



CLARKE MUSEUM

2022 Annual Report



Letter from the President

Hello Everyone:

It's hard to believe 2022 has gone by so quickly. We had quite the year at the Clarke Historical Museum with lots of changes, challenges, and plenty of good things happening too.

We were sad to lose our Executive Director/Curator Katie Buesch—and wish her the best in studying for her Master's and wherever that may lead her in the future—but we're happy to welcome Josh Buck in July as our new Executive Director/Curator. Josh is a Humboldt County native and has deep roots in the history of the region, including serving on the board of the Timber Heritage Association.



Our physical building also had a rough year, presenting us with a number of challenges:

- A roof leak in Nealis Hall that meant extensive interior repair work was needed after the roof was fixed.*
- Vandalization of the 'Sun Set Twice That Day' mural by Brian Tripp and Alme Allen; repairs were funded by the Northern California Indian Development Council.*
- Plumbing leaks in the building and the water main at the street.*
- A vandalized window that will cost close to \$4000 to replace*
- Plaster damage to the interior and terra cotta damage to the exterior after the December earthquake.*



We lost the Eureka Visitor Center as our front-space tenant when they moved to new shared headquarters on F Street in October, but we were fortunate to sign an agreement shortly thereafter for the Solstice Market, who moved in with their holiday boutique. The search continues for a new long-term tenant.

On a more positive note, the Clarke was named 'Best Museum' in the North Coast Journal's 'Best of' roundup. Thank you to all who voted for us. It is our continuing goal to provide deep insights into the history and culture of our region and deliver a great experience for residents and visitors alike.

