



2023 OHS ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome and thank you for joining us this morning!

The meeting will start soon...

*Please click on the “Chat” button to ask a question.
(All questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.)*



OHS ANNUAL MEETING

November 18, 2023



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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- **Welcome and Call to Order / President’s Message:**
Steve Rotella, Board of Trustees President
- **Year in Review:**
Alison Ventura, Executive Director
- **2023 Exhibitions Review:**
William McNaught, Curator
- **Collections Committee Report:**
Charles Dean, Collections Committee Chair
- **Community Engagement Report:**
Leslie Cohen, Community Engagement Chair
- **2024 Preview:**
Alison Ventura, Executive Director
- **Buildings & Grounds Report:**
John Holzapfel, Buildings and Ground Committee Member
- **Financial Report:**
Michael Simon, Treasurer, Board of Trustees
- **Vail House Archives and Office Center Project:**
Alison Ventura
- **Trustee Election:**
Suzanne Gluck, Nominating Committee Chair
- **Introduction to SKOLNICK Architecture and Vail House Archives and Office Center Discussion:**
Paul Alter, AIA, Principal

NOTE: Zoom Attendees please write questions/comments in the Chat.

WELCOME / PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Rotella, Board President



YEAR IN REVIEW

Alison Ventura, Executive Director

- What a busy year and exciting year!
- Continued to put the community at the heart of what we do, by creating engaging exhibitions and exciting programming.
- Our collection continues to grow with generous donations that help us tell the story of this special place.
- Worked hard to maintain and improve our beautiful OHS campus.
- Hired architects for our new Vail House Archives and Office Center.
- *Thank you for being an important part of this community and helping to make everything this organization does possible.*



OHS MISSION STATEMENT



The Oysterponds Historical Society brings people together to share and celebrate the unique history and culture of Orient and East Marion. By presenting shared experiences from the past, we connect our rich heritage to the present and pass it on to future generations.



2023 OHS EXHIBITIONS

- *Oysterponds at Leisure* – Photographs depicting people in East Marion and Orient as they enjoy a respite from the daily grind of work.
- *In Pursuit of Whales* – OHS has a trove of fascinating archival objects relating to several dozen different whaling vessels.
- *William Steeple Davis Block Prints* – Focused on the extraordinary wood-block and linoleum-block prints of Orient multi-media luminary Davis (1884-1961).
- *What is It?* – A playful selection of extraordinary objects from the OHS collection that seem strange to 21st century eyes. Co-curated by Sarah Olmstead.
- *Happy Birthday: Orient Yacht Club at 90* – Reflecting the OYC's importance to generations of Oysterponders.
- *Melita Hofmann: Author, Illustrator, Naturalist* – Ms. Hofmann (1907-1976) was curator of OHS from its founding in 1944 until 1963, as well as an accomplished author-illustrator.
- *Folk Art from the Collection* – This year's Schoolhouse exhibition presented a surprisingly wide range of artistic artifacts from OHS's rich collections.





2023 COLLECTIONS UPDATE

- Accepted many gifts into the collection, the most notable being an 1842 oil painting, a portrait of Elizabeth Brown Dyer Tuthill (*left*), given by the John Brown Tuthill family.
- De-accessed several items that were either damaged, redundant, or extraneous to our mission.
- Repatriated eight bowls that were grave goods of the indigenous peoples to the Shinnecock Nation.
- *A big THANK-YOU to Collections Committee Chair Charles Dean, and the entire Collections Committee!*

