



ROYAL OAK
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22





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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, 2022.

We are delighted to report that at the close of calendar year 2021, we concluded our fundraising for Dyrham Park in Britain's West Country. The National Trust is engaged in a multi-year restoration of the baroque mansion, once home to the important 17th-century colonial administrator, William Blathwayt. Royal Oak friends and members donated \$340,000 to fund the restoration of the Gilt Leather Parlor, a room devoted to showcasing the books and maps which Blathwayt used as essential tools for his overview of international trade.

In January 2022, we embarked on our fundraising campaign for Sheffield Park & Gardens. This beautifully designed landscape is known for its vibrant colors and diversity of plant species. A previous owner, Arthur Soames, was an experimental horticulturist who introduced many rare plants. Much of his experimentation has been lost and the Trust now aims to revitalize the garden for the 21st century. With your help, Royal Oak will be a major contributor to the restoration of this historic landscape.

These months have also seen the first fruits of Royal Oak's \$4M donation to the National Trust's principal conservation studio, renamed in honor of the donation to the Royal Oak Conservation Studio. The gift has already contributed towards the conservation of over 250 pieces in support of 25 properties, including Ham House, Chartwell, Blickling, Anglesey Abbey and Hill Top. A highlight of the recent work is John Constable's large-scale painting, *Embarkation of George IV from Whitehall: The Opening of Waterloo Bridge, 1817*. We hope you will make a point to see the painting next time you visit Anglesey Abbey.

Beyond these initiatives, Royal Oak's digital programs allowed us to reach audiences across the United States, many of whom we welcomed as new members. We also resumed in-person events in both New York City and Philadelphia and are hopeful we will add more locations this coming fall.

Your membership and donations enabled the Royal Oak Foundation to continue its important work in support of the National Trust. We end our fiscal year 2022 in a strong financial position and look forward to accelerated growth in the coming year. Through the course of these 12 months, we saw a slow but steady return to travel to the UK. Our first trip back to Britain was in September 2021 when Board Directors and Heritage Circle members attended our annual Study which consisted of private tours of Scotney Castle and Penshurst Place.

We want to thank our members for their continued support of the National Trust and The Royal Oak Foundation and look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

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.

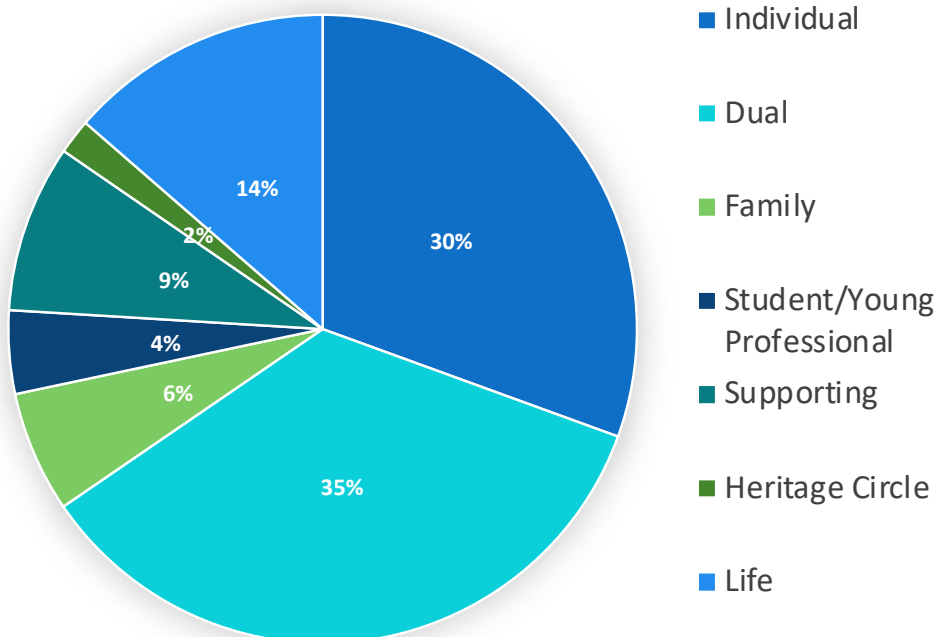
Essential to the success of that mission is the enduring participation of you, our members. The COVID pandemic tested that participation, especially as international travel came to a halt and the National Trust was forced to close its properties through 2021. However, the gradual re-opening of sites in the first six months of 2022 sparked a resurgence in revenue from new memberships—generating a 122% increase compared to the downturn of the previous fiscal year. Renewals sustained a small 5% dip in revenue.

