

MARQUETTE MARITIME MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



WWW.MQTMARITIMEMUSEUM.COM

Dear Donors, Members, and Friends:

We had a very successful 2024 season, including the completion of our new roof construction project. Ticket admission sales were up 13%, and the City of Marquette completed work on the second floor of the lighthouse, which we added to our lighthouse tour. Our annual fundraiser, Ghosts of Lighthouse Point (GOLP), is a great example of how we fulfill our mission of protecting, preserving, and interpreting maritime history while also giving back to the community. Over 45 community members volunteer as ghosts based on real people from the history of Marquette and the Great Lakes. For example, we had the ghosts of Stannard Rock Lighthouse Keepers from the 1961 explosion that killed one keeper and stranded the others for three days. The staff researches the ghosts so that tour guests not only have a fun Halloween experience, but they also learn local maritime history. Coast Guard Station Marquette, NMU's ROTC, and NMU's Student Veteran Services participate every year. Although this event is a museum fundraiser, it is also a community event and we give back by collecting canned goods for the NMU Food Bank.



Ghosts of Lighthouse Point 2024

The 2024 season opened in May with our free local school Field Trip program. We hosted over 1100 children and adults. We also continued our children's outdoor art/history workshops in collaboration with Carol Phillips and the Liberty Children's Art Project (LCAP). The first workshop was Plein Air Painting as a part of the City of Marquette's Art Week. This year, we hung the Plein Air artwork in the windows of the Museum's Stannard Rock Boathouse, a new exhibit and performance space on the Maritime Campus. Two other children's outdoor workshops were held in July.



**Plein Air Painting
Artwork in the
Stannard Rock
Boathouse**



**Art/History
Workshops:
X-Ray
Lighthouse, right,
and Adventures
in Cardboard:
Boat Building, left**



The 2024 Lake Superior Day festival, held in July, had thirteen educational booths (including an ice cream booth!) for families to learn about the history, conservation, ecology, and regional importance of Lake Superior. Lake Superior Day celebrates our great lake by teaching families how to preserve and maintain it for the enjoyment of future generations.



Booths from the 2024 Lake Superior Day. DNR's Sea Lamprey, left, and Becky's Roadside Refreshments, right



We worked with Travel Marquette, the Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL), and the Superior Hospitality group on a project to video Marquette attractions to give the user a realistic experience so that those with disabilities can plan ahead and better understand the accessibility of the Marquette Maritime Museum.



Maritime History on Tap, our winter lecture series, sponsored as of 2024 by the Ore Dock Brewing Company, is held once a month, November through April. Topics for our 2023/2024 series included:

- November 2023: Joe Phillips, National Weather Service Forecaster, "The 1940 Armistice Day Storm"
- December 2023: Tim DeMarte and Dan Truckey (2/3 of the Celtic music trio The Knockabouts), sea shanties, shipwreck ballads and instrumental compositions
- January 2024: Roger LeLievre, editor and publisher of Know Your Ships
- February 2024: Jack Deo's "A Good Eye: The Maritime Photography of Jerry Bielicki"
- March 2024: Dan Fountain's "He Went Down with His Ship: Captain Burke and the Steamer Arlington"
- April 2024: Paranormal Marquette Lighthouse with Yooper Paranormal

