

Annual Report 2022



Mission

Graycliff Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structures and grounds, along with the Ellen Biddle Shipman-designed gardens and landscape, that comprise Graycliff, the summer retreat of Isabelle & Darwin Martin of Buffalo, NY. The nonprofit organization strives to share the journey and all the stories of Graycliff, advancing the property as a publicly accessible historic site.

Leadership

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(As of December 31, 2022)

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Ryan Gravell, Director of Operations

Melissa Ellis, Interim Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator

Maddie Moore, Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator

Shawn Weishaar, Caretaker

Emma Hahn, Head Gardener

Janice Worobec, Marketing & Events Coordinator

Susan Jones, Head of Housekeeping

Hannah Kadryna, Events Assistant

Martha Kryszczuk, Tour & Retail Assistant

Susan Ljungberg, Tour & Retail Assistant

Eva Malczewski, Tour & Retail Assistant

Graycliff Staff at the Botanical Gardens celebrating Director of Operations Ryan Gravell's more than 10 years with the organization, in December 2022



Letter From Our Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends of Graycliff,

What a year! After working through the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has certainly left us feeling rejuvenated, encouraged, and inspired.

We are now keenly aware that there will never be a true return to a pre-pandemic "normalcy." To us at Graycliff, this is not a roadblock, but instead we consider the situation as something to embrace and celebrate and the 2O22 season is proof of a profound shift. Graycliff is now a more creative and vibrant community center, as we have learned to be adept at building an agile program that can be both inspiring and unexpected, while continuing to further our mission. We are no longer focused on a return to "normal," but instead are embracing the new reality of a house museum that strives to be a dynamic center for inspiration and education through unique visitor engagement.

We achieved an enormous milestone in 2022 by completing the restoration of the "historic home grounds" through the improvements to our lakeside lawn. Wright's design intentions are now more visible as visitors are able to see and interact with a stone bench he imagined for this space, making it even more evident how important the lake is to his design of Graycliff. Upon the completion of this project, visitors almost immediately were enjoying a seat on this very special piece of exterior architecture that serves to strengthen the connection between the main house and the body of water beyond.

The gardens at Graycliff are more lush than they have ever been, with all revitalized sections now well into the "leaping" phase of their growth. Ellen Biddle Shipman's contributions to the design of the property have never been more apparent and we are keen to continue to highlight and celebrate her legacy. Programming such as Landscape Tours, as well as meditation and yoga experiences engaged visitors directly with the verdant landscape and further deepened the connections to Graycliff's layered history.

Our partnership with the Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly the Albright-Knox Art Gallery) was unlike anything Graycliff had ever done (or even considered) before. The exhibition of contemporary sculpture on our historic grounds, titled Sarah Braman: Finding Room, was something truly extraordinary. We embraced this project as a real opportunity to invigorate our now restored historic grounds and interiors with brilliant contemporary art installed both inside and out. The aim was to challenge perspectives and allow visitors to experience our historic site in an entirely new way. Engaging an estimated 1,000 visitors in 2022, there is no doubt that this bold effort was a success.

An essential part of the mission of Graycliff Conservancy is to ensure that the property is publicly accessible. Beyond allowing for the site to be physically open to the public, we've interpreted this to include layers of access. The collaboration with the AKG—Braman's work in direct dialogue with Wright's architecture and the surrounding landscape—allowed for a refreshing access to the design intentions of the site and an opportunity for an entirely new avenue of engagement. The exhibition allowed not only for the presentation of a fascinating body of contemporary sculpture, but for new visibility of the Wright-designed spaces, highlighting the home he designed as a vessel—a vessel for furniture and objects, energy, and life. Though this exhibition was only temporary, the ethos of the project will remain, as we will continue to seek out opportunities to spark unique engagement.