Since travel to the UK was still limited, we continued to bring British culture to you via our virtual lectures

in the comfort of your own homes. This allowed us to reach our members and friends across the country and the globe. When public health conditions improved, Royal Oak held in-person lectures in New York City and Philadelphia—which were also recorded for digital replays. We continued to garner positive responses to our eNewsletter which features stories from the National Trust and from around Britain to help you stay connected to the places and culture we all love and celebrate.

We are encouraged that travel is on the rise and that the National Trust is once again welcoming visitors, including the Royal Oak community. We hope you look forward to returning to Great Britain and all of the treasures of the National Trust. Thank you so much for your support.

MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY BY END OF JUNE 2022





HERITAGE CIRCLE

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



Heritage Circle members visit Wilton House during the annual Garden Tour in the spring of 2022.

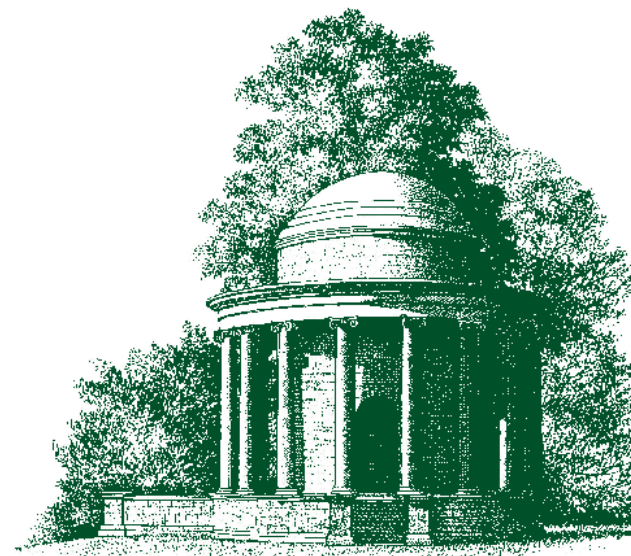
The Heritage Circle was created for individuals who wish to show their leadership and support of Royal Oak on an annual basis. Heritage Circle members enjoy special behind-the-scenes access to heritage sites, private meals and curated tours.

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 & Gardens Tour as well as the fall Art & Architecture tour. Heritage Circle members attended our annual Study Day in September with private visits to Scotney Castle and Penshurst Place.

On our annual Garden Tour we visited gardens and historic houses of Dorset.

Income from Heritage Circle Membership dues since inception in 2006: \$1,903,854. We are very grateful for the philanthropic leadership you continue to demonstrate.





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Anonymous (3)
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Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilkison
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Mr. and Mrs. Klaus P. Zech
Anonymous (3)



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.



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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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Ellen Whiting
Mr. Stan Wilson
Anonymous (5)





NATIONAL TRUST APPEAL

RESTORING DYRHAM PARK



Dyrham Park, near Bath, South Gloucestershire.

Our 2021 appeal for Dyrham Park concluded in December 2021. Royal Oak supporters contributed \$340,000 to assist the National Trust in its multi-year restoration of this important Baroque mansion.

Sitting deep within an ancient deer park, just six miles north of Bath, Dyrham Park is a magnificent Baroque mansion of Cotswold stone. A rare survivor from the 17th century, the house is home to a wonderful collection of paintings, furniture and tapestries collected and commissioned by William Blathwayt, an important colonial administrator of the period.

