



ROYAL OAK  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21







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*The Royal Oak Foundation seeks to raise awareness of and advance the work of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by inspiring support from the United States for the Trust's efforts to preserve and protect historic places and spaces—forever, for everyone.*

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# LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Royal Oak Community:

*On behalf of the Royal Oak Board of Directors and staff, we are pleased to present our annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.*

The Royal Oak Foundation continued its important work in support of the National Trust despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most significantly, Royal Oak announced a major gift to the National Trust of \$4 Million in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Trust's founding. The gift is designated for the Decorative Arts Conservation Studio at Knole enabling the Trust to tackle several hundred significant and high-profile objects over the next 5 years, benefiting historic places across the organization. The funding from Royal Oak represents many years of generous donations from members and supporters, especially those who have made legacy donations. Royal Oak members and friends will have the opportunity to learn about the projects undertaken at the Studio through both in-person and online events.

In addition to this gift, Royal Oak completed its annual National Trust appeal for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Garden and provided just over \$250,000 to help mitigate the effects of flooding and provide a long-term conservation plan to save this World Heritage site for future generations. Our appeal for Dyrham Park began, with a goal of raising money to restore the Gilt Leather Parlor, an important room in the house with ties to the American Colonies in the days before independence. To support these efforts, we hosted two online fundraisers in conjunction with National Trust staff, a new format of collaboration for the Trust and Royal Oak.

Royal Oak continued to offer digital programs. This allowed us to reach audiences regardless of where they live, many of whom became new members. We introduced digital "walking" tours transforming Royal Oak members into armchair travelers visually exploring Britain. We plan to host some in-person events starting this fall. We are optimistic that travel will soon return to pre-pandemic levels. This autumn, we are hosting our annual Study Day in Britain with architectural historian John Martin Robinson. Royal Oak Heritage Circle members will visit Scotney Castle followed by a private lunch at Penshurst Place and tour of the gardens with the Head Gardner.

Our financial position remains strong. We want to thank our members for their continued support of the National Trust and The Royal Oak Foundation, and look forward to the time when we can travel and meet in person.

Respectfully,

Lynne Rickabaugh  
Chairman

Ian Murray  
Executive Director



# MEMBERSHIP

**Royal Oak's mission is to “raise awareness of and advance the work of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by inspiring support from the United States for the Trust's efforts to preserve and protect historic places and spaces—forever, for everyone.”**

Essential to the success of that mission is the enduring participation of you, our members. The COVID pandemic tested that participation, especially as international travel came to a halt and the National Trust was forced to close its properties in early 2020. Revenue from new memberships dropped by 59% compared to the previous fiscal year; but revenue from renewals held steady – a testament to your loyalty as longtime members!

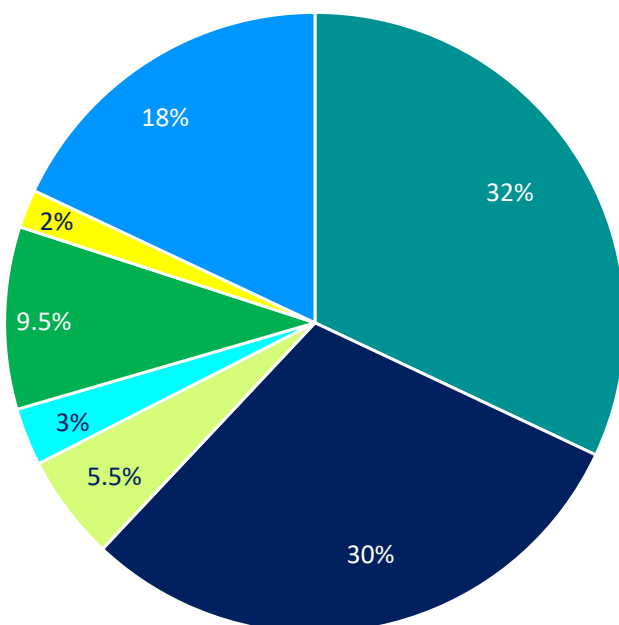
Since travel to the UK was not possible, we endeavored to bring British culture to you in the

comfort of your own homes. The pandemic prevented us from presenting our lectures in-person as we had been doing for decades; so we began offering our programs virtually via Zoom. This allowed us to reach our members and friends across the country and the globe.

We also instituted a weekly eNewsletter that featured stories from the National Trust and from around Britain to help you stay connected to the places and culture we all love and celebrate.

The future is still uncertain, but there is one thing we know for sure: you are a vital part of the Royal Oak community and we could not have weathered this storm without you. Thank you so much!

## MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY AT JUNE 2021



- Individual 32%
- Dual 30%
- Family 5.5%
- Student/Young Professional 3%
- Supporting 9.5%
- Heritage Circle 2%
- Life 18%





# HERITAGE CIRCLE

## A VITAL SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST AND ROYAL OAK



Heritage Circle members visit Villa di Maser during Royal Oak's trip to the Veneto in 2019.