LOCAL MAKERS AND BEYOND



SOLSTICE

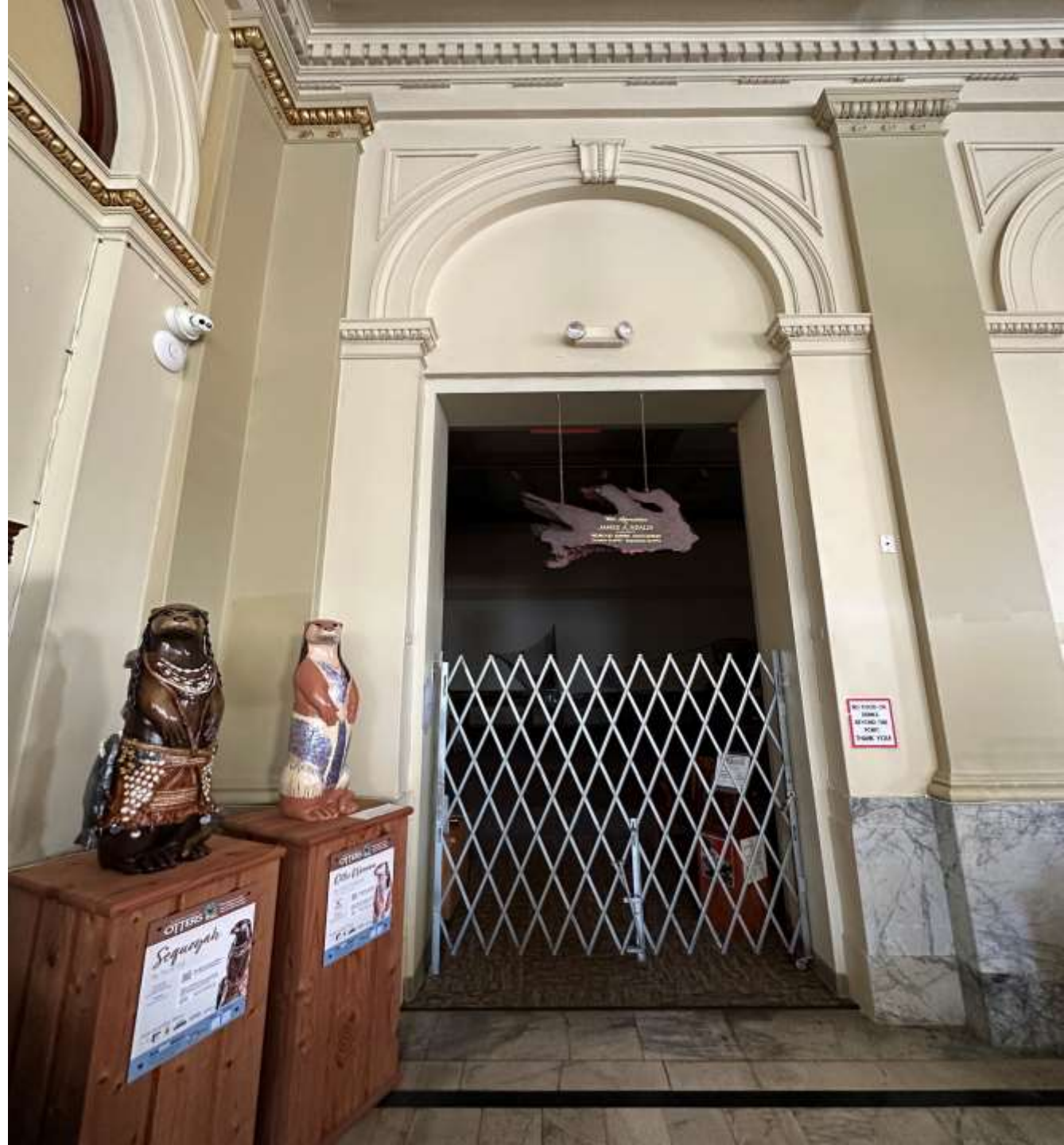
Pop-up Holiday Market



The icing on the environmental protection cake will be the installation of a custom redwood door for the entrance to Nealis Hall, which will complete our ability to control the environment in the hall. Karuk artist Alme Allen, renowned for creating a number of indigenous murals in the region, has expressed a desire to design and carve the door's surface.

Thank you all for being supporters of the Clarke and for helping us keep our fascinating and colorful history alive.

- Lynn Sturgis, President of the Clarke Historical Museum



Community Outreach

Taking the Clarke to the People

Year of the Dragon Festival

Year of the Dragon Festival with HAPI (Humboldt Asian Pacific Islanders In Solidarity) started with a talk by Jeannie Pfaelzer on Eureka's Chinatown and the context of the 1885 Chinese Expulsion from Eureka. This was followed by walking tours, led by HAPI and the Eureka Chinatown Project, to explore the history of the Chinese population in Eureka and Humboldt County, including their arrival, expulsion, and efforts to recognize the important role this community played in creating the Humboldt County we know today.



Get Out & Play Day

Get Out & Play Day came back with a bang, offering multiple family-friendly events for everyone to enjoy. Kevin Voorhees of Humboldt Bay Fire brought the Eureka Fire Department's horse-drawn steam fire engine down to Clarke Plaza, which was a big hit. Clarke Museum Board Vice President Shirley Laos led a workshop on acorn processing, and flintknapper Daniel Busch captivated attendees with his fine stonework. The museum offered free admission that day, sponsored by Pierson.



Archaeology Day

Archaeology Day on Saturday October 22 saw the Clarke Historical Museum and Cal Poly Humboldt jointly host a hands-on dive into local history at the museum.

Anthropology students and staff from Cal Poly Humboldt conducted a range of activities for kids, including simulated excavation boxes and junior archaeologist certification.

Daniel Busch, Research Associate at the Cal Poly Humboldt Cultural Resource Facility, provided flint knapping demonstrations throughout the day.



The Eureka Street Art Festival

The Eureka Street Art Festival Block Party was held under the Samoa Bridge, where four pylons were used as canvases for some truly outstanding murals. Board members Lynn Sturgis, Pat Bitton, and Stacy Schaefer joined Executive Director Josh Buck, Marketing/Events Coordinator Dana Fredsti, and Clarke Canine Pogeon to talk up the museum and sell Clarke merchandise. We always appreciate it when board members join in the work and the fun!



Friday Night Markets

Friday Night Markets also returned to great acclaim, and the Clarke joined in the fun from July through September, selling cinnamon rolls donated by Fat Cat Bakery, popcorn, and merchandise from the Clarke Gift Shop.