Highlights from the collection include precious Delftware, 300-year-old tapestries, leather wall hangings and Dutch masterpieces.

Since a major re-roofing project in 2016, the Trust has turned their attention to the interiors which are

in desperate need of revival to reveal and reinstate the most significant and substantial part of Dyrham's history.

Funds from Royal Oak will be used for the restoration of the drawing room. This room was re-imagined in the 1930s and will now be re-presented as it would have been decorated in Blathwayt's time as the Gilt Leather Parlor, showcasing the books and maps which Blathwayt used as essential tools for his overview of international trade. This room was originally decorated with gilt leather wall hangings.

Once complete, the reinstated historic rooms will immerse visitors in the magnificent and opulent house William Blathwayt created.



OTHER 2021 GRANTS

2021 GRANT SUMMARY



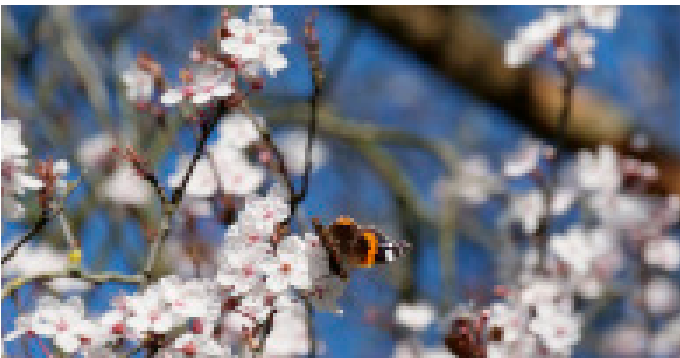
LAKE DISTRICT

Thompson Fund \$49,300



NATIONAL TRUST GENERAL SUPPORT

Donor Designated Grants \$35,000



GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Donor Designated Grants \$30,715



INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL TRUST ORGANIZATION

AMEX Foundation Grants \$50,000



NORTHUMBERLAND

Donor Designated Grants \$10,000

**Grants for calendar year ending 2021*



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** Cragside
- 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

