

SOAK UP THE SEASON WITH US

This time of year has traditionally been the season of change, signaling a fresh start to the year ahead. Indeed the History Center has been experiencing a lot of change including staff transitions, new programs, and an exciting planning effort for an improved Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor experience.

We recently contracted with an exceptional design firm based in Madison, Wisconsin, called ZebraDog, to redesign and improve our visitor experience in both the orientation gallery and the architectural gallery outside of the Frank Lloyd Wright office.

As ZebraDog's unique name would suggest, they are a completely different type of design firm with diverse experience ranging from museums, to higher education, and to the world of professional sports.

Our goal is simple: to provide the very best possible visitor experience for Frank Lloyd Wright in the United States.

Within the past month, we offered two well attended events that furthered historical knowledge in our community.

As a way of improving archival best practices at our region's community-based historical societies, the History Center hosted thirteen organizations from Erie, Ashtabula, and Chautauqua counties.

On April 15, we hosted one of the last living witnesses to the JFK assassination. Jackie Kennedy's Secret Service Agent Paul Landis, who spoke to a capacity crowd of 425 community members at the Jefferson Educational Society, and signed his book for around 100 after his talk.

We offered this lecture completely free to the public as part of our Doris Becker Lecture Series.

We have a tremendous amount of diverse programs planned in the next month and early summer including new children's programming. We hope that you'll consider attending, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Caleb Pifer

Caleb Pifer
Executive Director

What's Inside:

New exhibits and popups are underway

Annual Report

Preserving the Iverds

More than 36 events coming your way from June through December

Don't miss Women Creating a Legacy, Men's Night at the Museum and more

We have your party venue with small, medium and large spaces

Spend a weekend, a week or a month in the bucolic Yellow House in Girard

Save the date for the Night at the Museum Gala



REDISCOVER LAFAYETTE'S ERIE VISIT

Hurry! If you haven't seen our Watson-Curtze Mansion "Guest of the Nation" traveling exhibit by the American Friends of Lafayette, don't wait! We have the exhibit in advance of the 200-year, June 2025 celebration of Lafayette's visit to Judah Colt's home as a dinner guest of honor in Erie in June 1825.

The national exhibit leaves July 31, but History Center artifacts and additional pieces will remain on display.

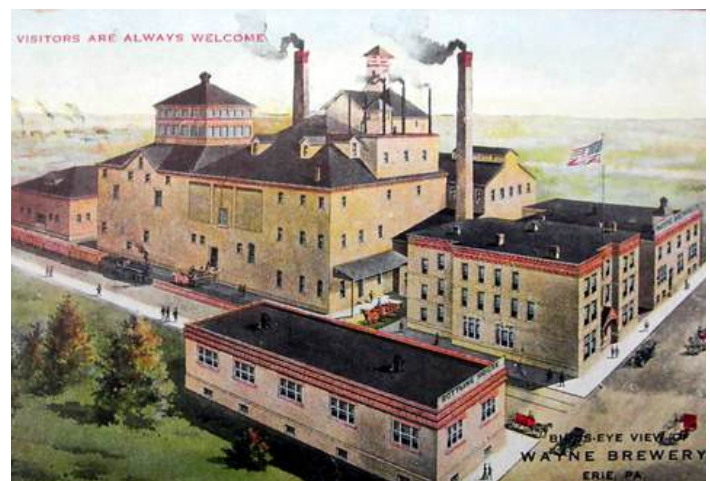
The French native joined the Revolutionary War to help George Washington's Continental Army. He also supported anti-slavery, Native American and women's rights.



New exhibits abound beginning June 1

Multiple exhibits open in early June, curated by Director of Collections Chris Anderson and his team of Steven Mooradian, Molly Begeman, staff interns and our community members. Here's a taste of what you'll see:

- **History on Tap: A History of Brewing Culture Through Items from Erie's Beer Making Past** will officially open in the mansion with Erie beer collector and Guest Curator Ray Barber's personal collection and artifacts from our archives.
- **Teamwork: Celebrating Erie's Sporting Heritage:** Through jerseys, photos, and memorabilia, this exhibit highlights Erie's vibrant history of team sports including hockey, baseball, roller derby, basketball, soccer, and more.
- **City Lights: The Stained Glass of Erie City Hall and the Erie Steam Bakery** will illuminate our second floor in an exhibit of windows and panels that adorned these commercial buildings. Backlighting will reveal the vibrant colors of the original glass designs.
- Also coming this year, is Bobby Sulecki's exhibit on Polish culture and businesses. It will be housed on the second floor of the Wood-Morrison House.