Chamber of Commerce Mixer

- *The Clarke was enthusiastic about participating in the monthly Chamber of Commerce mixers throughout the year, providing quality opportunities to meet local business owners, community members, and many more. We co-hosted a mixer in August with the City of Eureka. It was well-attended and very successful, thanks to the hard work of staff and board members.*



Tea Programs

- *Wild Teas 2022 was a resounding success. Cooperative weather, delicious food from Brett Shuler Fine Catering, a selection of native teas, and a fascinating presentation at the beautiful Potawat Health Village by Dessa Gunning made for a wonderful afternoon.*
- *We held another well-attended, fun, and festive Very Victorian Tea in conjunction with the Heritage Society at the Annie B. Ryan house and gardens. The event quickly sold out, and it was great fun seeing all of the wonderful costumes worn by guests, museum staff, and volunteers.*
- *Tea & Spirits, our Roaring Twenties jazz-themed Halloween party, was a fun-filled evening of music, dancing, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a glimpse into the haunted side of Old Town Eureka! We served creative cocktails from Humboldt Distillery and Dutch & Dewey Distillery to a backdrop of danceable music by Young & Lovely and offered haunted history Tours of Old Town led by Eric Vollmer of Old Town Haunted History & Ghost tours.*







Saturday Speaker Series

We were delighted to be able to resume our Saturday Speaker Series in-house, featuring a different speaker every month. We continue to offer people the opportunity to attend in person or virtually via a YouTube link (links available on our YouTube channel). Speakers and topics included:

- *Carla Baku on her historical novel “Chasing Down the Moon,” about the 1885 Chinese Expulsion*
- *Lynette Mullen on Eureka’s Red Light District*
- *Jerry Rohde on “Vanished Villages: how early-day Humboldt towns got started and why they faded out,” using the Lentell Map to point out the locations of these bygone towns*
- *Josh Buck on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad*
- *Gretchen Ziegler on the history of the Sequoia Park Zoo*
- *Kari Marie Norgaard & Ron Reed on the importance of fire for Karuk tribal culture, health, food, and sovereignty.*



Holiday Fun!

Any holiday is a good excuse for some fun and community outreach – and food, of course!

- *Following up on 2021's successful St. Patrick's Day event, the Clarke once again celebrated the holiday with a pick-up dinner provided by Brett Shuler's Fine Catering and Irish music performed by Evan Morden and Dominic Romano.*
- *For Easter, we held an Easter egg hunt, hiding 54 eggs filled with chocolate around the Visitor's Center and museum. All but three were found by the kids who visited that weekend (the staff called dibs on the remainder!)*
- *At December's Arts Alive, we repeated 2021's fun event with carolers clad in Victorian garb straight out of A Christmas Carol, and storytelling by Donald Forrest and Michael Fields.*



Exhibits – Take a Tour of Humboldt's History

Main Hall

We hosted a number of engaging and popular exhibits in the Main Hall that lifted our – and the community's - post-pandemic spirits.

Bobs & Beads

This exhibit explored the social, cultural, and economic changes that took place in the 1920s through the lens of fashion trends, clothing, and accessories from the Clarke's collections.



Humboldt in the Time of Covid



Interns Heidi Apsley and Kyle Ackerman coordinated a mini-exhibit in our Weapons Room that showcased oral histories and artifacts collected since the pandemic began. This exhibit was a collaboration between Cal Poly Humboldt and the Clarke and tried to address the questions of how did our community weather the pandemic and how might we remember this pivotal moment in history.

Marbles

We showcased an amazing display of 158 art marbles, handcrafted by renowned glassmakers from around the world; this stunning treasure trove of handmade art marbles was valued at over \$45,000! We also acted as host venue for The World's Greatest Marble Hunt, and welcomed the winning team – from Crescent City, by great coincidence – as they claimed their prize and were congratulated by Topher Reynolds of Eureka's Copious Glass, who also coordinated the display at the museum.



Railroads of Humboldt County

This exhibit showcased the importance of rail use in Humboldt County. The primary example of what was once the most expensive railroad in the United States to maintain: the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, which allowed passage of passengers and freight between Trinidad and Sausalito on San Francisco Bay.



Nealis Hall

Despite the challenges of working around repair crews in Nealis Hall, Curator Jasmine Brown succeeded in creating several excellent exhibits in 2022.



