

2022
Words Wonder Wisdom



Annual Report



About the Festival

Established in 2016, the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book strives to present some of the best creative minds in the worlds of writing and illustration. Our signature three-day celebration is held annually the last full weekend in September in venues throughout downtown Harbor Springs. The Festival features a curated selection of nationally-published authors and illustrators across eight genres that are relevant, diverse, surprising and captivating for both attendees and presenters alike. The Festival also presents One Bay, One Book, a community reads program each winter recognizing a past presenter with a new work.

Authors & Books for Schools

The board and staff of the Festival believe the opportunity to provide our area students with classroom visits from authors and illustrators, in conjunction with the distribution of books to students, is one of the vital services the organization provides. Research tells us the more books we provide, the more we enhance the lives of our students. This is the reason why we are committed to presenting FREE visits and books to students in area schools.

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*Inspiring readers of all ages and
celebrating the culture of books in a
beautiful part of the world.*

HSFOTB.ORG



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From the Board Chair

Dear Readers,

My father started coming to Harbor Springs from downstate when he was a boy, on fishing expeditions with his dad. They were a recent immigrant family, and those experiences inspired Dad to dream big, to bring his own family here one day.

My siblings and I recognize the gifts our parents and grandparents shared with us as “the gifts that keep on giving.” I feel that way about my college, about culinary school, the Lebanese table (of course!), and so powerfully about Harbor Springs, where I came back to write my first book.

The gifts that this place gives sure are mighty. Some we all share. Others are as unique and nuanced as each person. For every one of us reading this exciting 2022 Festival report, we affirm the abundance our bayside lavishes, knowing that where gifts received are many, so too is the charge to give back.

And give back you have!

The Festival is graced with the remarkable generosity of this community. You, our donors, give so freely in every important way. You make the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book a treasure among treasures as we gather some of the best creative minds in the worlds of writing and illustration; to inspire young readers through presenters and books in local schools; and engage with programming that reaches far beyond our rich signature weekend every September.

Perhaps the greatest among these treasures is that so much of what makes our Festival what it is (SO SPECIAL!), is because it takes place here, in Harbor Springs. Our founders were quite specific about this place in the mission of the Festival: to inspire readers of all ages and to celebrate the culture of books in a beautiful part of the world. A look at our 2022 Festival program cover art expresses this so well—an open book amid the bay.

Our dedicated Board of Directors, energetic staff, legion of willing volunteers, appreciative schools, beloved local businesses, and kind-hearted donors: YOU are the extraordinary “gifts that keep on giving” of the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book. I know that together we share in our gratitude for one another in making books, reading, and ideas an ongoing highlight of life in this place.

Thank you!

