



Tryon Palace



2020
Annual Report

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Like families around the world, the Tryon Palace family has had to adjust to the reality of a global pandemic. I am pleased to report that the staff has responded efficiently and professionally to the abrupt change. Despite the stay-at-home order, essential, or mandatory, staff were onsite: safeguarding buildings, grounds, and artifacts, as well as assuring that invoices were paid. Within a short period of time, Tryon Palace was offering Facebook Live programming and creating a unique link for Foundation members to have access to recorded programs.

The gardens at Tryon Palace are iconic, and gardeners returned to work after two weeks into the stay-at-home order. Our gardeners could work outside and remote from one another making it safe for them. Gardens and landscapes do not pause during a pandemic! Further, we knew that the gardens, as our elements, would be among the first to re-open and they needed to look great. In fact, we were given permission to open the gardens the first week of June.

To prepare for the June re-opening, many staff members returned to work in mid-May. Plexiglas shields needed to be designed and built; hand sanitizing stations, masks and cleaning products purchased; water fountains disconnected; and benches removed. We were grateful to re-open despite the learning curve of how to do that safely.

A National Endowment for the Humanities grant, managed and administered through the department, was secured to provide salary assistance for part-time interpreters, development of training videos, a new website for Tryon Palace capable of hosting more videos and on-line programming, diversity training for staff to assure that all stories are told, and creation of virtual field trips for 4th and 8th graders. The grant was scheduled to end December 31, 2020 but was extended to December 2021, fortunately.

Additionally, the Tryon Palace Foundation was awarded a COVID Relief Grant through the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources supported by the federal CARES Act. While the grant had many stipulations, it did allow for enhanced advertising, a website for the Foundation, reimbursement for all operating expenses of the Foundation from March-December of 2020, and for the planned upfit of the Annex. Funding totaled \$665,000.

By mid-September, we were able to open for Palace tours on a times basis and with limited occupancy. A modest sense of normalcy was returning and there was hope of offering a modified holiday program. The surge in COVID cases did not allow that to happen. Instead, Tryon Palace offered the community a spectacular firework display thanks to our generous sponsors.

You can see that the staff has been very busy despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. 2021 will be another year of change for us as we try to evaluate new ways to drive our mission and increase revenue.

The support of the Foundation has been essential financially and emotionally. We all await the time when we can be together to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to the future.



Sincerely,

William J. McCrea, Executive Director



2020 Annual Report

The Tryon Palace Annual Report is published to acknowledge the generosity of Tryon Palace's primary supporters and to highlight achievements from the previous year. This publication is available to all those who have supported Tryon Palace through the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Foundation.

Photos provided by Tryon Palace

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Email: foundation@tryonpalace.org

Phone: 1-800-767-1560

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P.O. Box 1007

New Bern, NC 28563

About Tryon Palace

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, NC, is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Tryon Palace is one of North Carolina's most significant historic sites. It is the home of the Governor's Palace, North Carolina's first colonial and first state capitol, and includes historic buildings, gardens, and the North Carolina History Center, which revolutionizes the visitor experience through use of the latest interactive technology. The History Center includes galleries, a performance hall, the museum store, and a waterfront café.

Tryon Palace's mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement in 1710, the development of statehood, and into the mid-20th century. It is dedicated to collecting, interpreting, and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

Tickets and visitor information are available at Tryon Palace, 529 S. Front St., New Bern, NC. For directions and further information about special events, programs, or group tours, employment and more, visit www.tryonpalace.org or call (800) 767-1560.

FROM THE FOUNDATION

I am happy to report that 2020 is finally behind us! With your support, despite the closures and challenges from COVID-19, the Tryon Palace Foundation not only sustained but can boast several successes!

The Foundation received a one million dollar award from the CARES Act Grant. With these funds, we were able to complete needed renovations to the Annex building that houses our collections, film educational videos, create a Tryon Palace Foundation website, launch an SEO analysis of our current website, and make “wish-list” advertising purchases that promoted Tryon Palace to increase visitation. Additional funding raised from grants, allowed Tryon Palace to develop a new mobile friendly main website capable of housing more video content, and with results from the SEO analysis, encourage more traffic.

For those of you who have not visited the New Bern Academy Museum recently, I strongly encourage you to plan to drive by and see how beautiful it looks, and plan to visit when it reopens. Funding raised by the Foundation supported a major restoration of this building during 2020. The New Bern Academy is an important historical site, and we are proud to be able to showcase it. In 1766, it was the first school in North Carolina to be incorporated by the legislative assembly. Destroyed by fire in 1795, the present building was constructed between 1806 and 1809 and served as a school until 1972, making it one of the oldest continuously used school buildings in America.