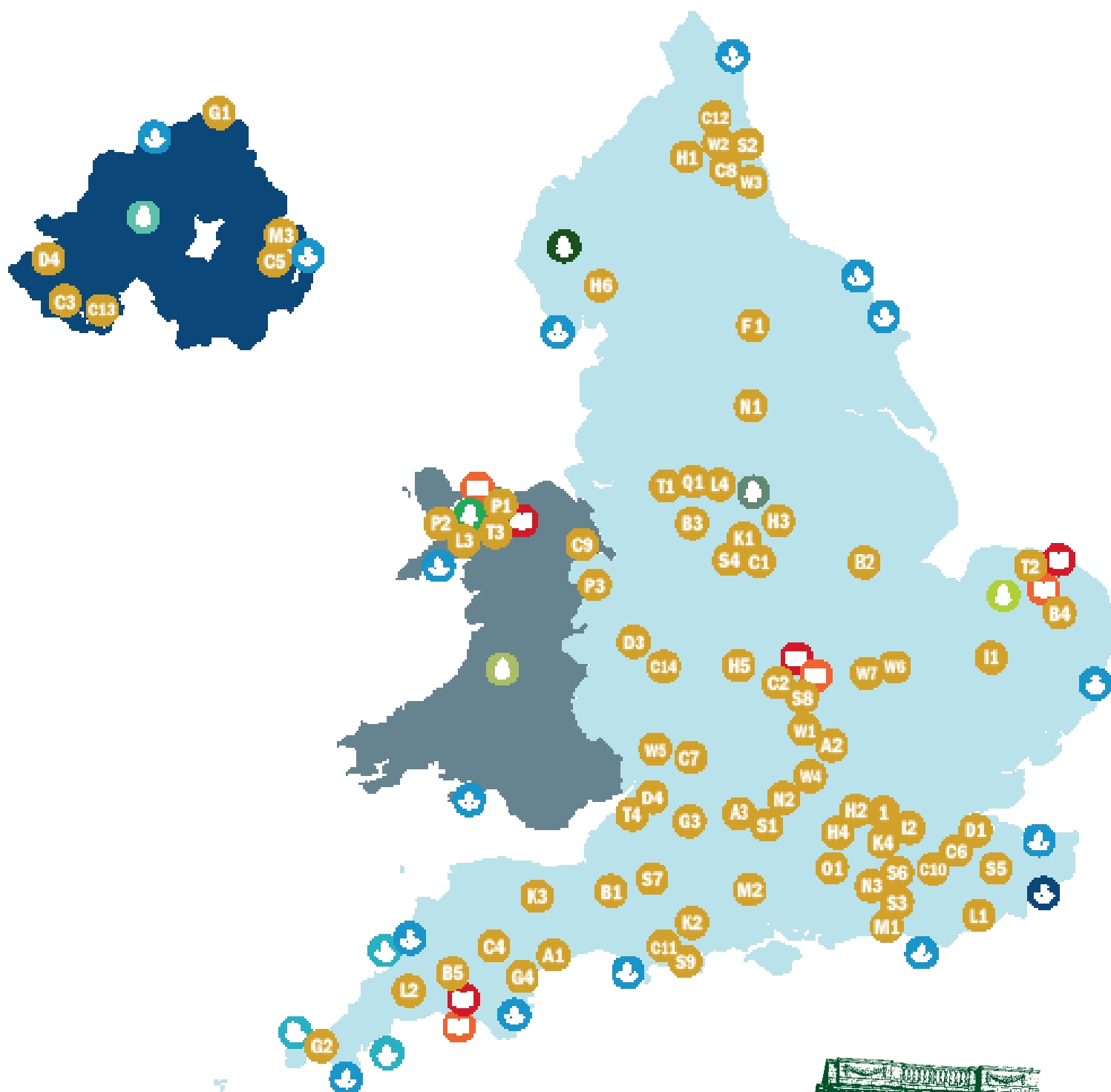
-  Lake District
-  Peak District
-  Wales
-  North Ireland
-  Snowdonia National Park
-  Norfolk Region

COASTLINE

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

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

-  Country House Libraries
-  Minerva Campaign





PROGRAMS & LECTURES

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS JULY 2021-JUNE 2022



Oxburgh Hall featured in a lecture by Adrian Tinniswood.

Royal Oak's humanities programs are a part of The Foundation's educational mission to deepen appreciation of Anglo-American heritage in the United States, while fostering an awareness of the British National Trust and raising funds for their important historic preservation initiatives. Since 1974, Royal Oak has offered a series of public lectures, which invites respected historians, noted scholars, best-selling authors, and lecturers to speak to audiences across the United States. These talks cover the history of art, architecture and design; British historical events and social history; English literature and language; and landscape and garden design.

From July 2021-June 2022, The Royal Oak Foundation hosted 46 events reaching approximately 6,816 attendees. We hosted 23 online-only lectures combining live events with a time-limited replay or "rental" of the recorded lecture. We also held 20 online-only tours with available "rental" replays. These

online events continue to revitalize public involvement as well as increase interest in the Foundation from previously inaccessible audiences.

Some highlights of Royal Oak's online-only lectures include historian Jeremy Musson's talk about servants



Interior of Owlpen featured in a lecture by Jeremy Musson.

at NT properties in *Up and Downstairs: The English Country House Servant*. Noted author Adrian Tinniswood, OBE discussed the rise and fall of the English country house after WWII from his book *Noble Ambition* and historian Ian Cox gave a fascinating talk about the development of gin in Britain. National Trust properties were highlighted in historian Oliver Gerrish's talk, *Splendid & Divine: The Derbyshire Country House*, and Jeremy Musson's *Story in Stone: Country Houses of the Cotswolds*. Robert O'Byrne gave a new look at *Great Irish Houses of the Guinness Family* and garden historian John Phibbs described *The Unlikely Genius of Humphrey Repton*.

