



MIDWEST
MINIATURES
MUSEUM



2021

Annual Report



MIDWEST MINIATURES MUSEUM

Dear Members and Friends,

This was a very exciting year for Midwest Miniatures Museum, and as we look back, we want to take a moment to thank all our supporters for their dedication and enthusiasm, especially during the past few transitional years as we moved to Grand Haven.

The greatest achievement of the year was the highly anticipated Grand Re-Opening of the Museum. It was the culmination of a lengthy search for a new location, the purchase of the Robbins House, a two-year-long retrofit of the house for public use, and the move from the Museum's original location in Hickory Corners. Along the way, difficulties arose due to the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and other challenges. With a great deal of support and effort, we successfully opened to the public on November 6th.

Other significant achievements over the past year include:

- ◇ · The revision and update of the Museum's Strategic Plan and Mission, Vision, and Values
- ◇ · Further development of the Museum's social media presence
- ◇ · An update and expansion of the membership program
- ◇ · And the acquisition of a new storage facility near the Museum

Priorities for 2022 include developing plans and funds for an elevator addition, digitizing the collection, finalizing the transfer of the Baker Museum Collection, growing our audience, and developing more community partnerships and programs. There are many challenges remaining, but with our dedicated supporters and a wonderful new facility, the Museum is looking forward to an exciting future.

The much-appreciated support from the community and the privilege of occupying and preserving the historic Nathaniel and Esther Robbins House have been inspiring. We welcome the opportunity to share the world of miniatures with visitors and residents of the Tri-Cities area for years to come.

Ina Whitney
Board Chair

Hanna Steinmann
Administrator



[Mission]

Midwest Miniatures Museum provides universal access for the curious to explore the world of small-scale creation. It celebrates the art and craft of miniatures through education and exhibiting and preserving its expanding collection.

[Vision]

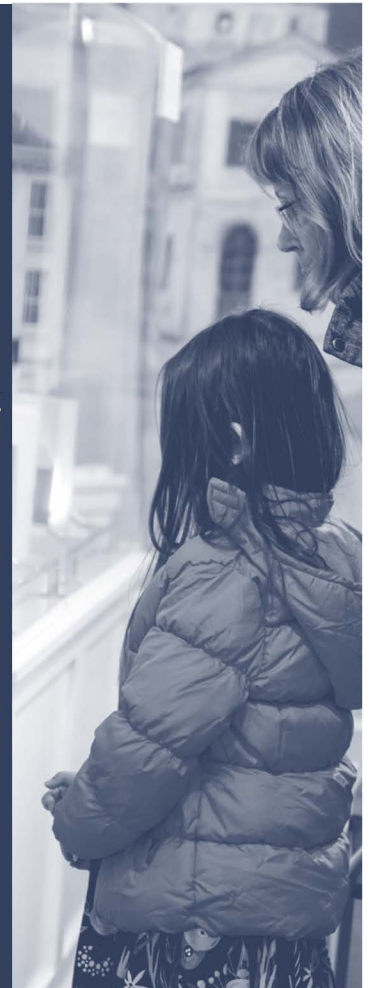
A world where all are inspired to create, celebrate, and learn about the art and craft of miniatures.

[Values]

Midwest Miniatures Museum values quality and excellence in its collection and in all that it does.

It is a good steward of human, physical, and financial resources.

It fosters inclusion and an environment that is welcoming to all.



History

The Museum was founded in 2009 by the late Francis Mary Light. Originally located in Hickory Corners, MI on the campus of the Gilmore Car Museum, it was envisioned as a showcase for the display of fine-scale miniature art. The growing collection featuring miniatures by many of the world's leading miniature artisans soon expanded beyond the capacity of the small white farmhouse. An additional on-site storage space was added to the lease, and the search for a new location became increasingly urgent.

