











## A Message from the

## **Board President & Executive Director**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities, we are filled with gratitude for the remarkable community that has come together to support our mission. The collaboration between our board, staff, and supporters has been instrumental in our growth and success.

This year, we continued to embrace our identity as "A Welcome Place," fostering an inclusive environment where creativity and connection flourish. Our programs have expanded, with initiatives like Weymouth Equestrians welcoming even more youth to explore our rich equestrian heritage. We launched a series of workshops and events focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, ensuring that our programs reflect the diverse voices and perspectives of our community.

In 2024, we were proud to deepen our partnerships with local organizations, amplifying our impact in the arts and humanities. These collaborations have not only enriched our programming but have also created new opportunities for community engagement and participation.

Thanks to your generous contributions, we have experienced significant growth in our membership and outreach. Weymouth Center is not just a historic site; it is a vibrant cultural center where creativity thrives and community bonds are strengthened. Your support has made it possible for us to continue our work and, for that, we cannot thank you enough.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of serving as a welcoming hub for the arts and humanities. We invite you to join us in this journey, as your continued support is vital to our success.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Weymouth family. Together, we can ensure that Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities continues to be a beacon of creativity, connection, and community for years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Andrew Lyons
President of the

Board of Directors

Katie Wyatt

Executive Director





## Friends of Weymouth, Inc.

## **Board of Directors**

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

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(March 2019-March 2024) Southern Pines

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## **Staff**July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



Katie Wyatt Executive Director



Jourdan Book Rentals Coordinator



**Julie Borshak** Programs and Events Manager



Annie DeKeyser Weymouth Equestrians Program Manager April 2024-present



Kelly Dobert Weymouth Equestrians Program Manager Summer 2023-March 2024



Sandy Gernhart Volunteer Archivist



Cramer Holmes Hall Director of Property Management



Danielle Herbst
Director of
Membership and
Visitor Experience



Susan Sedberry Visitor Services Associate



Kira Schoenfelder Marketing and Communications Manager

## Mission

The mission of Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities is to provide a place of inclusivity by offering literary and cultural experiences that inspire and enrich the lives of our community.

## Vision

Weymouth Center will provide a facility and grounds to enrich our diverse community while developing sustainable sources of revenue.

## Values Weymouth is...



Inclusive



Inspiring



Creative



**Bold** 



Respectful



Proactive



Courageous



**Dynamic** 



Welcoming



## The Arts & Humanities

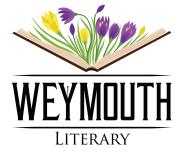
During this year, over

100 volunteers donated over 10,000 hours

of service.

## Literary

- We called upon our talented Writers-in-Residence and other North Carolina writers for several Author Events. Dawn Reno Langley shared her book Analyzing the Prescotts, Tim Tyson joined us in February and read from his book, Blood Done Sign My Name. March brought Julia Hans who wrote Hidden History of Pinehurst.
- The Writers-in-Residence (WIR) program hosted many talented writers including Wiley Cash who recorded his Our State Book Club Podcast from the NC Literary Hall of Fame.
- The Moore County Writers' Competition in April 2024 brought 140 talented writers from all age groups with 56 winning entries. The field was so large that the awards ceremony was divided between the Adult and Student entries with two different ceremony dates.
- In April 2024, we celebrated National Poetry Month with a riveting Poetry Slam featuring 25 local speakers and daily social media posts sharing poems. We hosted the annual Poetry by the Pond event with three Writers-in-Residence and a lawn full of poetry lovers.
- Our James Boyd Book Club continues to thrive, convening monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 2 pm with many of the authors joining in to chat about their work.
- The new 'Welcome Lending Library' offers books that are on the challenged list as well as books by our Writers-in-Residence. These books may be checked out anonymously and returned at will.



## **Performing Arts**

 Throughout the year, Weymouth Center showcased the richness of the performing arts with a variety of performances in our 'Chamber Sessions' series including the Boston Public Quartet in partnership with Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The quartet performed a concert for local students the next day in our Great Room. Nicholas Susi, a pianist described as 'an innovative



musician and aggressive thinker with a gift for keyboard brilliance', and Nick DiEugenio (violinist) & Mimi Solomon (pianist) a brilliant husband and wife duo rounded out the performances.