Erie artists on display

Eugene Iverd, whose name was George Erickson (also spelled Ericson), was an American illustrator, teacher, and painter in Erie, Pennsylvania, who had a style similar to that of Norman Rockwell.

The Iverds are back, and they will be better than ever as we work to restore them.

- Iverd (1893 to 1936) gained recognition for his cover illustrations in popular magazines such as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *McCall's*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *The American Magazine* and for Campbell's Soup and many others.

- Many Erie children posed as models for his paintings and Iverd produced 29 covers for *The Saturday Evening Post* between 1926 and his death in 1936.
- In 1930, George and Lillian Ericson (Eugene Iverd) built a large house on Gordon Lane in the Glenwood area.

The Erie City School District permanently donated 29 Iverd paintings to the History Center to restore for future generations. Most of them need conservation prior to being exhibited. This should cost about \$80,000.



Might you consider a donation to help fund the restoration?

Donations are accepted online at www.eriehistory.org/donate. Check the box marked "Other" and list your donation amount. Then check "I would like to dedicate this donation" and type IVERD. For additional information, contact Geri Cicchetti at 814-454-1813 ext. 34 or giccchetti@eriehistory.org.



Lester Roesner's West Sixteenth Street looking toward Peach Street. Circa 1930s

Lester R. Roesner (1905-1973) The original watercolor paintings, by local artist Lester R. Roesner, feature landscapes or cityscapes depicting scenes in the Erie area from the mid-20th century.

Roesner was born February 27, 1905, in Waukegan, Illinois and later attended Academy High School in Erie. He graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and returned to Erie.

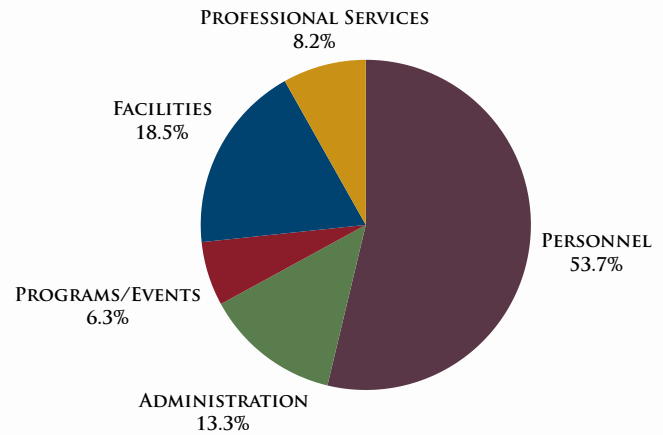
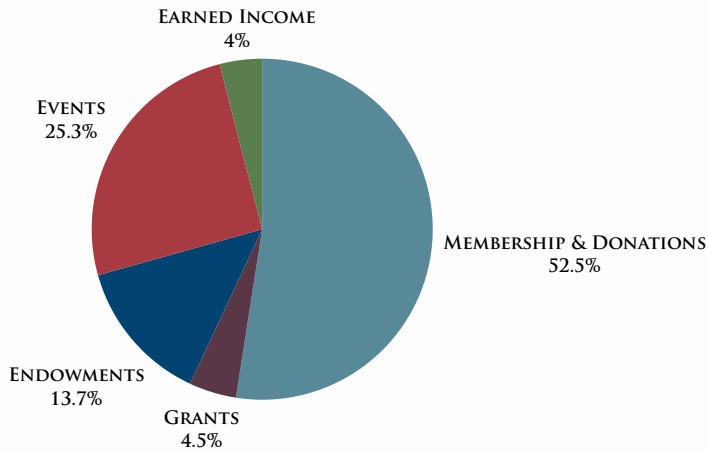
He painted an Erie Series of buildings in addition to national works. He also completed murals in local schools and organizations.