It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that we thank YOU, our friends and supporters—members, donors, and volunteers—for sustaining all that Graycliff is and does through your support. We are able to thoughtfully care for our historic buildings and grounds and continue to inspire audiences through our varied programming efforts <u>because of your continued commitment</u>. Thank you again and we hope to welcome you to the gorgeous restored grounds of Isabelle and Darwin Martin's summer retreat, which your generosity has helped to preserve and sustain, in the very near future.



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DALFue

Charles A. Le Fevre,

President



Ana Japlan

Anna Kaplan,
Executive Director



Photo: Tess Butera

2022 Tours & **Programmatic Offerings**

Core Tour Offerings

Standard Tour

Extended Tour

Open House Tour

Landscape Tour

Sarah Braman: Finding Room Art Tour

Winter Tour

Our 2022 visitation was back to pre-pandemic status, seeing approximately **97%** of 2019's visitation. We welcomed 51% from New York State (74% of visitors directly from Erie County), and 49% from other parts of the US, with 4% of our visitation coming from international locations. with Canada as the majority following the opening of the border without restrictions in summer 2022.

Guided Tour Program

The self-guided experience, **Open House Tours** of Graycliff, continued to be a valuable offering in 2022. With docents and other volunteers on hand to answer visitor questions, this experience lets guests "choose their own adventure" and access the first floor of our historic main house on their own terms. The Open House Tour remains an important opportunity for both first time and repeat visitors to spend more time, linger, observe, and both satisfy and inspire curiosity. This program is especially important in connection with the Market at Graycliff—on Market evenings, the admission price

for Open House Tours is further reduced and in 2022 we saw hundreds of visitors in a single evening piquing their curiosity by stepping inside our Wrightdesigned main house.

In December 2022 we introduced the Winter Tour of Graycliff, which now runs December through March, and is a seasonally-adjusted experience at a reduced rate. The Winter Tour allows us to run tours year round and offer an inspiring tour at an unexpected time of year that allows visitors to explore both floors of the main house.





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Collaborative Programming

Sarah Braman: Finding Room

On Saturday, July 3O, 2O22 we opened an installation of artworks by artist Sarah Braman (American, born 1970) on our historic grounds and inside the main house. The exhibition, titled Sarah Braman: Finding Room, was organized by the Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly Albright-Knox Art Gallery) and the first collaboration between their Curatorial and Public Art departments to take place outside of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum campus.

The exhibition was curated by the Buffalo AKG Art Museum's Assistant Curator Andrea Alvarez and Public Art Project Coordinator Zack Boehler.

Unlike anything Graycliff has ever hosted, by putting contemporary art in direct dialogue with Wright's architecture, this exhibition was an opportunity to invigorate what would usually be a static presentation with an aim to encourage repeat visitation, challenge perspectives, and allow visitors to experience our historic site in an entirely new way.

Braman makes domestically-scaled indoor and monumental outdoor sculptures that celebrate everyday life. In her indoor practice, she combines found objects such as furniture, doors, and pieces of scrapyard vehicles with colorful geometric volumes. Composed by similar means, her outdoor sculptures made from concrete culverts that lie beneath our roads and buildings, are enlivened by the addition of colored glass. Finding Room included both Braman's indoor and outdoor sculptures together for the very first time.



Buffalo AKG Art Museum Curators Zack Boehler and Andrea Alvarez with artist Sarah Braman (in middle).

Photos: Jeff Mace

Yoga Parkside

We enjoyed our continued collaboration with Yoga Parkside with programming that encouraged visitors to move out of a cerebral space and tune into their innate physical and emotional responses to both Graycliff's designed elements and natural surroundings. In 2022, we worked with Yoga Parkside Founder Megan Callahan to host Meditation Tours with Live Music, a Solstice Sound Bath, and a Yoga Experience with Live Music inside the living room of the main house.

Tifft Nature Preserve

In 2022, we continued to offer a series of fun evening programming conceived of in 2021 that includes experiences at both Graycliff and Tifft. "Date Night with Graycliff & Tifft" offered a select few times annually, includes a wine tasting element and is now a sought after event.



Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Preserve

"Wright Rocks! A Geology Tour of Graycliff" continued in 2022, scheduled on a monthly basis during the main season. These tours are jointly led by a Graycliff docent and a Penn Dixie staff with an expertise in the geology of our site and make for a unique offering that supports both organizations.

Partnerships to Broaden our Reach

#WrightVirtualVisits

Graycliff partnered with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy (Chicago, IL), and Unity Temple Restoration Foundation (Oak Park, IL) to support the leadership of the continuation of the popular social media video series "Wright Virtual Visits". Wright Virtual Visits was begun in April 2020 as a social media initiative aimed at highlighting Frank Lloyd Wright-designed public sites that were closed due to the pandemic. The collaborative effort is now a monthly professionally-produced, interactive live online event and the 2022 season featured more than a dozen Wright sites across the country with many episodes hosted by our own Executive Director Anna Kaplan. Recordings of past episodes can be viewed at savewright.org/wvv.



and Clarksburg Cider

We were thrilled to continue to offer Psychic Mediumship Tours of Graycliff during the month of October with internationally known Psychic Medium Ivy Rivera. These tours were scheduled for dusk when Ivy could be best tuned in to the property and the site's past inhabitants. Clarksburg Cider was also involved and offered tasting of their delicious hard ciders.

WNY Land Conservancy

We teamed up with Western New York Land Conservancy to offer two unique tour events at Graycliff jointly led by a WNYLC staff member and Graycliff docent. During migratory bird season (May 2022), we ran a special birding tour and, in August 2022, we ran a tour that focused on native plants and trees and highlighted Ellen Biddle Shipman's contributions to our property.



IPW Conference

Graycliff Director of Operations Ryan Gravell traveled to Orlando, FL in June 2022 for U.S. Travel Association's IPW conference. Ryan was there with Visit Buffalo Niagara to meet with tour operators representing not only Graycliff, but our colleagues at the Martin House and the Hagen History Center.

Fundraising Events

Get Sauced! Wine & Delicious Food With Graycliff, Paradise Wine, and DiTondo

We offered a virtual wine tasting event scheduled as a kick-off to Valentine's Day weekend 2022. Participants purchased tickets that included bottles of premium Italian wine from Paradise Wine and the option to add on a ready-to-heat main dish by DiTondo Restaurant. Then on the evening of February 10th there was a Zoom event where Paula Paradise walked us through each bottle and Rita DiTondo added a layer of culinary education to complement the experience.

BPO Brass Quintet at Graycliff

In August 2022, we partnered again with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on a joint fundraising event that allowed supporters to have an intimate outdoor concert experience – this time with a brass guintet performing on the terrace of the main house. The concert included BPO Musicians Phil Christner (trumpet), John Maguda, (trumpet), Jay Matthews (horn), Filipe Pereira (bass trombone), and Sarah Lewandowski (trombone) and was supported by the New York State Council for the Arts.

Celebrate Graycliff 2022

Graycliff's annual fundraising dinner, Celebrate Graycliff, was held on the evening of October 13, 2022 in downtown Buffalo at The Twentieth Century Club (TCC). We were thrilled to host this important event at the historic TCC where Isabelle Martin was herself once a member.





Celebrate Graycliff 2022 was held at The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo (pictured above) and netted more than \$40,000 to support our mission! Below is a painting by Peter Fowler made available in the 2022 Celebrate Graycliff Silent Auction.





The Market at Graycliff Reimagined

We had fantastic weather and the fifth annual Market at Graycliff welcomed more than 3000 visitors over seven evenings August 4, 2022 through September 15, 2022. Major changes to the beloved program were announced in 2022 including a move to Thursday evenings with the hours shifting to 5-8pm. Vendors were set up not only along the historic drive, but on the tennis court and included specialty food items, homemade baked goods, locally produced wine and flowers, along with quality handmade pottery, candles, and other crafts. Produce from Graycliff's historic vegetable garden was also made available through a "pay what you wish" model. The Traveling Tipsy Trailer pouring adult beverages out of a charming vintage camper and Under Fire Pizza with their delicious wood-fired pizza were staples of the 2022 Market.

