

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
FY2023 Highlights [Draft (9/9/2023)]
(July 2022 – June 2023)

1. We mourn the loss of several former CSHSA Board Members in FY2023

[Christine Winick \(d. 11/5/2022\)](#) – CSHSA Board: 2011/12-2012/13

[Barbara Cantrell \(d. 1/1/2023\)](#) – CSHSA Board: 2011/12-2013/14

[James Michael “Mike” Hobbs \(d. 3/15/2023\)](#) – CSHSA Board: 2006/07-2022/23

2. CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2023. Total \$37,274.47

Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2023, reflected an uptick in the post-COVID world economy with an increase of \$3,712.51 this past fiscal year. Two years ago, the total was \$38,791.16. There were donations totaling \$550 deposited into the endowment during FY2023. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated **+9.4% return on investment in FY2023!** Our current **Spendable Balance: \$8,519.34.**

3. Sandburg in the Classroom: An Educators Workshop (October 28,2022)

Our Education Committee sponsored a successful professional development opportunity for secondary school teachers of music, English & history. The Sandburg in the Classroom workshop was delivered with the assistance of three workshop leaders for the event intended for area educators: Dr. Kevin Roberts, Monmouth College, Dr. Nicholas Regiacorte, Knox College, & Illinois folk musician & historian, Chris Vallillo.

4. Premier Screening of Documentary Film: Murals w/ Filmmaker T.G. Jamroz

At the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, on Sunday, May 21, filmmaker TG Jamroz premiered his documentary film THE MURALS. His film featured Illinois poets Carl Sandburg & Vachel Lindsay, Chicago architect, Louis Sullivan & muralist Henry Varnum Poor inspired by the Poor's New Deal-era murals at the Uptown Post Office in Chicago. What an amazing 7-year journey TG has had working on this fascinating documentary film. Link to photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/fuoQrdRKQMWH19tEA>

5. Barbara Schock's *Sandburg Hometown: A Selected Anthology* update on progress

In May 2021 CSHSA submitted a successful GCF Turnout 2021 Grant proposal for funds to support the publication of a selected anthology of Barbara Schock's "Sandburg's Hometown" original 401 articles published 2013-2022. It is hoped that a print edition will inspire students of all ages to read and explore the Galesburg of Sandburg's youth, the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Over the course of the past two years, Rick Sayre & the late Mike Hobbs worked closely with Barbara Schock to select 145 articles within 10 chapters, along with 143 images to illustrate most of the articles. While there are still a few permissions to secure for a few of the images we hope to use, our layout artist, Ami Jontz (Knox College), has patiently worked with us through several revisions. Indexing will be done by Knox College librarian, Laurie Sauer. Our printer still needs to be determined. We now anticipate a publication date in 2024.

6. Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – “Luck of the draw” - \$200 received in FY2023.

We thank our local F&M Bank’s support for local nonprofit organizations through their Hometown Hundreds program. The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association has received two \$100 awards in the weekly drawings in the past year. Since participating in the Hometown Hundreds drawings in 2018, CSHSA has been selected 12 times for a total of \$1,200 in awards over the past six years.

7. Sandburg Sangria – Hidden Hills Vineyard and Winery donation to CSHSA.

This Spring CSHSA received a generous donation of \$624 from a newly crafted Sangria named for the Carl Sandburg Birthplace with \$1 for each bottle sold to be contributed to CSHSA. We thank the Hidden Hills Vineyards & Winery for their continuing support for the site through their Sandburg Sangria sales!

8. Continuing Support from Master Gardeners! We are extremely grateful for the dedication of our local chapter of the University of Illinois Master Gardeners who work the Site AND are CSHSA members...Jamie Yemm, Sylvianne Stites, Gail Coffman, and Pat Kane.

9. Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2023.

Songbag Concert coordinator **Erin Glasnovich** recruited and scheduled a wonderful variety of performers through FY2023 beginning July 2022 through June 2023. The Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts begin at 2pm.

[Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2023](#)

- Sun, July 10, 2022 – Angela Meyer
- Sun, Aug 14, 2022 – David G. Smith
- Sun, Sep 11, 2022 – Ken Waldman
- Sun, Oct 9, 2022 – Dance Hall Doves
- Sun Nov 13, 2022 – Charlie Hayes
- Sun, Mar 12, 2023 – John Daniel Lane
- Sun, April 2, 2023 – Lojo Russo
- Sun, May 14, 2023 – Nathan Cowan
- Sun, June 11, 2023 – Barry Cloyd

10. CSHSA continues its pledge to support the construction of Galesburg’s new public library building.

Last Spring 2022 CSHSA Board voted to pledge \$5,000 over five years towards the construction of a new public library on East Main Street in Galesburg! Our second annual payment of \$1,000 was submitted this past May 2023. Galesburg’s new public library’s Children’s Collection will have a Rootabaga Stories design theme. We’d like to think Carl Sandburg would be pleased!

11. Rleigh Ewing is awarded CSHSA’s Annual Sandburg Prize Scholarship of \$500 for the 2023-2024

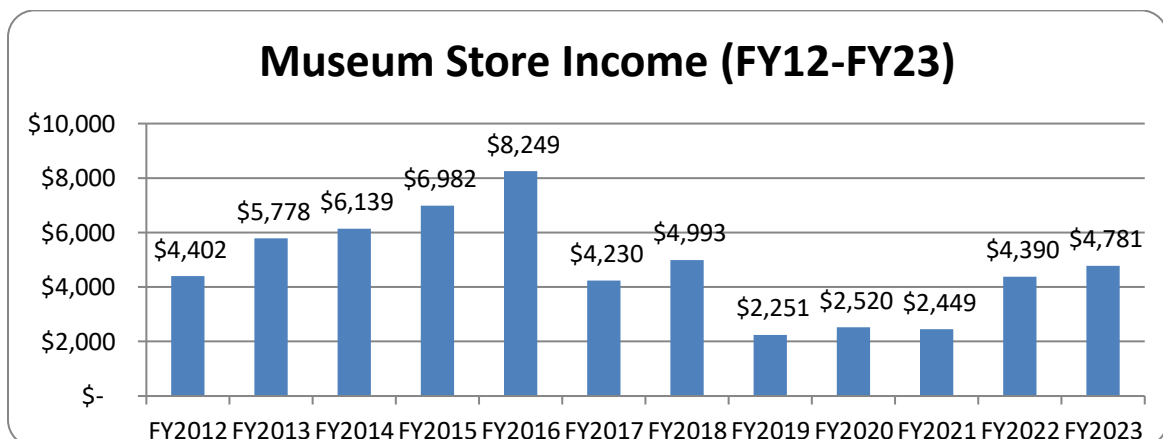
The Board has donated \$500 to Carl Sandburg College student scholarship fund to be awarded to a deserving student for the 2023-2024 academic year. Rleigh Ewing will be a graduating senior in May 2023 from Monmouth-Roseville High School. The CSC Financial Aid staff identifies and awards a student who would benefit from our annual scholarship.

12. ACQUISITION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY AT 345 E. THIRD ST!

In July 2023 the CSHSA board completed the acquisition of the adjoining property to the east of the Birthplace Cottage. The property became available following the demolition of the rental home on the property that had suffered a fire making it uninhabitable. The property owner chose to demolish the property and has sold it to the Association for approximately \$5,000. A huge thank you for the efforts of President Pat Kane & Vice-President Don Moffitt for their perseverance on this opportunity. Discussions as to the future use of the property are still ongoing. We have applied for and received a property tax exemption for the property beginning with 2023 property taxes. Given the timing of our application the Association was obligated to pay the 2022 property tax exemption.