As we progress into 2021, we are hoping to host our first Signature fundraisers since the pandemic closures back in March 2020. On September 18, *Live and Local* will return, followed by *Candlelight* in December. We hope you join us at these events! In addition, our newly formatted corporate membership program, Palace Advocates, offers companies a way to support Tryon Palace and gain valuable recognition but does not restrict their funding to any one event. We plan to expand our fundraising efforts throughout the state. We also started the Tryon Palace Endowment Fund, which will be launched in 2021 as our new planned giving program. If you hold a special place in your heart for Tryon Palace, as I do, I ask that you please consider a legacy gift to Tryon Palace as your planned giving.

Tryon Palace has survived for more than 250 years because of supporters like you. On behalf of the Board of the Foundation, we sincerely thank you for all you have done and continue to do.



Jeannie Tyson
Foundation President, Tryon Palace

FROM THE COMMISSION

After a successful recovery from Hurricane Florence in 2019, in 2020, Tryon Palace once again faced a devastating blow that brought closures and lost revenue. As the world recovers from the pandemic, we look forward to returning to operating fully in 2021 and are optimistic for the future. I am prouder than ever to be part of the team that keeps the Palace – and North Carolina’s history – alive for the future. I commend the hard work and dedication of the staff, volunteers, Foundation and Commission who adapted as needed and worked hard to sustain the Palace through this.

As you know, my grandmother was one of the passionate women behind the rebuilding of Tryon Palace. Though I rotate off the Commission this year as Chair, I will always remain as dedicated to Tryon Palace as she was. These last three years add to Tryon Palace’s collective story. I have trust and faith that Tryon Palace will remain a beacon of education, community, and inclusivity, and a treasured North Carolina legacy, in the hands of the hard-working staff, volunteers and supporters. I am grateful for my time as Chair and am thankful to every person who has worked to sustain Tryon Palace for the future.

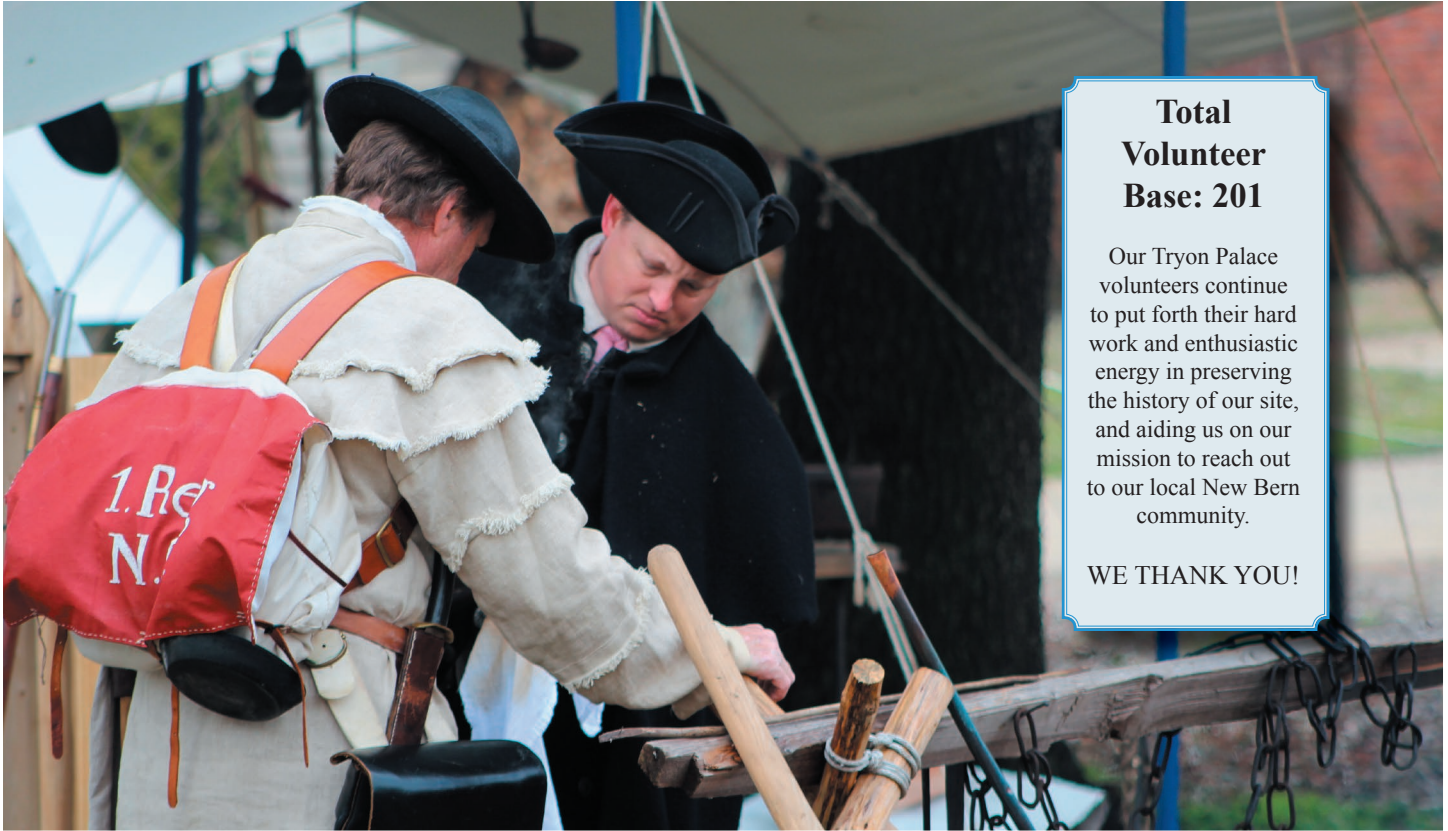
William Cannon
Former Chairman, Tryon Palace Commission