When public health conditions improved, Royal Oak held in-person lectures in New York City and Philadelphia—which were recorded for digital replays. In December 2021, ROF returned to in-person programming featuring art historian Angus Haldane speaking in NYC about *The Artistic Feast*. Our Spring 2022 calendar included an in-person lecture by Jane Churchill, a descendant of Nancy Lancaster, and Emily Astor, granddaughter of MP Nancy Astor. They illustrated historic interiors, menus, and family letters in *Entertaining in Style: Nancy Astor and Nancy Lancaster*. Also, writer Patrick Monahan spoke to Royal Oak audiences in Philadelphia, PA about Henry James' *Lamb House* (an NT property).

To thank Royal Oak members for their loyalty and support, we presented a free-to- members' digital lecture by Dr. Tarnya Cooper, Curatorial and Collections Director at the NT, who shared stories behind the *Secrets and Treasures of the National Trust*. We also developed a free-to- members-only digital walking tour of *Ladies Mile*—the retail center during New York's *Gilded Age*.

Other digital tours included an online tour of the “Unsinkable” *Molly Brown House* in Denver CO. Exhibition curators gave a digital tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition *Inspiring Walt Disney* and London tour guides gave exclusive digital walking tours between London's *St. Paul's*

Cathedral to Westminster Abbey; through the London neighborhood of *Spitalfields*; to the *Isle of Wight*, and walks through the English *Hertfordshire* countryside. The Programs Department also created our first “virtual tasting event” with an online lecture about British chocolatier *Hotel Chocolat* followed by a live tasting of the delicious confections mailed to the event participants.



Detail from *Gin Lane* by Hogarth which featured in a lecture by Ian Cox.

Royal Oak's Heritage Circle Members enjoy special benefits in the US including complimentary access to all 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 keeping digital events 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, 2021 - June 30, 2022 in support of all aspects of the Foundation's mission.

\$100,000+

Estate of George Wilson
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\$50,000+

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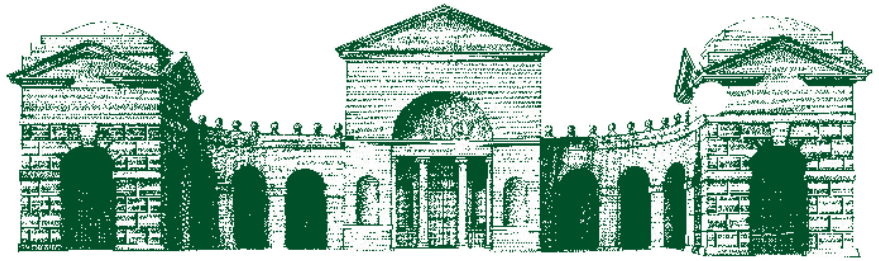
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Anonymous (7)

*Deceased.

We would also like to thank all the additional donors who helped support the Royal Oak Foundation's mission with gifts under \$500. Please know that we are grateful for contributions of any amount. Thank you for your support that makes all our work possible.





STAFF AND VOLUNTEER NEWS

JESSIE WALKER, ROYAL OAK VOLUNTEER OF 30 YEARS DIES, AGED 97

In April 2022, we bid farewell to Jessie Walker, a remarkable woman who became part of our Royal Oak family 30 years ago and remained active as a volunteer in our office until we closed due to the pandemic.

A native of Ayrshire, Scotland, Jesse emigrated to the United States in 1957 and lived briefly in Westchester with relatives before finding a position in New York City with IBM. She held various roles at IBM branch offices throughout New York, eventually becoming special librarian. After she retired, Jessie began volunteering at Royal Oak.