2023 NEW ACQUISITIONS (PARTIAL LIST)

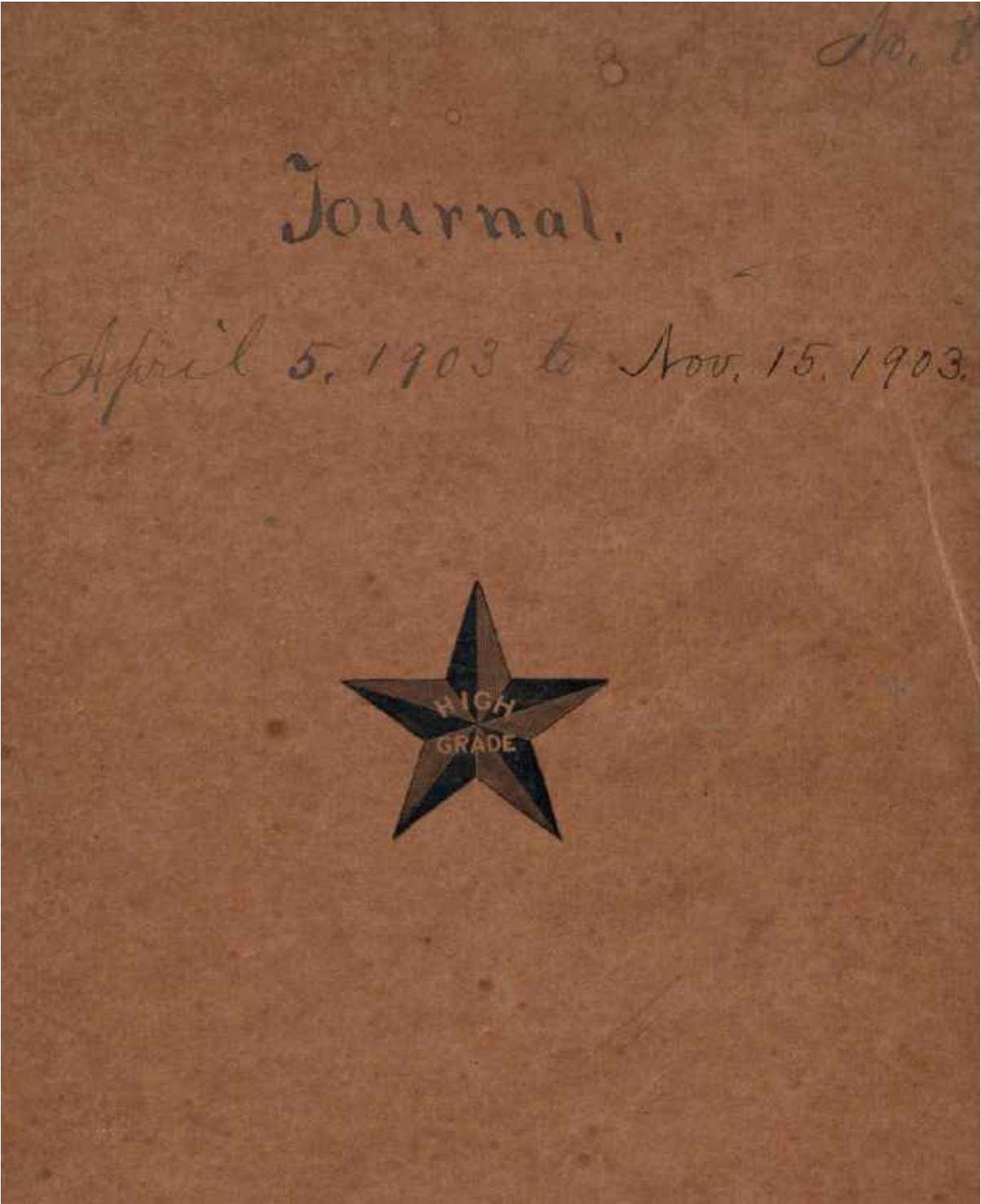


Above left: Peter Stevens photo of Bob Berks with LBJ busts. Donated by Thomas Mullane, from the Richard Keogh collection.

Above middle: 1773 Newspaper reporting on Tea protest, passed down in the Griffin Family. Donated by Jeffery Leach.

Above right: Abstract impressionist mixed media entitled Oysterponds, 2007, by Byron McClintock. Donated by Charles Dean.

Bottom right: 1903 Journal of Rev. Loren Rowley, Minister of the East Marion Baptist Church. Donated by Garrison Brown.