Although the Hickory Corners site was always intended to be temporary, it took ten years before the search for a new home settled on the Robbins House in Grand Haven. The purchase was completed in 2019, and work began to adapt the private home into a public space and to move the entirety of the collection. The adaptation process included the removal of a large, modern kitchen on the first floor; the restoration of the original quarter-sawn oak floors, front porch, and exterior classical-ordered columns; and the installation of a fire suppression system, security, and an accessible ramp and bathroom. The entire project was accomplished through funds left to the Museum by Francis Light.



Nathaniel and Esther (Savidge) Robbins purchased the site in 1899 and spent \$25,000 to build their new home. The 8,500 square foot house is a classical revival style, boasting eight bedrooms, eight bathrooms, and a ballroom on the third floor. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Future Goals

- ⇒ **Design an Adaptive Reuse Plan** for Museum to allow for public access to entire building.
- ⇒ **Assure sustainability** by developing and implementing a funding plan based on multiple sources, partners and donors.
- ⇒ **Expand the Collection** by finalizing transfer of the Baker Museum Collection.
- ⇒ **Grow awareness** of MMM's presence in the Tri Cities area and beyond.
- ⇒ **Develop a programming and educational plan** to include digitization and online access to the Collection.
- ⇒ **Expand the leadership** role and capacity of the Board of Directors



Highlights



Volunteers helped with setting up exhibits, polishing the silver collection, and sharing water and information during Coast Guard Fest.