She discovered the Foundation in 1992 through our Drue Heinz lecture series, and immediately connected with our mission and the people it attracts. By 1993, she was catering a few lectures, and within months she was coming into our office every day livening up the staff with her Scottish flair. Through her legendary catering for Royal Oak, Jesse became known in the office as The Countess of Canapés.

“When I cater a Royal Oak lecture, and I see so many people enjoying my canapés, see so many people discussing English culture, I feel at home,” Jessie Walker said. “I feel like I’m part of this community.”

She said volunteering kept her “out of mischief.” She went on to say, “But really, it’s the people. The people are great and there’s always something going on. It keeps me on my toes.”

Through her work at Royal Oak, Jessie made some of her dearest friends. She said once, “I spent Christmas this year with a couple I met through Royal Oak. We bonded over the years and have



become close friends. Royal Oak members are such interesting people.”

Outside of Royal Oak, Jessie was interested in the arts, especially music: opera, orchestra and ballet were her favorites. She was on the board of Opera Index, a volunteer organization that gives grants to young singers.

Jessie said of her time with Royal Oak, “I’m happy to know I played a part in the mission.”

We will always be grateful for Jessie’s generosity of spirit, devotion to Royal Oak, and enduring friendship. It was wonderful to know her all these years and we will surely miss her.



STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

ASSETS	2021	2022
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 1b and 4)	291,026	315,887
Investments (Notes 1c, 1d, 5 and 9)	7,466,459	6,604,351
Accounts receivable (Note 1e)	7,500	12,950
Unconditional promises to give (Notes 1f and 6a)		
Without donor restrictions	8,501	6,001
With donor restrictions	44,943	41,741
Interest in charitable remainder trusts (Notes 1c, 1g, 7 and 9)	282,735	229,474
Prepaid expenses and other assets	64,905	100,015
Cash surrender value of life insurance (Notes 8 and 9)	43,458	44,733
Security deposit	20,276	20,276
Property and equipment, at cost (net of accumulated depreciation) (Notes 1h and 10)	87,172	71,193
TOTAL ASSETS	8,316,975	\$7,446,621
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2021	2022
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	106,387	90,316
Grants payable (Note 1i)	\$0	\$4,237
Deferred revenue (Note 1j)	319,932	424,240
Deferred rent (Note 1k)	36,701	33,171
Loan Payable (Note 11)	121,055	0
Total Liabilities	\$584,075	\$551,964
Commitments (Notes 13, 14 and 15)		
Net Assets (Note 3)		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Operating	1,984,842	344,228
Board designated	4,013,513	4,982,897
Total Without Donor Restrictions	5,998,355	5,327,125
With Donor Restrictions		
Subject to time and purpose restriction	1,625,687	1,458,674
Perpetual in Nature	108,858	108,858
Total With Donor Restrictions	1,734,545	1,567,532
Total Net Assets	\$7,732,900	\$6,894,657
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$8,316,975	\$7,446,621

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE, GAINS & SUPPORT	2021	2022
Contributions	5,285,180	1,253,100
Membership dues	673,678	696,871
Fundraising benefit	0	0
Less: direct expenses	0	0
Forgiveness of loan payable-Paycheck Protection Program (Note 11)	147,375	121,055
Educational programs	216,280	260,021
Royalty income	17,250	11,557
Net investment income	15	29
Increase in cash surrender value or life insurance	1,275	1,275
Other income	1,021	7,108

TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS & SUPPORT	\$6,342,074	\$2,351,016
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EXPENSES	2021	2022
Program services		
Grants and scholarships	\$4,736,265	\$826,090
Membership	262,913	290,241
Programs	328,500	405,513
Total Program Services	\$5,327,678	\$1,521,844
Supporting Services		
Management and general	367,520	342,433
Fundraising	298,256	310,911
Total Supporting Services	\$665,776	\$653,344

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,993,454	\$2,175,188
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OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES	2021	2022
Value of interest in charitable remainder trusts	72,430	(53,261)
Contributions - non-operating	193,652	334,061
Appropriation to operations and grants	(4,120,165)	(193,652)
Net investment income	1,770,618	(1,101,219)