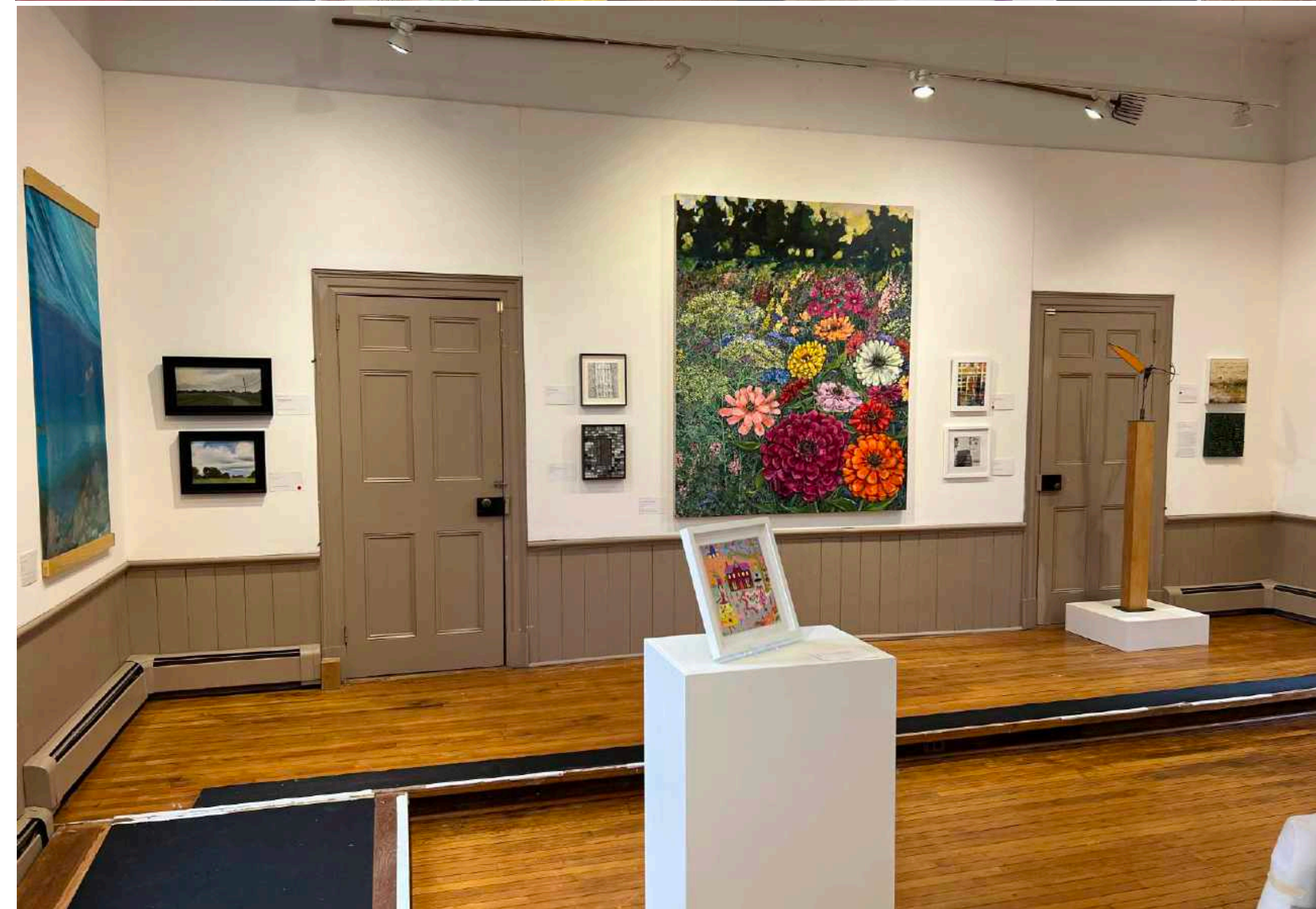


PROGRAMS:

BASEBALL, BINGO, MUDFLATS, MAGIC & MORE!

It was a busy year with lots of free (or almost free!) events to involve, education and entertain the Oysterponds community!

- Bingo Night in Poquatuck Hall
- Third annual Vintage Baseball Game: Oysterponds vs. NY Mutuals
- Wednesday Family Night concert by the Mudflats
- Wednesday Family Night Magic Show
- “Berries for Birds” talk by Ellen Birenbaum in the Old Point Schoolhouse
- Second Annual North Fork Art & Artists Exhibition & Sale
- Oysterponds Halloween Celebration



HOUSE TOUR

- Featured a dozen or so of architecturally noteworthy Orient residences on a beautiful June day
- Collaborated with the Southold Preservation Commission to host a well-attended and well-received Historic Preservation & Discussion at Poquatuck Hall
- *Thanks to our exclusive event sponsor, The Lisa Gillooly Team at Compass Real Estate for the generous support!*





HERITAGE DAY 2023

- Great community turnout for one of OHS's most celebrated happenings!
- A parade down Village Lane led by the Orient Yacht Club as Grand Marshals and including a patriotic bike decoration contest.
- Traditional programming from the Schoolhouse Porch:
 - The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Invocation at the Old Point Schoolhouse
 - "God Bless America" sung by Franklin Mastrangelo
 - Reading of the Declaration of Independence
- Poquatuck Park festivities including music by the Mudflats, hot dogs, and kids' games
- *A well-deserved thank-you goes to Co-chairs Catherine Craig-Chaudhuri & Sarah Olmstead, and their mighty team of volunteers.*

MOBY DICK READING HALF MARATHON WEEKEND

- OHS's first annual read-a-thon of America's most iconic novel spanned an entire weekend. Over 30 readers dramatically recited excerpts from Melville's epic.
- Children's Programming included scrimshaw carving, readings, improvisations, and the creation of a magnificent papier mâché White Whale that surfaced on Village Lane.
- John Holzapfel gave a talk about Martha Brown, the wife of Oysterponds only whaling captain.
- An outstanding dinner of chowder, biscuits & beverages attended by over 200 landlubbers and a sea-shanties singalong.
- *A special thanks to the tireless Committee Chair, EJ Camp, the legion of eager and enthusiastic volunteers, Chefs Ned Baldwin and Sam Lear, and—of course—all of the readers!*





EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Hosted multiple field trips for Oysterponds Elementary School K thru 6th graders that introduced them to and involved them in OHS's exhibitions
- The Moby Dick Reading Marathon Weekend involved local kids in dramatic play, a scrimshaw craft, and the crafting and parading of a papier mâché White Whale
- 3rd, 4th, 5th graders had a bird-themed visit, inspired by the Melita Hoffman exhibition in Village House
- *Huge thanks to the tireless Education Team and the committee chair Lindsay Pollack*



