

# MARQUETTE MARITIME MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023



Dear Donors, Members, and Friends:

2023 was another successful season for the Marquette Maritime Museum. The following are just a few of our accomplishments. Our winter lecture series, Maritime History on Tap (sponsored in part by grants from WE Energies, MACC, and the NEA), is held once a month, November through April, at the Ore Dick Brewing Company. Topics for our 2022/2023 series included Bruce Linn's "The Shipwreck Coast's Lost Whalebacks: The Story of Barge 129 and Sagamore," Dan Fountain's "Huron Island Shipwrecks," and Jack Deo's "Fish On!" We had our first musical program in December 2023 with Dan Truckey and Tim DeMarte's sea shanties, shipwreck ballads and instrumental compositions reflecting the colorful and dangerous lives of sailors on the Great Lakes and beyond.



### **Jack Deo, left, and Dan Truckey and Tim DeMarte**

The 2023 season opened in May with school Field Trips. We hosted 789 children and adults. A selection of classroom teachers were given a copy of *Marquette Shipwrecks* by Fred Stonehouse along with curriculum material to prepare for 2024 fieldtrips.



We offered three FREE outdoor art/history workshops in collaboration with Carol Phillips and the Liberty Children's Art Project (LCAP). The first workshop was Plein Aire Painting as a part of the City of Marquette's Art Week.

The cruise ship Ocean Navigator sailed into Marquette twice in June in June and bus tours from local adult organizations and Southwest Tours and Travel visited in August.



**Art/History Workshops above, and Field Trip, right**



Our version of Lake Superior Day began in 2019 to celebrate our great lake while learning how to preserve and maintain it for the enjoyment of future generations. Our 2020 celebration was cancelled due to COVID, but we were back on in 2021. The 2023 festivities had fourteen booths for families to learn about the history, conservation, ecology, and regional importance of Lake Superior.



**Booths from the 2023 Lake Superior Day. DNR's Sea Lamprey, left, and Lake Superior Science and Education Program, right**

We opened late one Saturday in July and took our staff and volunteers on a field trip to visit our neighbors, Coast Guard Station Marquette. We spent a fun morning learning about what they do and how they do it.