The Heritage Circle was created for individuals who wish to show their leadership and support of Royal Oak on an annual basis. Heritage Circle members enjoy special behind-the-scenes access to heritage sites, private meals and curated tours.

One popular tour benefit offers members two complimentary spaces on the annual U.K. Study Day in the fall, which features a dinner in London for our Guardian and Patron level members. Another attractive benefit is eligibility to participate in our spring Houses and Gardens Tour.

Heritage Circle tours were postponed this year due to COVID. But that did not deter members from upgrading to – or new friends joining – our premium

membership category. Despite suppressed travel to the UK, Heritage Circle revenue increased 19% over the last fiscal year. We are very grateful for the philanthropic leadership you continue to demonstrate.

**Income from Heritage Circle Membership dues since inception in 2006: \$1,704,933**



# HERITAGE CIRCLE MEMBERS

## PATRONS

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Ms. Constance M. Cincotta  
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark V. Rickabaugh  
Mr. John G. Turner and Mr. Jerry G. Fischer

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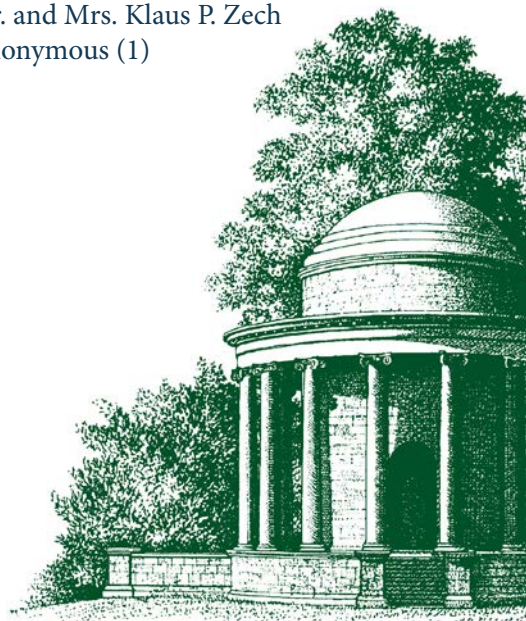
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Ms. Tracey A. Dedrick and Mr. Alastair Merrick  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Krehbiel  
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Ms. Laura Trevelyan and Mr. James Goldston  
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Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilkerson  
Ms. Lois S. Wolf  
Mr. and Mrs. Klaus P. Zech  
Anonymous (1)







# LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

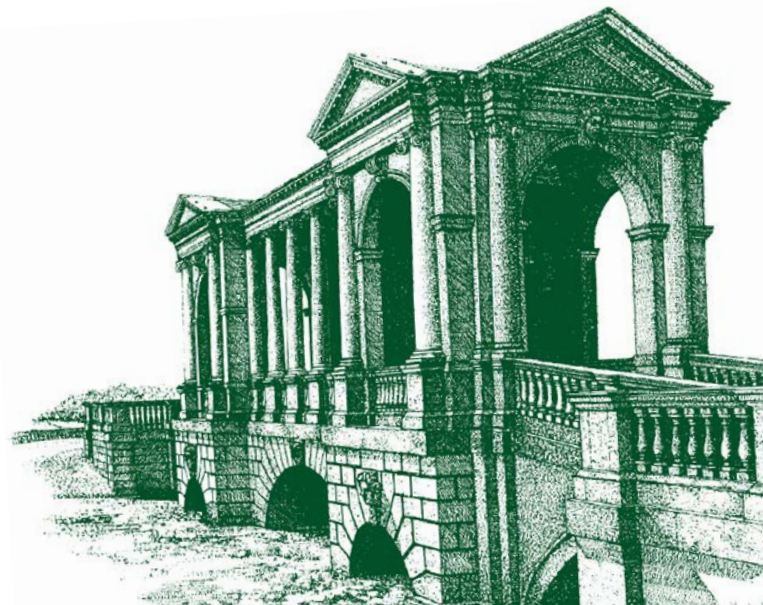
The Legacy Circle recognizes those who wish to create a legacy by remembering Royal Oak and the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland in their estate plans.

Benefits of membership to The Royal Oak Legacy Circle include invitations to annual special events in association with our lectures around the U.S. and recognition in our print and digital publications. Legacy Circle members also have access to special Legacy Supporter events organized by the National Trust in the U.K.