SUMMER BENEFIT

- Over 400 guests gathered in Poquatuck Park
- Delicious food and drink, an exciting live art auction, and festive music was enjoyed by all
- Also a successful online auction of art & experiences
- Sponsorships and increased ticket revenue covered the cost of the event itself
- *Thanks to the event sponsors: Lori Feilen of Town and Country Real Estate, At Your Service Party Rentals, and Michael Ventura of Morgan Stanley*
- *Kudos to the Event Chairs, Michael Ventura and Carl Valentino, and to the Art Committee, Catherine Chermayeff, Emily Bellos, and Katie Sonnenborn*

2024 PREVIEW

RED BARN EXHIBITION

- 2024 will see the Red Barn revitalized and repurposed as an exhibition space—adding to the list of noteworthy historic OHS buildings open to the public during the summer months.
- Thanks to the vision and hard work of John Holzapfel—and a legislative grant from NY State thanks to local assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr.—the Red Barn will be home to a permanent multi-media exhibition focusing on the storied farming and fishing history of Oysterponds.

AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCE

- \$125,000 grant from the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation will fund a captivating OHS augmented reality project (i.e. a “Digital Tapestry”).
- With OHS’s guidance and input, 360XR will use 21st-century technology to create a digital storybook focused on Oysterponds’ Revolutionary War-era history.





80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- Next year is OHS's 80th Anniversary. We will keep you updated on how we plan to ring in this important milestone!

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

- What a great year on the OHS campus! The Buildings and Grounds Committee was incredibly busy taking care of our seven historic buildings and 8 1/2 acres of grounds.
- Much-needed landscaping was undertaken across the campus. A fence was replaced in Poquatuck Park as a result of the generous support of the Smith family and we installed a new flag and lightpost in front of Village House. A new irrigation system was installed thanks to the incredible generosity of George and Linda Hossenlopp.
- A host of necessary repairs were completed in all the buildings. We fixed leaks, replaced gutters and rotted wood elements, cleaned all the porches and patios and re-sealed ramps and decks. We hope you saw the rocking chairs on Village House's porch, which were lovingly restored.
- We are particularly proud of the significant work done at Webb House. The exterior was repaired and completely painted. Webb House looks grand!
- We were excited to bring back "work crew days"! Thank you to the members who helped out this spring. Your time, expertise and hard work was greatly appreciated! We will have more in the coming spring - so watch your emails for dates! Special shoutouts to Charles Dean and Joyce Holzapfel for their expertise and elbow grease to ensure our grounds are in tip-top shape!



