

**ARCH Annual Meeting
Development Committee Annual Report
06-08-2024
Respectfully submitted, by Lucy Putnam, Secretary**

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year the ARCH Development Committee has been able to build on successes from the previous year, expand community relationships, reach new people and take advantage of additional development opportunities.

Membership: Due to the success of the membership by donation approach started during the pandemic for the 2020-2021 membership campaign, this same approach continued to be used this past year and will continue for the year ahead. This approach allows people to set their own membership price according to what they can afford. A review of the past three fiscal years showed that although memberships had increased slightly each year from 2020-2023 using this approach, this past year ARCH saw a decrease in memberships from 112 members in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to 82 in the 2023 -2024 membership cycle. The committee believes that the drop in membership is due to two factors. The first being a decrease in emphasis on recruiting memberships at ARCH events and the second being a shift in the way membership was counted. The committee has been exploring ways to expand membership in the year ahead with the goal of returning membership numbers to the previous 4 year average.

Fundraising:

- Annual Dinner and Auction. The event was very successful with record-breaking attendance and funds raised. Over 150 people were in attendance and the event netted over \$26,000. More than a \$6000 increase over the previous year. This year's dinner auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2023. Tickets will be available starting in September. The Auction Committee began planning the event earlier this year, and it promises to be a wonderful evening once again. Sponsorships, donations of items and auction committee members are needed. Please contact ARCH through our website or any ARCH board member if you are interested in helping out.
- Annual Appeal –The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Appeal raised over \$5740 from 46 donors. These results are slightly higher than the previous year.
- NH Charitable Gaming – At the recommendation of a community member, ARCH applied to be a charitable gaming partner with the Filotimo Casino at the Dover Bowl in Rollinsford. After a period on the wait list, ARCH was given slots for two 5 day runs. The total net funds earned as the charitable gaming partner exceeded \$35,000 for ARCH. During the second 5 day run in April, ARCH hosted a “Tavern Night” at the casino. About 30 people attended from ARCH, many in kit. This was a wonderful opportunity to interact with a new group of people and introduce them to ARCH. ARCH was appreciative of this opportunity and looks forward to continuing this partnership in the future.
- Looking to the year ahead, ARCH anticipates funds will be needed for building repair and maintenance. ARCH continues to explore grant opportunities to help cover these costs as well as to support programming opportunities.

Community Engagement: ARCH continued with its emphasis on expanding its reach through community engagement this past year, partnering with many different groups and holding a variety of community focused events. A few examples include:

- ARCH Heritage Award - The Heritage Award was presented at the 2023 Auction to the late Jessie Aikman of Rollinsford. Jessie had been an annual supporter of ARCH from the inception of the organization both personally and through her business, Back Channel Canvas. Her many contributions included annual sponsorships and donations to the Auction, participating in and hosting ARCH events, annual business membership, introducing others to ARCH and lending a hand in a variety of ways when needed.

- Concert Series – during the summer of 2023 ARCH hosted 3 outdoor music programs through the NH Humanities to Go grants. Three musical programs are again planned for 2024, one each in June, July and August. The programs are free and open to the community. The programs continue attract a broad audience, many of whom are new to ARCH.
- Community Partnerships: ARCH partnered with a variety of community groups and individuals this past year to enhance our programming, make our space available to the community, complete projects and ensure that the organization remains relevant. Partnerships are integral to our success as an organization, and we look forward to continuing and expanding these community relationships in the year ahead.

As we move into the 2024-25 year , ARCH continues to look for innovative ways to support the organization and to remain relevant to our community. Those interested in joining the Development Committee are welcome to contact Lucy Putnam through the ARCH website.