

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

June 5, 2024
OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims
Kyle W. Puryear
Charlie Palmer
Jason Thomas

Katherine M. Cathey, County Manager
Michele Solomon, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in recessed session on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom 215 in the Person County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC.

Chairman Powell called the recessed meeting to order.

**PERSON COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY (PCMH) FY23-24 REPORT AND
FY24-25 BUDGET REQUEST**

Person County Museum of History Executive Director, Carrie Currie presented the following:



June 5, 2024

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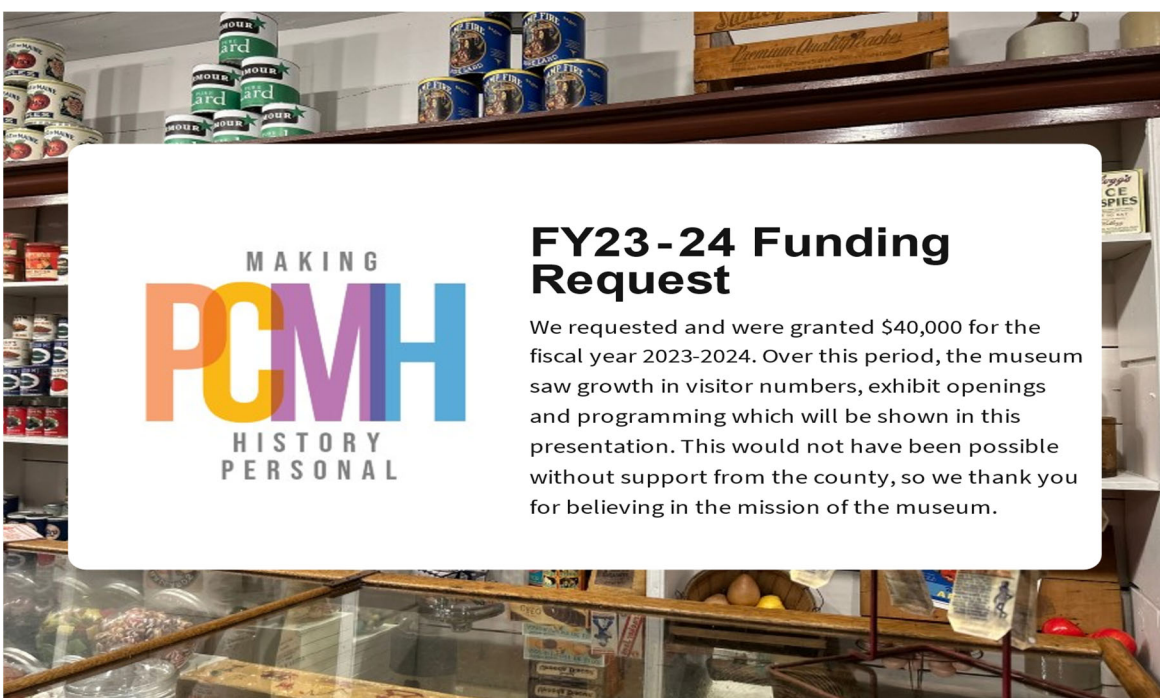
02 - Current Projects

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MAKING
PCMH
HISTORY
PERSONAL

FY23-24 Funding Request

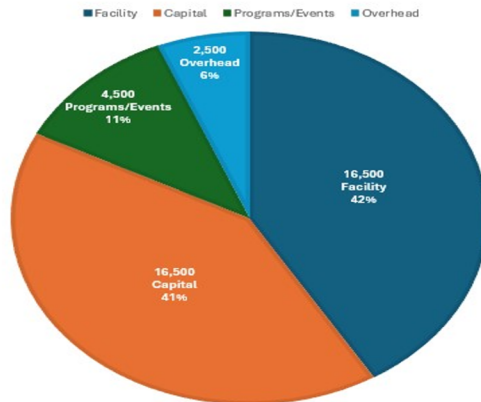
We requested and were granted \$40,000 for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Over this period, the museum saw growth in visitor numbers, exhibit openings and programming which will be shown in this presentation. This would not have been possible without support from the county, so we thank you for believing in the mission of the museum.

