

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

When I arrived at Historic Locust Grove in 2025, I knew I was stepping into an extraordinary place. I spent my first year learning its rhythms, listening to the people who know & love it, and gaining a deeper appreciation for traditions that shaped Locust Grove for decades. Preservation, research, interpretation, and education built the foundation on which we stand today.



But then I started asking questions. Who do we serve today? What does this place mean to them? What does Louisville need from us now? And perhaps most importantly, what could this historic site become? Those questions shaped the year you'll read about in these pages.

I learned that the ways people learn, gather, participate, and connect with institutions are changing. Our audiences are changing. The questions our communities ask about history, identity, and belonging are changing, too. I believe that creates a unique opportunity for Locust Grove - not to move away from what we have always done well, but to build upon it in ways that respond to the shifting world around us.

So we mobilized our mission around four interconnected pillars - History, Arts, Civics, and Land - creating a framework that reflects both the significance of our past and our future, and allowing us to complete the most successful annual appeal in Locust Grove's history, with our *250for250* campaign raising over \$290,000. We strengthened internal operations, expanded organizational capacity, built new relationships, developed innovative educational programs, and expanded the boundaries of what a historic site can mean to the people it serves. But the larger work is creating new ways for people to find themselves in this place. We want a Locust Grove where people gather, create, question, participate, and better understand the community we share. That is the part that excites me most.

We've gotten through US250, but Louisville has its own 250th anniversary in 2028. As the home of Louisville's founder, we intend to transform how people see Locust Grove and its importance to the city. Louisville does not have a dedicated city history museum, but it does have these 55 acres of historic landscape with stories that go back for centuries. Our job is to connect that past with you today, so that together, we develop a greater sense of responsibility for the Louisville we are building. And after my first year, I'm convinced that some of Locust Grove's most important history is still being written.

I give great thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, donors, and partners who embrace this work and helped make the accomplishments in these pages possible. Thank you for believing in us, and for your willingness to help imagine what comes next.

Jessica Dawkins

A handwritten signature of Jessica Dawkins in black ink.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of Locust Grove,

As I begin my service as Board Chair of Locust Grove, I am filled with gratitude for the community of supporters who have sustained this extraordinary place for generations.

Before looking ahead, I want to first say thank you.

Because of your stewardship, Locust Grove continues to thrive as one of Kentucky's most treasured historic sites. Your generosity has preserved the historic home, protected the landscape, supported educational programs, and ensured that countless visitors can experience the stories, history, and beauty that make this place so special.

Every path through the grounds, every student who discovers history here, every family that gathers for a program or event is part of a legacy that you have helped nurture.

Now we have the opportunity and responsibility to carry that legacy forward.

As we look to the future, our commitment extends beyond preserving buildings and collections. We are preserving a place where people connect with history, where curiosity is sparked, where community is formed, and where future generations can find inspiration in the stories of those who came before them.

This work requires vision, care, and investment. Most importantly, it requires people like you who understand that historic places matter, not only because of what they tell us about the past, but because of what they can teach us about ourselves and our future.

As you consider your year-end giving, I invite you to renew your support of Locust Grove with a gift that is meaningful to you. Together, we can ensure that this remarkable landmark remains vibrant, welcoming, and accessible for generations yet to come.

The history preserved at Locust Grove belongs to all of us. The responsibility for its future belongs to us as well.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your generosity, and your belief in the enduring value of preserving our shared heritage.

With sincere appreciation,

Andrea Meriwether



STAFF PROFILES

*Weekend Staff not pictured: Kyleigh Mills, Alba Jennings



JESSICA DAWKINS
President & CEO



SARAH BAKER
Director of Experience



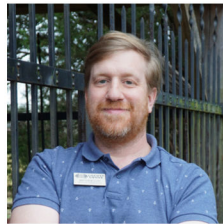
ELIZABETH COLÓN NELSON
Director of Engagement



RONNIE DREISTADT
Director of Education



LYDIA LEWIS
Director of Development



MATTHEW LUTZ
Marketing Administrator



DAVE ROTHERMEL
Visitor Services Manager



SARAH SUTHERLAND
Gardener



KAITLYN TISDALE
Director of Mission



EVAN WILSON
Facilities Manager



HARLAN WILSON
Caretaker



EVELYN WOOCK
Education Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Chair: JOE PIERSON
1st Vice President: CHRIS CHAPPELL
2nd Vice President: BRENDA TUCKSON
Treasurer: ALICE COWLEY, CPA
Secretary: DEL MARIE VACCARO