Stein Berre and Britton Smith  
Estate of Elizabeth Bierer  
Robert Cefaratti  
Sandra L. Church  
Paul Crosby  
Susan Davis  
Tracey A. Dedrick and Alastair Merrick  
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Ruth Herd  
Ian and Madeline Hooper  
Leslie Kieron  
Gail D. Meltzer

Mr. and Mrs. I. Wistar Morris, III  
Ilene Murray  
Dr. and Mrs. Curtis N. Nelson  
Jane Nicol Trust  
Linda and Peter Pedro  
Lynne Pickens  
Dr. Marion E. Reid  
Estate of Fred Rosenstiel  
Margaret Sailer  
Dr. Sean Sawyer and Mr. Michael V. Susi  
Katherine Singley  
James Stefan  
John and Phillis Warden  
George K. Weaver  
Ellen Whiting  
George F. Wilson  
Mr. Stan Wilson  
Lucia Woods Lindley  
Anonymous (4)





# NATIONAL TRUST APPEAL

## FOUNTAINS ABBEY & STUDLEY ROYAL WATER GARDEN



**Our 2020 appeal for Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Garden concluded in December 2020. We exceed our goal of \$250,000 to assist the National Trust in mitigating the devastating effects of flooding from the River Skell.**

Situated on the banks of the River Skell, the Abbey and Water Garden are inextricably linked to the river. Due to changes in land use and climate change, the once 100-year flood now occurs on a regular basis causing irreparable damage to the site.

Working with local landowners outside of the National Trust site, the Trust aims to reintroduce natural catch basins and planted areas to absorb rainwater that would otherwise cause the river to flood. This will also reduce sediment runoff that clogs the waterways and beautiful reflecting ponds.

Some areas of the garden are owned by private landowners with whom the Trust will work to protect heritage and open them to visitors.

Surviving elements of the original garden will be recorded and conserved, such as the remains of

the cottage in Spa Gill Wood that was used by 19th century visitors when taking in the spa waters, as well as historic carriage drives, bridges and planting designs set out by William Aislabie in the 18th century.







# ROYAL OAK CONSERVATION STUDIO

## A MAJOR GIFT TO THE NATIONAL TRUST



### The Royal Oak provides \$4 Million in funding to the Decorative Arts Conservation Studio at Knole

Royal Oak announced a major gift to the National Trust of \$4 Million in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Trust's founding. The gift will fund the Decorative Arts Conservation Studio at Knole for a period of five years. With these funds, the Trust will be able to conserve hundreds of important objects from many different Trust houses.

A gift of this scale represents a new era in our decades-long partnership and marks this important anniversary year for the National Trust. In recognition of this transformative gift for collections conservation, the Trust has renamed the Studio, The Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio, for a period of 10 years.

As Europe's biggest conservation charity, the National Trust is home to one of the world's largest collections of art and material culture. With more than one

million objects at over 200 historic places, looking after the unique needs of such a deep and varied collection is one of the Trust's greatest challenges. These collections and interiors reflect an enormous range of materials and types of object – everything from paintings by the Old Masters to early Chinese teacups. Many of the works of art, furniture and other objects in the collections were commissioned, acquired and accumulated by past owners and their families over many centuries, as then-contemporary furnishings and dazzling displays.

With this support from Royal Oak, the Trust will be able to undertake much needed conservation work and technical research on key objects from around the organization. The Trust will prioritize objects which are classed as highly significant across a wide range of mediums including paintings, decorative arts, furniture and more.



## OTHER 2020 GRANTS

### 2020 GRANT SUMMARY



#### **LAKE DISTRICT**

Thompson Fund \$77,300



#### **NATIONAL TRUST GENERAL SUPPORT**

Donor Designated Grants \$10,000



#### **GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Donor Designated Grants \$21,700



#### **BATH PRIOR PARK**

Donor Designated Grants \$40,000



#### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

Donor Designated Grants \$10,000



#### **INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL TRUST ORGANIZATION**

AMEX Foundation Grants \$25,000





# HISTORICAL GRANTS TO NATIONAL TRUST

## HOUSES & CASTLES




- 1** 575 Wandsworth Road
- A1** A la Ronde
- A2** Ashridge Estate
- A3** Avebury
- B1** Barrington Court
- B2** Belton House
- B3** Biddulph Grange
- B4** Blickling Estate
- B5** Buckland Abbey
- C1** Calke Abbey
- C2** Canons Ashby
- C3** Castle Coole
- C4** Castle Drogo
- C5** Castle Ward
- C6** Chartwell
- C7** Chedworth Roman Villa
- C8** Cherryburn
- C9** Chirk Castle
- C10** Clandon
- C11** Clouds Hill
- C12** Cragston
- C13** Crom Estate
- C14** Croome Court
- D1** Damley Mausoleum
- 2** Dorset Gardens
- D3** Dudmaston
- D4** Dyrham Park
- F1** Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
- G1** Giant's Causeway
- G2** Godolphin
- G3** Great Chalfield Manor
- G4** Greenway
- H1** Hadrian's Wall
- H2** Ham House & Garden
- H3** Hardwick Hall
- H4** Hatchlands Park
- H5** Hidcote Manor Garden
- H6** Hill Top
- I1** Ickworth
- I2** Ightham Mote
- K1** Kedleston Hall
- K2** Kingston Lacy
- K3** Knightshayes Court
- K4** Knole
- L1** Lamb House
- L2** Lanhydrock
- L3** Llyndy Isaf Farm
- L4** Lyme Park
- M1** Monk's House
- M2** Mottisfont Abbey
- M3** Mount Stewart
- N1** Nostell Priory Stables
- N2** Nuffield Court
- N3** Nymans Garden
- O1** Oakhurst Cottage
- P1** Penrhyn Castle
- P2** Plas Newydd
- P3** Powis Castle
- Q1** Quarry Bank Mill
- S1** Sandham Memorial Chapel
- S2** Seaton Delaval Hall
- S3** Sheffield Park Garden
- S4** Shugborough Estate
- S5** Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- S6** Standen
- S7** Stourhead
- S8** Stowe Landscape Gardens
- S9** Studland Beach & Nature Reserve