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Expenditure Breakdown

TOTAL SPEND:
\$40,000

FY 2023-2024 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



42%

Recurring Facility Expenses

Security Monitoring and Updates
Monthly Cleaning, Lawn Care,
Liability Insurance & Visitor Facing Expenses

41%

Capital Expenses

Electrical Updates
Landscaping Updates (Parsonage/Long)
Painting

11%

Programs/Events

Program & Event Supplies
Program Promotion

6%

Overhead

Phone & Internet, Collections Management,
Website, Office Supplies & Expenses

Please note, other expenses, including all salaries,
are covered by outside grants or museum
fundraising.

Before

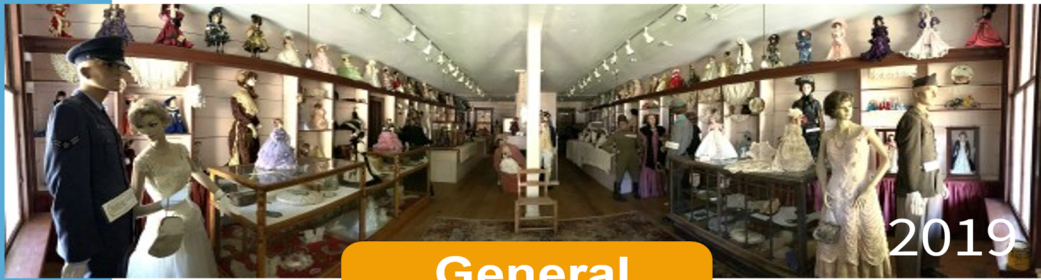
Parsonage Landscaping Removal



After

Capital Updates

June 5, 2024



General Store Project

TDA Grant Funded:
\$9,750

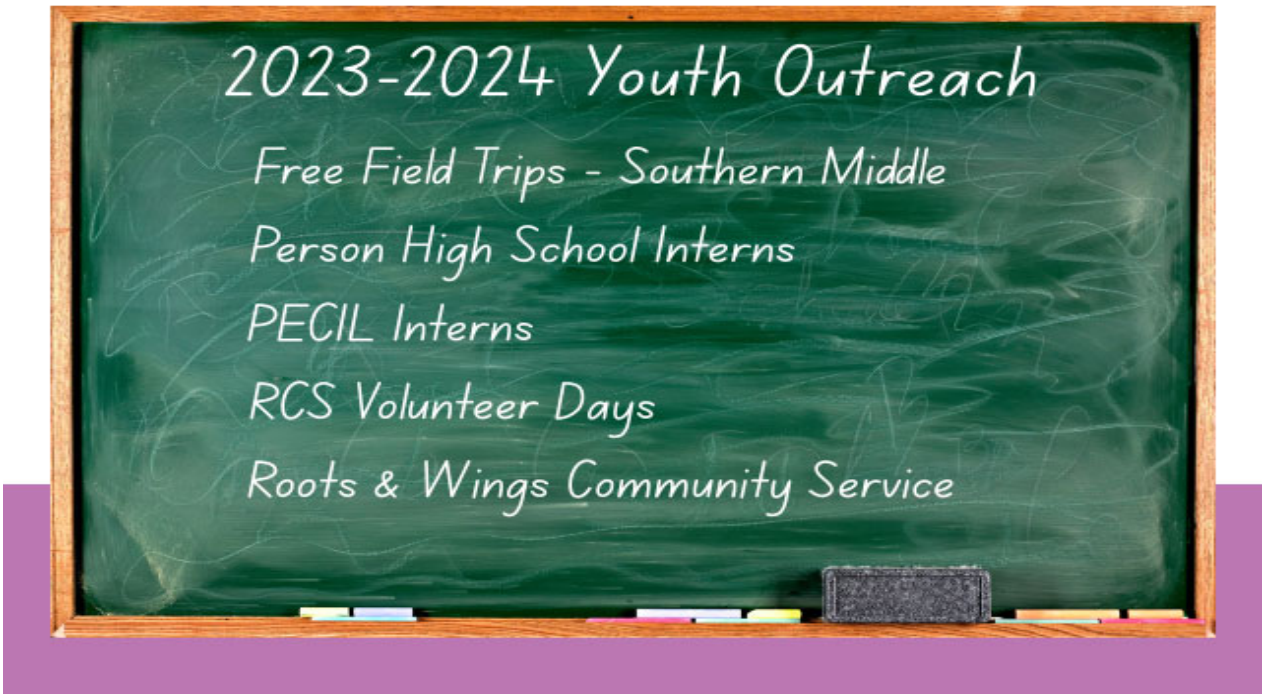


FY23-24 EVENTS

We completed a variety of free and paid events from July 2023 through May 2024 including:

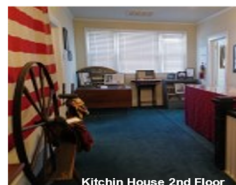
✓ <u>PC School Info Fair</u>	✓ <u>Jingle on Main</u>
✓ <u>Supper Club: 1920s</u>	✓ <u>Tracing Our Roots</u>
✓ <u>General Store Opening</u>	✓ <u>Supper Club: Titanic</u>
✓ <u>Veterans Day</u>	✓ <u>Field of Honor</u>

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Current Grant Projects

Total Current Grant Income:
\$21,685



Kitchen House 2nd Floor Updates **Granting Agency: Person County TDA**

Amount: \$16,800
Reinforcing Floors,
Updating Lighting
New Paint
Updated Exhibits

Oral History Project **Granting Agency: NC Humanities**

Amount: \$3,500
Conducting Oral Histories
Transcribing & Digitizing



African American History Exhibit Updates **Granting Agency: Federation of NC Historical Societies**

Amount: \$1,385
New Exhibit Panels
New Exhibit Case Lighting

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How do we do it?



Volunteers!

In 2023 our volunteer force contributed more than 3,000 hours to museum projects and programs. They continue to provide support in ways that allow us to save money, put less strain on county general services and reach more people in the community. Based on the current national average, each volunteer hour is equivalent to \$33.49.



The estimated monetary value of the volunteer hours recorded at the museum in 2023 is:

\$100,000 +

Volunteer hour value from independentsector.org

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

Titanic Experience @ PCMH

May 1 - September 27

Learn about the PC connection to the Titanic - \$5 per person

Field of Honor

May 24 - June 14

Honoring those who gave their lives for our freedoms - Free

Person PreHistory

July 27: 1pm - 4pm

Learn about Person County before people were present. Games, Fossils & More - All Ages - Free

Tea on the Titanic

Saturday, September 28; 2pm

Fundraising Tea inspired by the Titanic - \$40 per person

Veterans Day Observance

Saturday, November 2; 11am

Honoring Those Who Served - Free

Person County Supper Club:

Downton Abbey Christmas

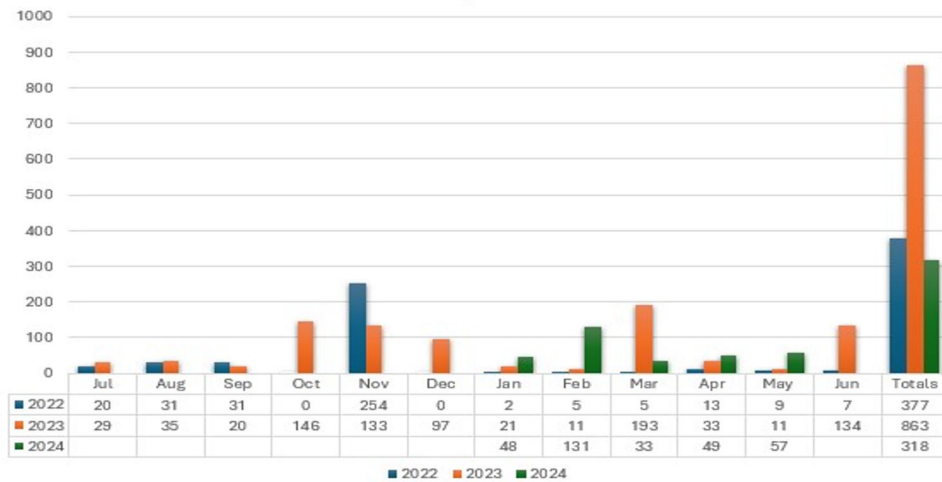
Saturday, December 7; 6pm

Fundraising Dinner - \$125 per person



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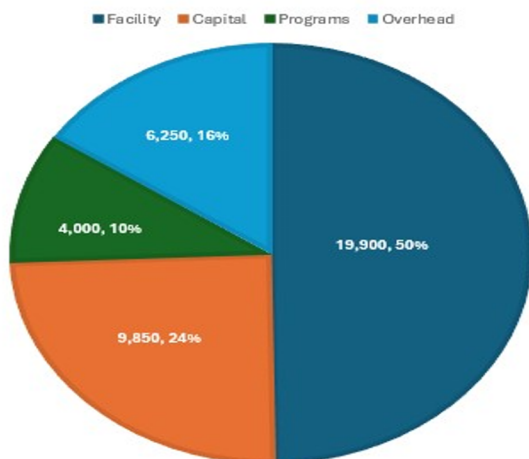
Visitor Count July 2022 – June 2024



