The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, the museum uses its collection to engage the community with the vibrant history of our region—and to foster greater understanding of the role it has played in the growth of our nation.
2022 SUMMARY

For over 116 years, the Putnam History Museum (PHM) has served residents, visitors, and historical researchers of Putnam County in a multitude of ways. Support from Putnam County, Philipstown, grantors, members, friends, and visitors, has enabled the PHM to establish a world-class special collections library and archive, to preserve the West Point Foundry schoolhouse as the museum headquarters, and to create hundreds of public programs, exhibitions, and publications.

In the past year, public and private support enabled the PHM to:

- Serve 1,500+ in-person and virtual visitors through lectures, public programs, and field trips.
- Replace an essential HVAC unit for the proper temperature control of the historic collections.
- Conduct 400+ research hours for over 65 public queries.
- Create a new, dedicated public Community & Programming Room in the museum.
- Host 30 public programs and create 12 new publications and exhibitions.

A full list of programs, activities, and publications from 2022 is detailed on pages 6-9. The PHM is extremely grateful to have been awarded the Exemplary Public History Award at Putnam County Day, 2022.

In 2023, we are eager to build upon our triumphs of the last few years (summarized on page 10), with several key projects focused on developing an outdoor community-use space on the museum grounds; planning for the nationwide REV250 celebration; digitizing the PHM’s microfilm, video, and audio holdings; replacing three outdated HVAC units and a 20+ year old boiler; and funding the Museum Educator & Public Programming Manager as a permanent position.

We are grateful to our many supporters for the many ways your funding continues to impact the Putnam History Museum positively and significantly. Thank you!
POPULATION SERVED

The Putnam History Museum serves a socioeconomically diverse audience of students, adults, and seniors. Our primary audience resides in Putnam County and throughout Mid-Hudson Valley region. Our secondary audience includes weekend visitors from New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, and beyond. Our weekend visitors represent a large urban population.

STAFF

The PHM does not anticipate any new or impending changes to staff in 2022. The PHM Board & Executive Director are actively seeking ways to maintain the Education Manager position beyond its American Historical Association Grant Funding, which ends May 31, 2023.
Financial Report

- 2022 Income $216,092
- 2022 Expenses $270,501
- 2022 Investments $1,029,166

*Income and expense figures are tentative and have not been adjusted by our accountant to reflect depreciation and investments. Final figures will be reported on PHM’s 2022 form 990 and are available upon request.*

- Current Trends in Cost of Service:
  - Utilities continue to rise with inflation.
  - Costly HVAC and boiler repairs/replacement due to age of system.
  - All other operational expenses, including payroll, are stable.

Major Funding:

- *A cornerstone gift from Marion & Pat Dugan provides sustaining annual support.*
- County of Putnam

Additional Funding:

- Town of Philipstown

2022 Grants:

- Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
- Hudson River Valley Greenway
- M&T Charitable Foundation
- New York Council for the Arts
- Humanities New York
- American Historical Association
NEW & UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **(Significant Need)** Replace three HVAC units (20+ years old) and boiler. Proper temperature control is needed for the PHM’s extensive archival collection.

- **(Significant Need)** Fund the Museum Educator & Public Programming Manager as a permanent position.

- **(Significant Event)** Research, design, and install the new exhibition, "Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County," set to open in late April/early May 2023. The creation of this exhibition includes collaborations with the Putnam County Historian’s Office, Town Historical Societies, and other cultural non-profits throughout the County.

- **(Significant Event)** Plan for the nationwide REV250 celebration, including county-wide tours, programs, brochures, and initiatives.

- **(Significant Need)** Digitize the PHM’s microfilm, video, and audio holdings for long-term preservation and use.

- **(Significant Trend)** Develop an outdoor community-use space on the museum grounds.

![Image of American Revolution History Crawl](image-url1)

![Image of HVAC unit](image-url2)
Description of the Putnam History Museum

The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, the museum uses its collection to engage the community with the vibrant history of our region—and to foster greater understanding of the role it has played in the growth of our nation.

Over the past three years, the PHM has adapted its content and programming for accessibility not only on-site & indoors, but also outside on our museum grounds and virtually through our website and Zoom programming. Our goal is to make local history more accessible by meeting people where they are.

Services Provided

Research:
In 2022, the PHM received 65+ public research queries related to Putnam County history. While genealogical and house history–specific requests comprise the bulk of our public research queries, other requests have included everything from Castle Rock and Trump State Park to Dockside Park, Benedict Arnold’s Flight & Treason, West Point Foundry Steam engines & Lighthouses, Women’s History & Black History in Putnam County, & Agricultural History in Putnam County. Research conducted in 2022 totaled 400+ hours.