- T1** Tatton Park
- T2** Textile Conservation Studio
- T3** Ty Mawr Wybrnant
- T4** Tyntesfield
- W1** Waddesdon Manor
- W2** Wallington
- W3** Washington Old Hall
- W4** West Wycombe
- W5** Westbury Court Garden
- W6** Wimpole Estate
- W7** Wimpole Home Farm

## COUNTRYSIDE

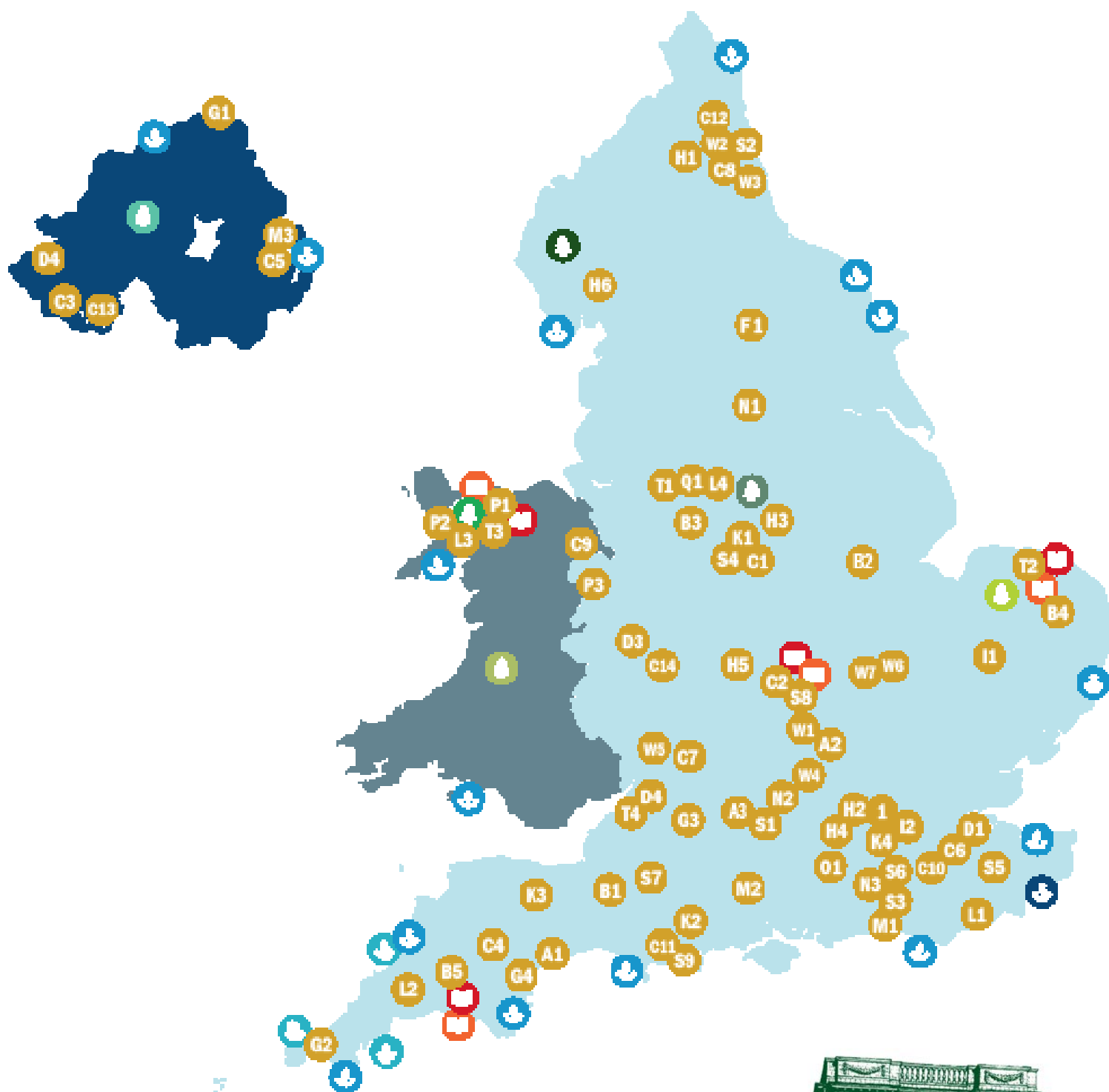
-  Lake District
-  Peak District
-  Wales
-  North Ireland
-  Snowdonia National Park
-  Norfolk Region