FINANCIALS – 2024 BUDGET & PROCESS

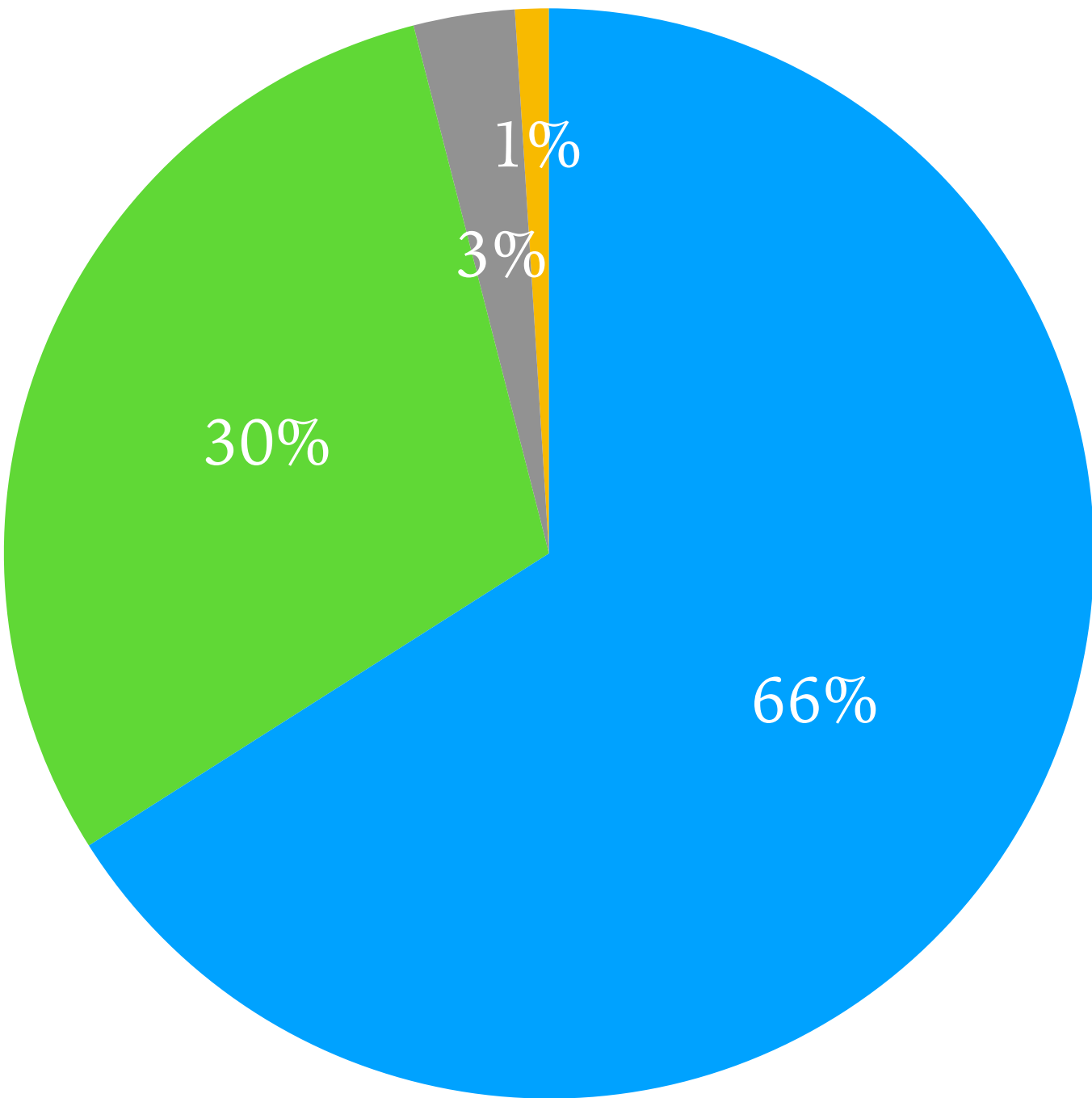
- Financial Highlights:
 - *Event Revenue was above estimates*
 - *Projecting a breakeven to small surplus*
 - *Full audit was required and completed; Clean review*
- Financials - 2024 Budget:
 - *Presented preliminary budget to the board*
 - *Final budget presented for approval at the January, 2024 BoT meeting.*
 - *This will allow us to reflect the impact of year end income and expenses*
