



ANNUAL REPORT
2023

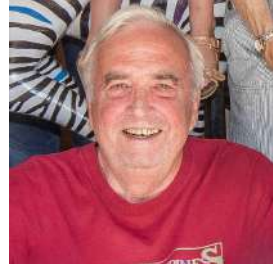
TO OUR SUPPORTERS...

“Dear Carousel Friends,
 Thanks to all of you who support the Carousel of Happiness and its mission of “inspiring happiness, well-being and service to others through stories and experiences.” As you can see from the statistics, stories and pictures in this 2023 annual report, your support is bearing fruit – big sweet fruit – beyond what anyone imagined when the doors opened onto Scott Harrison’s special vision 15 years ago. Congratulations!

In Memoriam ~ Tim Whited

Sadly, in this time of celebration, our Carousel community lost one of its biggest friends. Tim Whited passed this year, ending a courageous battle with cancer. Like most of you reading this report, Tim took great pleasure and pride in contributing to the happiness of literally millions of people around the world. Over his years with the Carousel, he kept it spinning as a volunteer, donor, board member and Board President. Tim was a big man, with a big voice, a big (cowboy) hat and a really big heart. If you had the good fortune to know Tim, you won’t forget him. We Won’t !!”

~ Charles Wood, November 2024



Charles Wood
 Current Board President



Tim Whited
 Board President 2022-2024

OUR

MISSION

We are dedicated to inspiring happiness, well-being, and service to others through stories and experiences.

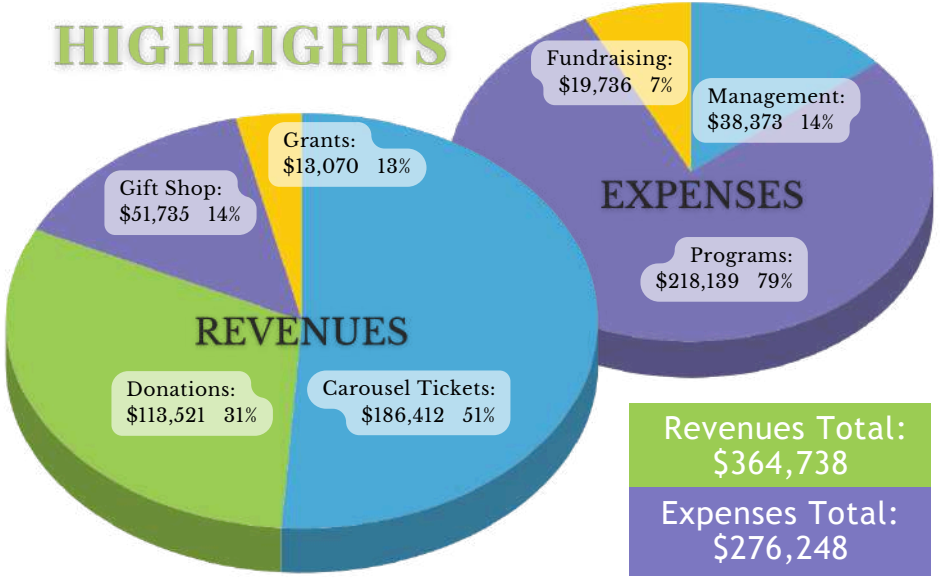


OUR

VISION

We seek to be a welcoming and inclusive hub of positivity that supports, enhances and spreads well-being, happiness, and joy.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



In 2023, the Carousel of Happiness joined the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District!

The Board of Directors worked hard for several years to create the financial and leadership stability that was needed to be eligible for this tax funding. One of the most unique tax districts, and the largest of its kind, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) supports nearly 300 organizations over seven counties in the state, distributing over \$80 million annually.

We are grateful to receive support from this tax revenue and to partner with other organizations to ensure that