From Raw Materials to Usable Objects

- *This exhibit featured the raw materials used by the Indigenous people of our area, as well as the finished products, to give insight into the intensive work and knowledge required to make the most of all the materials available in the environment.*



The Visible Conservation Case

Our staff invests a lot of time in maintaining and caring for the collections. This case holds a variety of objects that have been exposed to mold, some of which may have visible mold growth, while others may have been exposed to mold spores invisible to the naked eye. By putting the exposed materials in a sealed chamber with reduced humidity levels, active mold can be rendered inactive through drying out and, once the mold is inactive, staff can gently brush and vacuum away the spots of mold.



Cultural Continuity: Ceremonial Life

This exhibit featured ceremonial regalia from the Clarke's collections from pre-contact, as well as more contemporary examples. Ceremony has always been a significant aspect of Indigenous cultural life and has endured since time immemorial.



Mini Textile Exhibits

Throughout the year, textile intern Emily Price and Registrar Alexandra Cox created seasonal mini-exhibits in the Victorian Room, including:

- *Underpinnings: Behind the Scenes of Victorian Undergarments, showcasing the essential layers needed to create the iconic Victorian wasp-waisted silhouette.*
- *Daring Ladies: Using a variety of sources including Victorian-era ads and newspaper articles, this exhibit illustrated how women of the times defended themselves.*
- *1890s Finery: Featuring a selection of ladies' clothing and accessories.*
- *Christmas in the Victorian Era: A snapshot of Victorian life during the holidays, showing clothing, toys, and a Christmas tree decorated with vintage ornaments from the late 19th century.*



MAY 18, 1889.

A WOMAN'S REVENGE.
A MYSTERIOUS NEW HAVEN, CONN., CASE IN WHICH AN OFFENDED UNKNOWN WOMAN STABS A CITIZEN WITH A HAT PIN.
(DANIEL MCCARTY STABBED)



Community Case

We hosted displays from a number of local organizations, including: Centro del Pueblo; Humboldt Bay Fire; Girl Scouts; CERT; and a major piece of Humboldt history loaned by Fat Cat Bakery owner (and valued Clarke Museum supporter!) Phillip Burns – the Lady Liberty Sculpture that was originally part of the former Eureka Courthouse.



Meet the Staff!

We Couldn't Do It Without Them

Staff



Katie Buesch **Executive Director - Curator**

Katie Buesch became the Executive Director-Curator of the Clarke in January 2020. She has BA's in Cultural Anthropology and Religious Studies from Humboldt State University, having graduated summa cum laude in 2017. She started working at the Clarke Museum in September 2017 and, during her time here, enjoyed getting to know other historians and finding ways to keep the museum connected to the local community during the COVID closures.

Katie left the Clarke in May 2022 to study for her Masters degree at Sacramento State University.

Josh Buck

Executive Director - Curator

Josh Buck was born in Arcata and has lived in Humboldt County his whole life. He graduated from Humboldt State University and received his BA in History in 2018. His area of historical focus was the Northwestern Pacific Railroad and the predecessor railroads of Humboldt and Mendocino counties. In addition, he graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt's Teacher Credential Program this year.

Josh interned for both the Humboldt County Historical Society and the Blue Lake Museum in 2018. He was hired by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to create a lesson plan for local teachers in 2019, as well as being a board member for the Timber Heritage Association since 2019, and their secretary since January 2022. On any given weekend, you can find Josh and his wife Maya exploring seldom-visited local historical sites.





Alexandra Cox

Registrar

Alexandra graduated from Humboldt State University in 2017 with a BA in Anthropology and a certificate in Museum and Gallery Practices. She earned an MA in Applied Anthropology from Humboldt State University in 2018. She enjoys going to the movies, reading, and beaded loom work.



Emily Watkins

Curator/Registrar, Nealis Hall

Emily Watkins is from the Ihanktonwan and Absentee Shawnee nations. She has a BA in Native American Studies: Emphasis in Language and Literature from Humboldt State University, where she graduated in 2019. Her research interests include food sovereignty, Indigenous natural resource practices, and body adornment. She also enjoys learning about world mythology, historical cooking techniques, and paranormal stories. In her free time, Emily loves crocheting, playing games with friends, cooking, and doing anything that involves being outdoors. She left the Clarke in March 2022 to work in Park Services.

Jasmine Brown **Curator/Registrar, Nealis Hall**

Jasmine Brown graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt in 2020 with a BA in Anthropology with a dual emphasis in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology. She's interested in the study of ancient human cultures and inspiring others to become curious about our shared human history. At the Clarke Museum she works to record, care for, and display the Indigenous collections which includes baskets, stone tools, ceremonial regalia and much more.