Unpacking



Display Case at Loutit District Library



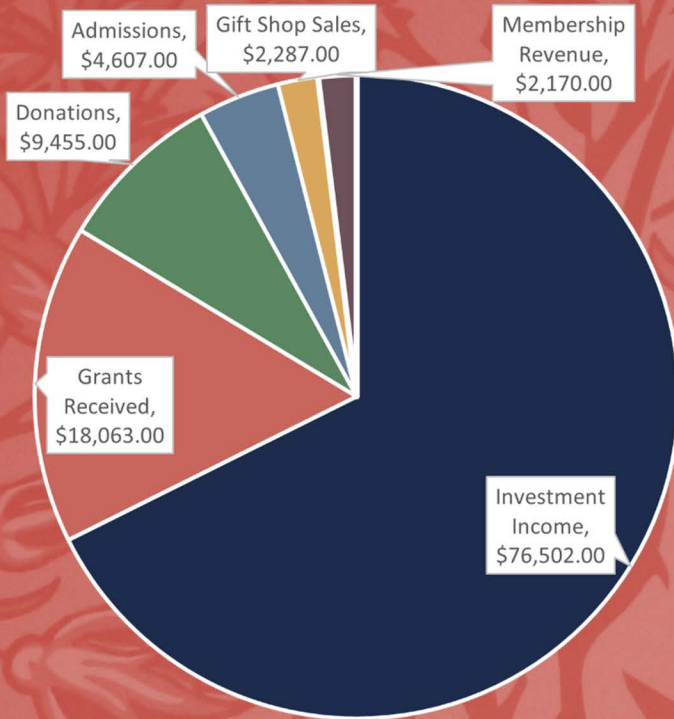
New Storage and Signage



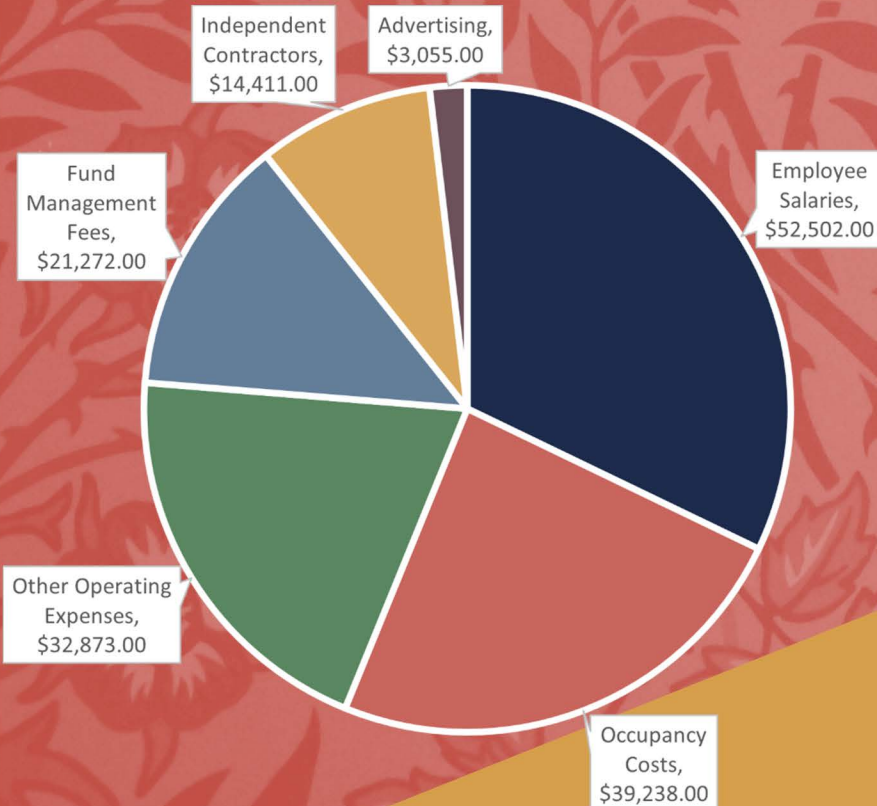
Opening Reception

Financials

Revenue



Expenditures



Relocation Expenses

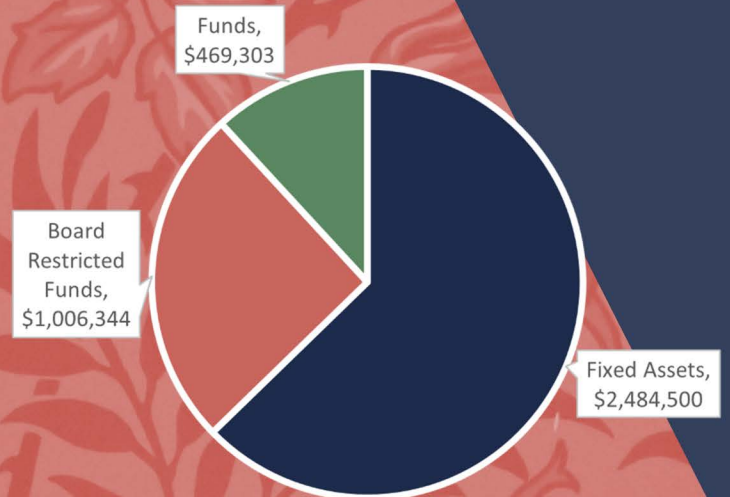
Purchase of Nathaniel Robbins House

\$625,000

Relocation and Adaptation of First Floor

\$300,000

Net Assets



Since Opening



4.9 Star Average Reviews on Google

“What a gem Grand Haven has gained. It is definitely a must see.”

-Becky

“Enjoy the scavenger hunt in the experience and you really see and appreciate all the details!”

-Courtney

Attendance



785 Adults



141 Youths



60 Children

Grants Received

Michigan Humanities Pandemic
Emergency Response Grants



Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Dorothea A Johnson Family Trust



Michigan Arts and Culture Council
FY21 Operational Support
FY22 Capital Improvement



Midwest Miniatures Museum is supported by the MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Board of Directors

Left to Right

Ina Whitney—Chair

Bette Jo Chudy—Director

Hollis Burke—Director

Allison Boyden—Secretary

Dennis Swartout—Vice Chair



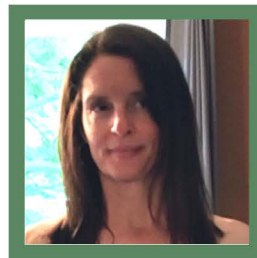
Part-Time Employees



Barbara Carlson



Sharon Tanis



Karen Egedy-Bader



Nick Steinmann

Full-Time Employees



Hanna Steinmann
Administrator

Staff