- Our 'Come Sunday Jazz Series' of delightful Sunday morning outdoor concerts were very well received. In partnership with UNC Pembroke, we were honored to feature Kenni Holman who was a member of the legendary Prince's horn section. The Matt White Quartet, The Mint Julep Jazz Band, Lucy Yeghiazaryan and the 'Artist of the Violin' Brooke Alford, who had a local connection, all helped to fill the lawn on Sunday afternoons.
- The 'Live from the Great Room' series welcomed an adventurous trumpet and accordion duo, Eric and Will, who played evocative original compositions with sounds from jazz, classical and folk music. We also enjoyed Larry Bellorín and Joe Troop who offered a bilingual program of virtuosic fusion music (harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, upright bass, guitar, maracas, singing), storytelling, humor, and singalongs.
- We continue the spirit of musical camaraderie with the popular 'Musicians' Song Circle,' hosting live music-in-the-round jam sessions each month.
- Arranged outreach opportunities for many of our performers and authors to speak and perform at community locations like Penick Village, Moore Montessori, Episcopal Day School, Southern Pines Elementary School.



## **Youth and Family**

 Our innovative 'Master Class Mondays' program connected Weymouth's guest artists with Moore County Public Schools for many in-school visits over the course of the year, enriching students' creative experiences. The artists also visited the neighboring Senior Living Center at Penick Village to entertain the residents.



- To entertain young visitors, a fun Scavenger Hunt was created to send families searching the grounds for various objects. Young scavengers were encouraged to use their senses to see, hear, and feel the various animals and plants on the property.
- An Instrument Petting Zoo was created in partnership with the North Carolina Arts Council and Arts Council of Moore County to offer an array of wind, string, and percussion instruments to young musicians who attended our concerts.
- The Spring Into Reading Festival brought many community partners to our grounds for a storytelling event with crafts and games. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library signed up new readers while the Country Bookshop and other vendors shared their wares.
- Two new Free Little Libraries were erected on the grounds and they house a carefully curated array of books that are free to children and adults.





## **Equestrians**

 Weymouth Equestrians, a program that was introduced in 2023, expanded in 2024. The afterschool program at the Weymouth Stables in partnership with the Sandhills Boys & Girls Club creates opportunities for all youth to learn to ride horses and experience equestrian life. Fall 2024 saw the



enrollment of 20 young equestrians aged 8-13. The barn now houses six horses and an array of tack and gear curated by willing volunteers.

- "Hounds on the Grounds," the annual Moore County Hounds Hunt Meet returned to Weymouth in January 2024.
- The second annual "Horses Benefit Kids" Kentucky Derby watch party and fundraiser raised more than \$50,000 in support of Weymouth Equestrians

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

- In the Spring of 2023, conducted a Community Needs Assessment that revealed a greater need for more accessible programming, lower ticket prices, more family-focused and free events.
- Hosted monthly events year-round that amplified the voices and art of marginalized communities.
- Sandhills PRIDEFest returned to the grounds at Weymouth Center in June 2024.
- Launched the Weymouth Welcome Lending Library to make books by NC authors, books by Weymouth Center Writers-in-Residence, and children's books free and available to all, and partnered with the National Freedom to Read Campaign to make banned books accessible to all.
- Launched a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee of the Board of Directions, with a focus on internal training in implicit bias,

building access and opportunities in the arts & humanities for all, and intentionally building a more inclusive Weymouth Center.

# **DEIB Why Statement**

"To boldly engage the people of our state through arts and humanities experiences in order to accomplish positive social change."





## Women of Weymouth

- The Women of Weymouth held monthly meetings with community speakers, and hosted a number of exciting events supporting the preservation of the Boyd House. These included:
  - Weymouth Wonderland, a three-day outdoor holiday festival and market, kicked off by a fun "Candlelight and Cocktails" party.
  - · A wine-tasting event "Ladies Wine Out".
  - · The annual Strawberry Festival Luncheon.
  - Women of Weymouth supported numerous other community based events such as Spring Into Reading, Peaches and Powercars, Peach Grass Festival, and the summer Drive-In.