Dana Fredsti

Marketing & Events Coordinator

Dana Fredsti is a multi-published novelist with a background in acting, stunts, event planning, and office management. Her love of history is reflected in her writing. She served on the board of Sisters in Crime NorCal for several years, as chapter President and events planner. Dana was also co-writer/associate producer of Urban Rescuers, a documentary on feral cats and TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return), which won Best Documentary at the 2003 Valley Film Festival in Los Angeles. Dana's hobbies include reading, crafting things out of driftwood and beach glass, and exploring nature with her husband and Pogeon, the Clarke Canine!

Jeff Roberts Maintenance

Jeff Roberts is the Clarke's maintenance man and jack-of-all-trades. He is a much-valued part of Team Clarke and makes work so much easier by ensuring things are clean, safe, and all the bits and pieces are working as they should be. Jeff is the first one at the Museum in the mornings making sure that everything's good to go when the rest of the staff arrives. In his own words, Jeff has been clean and sober for 14 years and with the Clarke Museum for 13 of those years. He says of his work, "I love my job and the people I've come to know." His favorite football team is the San Francisco 49ers.





David Fitzgerald Front Desk

David Fitzgerald is an award-winning, widely published writer of nonfiction and fiction, a historical researcher and public speaker. He has worked at the Clarke Historical Museum since 2020; initially as concierge for the Eureka Visitor Center. He loves helping visitors with their questions and pointing out all the special features of the Museum and its unique building.

David also loves living in Old Town Eureka with his wife Dana (the museum's Marketing/Events coordinator). They share their beautiful blue Victorian with a horde of felines and their dog-- Clarke Canine Pogeem!

Stephanie Price

Front Desk

Stephanie Price grew up in Sacramento and moved to Arcata in 2015. Since childhood she's had an obsession with movies and music, so HSU's film program drew her to Humboldt County. She's also pursued numerous interests like hiking, painting, digital art, and sightseeing. Her secret superpower is organization: give her a messy room, a disorganized file cabinet, or anything messy and she will clean everything thoroughly and make it easily accessible.

Stephanie and her fiancé Joseph share an interest in railroads and the history of Humboldt, along with the preservation of both. Stephanie and Joseph are both involved with the Timber Heritage Association in Samoa, where she paints and revamps machinery and makes new signage for the shops. She also gets hands-on and helps with track clearing and brush cutting.



Budgetary constraints led to the sad news that we had to lay off both Stephanie Price and David Fitzgerald. They were fantastic team members who worked tirelessly to help us achieve our goals, and we are grateful for their respective contributions. We will miss their creativity, enthusiasm, and hard work and want to thank them for their dedication to the Museum—both are still volunteering their time here and helping us keep things going.

With your help in supporting our mission through memberships and donations, we hope to be able to bring them back on board in the future.

Volunteers

Our Invaluable Partners

In 2022 we had several very talented and dedicated interns helping with a variety of projects:

•Emily Price is our textile intern. She is an expert in Victorian era fashion history and its role in colonization. Over the past two years, Emily has engaged visitors and patrons with snapshots of Victorian life. She has set up mini exhibits in the Emmerson (Victorian) Room, written newsletter articles, and created social media content to showcase the details of the Clarke's Victorian clothing collections. Emily has also been cataloging the Clarke's textile collection, updating the Museum's database, and creating detailed condition reports for dozens of objects. Her favorite part of working with the textile collection is identifying the construction methods, time periods, and resource origins of Victorian clothing. She has provided thorough context to a very popular and sensational period and looks forward to creating more exhibits in the future.

•Scientific Artist Josh Overington created art for the booklet for Wild Teas as well as custom art for Another Very Victorian Tea and Tea & Spirits. He continues to volunteer on occasion and is always willing to help out when we need him.

•Anne Howard filmed and produced a 360 Video Tour of the Clarke with the support of the Cal Poly Humboldt Digital Media Lab and Digital Media and Learning Librarian Tim Miller. The music is an original track created especially for the virtual by local musician [Aaron Laughlin](#).

•Heidi Apsley and Kyle Ackerman helped coordinate the Humboldt in the Time of Covid exhibit, a collaboration between Cal Poly Humboldt and the Clarke Museum.

