesy of our marketing committee. We updated our logo using a color palette that reflects the paint and brick of our houses and paired it with a design that pays homage to Waco history. Our name has also changed; we dropped the "Foundation" from our title to more accurately reflect our role in the Waco community. Our goal behind this change was to differentiate ourselves from the various foundations in Waco and to present a more cohesive brand identity for future initiatives.

Membership benefits also required re-evaluation, and we have added a variety of ways to make a Historic Waco membership more valuable. All members now receive the following benefits in addition to their existing ones:

- 20% discount on select events
- 20% discount on rentals
- Free admission to our lecture series
- Exclusive web-based content

We hope these updates will make investing in a Historic Waco membership more rewarding and worthwhile.

We have also improved our visitor experience. In the past, prospective visitors were often uncertain of when tours were available. To create a more consistent experience, Historic Waco house tours are now scheduled to begin on the hour.

The nature of historic homes presents challenges for attracting repeat visitors; the historic objects within remain constant over time, and space for rotating exhibits is limited. Historic Waco already decorates the houses for annual holidays, <u>but</u> now our tour guides, staff, and education committee have improved on the holiday experience by creating brand new Christmas scripts for the houses. Every year in December, visitors will be treated to an updated script at each house that details the Christmas traditions each family would have celebrated. We hope to expand this offering in years to come and use the houses as a platform to discuss larger themes in the community and nation.

Our commitment to educating and interacting with the visitors and residents of Waco is our new focus, but we cannot do that alone. If these changes sound as exciting to you as they are for us, if you have an engaging idea or topic you would like for us to cover, or if you have a passion for the history of our community, reach out to us! We love having visitors stop by our houses and share their Waco stories. Better yet, if you would like to join us in our mission, come volunteer! From decorating houses to learning how to properly care for artifacts, Historic Waco has a spot for you to learn and grow with us.

Sincerely,

Erik Swanson, Executive Director Historic Waco

## A Message from the President of the Board

Historic Waco wants you! Historic Waco has survived the pandemic, the search for a new executive director, construction on the houses and Interstate 35 and now it's time to begin focusing on moving forward – and that future includes YOU! Historic Waco would be nothing if it weren't for our volunteers. We greatly appreciate you and your talents.

We are working on several new and exciting possibilities for our beloved organization, but these new ideas won't come to completion without help. Your time, your talents and your donations are needed to help us continue this forward momentum that we are experiencing. I am not asking that anyone do more than they can, but every hour of your time is a gift.

We need people to come and be a part of our special committees, the board of directors, or just come and learn to become a docent and give tours of the houses. I got my start with Historic Waco as a member of the education committee and I was so grateful to then committee-chair, Suzanne Kelly and her group for welcoming me and making me feel like such an integral part of the group. Those members taught me about the organization and made me more comfortable to serve on other committees, sitting in a house on a Sunday afternoon, manning a booth on a family fun day and working the cash register at Attic Treasures.

All of those "jobs" can be tiring and time consuming, but they are made special by the people of Historic Waco – each of you. I have gotten to know so many of you throughout the years. I am overjoyed at the friendships that I have made and intend on keeping. Our volunteer force is what makes Historic Waco such a special place. You are all intensely loyal and I admire that.

But now, I am asking all of our volunteers to look at their friend groups, neighborhoods and communities for someone new to join Historic Waco. We need more people to take part in our organization. Again, our volunteers are our lifeblood and Historic Waco will not survive without you.

As my time as board president is coming to an end, I am looking forward to becoming more active with each of you and continue working with you to ensure Historic Waco continues to serve as the storytellers of Waco.

Sincerely,

Clint Lynch, President, Historic Waco

## HW Board Members & Staff 2022

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Earle-Napier-Kinnard House Sandy Swanson McCulloch House Cindy Potts East Terrace Pam Thomason

### **Historic Waco Foundation Staff**

*Executive Director* Erik Swanson

Administrative Assistant Karen Hafertepe

Volunteer/Education Coordinator Katherine Kiesling

*Tour Guides* Patricia Alleman, Carolyn Casey Doris Rose, McKenna Lowrey

## Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Historic Waco is only as good as the people who serve it, and the following board members can be proud knowing they left the organization in better shape than they found it:

- JoAn Felton
- Louis Garcia
- Roy Spinks

Thank you for your contributions to Historic Waco. From attending board meetings and serving on committees to manning the register at events, you all served Historic Waco in different ways. We thank you for the time and effort you gave to this organization, and the high standards you implemented.

## **Incoming Board Members**

Historic Waco is proud to announce the next group of board members for 2023-24:

Vice President:

• Stephanie Schwab

## **Board Member:**

- Jeff Pirtle
- Oscar Chombo



Oscar Chombo, Relationship Manager II, VP, Cadence Bank



Jeff Pirtle, Director of The Texas Collection and Baylor University Archives, Baylor University Libraries

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Mary Ruth Neely Lynn Klatt

**Don Parks** Mary Aileen Edwards

**Tracy Slaughter** Rebecca Maxwell Patsy McKee

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**Billie Threadgill** Charles and Jill Barrow Earl-Napier-Kinnard House Members

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