FY24-25 Request

\$40,000

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



50%

Facility Expenses

Security Monitoring and Updates, General Repairs, Monthly Cleaning & Lawn Care, Liability Insurance & Visitor Facing Expenses

24%

Capital Expenses

Electrical Updates
Landscaping Updates
Ramps, Campus Signs, Exterior Painting

10%

Programs/Events

Program & Event Supplies
Program Promotion

16%

Overhead

Phone & Internet, Collections Management, Website, Office Supplies & Expenses

Please note, other expenses, including all salaries, are covered by outside grants or museum fundraising.

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Future Updates

Capital Projects

Old buildings require special care to ensure they are protected and made available for generations to come. All of the buildings on our campus will need updates in the coming years, but these three spaces are priority as their needs address visitor safety and building security.



Doctor's Office

HVAC Updates
Interior and Exterior Restoration
Accessibility Needs
Exhibit Refresh



School House

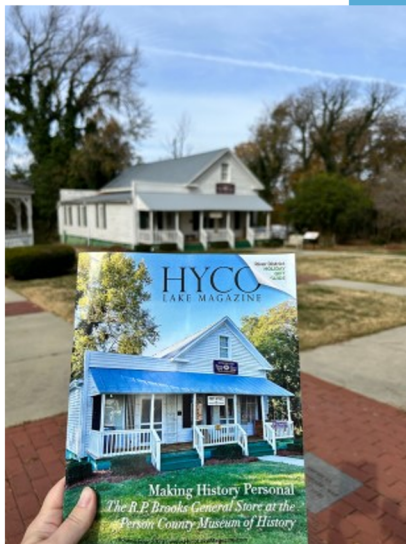
Exterior Restoration
Lighting Updates
Exhibit Refresh



Parsonage

Mold Abatement
Exterior Restoration
Interior Restoration
Hearth Restoration

Looking Ahead



- While the amount of funds requested may seem small in the scheme of the overall county budget, for us it is lifechanging.
- It will be an ongoing effort to preserve the buildings on campus and keep them safely open to the public.
- We look forward to a continued partnership with the county to make this history available to residents and visitors.

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Currie thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the FY24-25 Budget Request for the Person County Museum of History. She stated that the museum continues to look to the future, finding ways to encourage visitors and residents to engage in the history of Person County. She stated that this work is vital and could not happen without the support of our local community and government. She stated that funds allocated by the County Commissioners have allowed the museum to move forward in a way that they would have been unable to do without additional financial support. She stated that the museum appreciates the partnership and the recognition of the importance of this organization for the community.

General Services Director Ray Foushee spoke in reference to money allotted in the budget for County maintenance and repairs for the museum, as it is county-owned property. He stated that the museum has a constant need for repairs and upgrades. He stated that \$30K is included in the current budget for maintenance and repairs.

County Manager Katherine Cathey went over previous years' budget requests from the museum. She stated that for FY24-25, the recommended budget amount is \$20K for the special appropriation, which is in addition to the \$30K allocated for maintenance and repairs.

PERSON COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER (PCBIC) FY24-25 BUDGET REQUEST

PCBIC President Phillip Allen provided background information on the PCBIC and its history. He stated that PCBIC looks forward to the continued partnership with Person County and to promoting and increasing economic development. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide more detailed information relative to the FY24-25 budget request. He turned the presentation over to PCBIC Vice President Scott McKinney. McKinney stated that this is the first time that PCBIC has really engaged in this process with the County, in terms of coming up with a formal budget request. He stated that for many years, PCBIC had been utilizing a pool of funds that had been donated and granted to them for supporting economic development. He stated that the proposed budget includes an increase in PCBIC's business park maintenance fees and that PCBIC wants to be self-sustaining; therefore, they are increasing those fees to the tenants of the park. He stated that the request submitted to the County Manager represents the bare minimum necessary to keep this nonprofit organization functioning with the exception of one line item. He stated that the line item titled as legal includes a place holder in the amount of \$50K, which is for anticipated expenses to be incurred for the County's benefit as existing economic development projects mature and entirely new projects spring to life, rather than known expenses.