For the first time in 2022, we collaborated with Yoga Parkside to offer free family yoga each Market evening. We continued to offer Open House (self-guided) Tours of the first floor of our Wright-designed main house at the reduced rate of \$10 (free for children and Graycliff Members)—over 600 visitors took advantage of this offering and stepped inside the main house on a Market evening!

The Market at Graycliff continues to be a producer-only market, meaning that the re-selling of items is not permitted and all products must be made by the vendors themselves within the eight counties of Western New York. The Market at Graycliff supports local vendors who help build and strengthen local economies.

The 2O22 Market at Graycliff was presented by Graycliff Conservancy's Board of Directors, with additional support from Pour & Penchant, Yoga Parkside, Jeff Leyonmark & Wolf Agency, HMN Resources, LLC, Fifty Fabulous Women Giving Circle, Leon Komm & Son Monument Company (creators of Graycliff's plant markers), Century 21 Ganey, Lake Shore Federal Credit Union, Christie Noonan Hunt Real Estate, and Great Lakes Environmental & Safety Consultants, Inc.

Vendor Spotlight

Pour & Penchant were here for all seven nights of the 2022 Market with their candles, which are not only available in a wide array of fabulous and refreshing scents, but come in a rainbow of gorgeous colors. We have also partnered with Pour & Penchant on programming (we ran a Holiday Candle Making Workshop in December 2022) and to offer candles all year long in our Pavilion Shop. Pour & Penchant is a LGBTQ owned small batch artisan candle company based in Buffalo, NY.







Graycliff Volunteers

Volunteer Commitment. The generous commitment from our dedicated volunteers is what keeps us running smoothly. While our volunteer base in 2022 continued to be affected by the pandemic circumstances, we had over 120 active volunteers. It is these individuals that give their time to lead and assist our tours, care for our gardens and landscape, thoughtfully clean our restored historic interiors, support programmatic and fundraising events, and so much more. It is thanks to our enthusiastic and passionate volunteers that we are able to further our mission.

Graycliff Docents. Our docents are the ones responsible for creating the positive and unforgettable Graycliff experience for our visitors. They invest innumerable time and energy studying our history in order to best present all of Graycliff's stories. Our incredible docents gave over 1,000 tours in 2022!

Green Team. The Graycliff landscape needs are now larger than ever, with significant restoration efforts adding lush gardens restored according to Ellen Biddle Shipman and Frank Lloyd Wright's vision. We rely on volunteers to care for this landscape and keep it healthy and looking gorgeous for our many visitors. Our Green Team volunteers assist in essential activities such as weeding, deadheading, trimming, and so much more.

M&T Bank Volunteers. We are grateful for our continued relationship with M&T Bank, Graycliff Conservancy's first ever corporate sponsor. M&T staff take a few days out of the office each season and assist in grounds tasks that require many hands, such as laying compost and mulch, raking leaves, and more. M&T's assistance at key parts of the season have been invaluable and we have come to rely on this volunteer assistance.

New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. In 2022, we continued to welcome volunteers and their job coaches from OPWDD on a weekly basis. This group enthusiastically assists with Graycliff's Green Team and contributed more than 150 in volunteer hours in 2022.



In 2022, our volunteers contributed a collective of **3,620** total hours.





New VEEP Program for

In 2022, we launched the Volunteer Engagement & Enrichment Program (VEEP) to support our volunteer community. VEEP involves excursions to local cultural organizations, architectural sites, and more to deepen their awareness and knowledge of our community's offerings, allow for continued education, and to offer a social opportunity. During this pilot season of VEEP, volunteers visited nine sites, including the Buffalo Science Museum, the Buffalo Presidential Center, the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, and Larkinville.