TOTAL OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES	(2,083,465)	(1,014,071)
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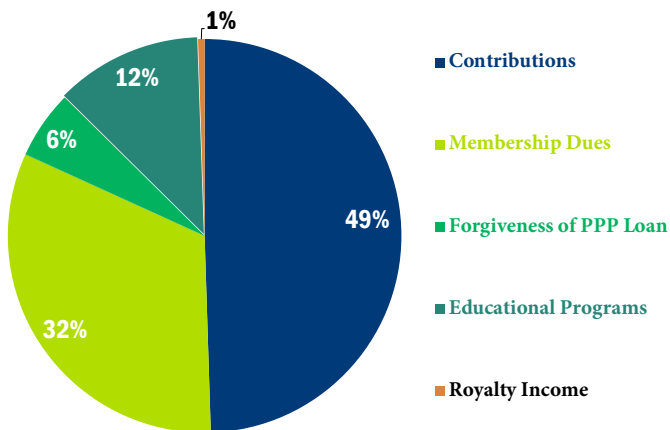
Increase in net assets	(1,734,845)	(838,243)
Net Assets, beginning of year	9,467,745	7,732,900

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$7,732,900	\$6,894,657
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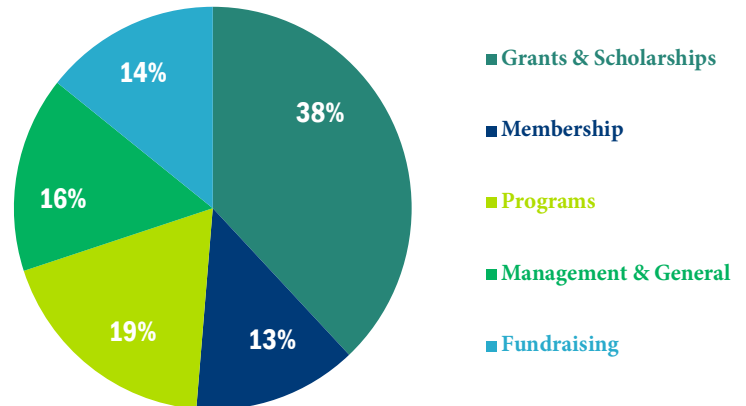