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

MESUDE DUYAR OZYUREKOGLU
SAVANNAH DARR
ROSALIND SCOTT
JESSICA DAWKINS

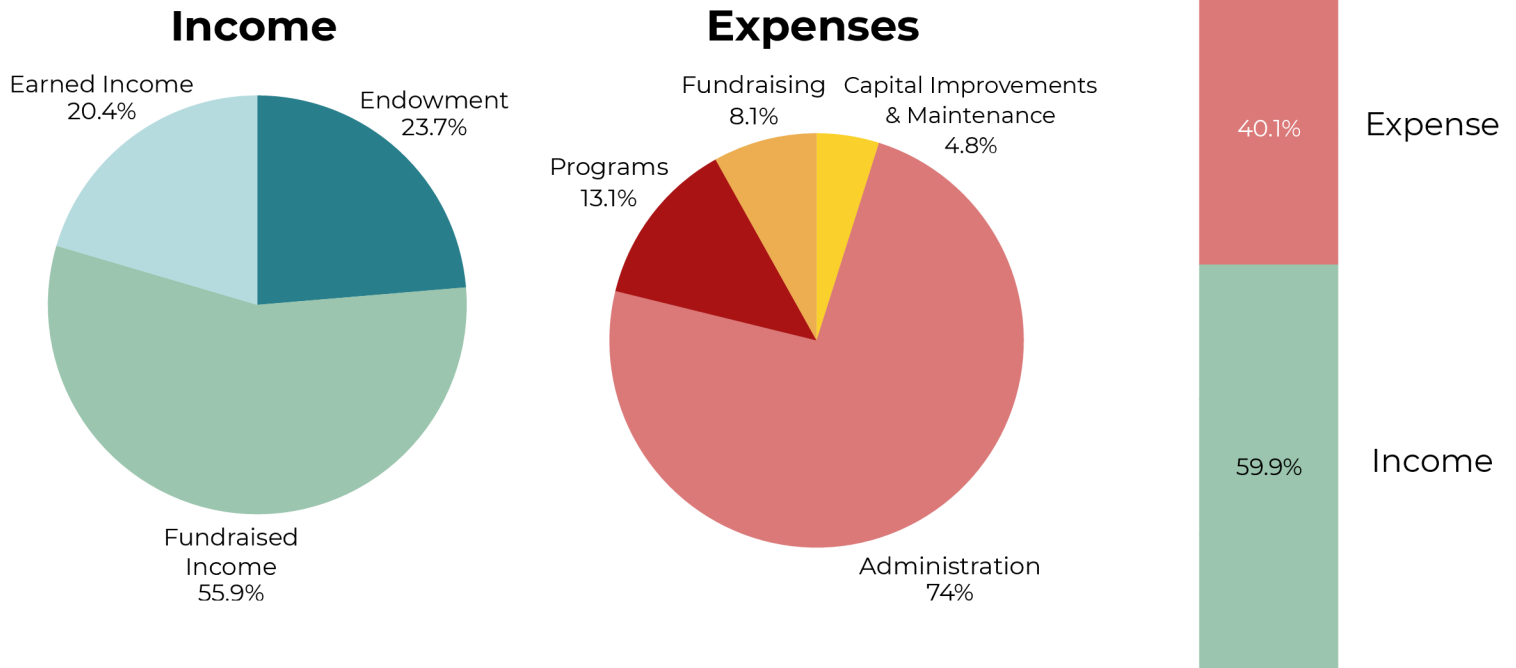
MEMBERS AT LARGE

DEVEENIER BROOKS
JENNIE COLE
TYLER FLEMING
KEN GOLLIHER
ED JAMES
ALEX KEPNES
ROSIE MASTIN
ANDREA MERIWETHER
JANET GEURIN MULLER
MITZI FIELDS ROOT

DIRECTORS EMERITI

KATE BOYER
SALLY CAMPBELL
JILL COOPER
SHIRLEY DUMESNIL
LAMAR GASTON
MARY HANCOCK
NANCY LEE
HUNTER LOUIS
JOHN STITES

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



BY THE NUMBERS

TRENDING UPWARDS

ADMISSION INCOME Up 10 %	PROGRAM INCOME Up 41 %
FIELD TRIPS Up 14 %	ANNUAL APPEAL Up 50 %
STUDENTS SERVED Up 21 %	SPONSORSHIPS Up 140 %
RENTALS Up 76 %	NEW DONORS Up 35 %
RENTAL INCOME Up 74 %	