Pictured is a group on a VEEP visit to the last standing wall of the Wright-designed Larkin Administration Building







Lakeside Restoration

In June 2022, we wrapped up the final phase of an extensive restoration effort generously funded by over \$3 million from New York State through former Governor Andrew Cuomo's Buffalo Billion project, dispersed by Empire State Development. The final phase focused on improvements to Graycliff's lakeside lawn and the restoration of a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed exterior stone bench in the section that Wright identified as the "esplanade." The masonry process involved working with stone salvaged from the existing remains of the original bench supplemented with new material. A new fence was also installed, chosen to most closely resemble the original fence on the property. This area of the property was unveiled for the 2022 summer season and enjoyed by many guests to Graycliff, especially during our Market at Graycliff and other programming on the lakeside lawn. Wright's design intentions are now much more accessible with this restored stone bench in place.

Preservation architect: CJS Architects, Project contractor: Wu & Associates, Inc. with stonework by Morris Masonry

Shop Graycliff

Patrons of our physical retail store inside the M&T Visitor Pavilion and online at ShopGraycliff.org support our mission through their patronage. The store is stocked with a variety of high quality gifts and home goods, including many Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired items and Graycliff-branded souvenirs.









As a result of the 2O22 restoration activities, we were able to harvest the wooden stair treads from the stair tower that was removed. These pieces of wood were transformed by Gregg Rennie of 41N Wood Works and were available in our retail shop in 2O22. From start to finish, it took Gregg 29 days to complete each board, which is both a unique piece of art and a functional conversation piece that can be used as a serving board (see photo below). These pieces join other products in the store that incorporate original materials from the site- for example jewelry that incorporates original copper and stucco by CHART Metalworks exclusively for Graycliff.



Donors

The generosity of our supporters is what allows us to further our mission.

We are incredibly grateful for each and every gift.

The following list acknowledges those who have contributed \$100 and more.

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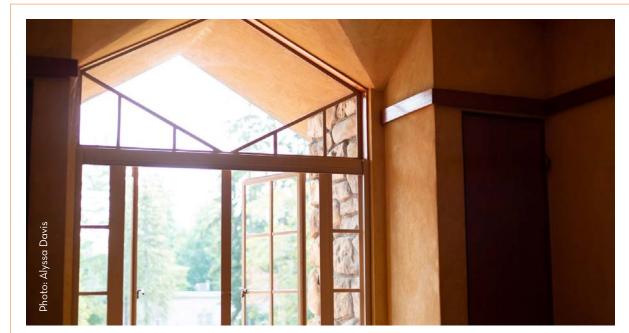
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Jerry Wahlenmayer

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In Recognition of the E. Fay Jones Conservancy

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Donors to our Capital Campaign for a Visitor Center

In 2022 we continued the quiet phase of a capital campaign focused on our future vision—an expansion plan that includes a new Visitor Center and reimagined approach to the property, as well as the restoration of historic natural assets. This project will unequivocally enhance the visitor experience at Graycliff, as well as support our staff and volunteers in myriad ways. It will be a wonderful and essential complement to the newly restored property and allow us to appropriately showcase this exceptional place. We made significant progress towards this goal in 2022 and are sharing here the very first to support this critical effort.

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Foundation

Jeff & Joeleene Manhardt The Margaret L Wendt Foundation Michael McGuigan Jeff & Brenda Mendola David & Susan Mikulski Marianne Myles Holly & Andy Nowak Jerome & Michelle Puma Wayne & Elizabeth Robinson The Richard W. Rupp Foundation

Marion Schmidt Michael & Sara Schraft Diane & Fred Schrenk Catherine Schweitzer John & Marilyn Sozanski Phyllis Spears & Alan Kelley Sandra & Michael Starks Douglas Swift Turner Construction Company Carol Wahlenmayer Linda & Doug Ward

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Statement of Financial Position/ Statement of Activities 2022

GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY, INC.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31,