He was president of the Erie Art Club in 1938 and was employed as the art director at the National Service Engraving Company. He also opened an art studio in Erie.

Roesner paintings are on display on the second floor of the mansion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

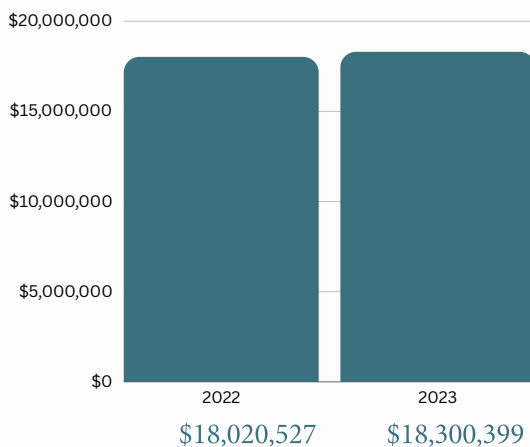


TOTAL INCOME		\$2,022,495
Membership & Donations	\$1,061,161	
Grants	\$90,723	
Endowments	\$276,956	
Events	\$512,298	
Earned Income	\$81,357	

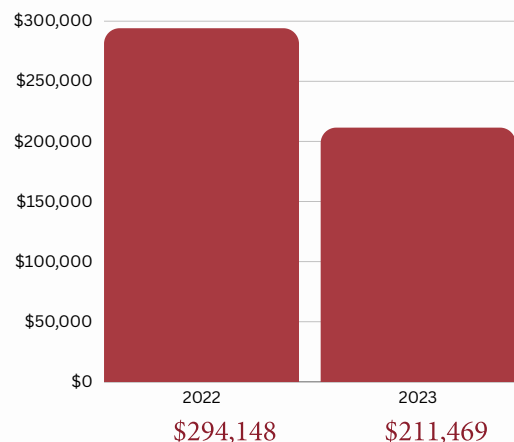
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$1,346,296
Personnel	\$723,462	
Administration	\$179,200	
Programing & Events	\$84,607	
Exhibits & Collections	\$0	
Facilities	\$249,105	
Professional Services	\$109,922	

NET OPERATING INCOME: \$676,199
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO 2023

ASSETS



LIABILITIES



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's our schedule for 2024

Some events, like our Sunflower Picnics, are dependent on Mother Nature. Others are still in the works, so please visit our website and social media pages for updates and details on each event.



MAY

May 23 Australian travel group visits Frank Lloyd Wright office

JUNE

June 4 Culinary Class Girard: Rhubarb

June 7 Art Walk/Girard

June 9 Free Admission Day at Erie campus

June 11 Women Creating A Legacy

June 12 4:00-5:30 p.m. Cooking Up History for kids in grades 3 to 6

June 19 Men at the Museum

JULY

July 2 Culinary Class Girard: Edible Flowers

July 8 - 12 History Camp

July 10 Canalside Readers Book Club

July 16 Annual Meeting at the Yellow House in Girard

July 22 - 28 History Camp SOLD OUT

July 24 JES Speaker series: Justin

Gunther/Fallingwater and Gerald Morosco

DON'T MISS CULINARY CLASSES AT THE YELLOW HOUSE

We've had some mouth-watering classes at the Yellow House, and they all SOLD OUT! Our guests have feasted on:

- Apple butter and brie sandwiches & martinis
- Delicious Mason Jar meals
- Wassail & charcuterie
- Maple Syrup menus
- Stew & more while cooking over an open fire
- Cooking with honey

Coming up:

Tuesday June 4
Rhubarb: Pies and more

Tuesday, July 2
Edible flowers

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS & MORE CLASSES

AUGUST

July 30 - Aug. 4 Dan Rice Days

TBD Bike ride West County

Aug. 6 Culinary Class Girard

Aug. 11 Free Admission Day at Erie campus

TBD Aug. 15 or 16 D-Day Conneaut, Ohio - bus tour

Aug. 21 Home Tour West 6th Street

Aug. 24 Sunflower Picnics Girard (dates are dependent on blooms)