## COASTLINE

-  Neptune Coastline Campaign
-  White Cliffs of Dover
-  Cornwall Coastal Walk

## EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

-  Country House Libraries
-  Minerva Campaign







# PROGRAMS & LECTURES

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS JULY 2020-JUNE 2021



Belvoir Castle featured in lecture by The Duchess of Rutland.

From July 2020-June 2021, The Royal Oak Foundation continued its new program strategy presenting virtual events that combine live online lectures, as well a time-limited repay or “rental” of the recorded live lecture.

With COVID-19 curtailing travel plans—especially to the UK—the Programs department offered these online events as a U.S. member benefit, and to encourage Royal Oak membership and support for the National Trust from both non-members and interested Anglophiles. Digital events revitalized public involvement, and increased interest in the foundation from previously inaccessible audiences.

Our lectures and tours explored the latest scholarship on British history, art and design, and historic houses. Some highlights include a lecture on “The Wives Who Survived Henry VIII”; The Duchess of Rutland’s talk about her home, Belvoir Castle and Gardens; a thrilling account of the Great Fire of London in 1666; best-

selling author Ben Macintyre’s true story of a soviet spy living in the English countryside; a tour of the newly redesigned British Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and a look at the extraordinary Victorian paintings at the national museum in Puerto Rico among others.



Frederic, Lord Leighton, *Flaming June*, 1895. Courtesy of Museo de Arte de Ponce, PR; Frederic, Lord Leighton, *Study of Oleander*, circa 1856, Courtesy of Leighton House Museum, London.



Lady Mountbatten's wedding day 1946. Courtesy of Sotheby's Auction House from Countess Mountbatten presentation.

From July-December 2020, Royal Oak held 26 events with 8,381 digital attendees. Nineteen of these were digital lectures with 7,662 attendees. The other seven programs, with 719 attendees, featured digital “walking” tours of NYC and Hudson NY, as well as online tours of museum exhibitions and galleries.

We introduced digital “walking” tours transforming Royal Oak members into armchair travelers visually exploring London, including a sold-out program that examined London's private Gentleman's clubs.

To thank Royal Oak members for their loyalty and support, we presented a free, members-only Zoom performance of English music by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as a free-to-members only talk with noted British artist Ed Kluz. Royal Oak also arranged a special event for members with Giles English, co-founder of Bremont Watch Company, a British bespoke watch and chronometer business in operation in Henley-on-Thames, England.

Our 2021 Spring lecture season featured a collaboration with Sotheby's Auction House for a free digital lecture about the estate of the late Countess

of Mountbatten. This event surpassed all previous attendance to a Royal Oak lecture with 1,200 online attendees—a third of whom were non-members and new to the Foundation.

From January-June 2021, Royal Oak presented 26 online events—18 digital lectures and 8 digital tours of NYC, Chicago, London—watched by 8,304 attendees from 48 U.S. states and four countries. More digital walking tours showed the beauty of the Lincolnshire area, and its towns and churches, while another walk explored the Bankside area of London during the time of Shakespeare.

Royal Oak's Heritage Circle Members enjoy special benefits in the US including complimentary access to all 2020-2021 digital lectures and their recordings. Additionally, they received invitations to exclusive online after-lecture events for lively and jovial discussions with fellow members and our noted speakers. Public feedback about our digital programming continues to be overwhelmingly positive and the Foundation is determined to keep scheduling digital events into the future.

In Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, we plan to offer a large number of digital lectures, even as we return to in-person programming and events across the U.S.





# ANNUAL DONORS

The Royal Oak gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their contributions from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 in support of all aspects of the Foundation's mission.