## **Giving 2023-2024**

Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, community organizations, local businesses, and corporations that so generously supported us between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

## \$50.000 and above

Anonymous

Mary Stephenson

Pinehurst. Southern Pines. Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau

#### \$20.000 - \$49.999

Anonymous

North Carolina Arts Council

Penick Village

### \$10.000 - \$19.999

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12

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Quartet

Pinehurst Garden Club Pine Branch Pinewild Country Club of Pinehurst

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Sandhills Community College Sandhills Trolley Company

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Southern Pines Garden Club Southern Pines United Methodist

Church Choir

Southridge Bluegrass Band

Standing Room Only

Surf Unlimited Ocean Isle Beach

The Country Bookshop

The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room

TrebleMakers

Weymouth Dirt Gardeners

Whiskey Pines Band

Winebow

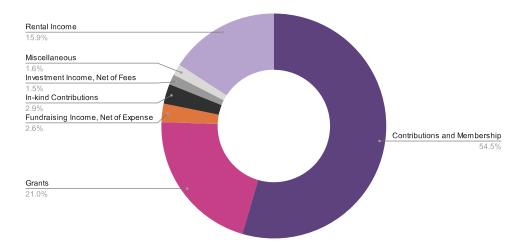
Women of Weymouth

## **Financial Report**

The financial information shared here represents the work and accomplishments of our staff and supporters.

## Year-End June 30, 2023

## **Public Support & Revenues: \$697,192**



Contributions and Membership	\$380,525
Grants	\$146,900
Fundraising Income, Net of Expense	\$18,455
In-kind Contributions	\$19,909
Rental Income	\$110,814
Investment Income, Net of Fees	\$10,299
Miscellaneous	\$11,207
Total	\$697,192

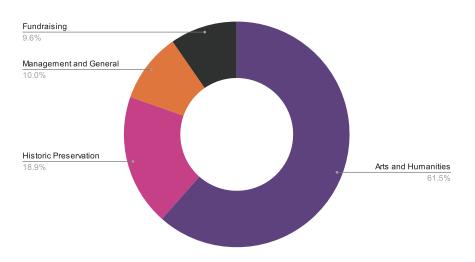
Change In New Assets (FYE): \$37, 865

Net Assets at Beginning of Year: \$792, 310

Net Assets at End of Year: \$830,175

## Year-End June 30, 2023

**Expenses: \$659,327** 



Total	<sup>\$</sup> 659,327
Fundraising	\$6,3538
Management and General	\$65,933
Historic Preservation	\$124,312
Arts and Humanities	\$405,544

Audited Financials for year-end June 30, 2023 were prepared by Neal, Bradsher, Taylor, Auditors. For a copy of the complete Financial Statement of Position please contact the office.

## **Dirt Gardeners**

The work of our Dirt Gardeners is what keeps our grounds so beautiful and inviting to visitors!

This year, the Dirt Gardeners achieved incredible milestones, dedicating an impressive 4,160 volunteer hours to Weymouth Center's grounds. Their efforts included propagating over 4,000 plants for one of the most successful plant sales ever, grossing more than \$11,000!

They also made significant strides in maintaining the historic camellia forest, creating new pathways and trails, and beginning the restoration of the front gardens while installing beautiful new signage.

Engaging with the community, they planted over 1,000 daffodil bulbs, adding vibrant charm to the landscape.

To cap off the year, the Dirt Gardeners decorated the grounds for Weymouth Wonderland, bringing holiday magic to visitors. Their dedication and hard work have truly transformed Weymouth Center.





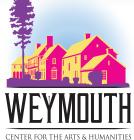












A WELCOME PLACE

555 E. Connecticut Ave, Southern Pines, North Carolina Send mail to: PO Box 939, Southern Pines, NC 28388

weymouthcenter.org