- Continue to Work Closely with All Committees to Achieve:
 - *Tight on-going cost control in order to maintain “Mission Critical” program*
 - *Use reasonable revenue projections and spending levels*
- Forthcoming Construction Project:
 - *Will have and maintain a separate budget, apart and distinct from operation budget*



FINANCES: REVENUE

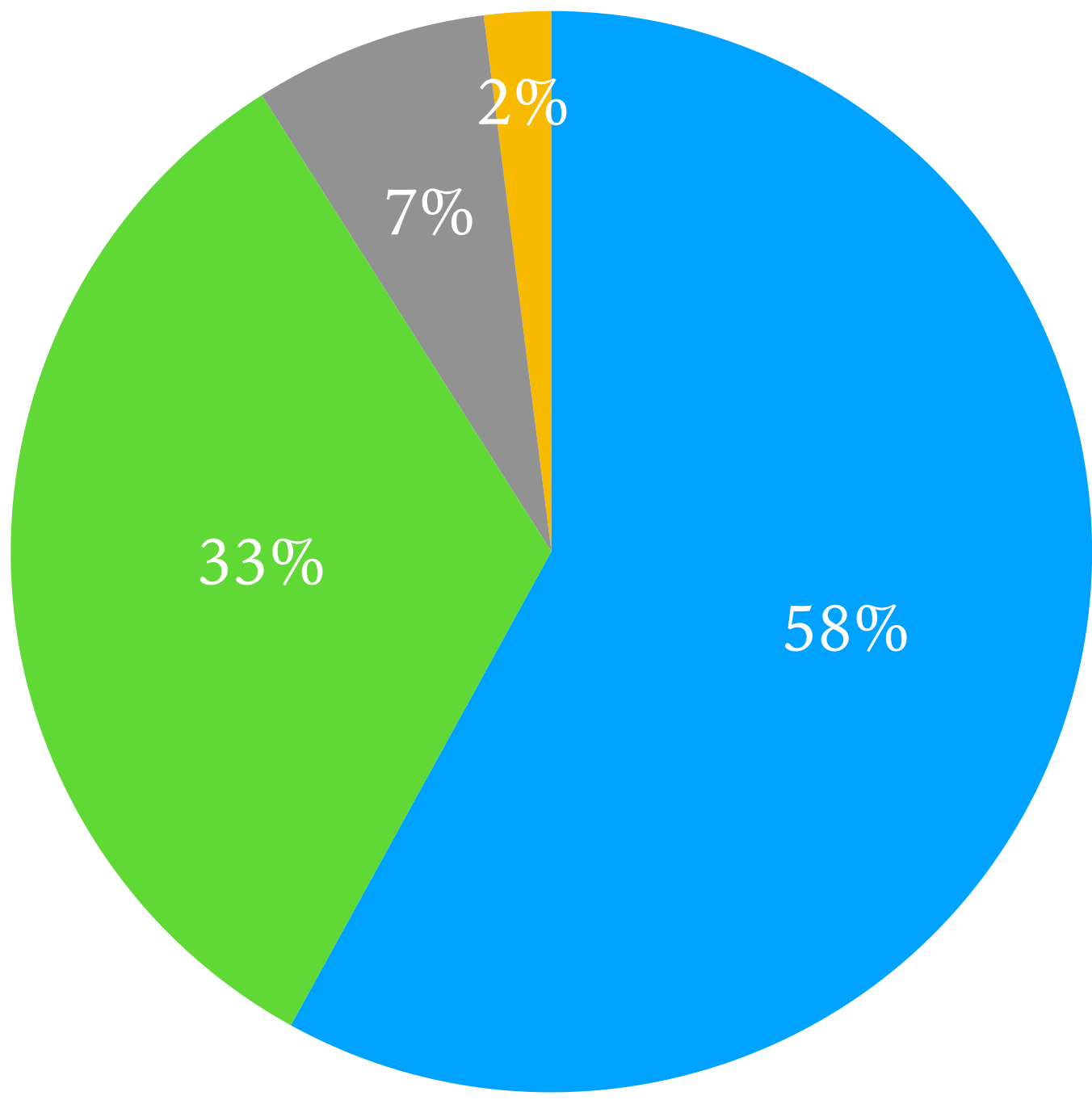
➤ *Projected revenue as of 10/31/2023 compared to budgeted revenue for 2024*