We also benefited from a small army of dedicated volunteers who helped out in many different ways. The more the merrier, so volunteer applications are welcome at <https://www.clarkemuseum.org/volunteer.html>



**By the Numbers:
Income and Expenditures
for 2022**

Income

It was through the generous support of our community in more ways than one which contributed towards our total income for 2022. We anticipate having more events in the new year as life has stabilized for planning. The museum also acquired grant funding for specific projects and supplemented income from our gift shop sales. We thank the City of Eureka for their commitment to preserving local history.

<u>Investments</u>	\$40,702.86
<u>Donations</u>	\$27,070.40
<u>Visitor Center Rent/Utilities</u>	\$17,633.92
<u>City of Eureka</u>	\$30,000.00
<u>Grants</u>	\$9,524.89
<u>Events/Fundraisers</u>	\$9,082.00
<u>Admission</u>	\$15,520.31
<u>Gift Shop</u>	\$17,159.84
<u>Memberships</u>	\$6,362.00
<u>Other</u>	\$45,031.46
<u>Total</u>	\$218,107.68

Expenses

As usual, our largest expense was our incredibly impactful staff who gave their all this year to ensure various accomplishments were made. Although every staff member has an official title, roles are assumed as needed by everyone employed by the museum. We thank all of them for their dedication to sharing and interpreting the history of Northern California with thousands of visitors. And, of course, coping with maintaining a historical structure originally constructed in 1911.

<u>Payroll</u>	\$143,901.15
<u>Building Work</u>	\$6,728.28
<u>Overhead</u>	\$35,867.37
<u>Events</u>	\$10,232.05
<u>Insurance</u>	\$10,498.23
<u>Exhibits & Collections</u>	\$2,660.88
<u>Technology</u>	\$3,300.38
<u>Staff Development</u>	\$98.01
<u>Total</u>	\$213,286.35

Acknowledgments

Thank You!

2022 Clarke Historical Museum Board of Directors: Lynn Sturgis, President; Shirley Laos, Vice President; Lisa Slack, Secretary and Trustee; Chuck Petty, Treasurer; Pat Bitton, Gerry Hale, Trustee, Billy Hilfiker, Bruce Pettit, Stacy Schaefer, Lane Strobe; Trustee, Rachel Sundberg, Wendy Wahlund, Trustee; Lonnie Wellman, Alan Workman,

This annual report was created by: Josh Buck and Dana Fredsti.

Photos courtesy of: Clarke Historical Museum Archives, Josh Buck, Dana Fredsti, Jasmine Brown, Alexandra Cox, and Emily Price.

**The Clarke would like to thank these local community members, businesses,
and organizations for their generous financial support this year:**

Albert Hailstone, Alicia and Dave Abell, Amy's Almost Perfect,
Art Center Frame Shop, Bertha Russ Lytel Foundation, Bob White Electric,
Booklegger, Brick & Fire, Cal. Poly Humboldt, Cher Ae Heights Casino,
Clearly Confuzed, Coast Central Credit Union, Coldwell Banker,
Compass Carpentry, Dutch & Dewey Distillery, Eureka Books,
Eureka Natural Foods, Hilfiker Pipe Company, Humboldt Distillery,
Humboldt Mortgage, Just My Type, Kate Newby, Leon & Elaine Warmuth,
Mission Linens, Ming Tree Realty, North Coast Co-op, North Coast Repertory
Theatre, O+M Industries, Pearl Lounge/Five Eleven Bar & Grill,
Phil Burns and Fat Cat Bakery, Pierson Building Center,
Potawot Community Gardens, Ramone's, Rick Slack, Schmidbauer Lumber Inc.,
Slack Family LLC, Six Rivers Solar, Sun Valley, Times Printing, Tucker Dental,
Umpqua Bank, and United Indian Health Services.

If you've enjoyed this annual report, remember that it's donors like you who make these events and programs possible at the Clarke Historical Museum. To ensure the museum continues to serve the community and visitors alike for many years to come, please consider joining or renewing your membership, and encourage your friends to join – we'd be happy to provide a copy of this report to show them what their membership dues can do! With your help, 2022 will be an even better year at the Clarke.

Thank you for your continued support!



Clarke Historical Museum

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