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

TOTAL MEMBERS Down -8 %
TOTAL DONORS Down -7 %
VOLUNTEER HOURS Down 13%

2025-2026 PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

*Locust Grove serves as a cultural generator connecting authentic experiences across time and place through four pillars: **History, Art, Civics, & Land**. Here, the historic house, hearth kitchen, gardens, landscape, objects, & stories become our classroom, our common ground, and our connecting space. Through our public programs, we see these four pillars come to life.*



HISTORY

Author Talks
Lecture Series
Antiques Market
Candlelight Tours
60s Christmas
Book Sale

History Sponsors

PLENTIFUL WEALTH

JOHN & JEANNIE VEZEAU
JENNIFER MCCORMICK
VIRGINIA CROCKET
CHARLES & BONNIE BARTMAN



ARTS

Chamber Music Series
Burns Night Dinner
Frankenstein
Summer Concert Series

Art Sponsors

TIPPI MCTYEIRE

LOUISVILLE TOURISM
LOUGRASS
REV. GEORGINE BUCKWALTER
CLAY SMITH



CIVICS

4th of July
Civic Season
Field Trips
Cultural Pass

Civics Sponsors

INDEPENDENCE BANK



LAND

Gardeners' Fair
Afrobeats in the Garden

Land Sponsors

ANGEL'S ENVY
TIPPI MCTYEIRE
LAWNCO
KATE & MARK BOYER
PEGASUS TRANSPORTATION
NUGENT SAND COMPANY

OUR 2025-2026 PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Absynnia Louisville	Don Luchi Wines	John Q AV & Sound	Louisville Coalition on	Rent & Rave
Angels Envy	Edge IT	Kentucky Fund for the	the History of	Sons of the American
Asia Institute Crane House	Ennui_Go	Arts	Enslavement (LCHE)	Revolution (SAR)
Aurmore	Eric Lausch & ViWalker	Kentucky Shakespeare	Louisville Cream	Sommofalltrades
Bourke Accounting	Silver Antiques	Kinnards BBQ	Louisville Metro Parks	Stellas Venues
Buffalo Soldier Academy -	Harvey Venier	Kwetu African Cuisine	Louisville Metro US250	Studio George
KY Chapter	Filson Historical Society	Les Dames de Escoffier	Commission	Productions
Crowler Catering	Georgia's Sweet Potato	(KY Chapter)	Louisville Tourism	The Hue Society
Dallas McGarity	Pie Company	Liberty Hall Historic Site	Louisville Urban Forestry	The National Society of
Damaris Phillips	Good Pain Wines	Lincoln Performing Arts	Love Always	Colonial Dames of
David Ratterman	Gumby's Catering	School	Medici Creative	America in the
Daughters of the American	Immacoolsomm	Louisville Academy of	Millenium Events	Commonwealth of
Revolution (DAR)	Independence Bank	Music	Parachute Ice Cream	Kentucky
Debra Locker Group	Jane Austen Society	Louisville Brass Band	Pegasus Transportation	

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



A '60s Christmas Exhibition



Burns Night Dinner



Chamber Music Concert



School Field Trips



Afrobeats in the Gardens



Independence Day



Book Sale

THANK YOU DONORS

Frances Ackerman
Vincent Adams
Frances Alden Charitable Trust
Martha Alexander
Katie Algeo
Travis Anderson & Victoria Phillips
Melanie & Ken Anderson
Allen Ashman
Susan Baker
Gary Barch
Theresa Barrett
Lewis & Patricia Beal
Mary Jane Beale
Margaret B. Beale
Kim Behrle
Olivia Beneke
Elisa Benn-Coto
Sharon & Stephen Berger
RR Bergner
Cara Berman
Karen & Tom Bibb
Mrs. Edith Bingham
Arthur Blanford
Ms. Joan Block
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence & Bonnie Boram
Tracy Bottom
Brooks & Marilyn Bower
Mark & Katherine Dalton Boyer
John Bragg
William Bratcher
Joyce Bridge
Deveenier & Stacey Brooks
Kenna Brophey
Bob & Geri Brousseau
Christina Lee Brown
Mary Brown
Venine & Becky Brown
Julie Brown
Prentice Brown
Rebecca Bryant
Rev. Dr. Georgine Buckwalter
Elizabeth Bullock
Elizabeth "Libby" Burbo
Terri Burch
John Burke
Cindi & Scott Calvert
Sally Campbell
Lily Caudill
Judy Chang
Chris & Desiree Chappell
Jackson Clark
Shawn Clark
Drs. Stephen & Mary Clark
Virginia Cleveland
Carol Cloud
Ann Coffey
Sandy & Bob Coffman
Jennie Cole
Ms. Pamela Coleman
David Collins
Margaret Conard
Joan Conner
Judith Cook
Jill Cooper
Brett & Samantha Corbin
Paul & Michelle Costel
James & Donna Costin
Alice Cowley
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Crase
Laura Crawford
Katrina and Joseph Crea
Sandra Creznic
Virginia Croket
Ashley Curl
Michael & Mary Craig Czerwonka
Dr. W. Lisle Dalton
Matthew Darling
Juliet Davenport
William Davis