PROJECTED REVENUE 2023



Fundraising Draws Dues Misc

BUDGET 2024 REVENUE

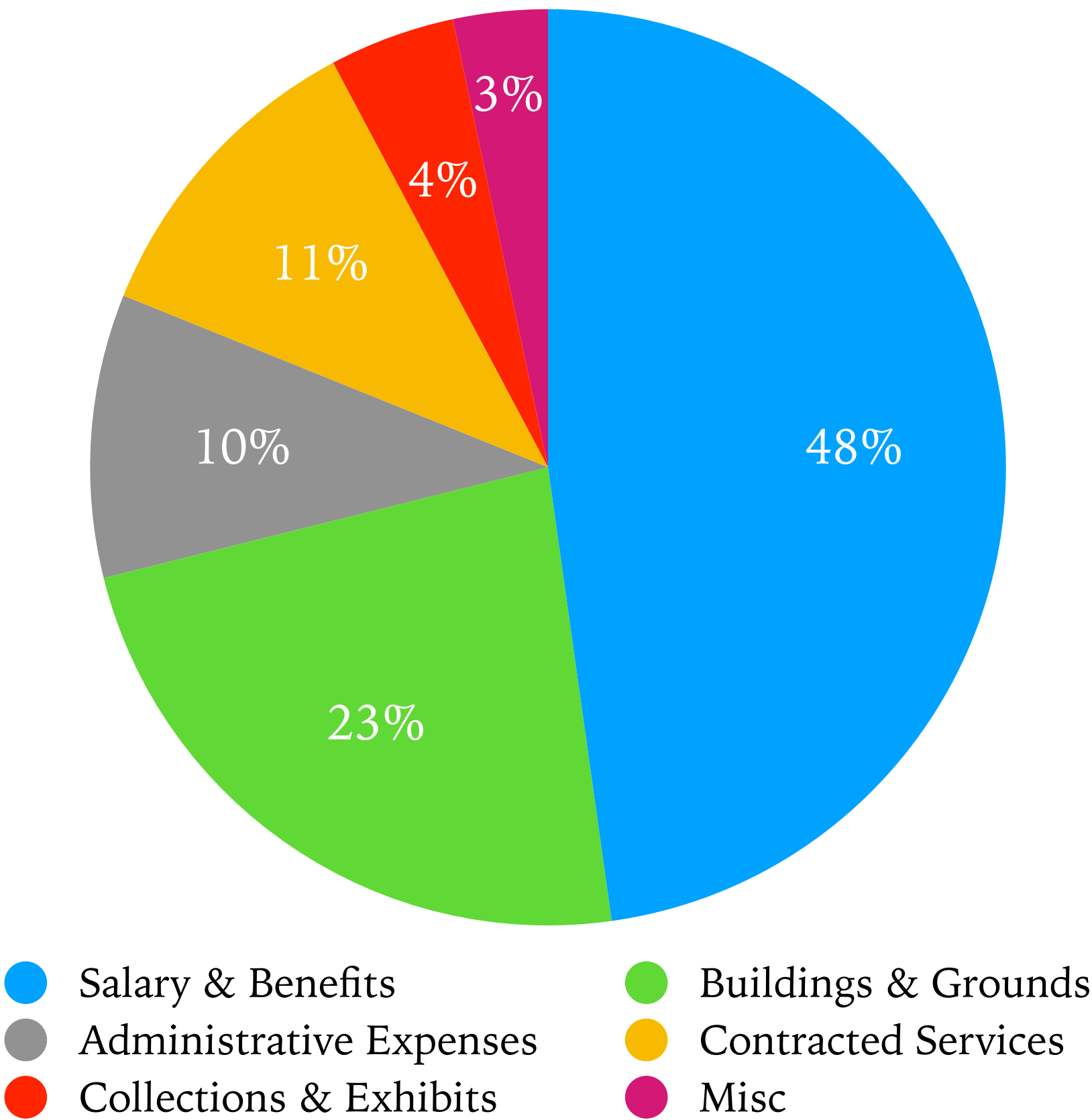


Fundraising Draws Dues Misc

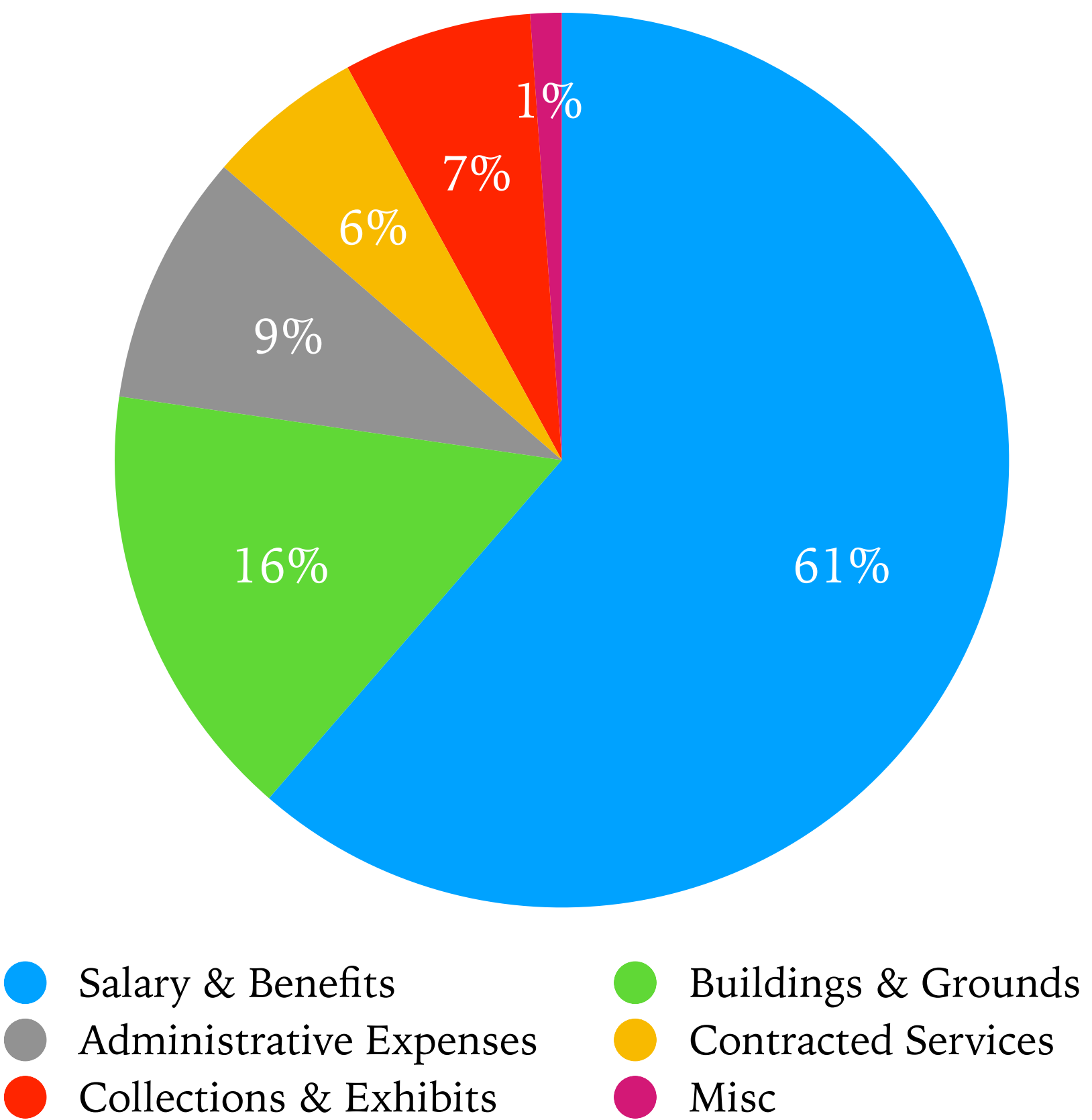
FINANCES: EXPENSES

➤ *Projected expenses as of 10/31/2023 compared to budgeted expenses for 2024*

PROJECTED EXPENSES 2023



BUDGET EXPENSES 2024





ARCHIVES FACILITY UPDATE

- OHS's 60,000+ collection is invaluable and is currently stored throughout seven buildings, but mostly in Hallock.
- In August, 2022 the Board approved a recommendation to leverage and add to Vail House to build a new, state of the art, archival center for our most precious and fragile artifacts. This will allow us to consolidate our collection storage into only two spaces.
- After a rigorous process overseen by a special committee, the Board recently approved it's recommendation to enter into a contract with SKOLNICK Architecture and Design to work with us to design the new center.
- The design process has kicked off. We will update our members and the community along the way, and expect to complete the design phase by Spring 2024.
- This project, the largest and most complex in our history, is a critical investment in our future. Our staff, volunteers, and Board will be focused on making it a success while also delivering a great new season during our 80th Anniversary year.
- We are deeply grateful for the foundational bequest of \$2 million from the estate of Connie Tupper, without which this project would have been difficult to start. We will be seeking grants and the support of our community to augment this generous bequest.

2024 TRUSTEE NOMINEES (PAGE 1)

1st Term Nominees

- *Emily Bellos* is an educator and non-profit professional. She has experience leading development efforts for social services and arts organizations in New York and California, focused on community and donor engagement. A 7-year member of the Orient community, she has been excited to become more involved in leading and planning community engagement events. Emily and her family are also members of the Orient Yacht Club where her children are introducing her to the world of junior sailing.
- *George Cavagnaro* is a senior marketing executive with extensive experience in the medical device and healthcare areas. He has worked with startups, midsize and large companies in a leadership capacity. George has a decades-long connection to Orient alongside his parents and sisters. He and his wife Jayne, now fulltime Orienters, headed the fundraising for the sponsorship of the Ukrainian family, and continue their efforts for their successful relocation in Orient.