13. Museum Store Sales FY2023 / IDNR Vendor agreement

- We saw a 9% increase in FY2023 sales (\$4,781) vs. FY2022 (\$4,390). After three lean years (FY19-21) including COVID, in the two most recent fiscal years (FY22-FY23) the site has seen an increase in visitors and a 90% increase in Museum Store Sales.
- We have sold most of our supply of new reprint copies of *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg* (c 1970 Rev & Enlarged Edition) provided by Eastern National. They are no longer available in print now. We continue to seek out-of-print copies of the 1950 & 1970 edition along with many other out-of-print titles that are now on sale in the Museum Store.
- IDNR has recommended that we complete a **Vendor Agreement** with them to comply with the state regulations for the other IDNR sites that maintain a museum store or concessions operations. The agreements and other financial documents have been submitted in July 2023 and are awaiting the final draft of the agreement...hopefully as a sole source provider.



14. *Inklings & Idlings* – Since 2009, **J. Michael Hobbs** edited fifty-one (51) excellent quarterly issues of our *Inklings & Idlings* newsletters prior to his declining health and subsequent passing on March 15, 2023. We remember Mike for his time and energy spent recruiting authors for consistently wonderful and interesting articles. We are proud of the quality newsletter Mike produced on behalf of the Association. And we welcome **Melissa Bednar** who has stepped forward to accept the editorship following Mike's death. The Spring 2023 issue was published in May 2023 and included a 4-page insert of tributes to Mike Hobbs.

- [Spring-2023](#)
- [Winter 2022-2023](#)
- [Fall 2022](#)
- [Summer 2022](#)

15. *Inklings & Idlings from the Past!* We are pleased to report that the *Inklings & Idlings 1999-2009* under the editorship of Barbara Schock have all been digitized, uploaded to our webhost's server and linked from our www.sandburg.org website. Enjoy the articles from these past issues. And thank you to Barbara Schock for making these available.

16. [CSHSA Website / Facebook](#) – FY2023

- a. The 401st & final *Sandburg's Hometown* article was posted in January 2023! We are forever grateful to **Barbara Schock** for her willingness to research and write these delightful essays over a ten year period 2013-2023. The articles remain linked on our website.
- b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of our State Historic Site's IDNR staff members, **Bryan Engelbrecht** and **Tom Wallenfeldt**, as administrators on our CSHSA Facebook page! During National Poetry Month, April 2023, Bryan published a daily Sandburg poems from "Slabs of the Sunburnt West" upon its 100th anniversary year of its publication. These Facebook posts and those shared on the Remember in Galesburg When Facebook group page were well received!

17. Email Information Requests –In recent years Board members and our Site IDNR staff have actively assisted with answering email queries with Sandburg-related questions. Some of these questions have been incorporated into three recent publications on Carl Sandburg:

- a. **Dr. Lawrence Webb**, Anderson, South Carolina, retired professor of journalism at Anderson College (SC), has recently published his book: *Carl Sandburg: Poet, Politician & Prophet* (1922).
- b. **Dr. John Quinley**, Hendersonville, North Carolina, a retired history professor and long-time docent at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC, published his *Discovering Carl Sandburg: The Eclectic Life of an American Icon* (2022)
- c. And, finally, former UN Ambassador from Stockholm, Sweden, **Pierre Schori**, has recently published his own book on Sandburg in Swedish this past January 2023, *Slummen-får-sin-hämnd: Författaren Carl Sandburg och drömmen om ett demokratiskt Amerika*.

Many thanks to our past and current board members and the Site staff members who have collaborated with us to provide thoughtful assistance to these interesting and challenging queries. We feel we have been developing a good network of Sandburg enthusiasts and supporters for the work of our organization.

18. In Grateful Appreciation of the enduring efforts of our IDNR Site Services Specialist II, **Bryan Engelbrecht, and Tom Wallenfeldt**, part-time site interpreter, for their efforts to staff both the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site and the Bishop Hill State Historic Site in Bishop Hill, Illinois. We appreciate their dedication and their commitment to both sites during these challenging times.

19. [Link to FY2023 Annual Statistical & Financial Reports on Dropbox](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sayre - CSHSATreasurer & Board Member (DRAFT 9/9/2023)