Natalie Davis
Katlin Davis
Kathy Dawkins
Sandra Dempsey
Harry Dew
Laurie Diebold
Nan Dobbs
Sandra Dodge
Matthew Donofrio
Sandy Dorsett
Lynne & William Dowling
Cheryl Drumm
Rankin Dumesnil
Mrs. Edward Dumesnil Jr.
Ken & Liz Durham
Robert Ehrler
Menna Elaraby
Marshall Eldred Jr.
Dr. Carol Ely
Environs Inc.
John & Sharon Fagan
Jon Faith
Lucille & David Fannin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fassler
Linda & Paul Fauri
Mary Grace Feltham
Scott Ferguson
Donald Fishman
Ann & Ken Fleming
Margaret Flowers
Susan Foley
Georgia Ford
Randy & Linda Fowler
Charles & Sandra Francesconi
Jean Frazier
Sandra Frazier
Deveney French
David Fuchs
John Gahm
Myra Garon
Katherine Garrett
LaMar Gaston
Holly Gathright
Larry George
Eric George
Tom & Mary Gerstle
JLinda Maria Gigante
Shawn & Vickie Glisson
Diane & Ken Golliher
Marianne & Charles Grabowski
Holly Gray
Jonathan & Kristin Grief
Bob Griffiths
Susan F. Grubbs
J. Richard & Sharon Gruber
Ann Guarnieri
Ashima Gupta
Rebecca S. Guthrie
Caroline Guthrie
Kathy & Noel Hall
Mr. & Mrs. John Hamilton
Kathleen & David Hammel
Mr. & Mrs. Lee & John Hancock
Barbara Hancock
Cynthia Hardy
Shirley Harmon
Rutledge Harris
Hood & Heather Harris
Joseph Hartley
James Harty
Peter Hasselbacher
Mary Hayward
Mary Helfrich
Edith Henchey
Alanna Hendon
Elizabeth Hendricks
Debra Hennessey
Thomas Henrion
Sandy Henry

Gray Henry
Betty Jean Herin
Monique Hersh
Gene & Peggy Hoffman
Arthur Hoffman
Sam Horton
Dr. & Mrs. Albert Hoskins III
Donna Hower
Leslie Huber
Thomas & Patrice Huckaby
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Huff
Brad & Judy Hughes
Kevin Jackson
Frances Jasper
Alba Jennings
Diana & Steve Jester
Richard & Pamela Jett
Christine & John Johnson
Sue Johnson
Elizabeth Johnston
Rev. Helen Jones
Alan & Paula Kaeser
Cheri Kane
Kenny Karem
Vince Kaseta
Manuela Kaulitz
Jim & Jeanette Kays
Thad Keal
Tina Kerr-Kahl
Cheryl & Chris Kinberger
Michelle King
Susan King
Briana Kinhead
Suzie Kinman
Mary Jean & Jim Kinsman
Janet Klein
Dawn Knapp
Karen Koch
Joan Kofodimos
Alex Kopp
E Ramsey & Carol Kraft
Julie & Kevin Lamkin
Amy Lapinski
Nancy Lee
Alice LeGette
Sandra Leonard
Elizabeth Lewman
Susan Parrett & Rod Lich
Marykay Lievense
Limestone Family Foundation
Hunter & Blair Louis
Margaret & Scott Luttmann
Sally & Stanley Macdonald
John MacLean III
Sallie & Ed Manassah
Lana Mandzy
Joslyn & Tom Marksbury
David & Therese Marshall
Martha Martin
Reed Martin
Arianna Massey
Rosie Mastin
Cynthia Matherly
Dr. Michael & Theresa Mattei
Carolyn & John McBride
Jennifer McCormick
Ellen McCoskey
Ann McEnteer
Dave McKenna
Tippi McTyeire
Bob & Susan Means
Christopher Meriwether
Ms. Sandra Merritt
Kurt Metzmeier
Dan & Patti Meyer
Mildred V. Horn Foundation
Donna Miller
Anna Minter
Janet Muller
Mary Murner
Marty Murphy
Mary B. Nash
Mary Lee Nelson
Nancy Newberry
Thuy Nguyen
Emily Nolan
Susan Norris