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

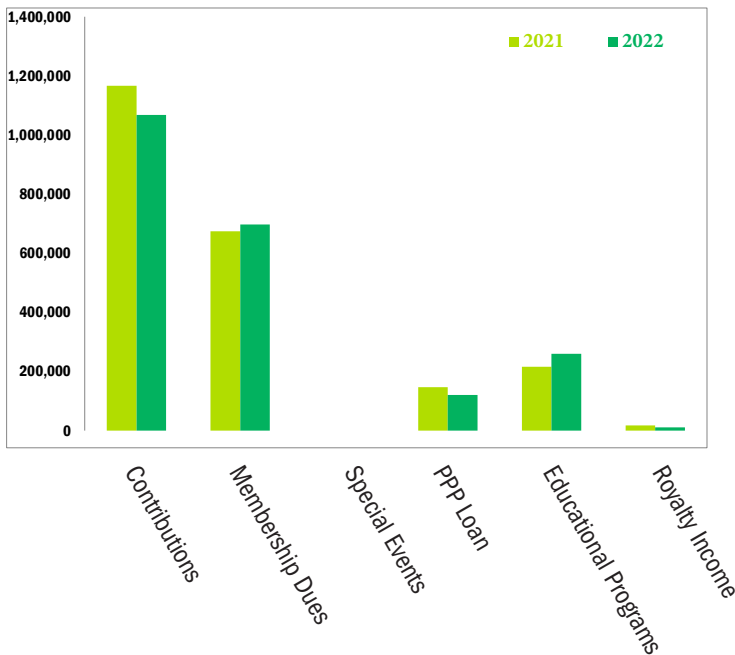
SUPPORT & REVENUE



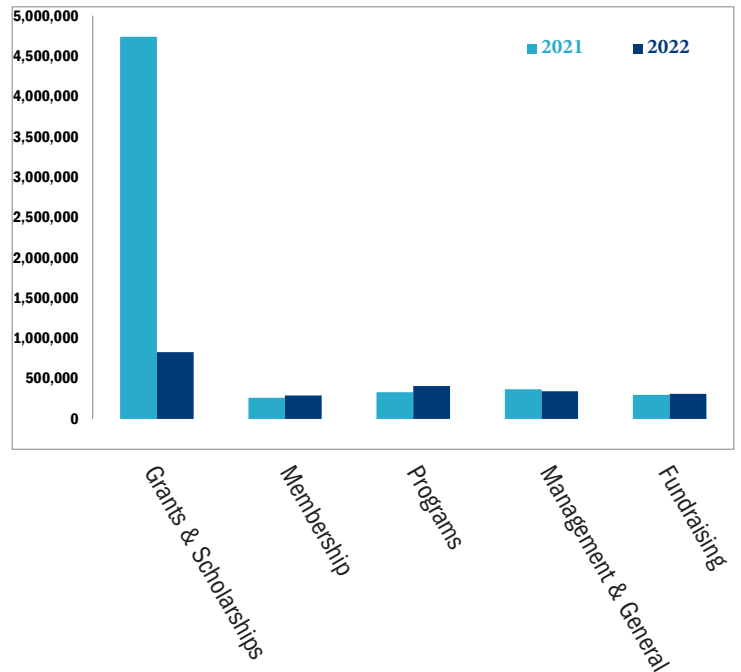
EXPENSES



INCOME 2021 & 2022



EXPENSES 2021 & 2022





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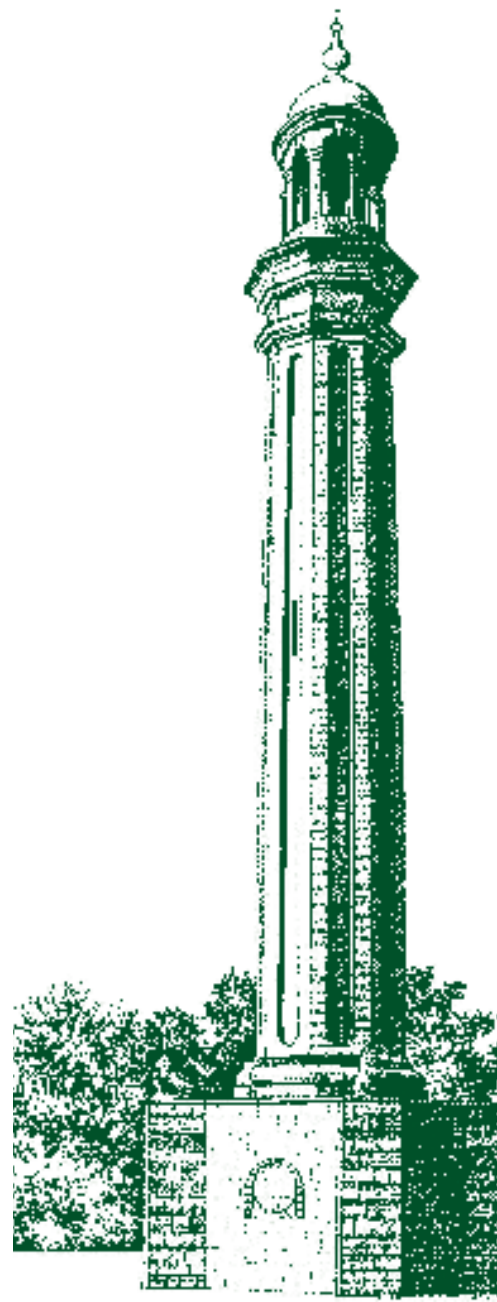
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