Commissioner Puryear expressed thanks to Allen and McKinney and the entire PCBIC Board for their tireless commitment to our community and the future economic growth of Person County. Chairman Powell expressed thanks to Allen and McKinney for their presentation and stated the need for PCBIC and EDC to be separated. Vice Chairman Sims expressed thanks to the PCBIC and for what they do for Person County. He stated the need for self-sufficiency. McKinney stated that the members of PCBIC are working towards becoming self-sufficient and have made mention of future fundraising ideas to accomplish self-sufficiency.

County Manager Cathey advised the Board that for the FY24-25, \$20K has been allocated for PCBIC and funded through the Economic Catalyst fund. Commissioner Puryear stated that he is fully supportive of the amount that PCBIC requested in the amount of \$62,800. Chairman Powell stated that he is not supportive of the full amount requested by PCBIC; he would support \$25K less than the requested amount, which is \$37,800.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear to fully fund the PCBIC with the additional \$42,800, for a total of \$62,800 for FY24-25. A **substitute motion** was made by Chairman Powell to fund \$25K less than the \$42,800, which is \$17,800, for a total of \$37,800 for FY24-25 to be allocated to PCBIC. The substitute motion **failed to carry 1-4**, with Chairman Powell recorded as in favor of the motion. Commissioner Puryear's motion was not needed due to the outcome of the substitute motion.

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ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Commissioner Puryear stated that in the past there has been some unanticipated revenues that show up right at budget session and asked finance if there were any unanticipated revenues. Finance Director Amy Wehrenberg stated that she is not aware of any at this time. Puryear stated that he is not in favor of a three-cent property tax increase. He stated that he does support the two requests that were presented today. He stated he hopes by the end of this budget work session, that the Board will figure out a solution to reduce the proposed tax increase and fund these projects. He asked Tax Administrator Russell Jones to speak in reference to the collection rate and property taxes. Jones stated that the collection rate as of today, was at 97.13%. He stated that the County's best collection rate ever was in 1997 at 99.5%, and again in 2021 it was at 98.63%. He stated that with GKN leaving, he estimates that \$35-\$38M in equipment being gone for next year's budget, which would equate to a loss in tax revenue of roughly \$300K. He stated the building will still be there.

Commissioner Puryear asked finance if he could get a dollar amount from the fund balance over the 30% threshold. Wehrenberg stated that the total fund balance as of this date is \$34,431,093.32, and FY23 was \$45,319,725.36. Cathey stated that Wehrenberg had projected the year-end balance at the time of the budget retreat, and there was a rough projection of ending the year at the 30% mark, but now some things have changed since that time, and we cannot be certain that it is going to be above 25%. She stated that the budget was constructed with an approach for the County to be able to maintain the 25% fund balance going into next year.

Vice Chairman Sims had questions related to the Detention Center line item Jail Provisions and EMS line item Contract Services. Cathey stated that the request for the Detention Center is for a one-time expenditure for mattresses and storage boxes, not recurring every year, and to be replaced as needed, and this year is the needed replacement. Director of Emergency Services Thomas Schwalenberg explained that the contract for EMS would be a 10-year contract and the equipment would be leased. He stated that the equipment will aid in patient transport.

Commissioner Puryear suggested that based on Jones estimating at least a minimum of 30% of real property increase, that he is proposing that the County take the three-cent tax rate increase of \$1,657,950.00 from the general fund along with the \$20K for the Museum, and the Board could discuss how they want to allocate the money for PCBIC from the Economic Catalyst fund. Wehrenberg stated that she would look over the budget and see if there is anything that she can bring forward to help fill the gap rather than appropriate fund balance.

RECESS:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to recess the meeting at 11:25 a.m. until Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom 215 in the Person County Office Building located at 304 S Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC.

Michele Solomon
Clerk to the Board

Gordon Powell
Chairman