## \$100,000+

Estate of George Wilson  
Estate of Ruth Herd

## \$50,000+

Constance M. Cincotta  
Anne and Dan Ervin  
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Lynne and Mark Rickabaugh  
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## \$25,000+

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## \$10,000+

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Greenfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen K. Tyler  
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Anonymous

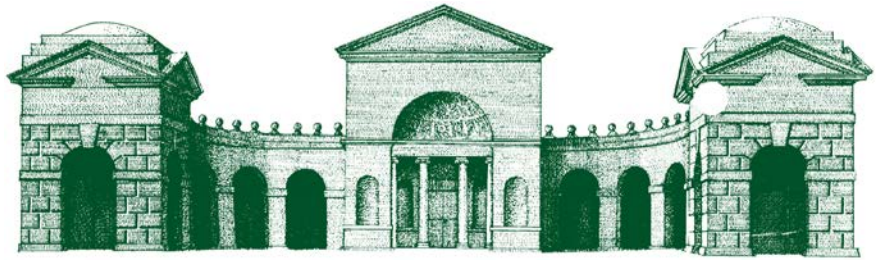
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C. Richard & Olive J. Brose Hie Hill  
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The Honorable Victor H. Ashe and  
Mrs. Ashe  
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Richard L. Blanton and Candace H.  
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Dr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Carrizosa  
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Morrissey  
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Mrs. Mary T. Svendson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thornton  
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George Triantaris and Steve Nigzus  
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Underwood  
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Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Weiss  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilkison  
Ms. Glenda Winson and Mr. Kenneth  
Chase  
Lois Wolf  
Mr. and Mrs. Klaus P. Zech  
Anonymous (4)

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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barclay  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Becton  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Bills  
Michael Bishop and Pauline Holmes  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Blair  
David and Daphne Bogosian  
Ms. Marsha E. Barnes and Mr. Robert  
A. Bradtke  
Pauline H. Brooks  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Brott  
Dr. Marley R. Brown and Dr. Kathleen  
J. Bragdon-Brown  
Dr. Marjorie L. Bush  
Mr. Allen Bush  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Campbell  
Edward L. Cave  
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## STAFF NEWS

### **DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES, WINIFRED E. CYRUS, RETIRES**

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of our longtime employee Winifred E. Cyrus, Director of Member Services, effective July 31, 2020. Although we all wish her the best as she begins a new life chapter, we will, nonetheless, miss her terribly. I know many of you have a long association with Winnie from your equally long membership in the Royal Oak Foundation.

Winnie first came to Royal Oak in July 1986 and has had 34 continuous years with us. When she joined, the organization was working out of a cramped space on the third floor of a narrow brownstone on East 72nd Street. There were 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Royal Oak had just purchased its first computer (a mini-mainframe) and Winnie was instrumental in adapting its function to the needs of Royal Oak.

Since then there have been 4 office relocations and the Foundation has grown to a staff of 9 with thousands of members across all 50 states.

Winnie handled member services and was responsible for the daily operations of the New York office. She was an essential liaison to the National Trust. She coordinated Royal Oak's mailings and oversaw the shipping and arrival of all materials from the U.K., most especially National Trust handbooks and magazines. You may thank Winnie for ensuring that your member mailing arrived in your mailbox. To say she had close relationships on both sides of "the pond" would be an understatement.

The Foundation's institutional knowledge and the working history of both Royal Oak and the National Trust resides with Winnie, who is the longest



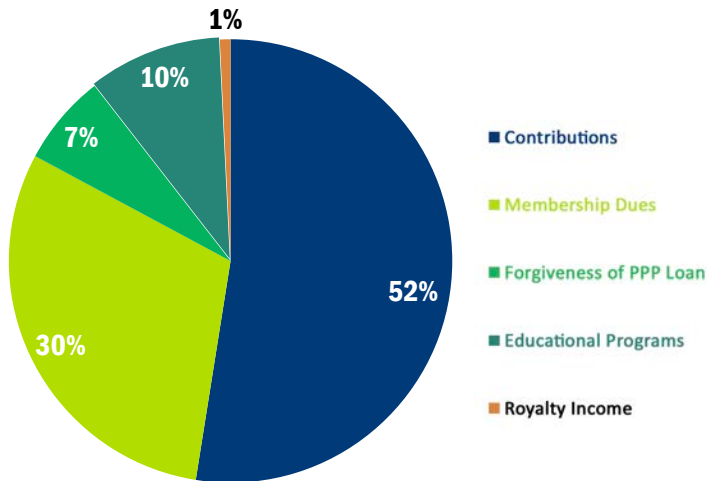
serving staff member. Moreover, her expert skills in extrapolating data – from a database that she first helped create – have served the advancement of Membership, Development and Programming over the past three decades. We will miss her advice and long memory of how Royal Oak has served its members and mission.

Though we must say farewell, it is not a goodbye as Winnie will always be a part of Royal Oak and the National Trust.