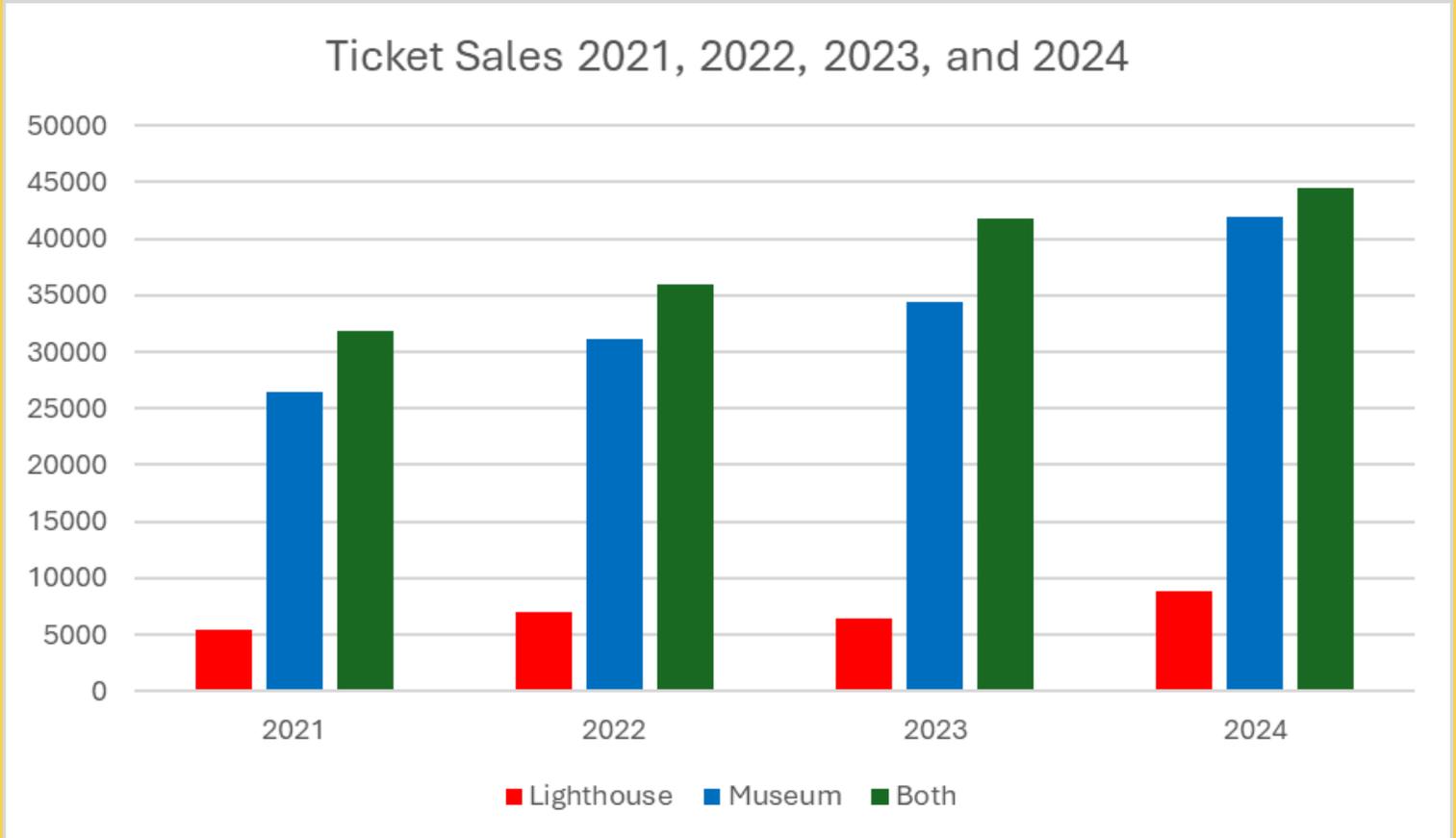
Roger LeLievre, right, Tim DeMarte and Dan Truckey, below left, and audience for Paranormal Lighthouse, below right



TICKETS SALES AND VISITATION

Through an agreement with the City of Marquette, half of Lighthouse ticket sale revenue is paid to the city as rent, and the money goes into a city account for future Lighthouse restoration.

Overall ticket sales for 2024 were \$95,203 (compared to \$82,062 in 2023, \$74,122 in 2022, and \$63,760 in 2021). 2024 season visitation was 10,086 visitors with an additional 800 children for field trips; 2023 had 9,159, 2022 had 9,055 visitors, and 2021 had 8,560. 2024 Special Programs and Fundraisers hosted an additional 1434. We had visitors from every state and fifteen countries.



Raise the Roof



The Museum's capital campaign to raise funds for a new roof for our historic building has been successful and our beautiful new roof is complete.

The cost for the roof (with asbestos abatement) was \$155,000. We have raised the following:

- \$38,924 matching grant from Michigan Arts and Culture Council
- \$20,000 Hirvonen Foundation
- \$5000 Shiras Institute
- \$5000 Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community
- \$5000 Ste Saint Marie Tribe
- \$5000 Frazier Fund
- \$2500 WE Energies
- \$2000 Marquette Rotary
- \$500 Walmart Foundation
- \$21,500 Private Donations
- \$2000 Special Events

We are continuing to raise the remaining funds at our [GoFundMe](#) page.



Memberships 2024: \$2,485

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$35

Family \$65

Business \$150

Individual Lifetime \$500

Family Lifetime \$1000

Patron \$5000

Membership renewal available at

<https://marquette-maritime-museum.square.site/>

2024 DONATIONS

\$8,610*



***MUSEUM GENERAL OPERATING (DOES NOT INCLUDE ROOF DONATIONS)**

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Thanks for supporting Maritime History!