- *PJ Deschenes* is a Managing Director and Global Co-Head of Nomura Greentech. He has over 15 years of experience advising companies and investors in a variety of sustainable infrastructure and technology sectors. He has a strong background in M&A, project finance, financial structuring and capital raising. PJ and his family - Molly McNairy, Felix (13), Magnolia (10) Leighton (6) and Willie (dog) - have visited Orient since 2017, and enjoy the community and environment year round. His family has participated in the OYC since 2019 and have lived part time on Village Lane in Orient since 2020.

2024 TRUSTEE NOMINEES (PAGE 2)

1st Term Nominees

- *Marianne (Mimi) Fahs* is an internationally recognized health economist with deep and broad experience across the worlds of academia, hospitals, foundations, and local and national government. She is a graduate and board member of Sweet Briar College, and was instrumental in helping save the college from closure in 2015. Mimi has played many roles in the Orient community since 1985, including as a former OYC board member, a current North Fork Audubon Society board member, and a founding member of The Mudflats, who have played for many OHS community concerts. She and her wife Elizabeth Thompson are full-time Orienters.
- *Craig Young* works as the Vice President, Deputy Publisher at Little, Brown and Company. In his publishing career, he has worked on the books of Michael Connelly, Patti Smith, Elin Hilderbrand, Madeline Miller, Richard Ford, Clint Smith, Katie Couric, and more. Since 2017 he has primarily lived in Orient with his partner Alessandra, his dog Birdie and his two cats Joey and Johnny. In the summer of 2023 Craig helped organize the Moby Dick Half Marathon readings, gave the opening speech to kick off the event, and loved helping the Orient community to come together in support of Melville’s masterpiece.

2nd Term Nominees

- *EJ Camp*
- *Charles Dean*
- *Wilfred Joseph*



OHS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

- Don't forget to visit the Beach Plum Holiday Shop, which opens Saturday, November 25th at noon. Check the website for days and hours. *A special thank-you to OHS Board member Sarah Olmstead for all of her hard work!*
- The family-friendly Winter Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 9th at the Old Point Schoolhouse. *All are welcome to come celebrate the season! Will include caroling, hot cider & cookies for adults and children; and a tree & menorah lighting.*

THANK YOU!!!

Members, Volunteers, & Staff

- STAFF: Alison Ventura, Bill McNaught, Amy Folk, Melissa Groeneveld, and Scott Robbins
- VOLUNTEERS: Too many to list!
- BOARD MEMBERS: Especially those leaving the board: President Steve Rotella, Treasurer Michael Simon, Audit Committee Chair Howie Shinker, and Collections Committee Member Jerie Newman.
- INTERNS: Noah Rudin, Gavin Fontanez and Daniel Ferro
(and thank you to the Gardiner Foundation for funding the Young Scholars Internship!)
- And to all of our OHS MEMBERS and DONORS for their continued support!



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Write them in the “Chat” box.