Exhibitions & Collections Management:
The PHM creates a physical presence and gateway into the West Point Foundry and Preserve through its permanent Foundry exhibition. In addition, the PHM has been collecting artifacts and documents related to Putnam County history for over 116 years, and the collection is at the core of everything we do. We care for our collection, strive to make it accessible including online and in digital formats, and engage in long-range collections management planning.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PHM & SERVICES PROVIDED, INCLUDING RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS & PROGRAMS, CONTINUED (PART II)

In addition, we create rotating exhibitions (indoor & outdoor) that add a dimension of topical relevance and flexibility. Lastly, the Museum’s library and collections act as a reference resource. In 2022, the museum presented the following exhibitions:

- *Putnam at Play, Recreation & Leisure in 19th Century Putnam County, 2021-2022*, Front Gallery
- *FACES / GRACES*, Community Room Installation, April 2022
- *Cold Spring Then/Now Outdoor Exhibition on Main Street*, April 2022
- *Painting Putnam: A Colorful Look at 20th Century Putnam*, September 2022
- *A Brief Introduction to Land Struggles in the Colonial Hudson Highlands, early 1600s-1770s*, October 2022

In 2022, the PHM Collections team also created finding aids for all backlogged accession items, totaling 120+ pages of reference guides.

**Education Outreach**

The PHM offers an array of educational programs each year. Our primary educational programs are detailed below; new programs and activities are developed annually.

**Lecture series:**

One of our core educational outreach programs is our dynamic, long-running lecture series, which covers a broad range of subjects including art, architecture, military history, genealogy, etc. Throughout 2022, we offered the lecture series through virtual, hybrid, and in-person formats. The PHM’s 2022 Lecture Series included:

- *Sermons in Stone*, January
- *Print, Gossip, & Duel: Alexander Hamilton & the Art of Political Combat*, January
- *Hybrid Book Signing & Talk, The Third Mrs. Galway*, February
- *The True Story of the Culper Spy Ring*, February
- *Gen. Daniel Butterfield*, March
DESCRIPTION OF THE PHM & SERVICES PROVIDED, INCLUDING RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS & PROGRAMS, CONTINUED (PART III)

**Lecture series, continued:**
- The Traitor’s Wife, July
- Inn Civility, August
- Hudson Valley in the Ice Age, October
- Long Island Whaling through the Age, November
- Spaces of Enslavement and Resistance in Dutch New York, December

**Field Trips:**
The PHM works with individual classes and schools to craft field trips that support students and correspond to current curricula. The field trips include visits to the museum, with guided tours of the West Point Foundry. In 2022, the PHM hosted student field trips for the following groups:
- Manitou school, May
- Home school group, May
- Dover Middle School, June
- Foundry Montessori School, November

**History Hikes & Group Tours:**
The PHM also provides tours for groups. This often includes curator-led tours of exhibitions, and guided tours of the West Point Foundry Preserve and other historical sites throughout Putnam County. In 2022, the PHM provided group tours to the NY USDA Archaeology Class and led several history hikes throughout the county. 2022 PHM History Hikes included:
- West Point Foundry Tour, June
- Garrison’s Landing History Hike, June
- Benedict Arnold’s Flight History Hike, Garrison, July
- Denny Mine Hike, Fahnestock State Park, September
- Stone Chambers & Hawk Rock of Mead Farm History Hike, October
In 2022, the PHM hosted or participated in the following special events:

- Hosted: Hudson Valley Hard Cider Tasting, February
- Hosted: Tavern Talk and Tour at the Bird and Bottle Inn, May
- Co-hosted: 2000 Steps through History at Boscobel, June
- Co-hosted: Mekeel’s Chapel July 4th Celebration, July
- Hosted: County-wide History Hunt of Putnam County, August
- Hosted: Lawn Party at the Historic Samuel Sloan Estate, September
- Participated: Cold Spring Community Day Table, September
- Co-hosted with the Putnam County Theatre Alliance: Pay Dirt Play Reading, October
- Hosted: Annual Gala and Thanksgiving Program, November

Moreover, in 2022 the PHM created the following print publications and programs (many available digitally as well):

- Take & Go Museum Activity Bag: The American Revolution bag takes visitors on a journey through the Hudson Highlands during the height of revolutionary activity in New York.
- Take & Go Museum Activity Bag: The Hudson Valley Heritage bag is about appreciating the land around us. With a canvas and paintbrush visitors learn about local Native American culture, become a Hudson River School painter, and learn to spot the native species that live in our waterways.
- Garrison’s Landing & Arden Point History Crawl
- Benedict Arnold’s Flight Self-Guided History Hike Brochure
- Little Stony Point Self-Guided History Hike Brochure
- Updated Cold Spring and Upper Nelsonville Crawls
- Cold Spring in Bloom, Village-wide history scavenger hunt
- Available digitally here: http://www.putnamhistorymuseum.org/selfguided/
**RECENT MILESTONES & POINTS OF PRIDE**

**PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS**

*A brief survey of recent PHM milestones.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PANDEMIC PERSEVERANCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>FEB. 2021</strong></th>
<th><strong>JUNE 2022</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 2020 - PRESENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CREATED 12+ EXHIBITIONS</td>
<td>• RECEIVED $30,000 PROGRAMS &amp; OPERATIONS DONATION FROM PRIVATE DONOR</td>
<td>• AWARDED $75,000 AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION GRANT TO HIRE EDUCATION MANAGER &amp; RETAIN OTHER POSITIONS THROUGH MAY 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HOSTED 50+ PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAMS INDOOR, OUTDOOR, &amp; VIRTUAL</td>
<td>• OPENED PUBLIC COMMUNITY ROOM AT PHM, FUNDED BY HEATHER &amp; NEAL ZUCKERMAN</td>
<td>• RECEIVED PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD AT 210TH PUTNAM COUNTY DAY</td>
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Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut Street
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www.putnamhistorymuseum.org