Kathy Novota
Mr. & Mrs. Edward OBrien
M. Deanna O'Daniel
Mary Olsen
Orr Family Giving
Seth Osborne
Katy Oskoui
Troy Overton
Morry & Tasha Owen
Davalyn Palmer
Tobe Penny
Barbara Perry
Jennifer Petry
Lucy Phillips
Rebecca & Brad Phillips
Joe & Lauren Pierson
David Pierson
Stephen & Caroline Pierson
Haidely Pompa
Gwynne & Grover Potts
Helen Powell
David & Silvia Poynter
Sarah Prinsloo
Terry Pyles
Lucy Quesenberry
Charles Raith
Lois Louis & David Ratterman
Irene Rawlings
Trudy Ray
Ms. Amelia Reesor
John & Paige Reinstine
Kay Reis
Diana Reuther
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rhawn
Arvid Roach
Dr. Craig Roberts
Dr. Stuart & Priscilla Robertson
Kathy Rowlett
Gina Rudder
Irvin & Marilyn Rueff
Todd & Tiffany Ruhs
George Sanderlin
Richard Sauer
Vivian R. Sawyer
Charles Schnatter
Lynette Schneider
Ray & Mary Schuhmann
Rosalind & Russ Scott
Edward Seitz
Louise Slaven
Laura Slider
Joseph Small
Tom & Jill Smith
Barbara Smith
Susan Smith
David M. & Cameron Smith
Will & Bonnie Smith
Vernon & Peggy Smith
Felice Smith
Rod & Connie Smothers
The Soc. of Colonial Wars
in the Commonwealth of Ky
Bernie Speevack
Tory Sperl
Mr. George Stablein
Mr. & Mrs. James Statler
Dr. Ted Steinbock
Lynne & Mike Steinel
Charles W. Stevens Jr.
Milly Ann & John Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Winthrop Stites
Mary Clay Stites
Dr. Charlotte & Mr. John Clay Stites
Kacie Stoll
Nancy & Bob Stopher
Anita Streeter
Louis & Elizabeth Struab II
Dace Brown & Wm. King Stubbs
Mary Sullivan
John Sutton
Merrill & Alice Swiney
Brad & Ann Swope
Mr. Richard Swope
Brook Tafel
Kate & Harry Talamini
Barbara Nichols Taylor

Timothy & Gil Taylor
Janet Teel
Jeffrey Testerman
The Gardner Foundation Inc.
Mrs. B. Preston Thomas
Mrs. Samuel Thomas
Deborah Tinker
Brenda & Waverly Townes
Gayle Trautwein
Brenda & Wayne Tuckson
Arlene Tuttle
Deborah Ullin
Del Marie Vaccaro
Sally & Thorne Vail
Michael & Patricia Vairin
Lu Valdizan
Thomas Van
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Van Winkle III
Jeanette Vandertoll
Ellen & Donald Venhoff
Jeannie & John Vezeau
Robert Wahle
Mary & Tom Wakefield
John & Ruth Walker
Dawn Walker
Betsy & Harry Wall
Louise Wall
Phyllis Ward
Mrs. Judith Waterman
Alice & Crawford Wells
Elaine & Avery Werner
Barbara West
Carol Whayne
David White
Jennifer Whitehead
Dr. Albin Whitworth
Barbara Wiley
Andrew Wilhelm
Sherry & Wilbur Willer
Sally M. & Roscoe Willett
Shawn & Kevin Williams
Kimberly Williams
Brigid Williams
Mary & Orme Wilson
Josie & Buck Wiseman
David Wolf
Michael & Paula Wolf
Keitt & Frank Wood
Harriet Wood
Jill & Mark Young

*If you feel there has been
an error or omission made
for FY25-26, please contact
jdawkins@locustgrove.org*