ASSETS	2022	2021
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 686,824	\$ 489,846
Contributions and pledges receivable, net	108,200	86,850
Grants receivable	496,109	12,426
Prepaid expenses	22,500	2,500
Inventory	30,429	24,934
Total current assets	1,344,062	616,556
Fixed assets:		
Land	277,000	277,000
Buildings	394,092	394,092
Improvements/restoration	8,202,055	7,642,589
Furniture and equipment	214,794	205,139
Building restoration in progress	251,484	99,772
	9,339,425	8,618,592
Less: accumulated depreciation	(5,384,608)	(4,791,199)
Total fixed assets	3,954,817	3,827,393
Other long-term assets:		
Contributions and pledges receivable, net	25,099	50,188
Other assets	53,460	<u> </u>
Total assets	\$ 5,377,438	\$ 4,494,137
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 114,415	\$ 26,137
Line of credit	495,986	260,060
Current portion of long-term debt	30,957_	16,986
Total current liabilities	641,358	303,183
Long-term debt	298,557	161,150
Total liabilities	939,915	464,333
Net assets: Without donor restrictions	2 602 047	2 762 464
With donor restrictions With donor restrictions	3,603,917	3,762,161
Total net assets	833,606	267,643
i otal fiet assets	4,437,523	4,029,804
	\$ 5,377,438	\$ 4,494,137

Statement of Financial Position/ Statement of Activities 2022

GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY, INC.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS For the Years Ended December 31,

	2022						
		Without Donor Restrictions		With Donor Restrictions		Total	
Revenues:							
Contributions:							
Individual contributions	\$	57,967	\$	34,762	\$	92,729	
Foundation contributions		2,601		616,562		619,163	
Other contributions		524		-		524	
In-kind contributions		154,990		-		154,990	
Government - grants		60,000		483,684		543,684	
Special event income		82,581		-		82,581	
Tour income		232,682		-		232,682	
Retail sales		112,321		-		112,321	
Membership dues		31,535		-		31,535	
Rental income		3,000		-		3,000	
Interest and dividends		672		-		672	
Net assets released from restrictions		569,045		(569,045)		-	
Total public support		1,307,918		565,963		1,873,881	
Expenses:							
Program services		654,403		-		654,403	
Management and general		131,967		-		131,967	
Fundraising		76,783		-		76,783	
Total expenses, before depreciation		863,153		-		863,153	
Change in net assets, before depreciation		444,765		565,963		1,010,728	
Depreciation expense		603,009				603,009	
Change in net assets		(158,244)		565,963		407,719	
Net assets - beginning		3,762,161		267,643		4,029,804	
Net assets - ending	\$	3,603,917	\$	833,606	\$	4,437,523	



Back rows, left to right: Mark & Andrea Duguay, Paul Catalano, Jamie Porter, Kristen Cowan, Karen Catalano, Cheryl & Bob Ehrmann, Laurie Holcombe, Sue Petko, Mary Katherine Wallace, Brian Holcombe, Marion Schmidt, Grant Holcombe, The Rev. Patricia J. Guinn, Tom Mudra, R. Foster Holcombe.

Front row: Rick Mudra, Betsy Mudra, Dary Foster, Denise Johnson, Theda H. Holcombe

History: Graycliff: Past and Present

Graycliff Conservancy is very fortunate to still have a solid connection to the original owners of Graycliff. In June 2022, we hosted the descendants of the Martin/Foster families. The group was at Graycliff to celebrate the life of Margaret Reidpath Foster (January 31, 1930 – February 4, 2021). Margaret was the daughter of Dorothy (Martin) Foster & James Foster, granddaughter of Isabelle Reidpath & Darwin D. Martin and a summer inhabitant of Graycliff during her youth. Margaret's brother, Darwin "Dary" Foster, also born in 1930, was with the group. We cherish this relationship and love what we can continue to learn of the Martins' time on the property through family stories, objects, and artifacts.