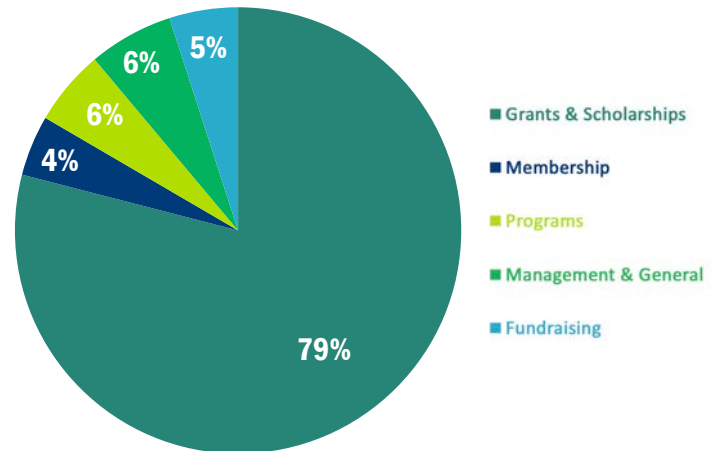


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

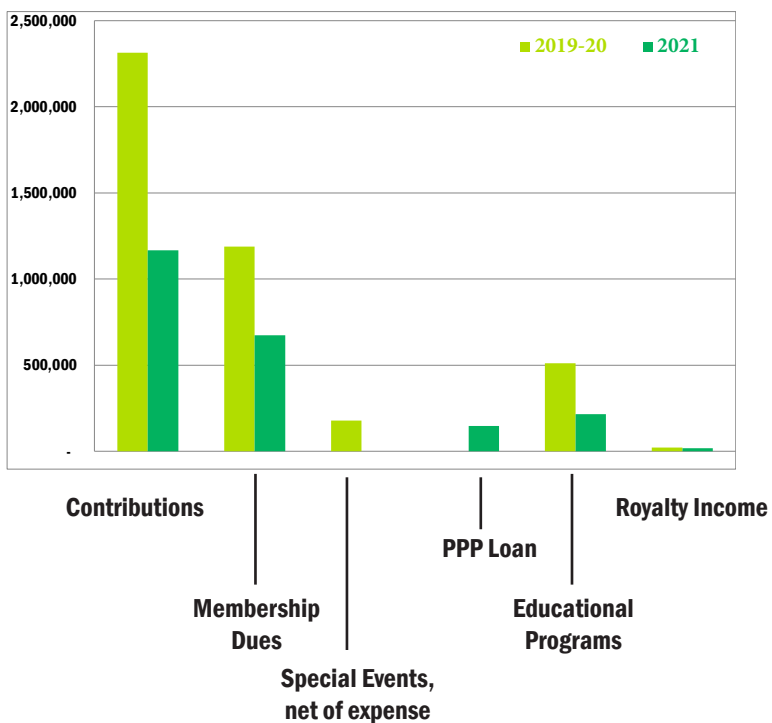
## SUPPORT & REVENUE



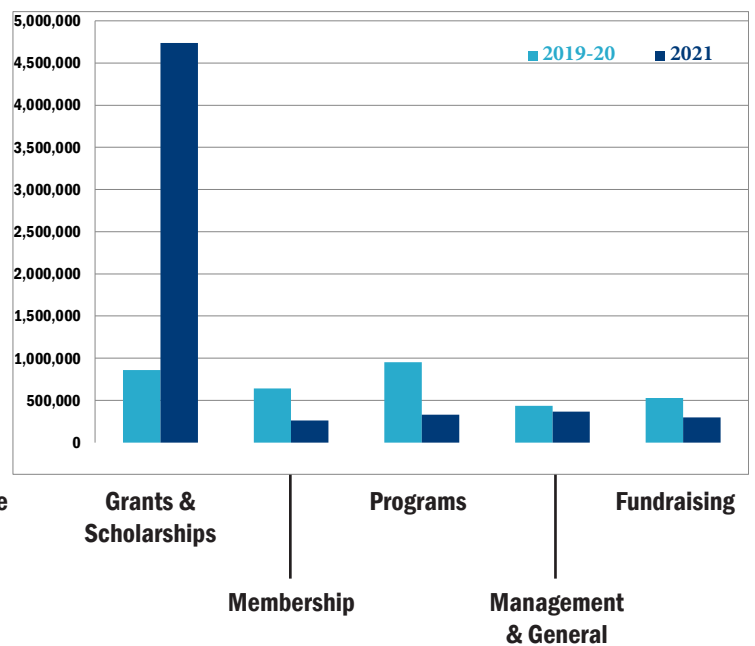
## EXPENSES



## INCOME 2019-2020 & 2021



## EXPENSES 2019-2020 & 2021







# STATEMENTS

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

ASSETS	2019-20*	2021
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 1b and 4)	236,985	291,026
Investments (Notes 1c, 1d, 5 and 9)	9,492,226	7,466,459
Accounts receivable (Note 1e)	28,890	7,500
Unconditional promises to give (Notes 1f and 6a)		
Without donor restrictions	45,853	8,501
With donor restrictions	87,508	44,943
Interest in charitable remainder trusts (Notes 1c, 1g, 7 and 9)	210,305	282,735
Prepaid expenses and other assets	81,200	64,905
Cash surrender value of life insurance (Notes 8 and 9)	42,183	43,458
Security deposit	20,276	20,276
Property and equipment, at cost (net of accumulated depreciation) (Notes 1h and 10)	29,459	87,172
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,274,885</b>	<b>8,316,975</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2019-20*</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	65,278	106,387
Grants payable (Note 1i)	\$252,524	\$0
Deferred revenue (Note 1j)	47,670	319,932
Deferred rent (Note 1k)	35,803	36,701
Loan Payable (Note 11)	147,375	121,055
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$548,650</b>	<b>\$584,075</b>
Commitments (Notes 13, 14 and 15)		
<b>Net Assets (Note 3)</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Operating	1,675,154	1,984,842
Board designated	6,570,621	4,013,513
<b>Total Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>8,245,775</b>	<b>5,998,355</b>
<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>		
Subject to time and purpose restriction	1,371,602	1,625,687
Perpetual in Nature	108,858	108,858
<b>Total With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>1,480,460</b>	<b>1,734,545</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,726,235</b>	<b>\$7,732,900</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,274,885</b>	<b>\$8,316,975</b>

# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE, GAINS & SUPPORT	2019-2020*	2021
Contributions	2,573,415	5,285,180
Membership dues	1,188,792	673,678
Fundraising benefit	209,526	0
Less: direct expenses	(31,640)	0
Forgiveness of loan payable-Paycheck Protection Program (Note11)		147,375
Educational programs	511,864	216,280
Royalty income	22,298	17,250
Net investment income	130	15
Increase in cash surrender value or life insurance	2,365	1,275
Other income	4,939	1,021

<b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$4,481,689</b>	<b>\$6,342,074</b>
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EXPENSES	2019-2020*	2021
<b>Program services</b>		
Grants and scholarships	\$858,759	\$4,736,265
Membership	642,067	262,913
Programs	951,053	328,500
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$2,451,879</b>	<b>\$5,327,678</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>		
Management and general	435,683	367,520
Fundraising	526,045	298,256
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$961,728</b>	<b>\$665,776</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,413,607</b>	<b>\$5,993,454</b>
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OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES	2019-2020*	2021
Value of interest in charitable remainder trusts	11,841	72,430
Contributions - non-operating	120,165	193,652
Appropriation to operations and grants	(264,036)	(4,120,165)
Net investment income	1,194,112	1,770,618

<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE &amp; EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,062,082</b>	<b>(2,083,465)</b>
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Increase in net assets	2,130,164	(1,734,845)
Net Assets, beginning of year	7,596,071	9,467,745

<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$9,726,235</b>	<b>\$7,732,900</b>
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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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### Kayla Smith

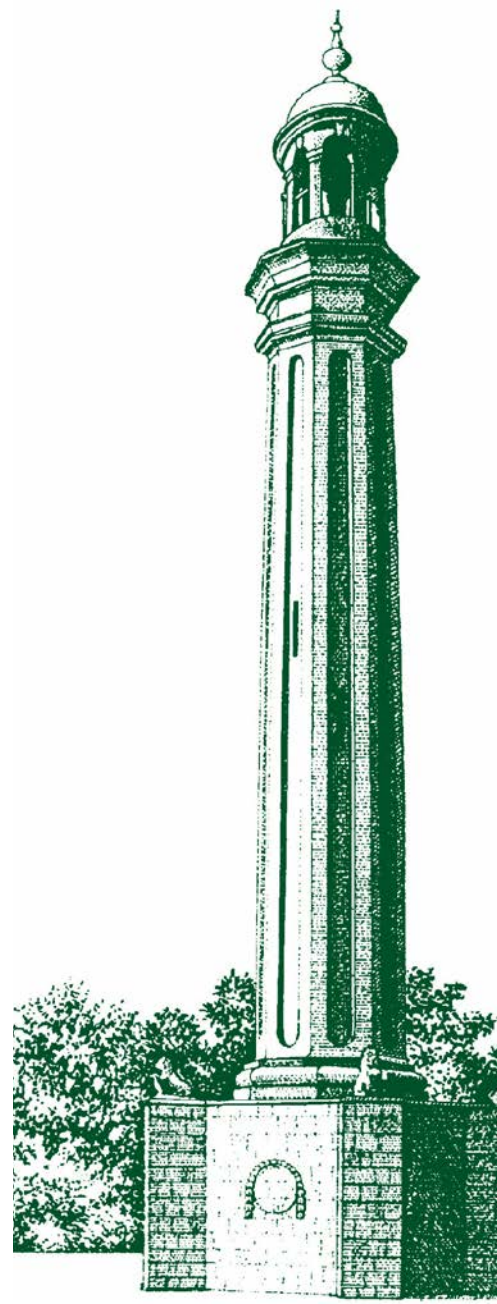
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