ON THE COVER

A statue from Hawk’s Garden in the winter of 2020. Taken by Blue Marketing Company.





**Total
Volunteer
Base: 201**

Our Tryon Palace volunteers continue to put forth their hard work and enthusiastic energy in preserving the history of our site, and aiding us on our mission to reach out to our local New Bern community.

WE THANK YOU!

Volunteers Make Tryon Palace Great





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Ms. Winnie F. Smith

In honor of Elizabeth Ward
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Ward, Jr.

In honor of Joseph E. Zaytoun
Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Kirk, Jr.



2020 | THE YEAR IN REVIEW

March 16, 2020 – Tryon Palace closed to the public

June 9, 2020 – Gardens opened to the public

Sept. 14, 2020 – Tryon Palace & NC History Center
opened at limited capacity

TICKETS SOLD IN 2020

(One Day Passes, Galleries, Gardens).

Jan. 1 - Mar. 15

5,657

June 9 - Dec. 31

10,698

Summary of *Holiday Cheer* AT THE PALACE

Celebrating Tryon Palace's 250th Anniversary

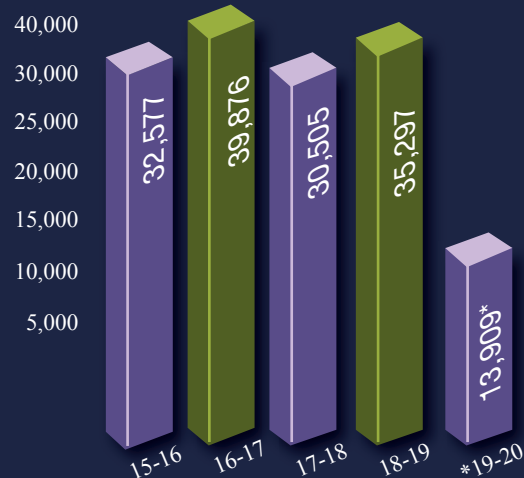
Tickets sold for Dec. 12 **396**

Tickets sold for Dec. 19 **245**

Total tickets **641***

* 50 tickets were donated back after the event was cancelled, most were refunded.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

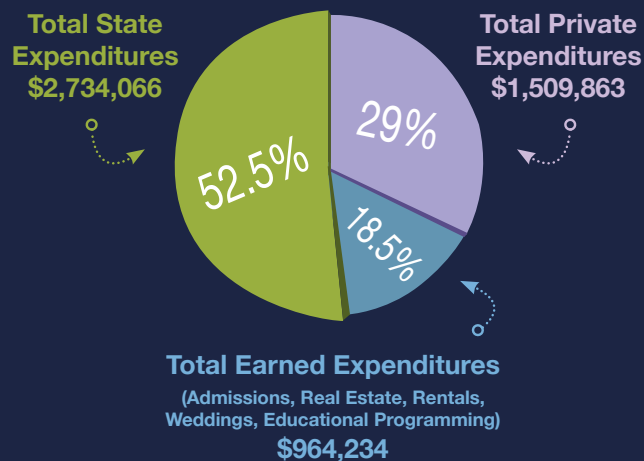


Number of volunteer hours worked
at Tryon Palace by fiscal year

*Under COVID-19 volunteer use was limited.
Y18-19, 950 volunteers vs. Y19-20, 393 volunteers

ANNUAL SOURCES OF FUNDING (FY 19-20)

for Tryon Palace operating expenditures



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