Aug. 24 - 25 Farm-to-table Dinners Girard

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3 Culinary Class Girard

Sept. 11 Canalside Readers Book Club

Sept. 14 A Night at the Museum Gala Watson-Curtze Mansion

Sept. 28 Porchfest Wood-Morrison House

OCTOBER

Oct. 1 Culinary Class Girard

Oct. 16 4:00-5:30 p.m. Cooking Up History for kids in grades 3 to 6

TBD Victorian Halloween Watson-Curtze Mansion

TBD Murder Mystery Tours with Justin Dombrowski

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5 Culinary Class Girard

Nov. 10 Free Admission Day Erie campus

Nov. 20 Volunteer Appreciation Party

DECEMBER

TBD Victorian Holidays

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS COMING IN JUNE

at the Watson-Curtze Mansion

Women only are invited to enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music and campus tours with committee members Lauren Bauer, Emily Fessler, Erin Fessler, Susan Kanonczyk, Barb Lechner, Abby Lechner, Leah Murphy, Lisa NeCastro, and Dana Zaphiris. Money raised will help us restore 29 paintings by Erie artist Eugene Iverd (1893-1936).

Reserve at: <https://tinyurl.com/3pedb9np>



The History Center and honorary chairperson Matt Clark invite you to a cocktail party fundraiser with heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, cigars and shoe shining. Proceeds will help to replace the Mansion solarium roof.

Reserve at: <https://tinyurl.com/bddck358>

Pricing

For both events, tickets are \$100 for women and men 41 and over. Men and women under age 40 will pay their age. For example, if you are 30 years old, your price will be \$30.

LET US HOST YOUR EVENT

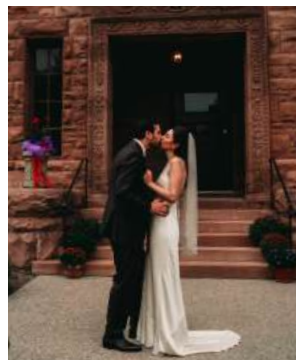


We've hosted multiple celebrations this year, and we have the perfect space for any size event at our Erie and Girard venues.

Is a wedding in your future? A big party? Family reunion? Or, how about a birthday party, shower, high school reunion, rehearsal dinner or holiday party?

Enjoy Victorian elegance at the History Center's West Sixth Street campus. Or have a **fabulous farm wedding** in Girard at our Battles properties that sit on more than 120 acres of bucolic scenery. Or host a smaller event in our stunning President's Room in the Wood-Morrison House.

FOR A PRIVATE TOUR, CONTACT US AT EVENTS@ERIEHISTORY.ORG.



SPEND A WEEKEND, A WEEK OR A MONTH in our historic Girard farmhouse



FAMILY OR FRIENDS NEED A PLACE TO STAY THIS SUMMER?

Our fully renovated, two-bedroom farmhouse apartment would make the perfect summer home-away-from-home for a week to the entire summer. It features two bedrooms, bathroom, fully-stocked kitchen, dining room, living room, central air conditioning, and WiFi.

Our fabulous guest reviews on Airbnb speak for themselves! We would be happy to offer you a tour.

Please email the executive director at cpifer@eriehistory.org.



Who built your house?

Who lived there?

Would you like to learn more about your home or that of a loved one? You can do the research on your own during a research appointment with us, or try our new Historic Property and Land Research Program, available from our Library and Archives.

We do the research for you, and it starts at \$250.

Contact us at info@eriehistory.org.



**HAGEN
HISTORY CENTER**

356 W. 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507
www.eriehistory.org
814-454-1813

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Save The Date

09.14.2024

A Night at the Museum Gala

Celebrating 10 Years of Transformational Growth
under our inspiring leaders and 2024 honorees:

HEAVY HORS
D'OEUVRES
OPEN BAR
MUSIC BY THE GROOVE

TICKETS: \$125 EACH



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BURTON



KELLY
MONTEFIORI



RANDY
SHAPIRA



MARK
SQUIGLIA



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