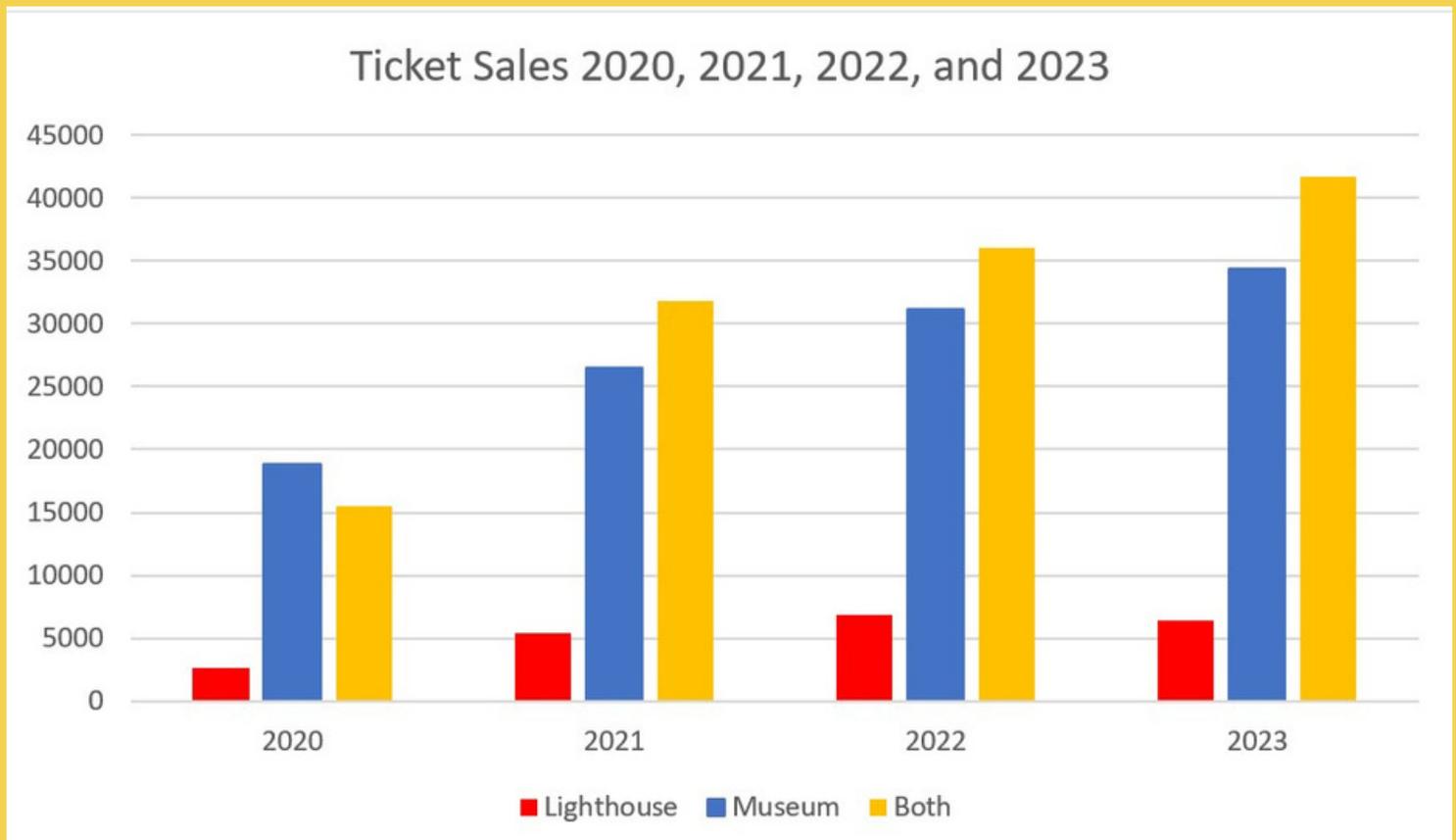
For three nights in October, staff and volunteers along with the Marquette Coast Guard and NMU's Veteran Services performed in our annual Ghosts of Lighthouse Point Fundraiser. We raised just over \$4,000 and collected several boxes of canned goods for the NMU Food Bank. We really appreciated a new team of enthusiastic ghost volunteers from WJMN local 3.



# 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 2023 were \$82,062, compared to \$74,122 for 2022, \$63,760 for 2021, and \$36,922 for 2020. 2023 season visitation had 9,159 visitors with an additional 789 for field trips; 2022 had 9,055 visitors, 2021 had 8,560, and 2020 had 5,023. 2023 Special Programs and Fundraisers hosted an additional 1201. We had visitors from every state but Wyoming and New Hampshire and international visitors were up significantly.



# Raise the Roof



The Museum began a capital campaign in 2023 to raise funds for a new roof for our historic building, which is housed in the 1891 City Waterworks.

The building houses museum galleries, archival collections, gift shop, and administrative offices. Both the north and east-facing sides of the Museum roof have sustained damage over the years, resulting in missing and faulty shingles. Unfortunately, the roof is composed of asbestos shingles that need to be removed with proper asbestos abatement practices. In the last few years, the old shingles have been rapidly deteriorating, especially on the north side, which is not surprising given our location on the shores of Lake Superior. There are no roof leaks yet, but it is just a matter of time, and we have been informed by our insurance company that we must replace the roof to keep our current coverage.

The cost for a new roof (with asbestos abatement) is \$155,000.



# Roof Fundraising

Orion Couling, Museum lifetime member and frequent collaborator, was in Marquette in July and presented a popular roof fundraiser program on New Orleans Ghost Lore.



WZMQ 19 and New Attitudes Dance Studio created a Raise the Roof PSA video for the Museum in the summer of 2023. [VIEW THE VIDEO HERE.](#)



We received a matching grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council for \$38,924 and raised over \$8,000 during the 2023 summer season through small grants and donations from museum guests. Fundraising is ongoing with a [GoFundMe](#) page, and work on the roof begins in Spring 2024.



# Memberships 2023: \$4,500

## New 2024 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/>

# 2023 DONATIONS

# \$8,978.62\*

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

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Thanks for supporting Maritime History!