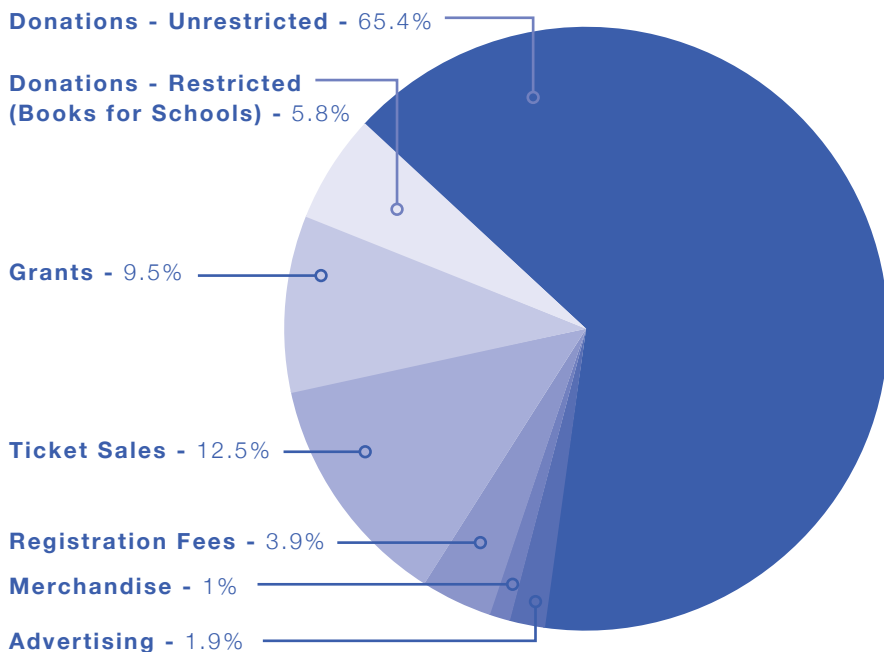
Maureen Abood Shaheen

2022 Chair

Program Financials

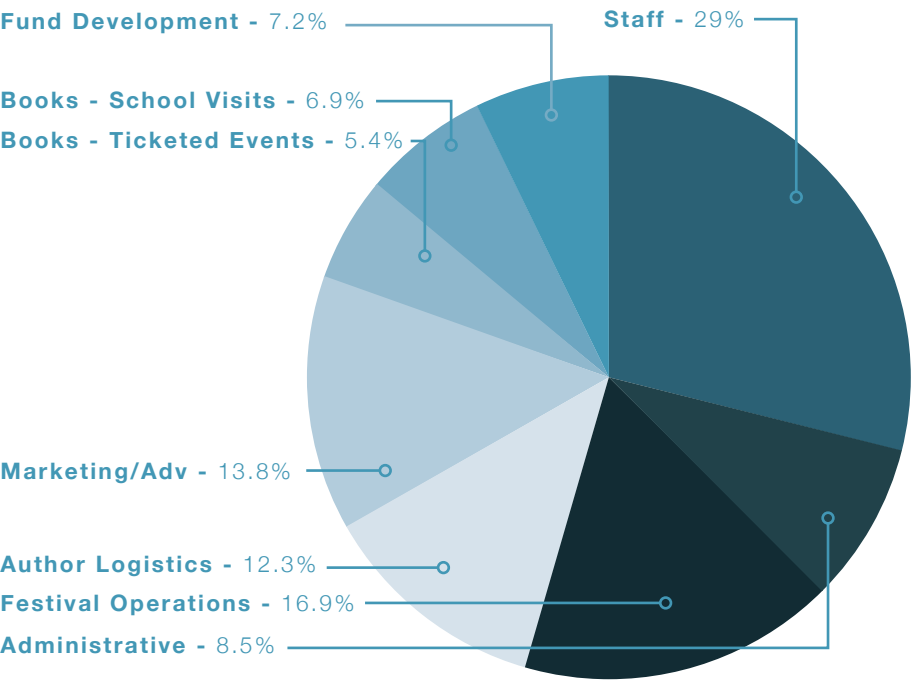
2022 REVENUE

Source	Amount	% of Budget
Donations - Unrestricted	\$239,963	65.40%
Donations - Restricted (Books for Schools)	\$21,224	5.80%
Grants	\$34,685	9.50%
Ticket Sales	\$46,188	12.50%
Registration Fees	\$14,280	3.90%
Merchandise	\$3,776	1.00%
Advertising	\$6,900	1.90%
GRAND TOTAL	\$367,016	



2022 EXPENSES

Expense	Amount	% of Budget
Staff	\$109,877	29.00%
Administrative	\$32,434	8.50%
Festival Operations	\$64,409	16.90%
Author Logistics	\$46,493	12.30%
Marketing/Adv	\$52,217	13.80%
Books -Ticketed Events	\$20,506	5.40%
Books - School Visits	\$26,348	6.90%
Fund Development	\$27,213	7.20%
GRAND TOTAL	\$379,497	



From the Executive Director

Festival Friends,

The return to a full three-day Festival in 2022 was an extremely joyful occasion. The atmosphere on the streets—despite the weather—was electric. The incredible and thoughtful program curation from our literary director, Katie Boeckl, and author committee was on display the entire weekend. Extraordinary panel discussions inspired conversations that continued as attendees walked from venue to venue. Without even looking at the time, I knew when sessions had finished as my phone exploded with the “mind-blowing” emoji 🤯! People are still talking about Sunday’s panel “The Language of Memory,” with Carlina Duan, Ray Nayler, Antoine Wilson and moderator, Kate McCune.

I love what this Festival has come to mean to so many. The feedback we receive tells us that we offer inspiring events. You tell us that the Festival is your absolute favorite weekend of the year. The cooperative spirit we witness from the city and people of Harbor Springs tells us they are proud that we have created this event which showcases our town. Retailers love seeing attendees proudly displaying their lanyards while visiting stores between sessions. Plus, what was once an average sales weekend is now on the higher end of their sales charts. Restaurant owners feel the same. Festival weekend, THIS TOWN IS BUSY.

In just 50 hours during the Festival, 1,100 registered participants attended 34 sessions representing eight literary genres in eight venues that were supported by more than 140 volunteers. Plus, six area school districts hosted 50 classroom sessions, and over \$25,000 in books were provided to students grades K - 12th. THIS IS AMAZING!

This event takes a tremendous amount of coordination to produce and we are thankful that everyone adjusts with us as we fine tune the Festival. A Festival supporter reminded me that there is “comfort in the consistency of the experience.” Every adjustment we make is to ensure you find comfort in this place during the Festival weekend. We added a required registration so everyone has a seat. We can now communicate information to you directly. We added tents to increase our seating capacity, but since we can’t control the weather, we hear you: tents need to be sided. Oh, and offering a bag lunch allows for sustenance without having to miss a session.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this amazing Festival. We are building on an incredible foundation and are so excited with what lies ahead for 2023.

Yours in Reading,

Amy J. Gillard
Executive Director



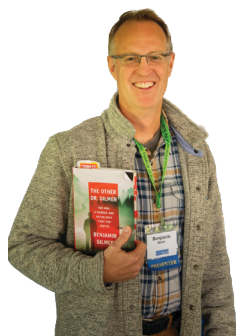
A special thank you to our Bookends, monthly sustaining donors who generously give their ongoing support to our work year-round.

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Dr. Benjamin Gilmer with his book, *The Other Dr. Gilmer*, which was one of the top selling books of the 2022 Festival.

"Every festival so far has been even better than the previous ones!"

- 2022 ATTENDEE

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"I'm a battle-scarred veteran of 34 years' worth of literary conventions, banquets, and festivals all across the U.S. and Canada. The Harbor Springs Festival of the Book is hands down the warmest, best organized, best staffed, and most enjoyable of any I've attended."

- 2022 PRESENTER



The “Songs in Storytelling” panel at the Lyric Theatre.

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2022 Keynote Speaker, Candice Millard, with Board Chair Maureen Abood Shaheen, Dan Shaheen, and board member, Elise Fisher.

IN HONOR

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Susan Capaldi, by Pam O'Malley
Susan Carson, by John & Marianne Marquardt
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IN MEMORY

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2023 Harbor Springs Festival of the Book

September 22nd - 24th

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"I loved how warm and welcoming everyone was -- the hospitality was absolutely amazing, and the community was so kind and intimate. Thank you for making writers feel connected, welcomed, and supported. Festivals like this are so crucial to continuing to celebrate and uplift literature as a form and a tool for change, and I'm so grateful for the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book for the opportunity. "

- 2022 PRESENTER