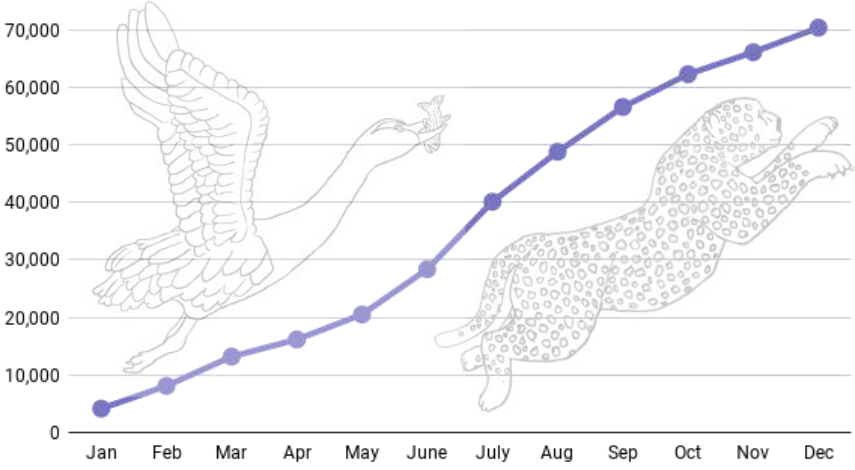
arts and culture remain supported, funded, and available to all members of our community.

2023 was another great year for the Carousel of Happiness! It seems that the carousel house is slowly returning to our pre-pandemic visitor levels, and each year we see more and more smiling faces. It is with great gratitude to each of our supporters, each of YOU, that we can keep this century old carousel spinning!



VISITORS & EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Total Rides: 70,875
Free Rides Given: 1,607



When you walk into the Carousel house, the magic abounds! In 2023, we shared that magic with over forty different community groups, including over one hundred riders with disabilities and several hundred youth and school group riders. We are one of the few carousels that is accessible for a wheelchair to ride, because inclusivity is important to fulfilling our mission.

The Travis Manion Foundation is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit that “empowers veterans and the families



of fallen heroes to develop character in future generations.” They host an annual leadership retreat in Colorado, and stopped by the Carousel for a talk and a few spins. They were moved by Marine Veteran Scott’s story, and challenged to think about how they will take that inspiration back to their own communities. The Travis Manion Foundation has adopted the Woodland Deer in honor of all fallen heroes.

“You can’t not be happy on this” - Alex K.
“My favorite thing to do in Ned, love to see the faces of everyone riding with their big smiles. Love this place!” - JoAnn V.

In March, we voted in a new Mayor of the Carousel, the Giraffe! He promised to stick his neck out for all the carousel creatures, great and small, and will be Mayor until 2025.

We hosted the First Annual Summer Circus event on July 22 at Chipeta Park, and it was a blast! Suzie-Q-Z brought delight with her whimsical face painting, and the Carousel staff and volunteers put together some fun carnival games to play for \$1 each.

The stars of the show, Circus Foundry LLC, is a professional circus troupe based in Denver. As the acrobats flew through the air dazzling the crowd, they showed us unique skills. They performed two shows titled "Play" and "Work," weaving together jokes and heart-pounding stunts with a story of growing up. Why, when we get older, do we sometimes forget to play? Here at the Carousel, we remind folks that we are all kids at heart, and that wonder, joy, and play are important to a fulfilling life.

There are several new additions to our menagerie, as Scott spent lots of time in his carving workshop in 2023. In February, he brought in the Three Cherubs that are climbing from the center ring up the pole, towards our



Twirling Girl.

In October, the Sloth and her two butterfly friends arrived, hanging from the rafters above the Sheep. Just a month later, the Beehive arrived above the Giraffe, with several bees buzzing around it. And just before the end of the year, Scott carved a Turtle who sits on the old tool chest near the carousel motor. Inspired by good friend George Blevins' book, Scott then also carved his smallest creature, Ms. Ladybug.



"I fashioned the wings from flakes of mica. The carousel originally used mica for the washers in the electrical system... This gemstone is believed to help individuals reflect on individual qualities." - Scott Harrison

THANK YOU... OUR DONORS

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THANK YOU for your support!

425+

Volunteer Hours
Worked

70,875
Carousel Ride
Tickets Sold

1,607
Free Rides Given

42
Community
Groups Served

BIG THANKS TO OUR 2023 STAFF & BOARD FOR KEEPING US SPINNING!

Front Desk: Store Manager Patricia Hagberg, Carlye Calvin, Clementine Miller, Kristina Koromzay. Carousel Operators: Fred Peck, Burt Rashbaum, Rebecca Linn, John Callahan, Tad Miller, Doug Cosper, Charles Wood. Maintenance Team: Manager Paul Andrews, Aaron Tye, Mark Pscheid. Executive Director Melody Baumhover. Carousel Board Members: Tim Whited, Charles Wood, Scott Harrison, Diana Underhill, Audrey Gebhardt, Dave Packer, Caleb Melamed.

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