



Annual Report 2021 - Executive Summary

The Friends of Onancock School remain committed to establishing the Historic Onancock School and the 13 acre grounds as a vital and vibrant cultural and community center to benefit the Town of Onancock and the citizens of the entire Eastern Shore of Virginia. This report summarizes the major initiatives and accomplishments of the organization during 2021.

2021 was a second year of adapting to the pandemic. Our revenue from rentals, events and fundraisers were again down, but, several Covid related funding sources helped to boost our budget and allow us to make needed improvements. The Board also looked inward to develop an updated Strategic Plan, first by performing a SWOT analysis and updating our Mission, Vision and Diversity statements.

Strategic Plan

- The Board of Directors unanimously voted on the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan to replace the outgoing 2018-2021 plan. This plan guides our efforts to improve the building and open spaces and to increase the value of the Historic Onancock School as a cultural and community center. The Goals are as follows:
 - Continue to improve the building and open space of the Historic Onancock School
 - Ensure sufficient income to cover operational expenses and to increase contingency / capital funds
 - Cultivate greater community support and outreach to increase usage of facility

The updated organization statements are as follows:

HOS Vision – at the heart of our diverse community, the Historic Onancock School Community & Cultural Center contributes economically, culturally and educationally to the quality of life on Virginia’s Eastern Shore while preserving the community character.

HOS Mission - to connect, inspire and embrace our diverse community through artistic, educational, social & recreational means to sustain our legacy for future generations.

HOS Diversity Statement – we are a place for all. We strive to include all citizens across race, gender, age, religion, identity, and experience as we work together to build our community.

Building and Open Space Improvements:

- The final completion and inspection certificate for the ADA lift and restrooms.
- The painting and repairs to 3 additional interior classrooms/studios, and hallways continued as tenants vacated. Lighting also continues to be upgraded to LED in most of the building for maximum efficiency.
- Repairs and resealing to the roof are ongoing.
- A new state of the art Playground was installed in late spring. HOS was the recipient of an additional \$38,500 grant from the Orr-Smith Foundation to continue improvements to create an expanded outdoor picnic and gathering area, with shade, and provide sidewalks for ADA access to the playground. A 9 hole disc golf course on the grounds now has professional baskets and signage to be installed in March 2022.

Financials:

- Revenues of \$213.1K. Includes \$61.7K in studio rentals, \$21.3K in fundraising income, \$6.7K in Special Event income \$34.1K contributions & support and \$89.3 in grant income and designated donations.
- Expenses of \$187.5K, including \$18.7K in building maintenance and facilities improvements, \$41.4K in payroll expenses and \$18.9K in utilities costs, 12.8 in General Operating Expenses and \$80.7K in Capital Expenses.
- Net Income of \$18.7K reflects unused grant funds.
- Bank balances of \$242.6K at end of 2021.

Building and Grounds Use:

- 100% of studios on both floors are rented. There continues to be a steady wait list for space availability.
- While we had in excess of 8,800 people who visited or attended functions on the grounds or in the Historic Onancock School building during 2019, that number dropped to 1,200 through the year in 2020. During the summer of 2021, as restrictions lifted, our visitor count rose to over 5,800 counted, and with the opening of the playground and outdoor gathering space, plus the Disc Golf course, we feel sure the numbers doubled as countless others use the grounds at their leisure to socialize and exercise safely on our open green space.
- The old, derelict Shop Building was razed
- The Home Economics Cottage was painted and repaired on exterior

Organization Development:

- Two new directors were added to the Board
- The Onancock High School turned 100 years in 2021

Kudos and Thanks:

- To all of the volunteers, organizations, individual donors and the Town of Onancock for their time, funding, support and financial aid amidst a pandemic.
- The result of these gifts: a Playground, Loveworks sign, an ADA Lift and a Fall celebration of these accomplishments attended by local residents, elected officials and the Governor, Ralph Northam, an alumnus of OHS.

Looking Ahead in 2022:

- There are additional improvements to be added to the playground space, all with a focus on our youth. A Story Trail, a Little Free Library plus chalkboards for art and creativity.
- We plan to continue our annual fundraising events; Creekside Crawl 5K, Public Lands Day and Champagne & Oyster Tasting. Plus, the addition of several 100th Anniversary Alumni events. Also participate in Second Fridays, Ice Cream Social and other partnerships.
- Renovation of Home Economics Cottage for classes & rental
- The construction of a Performance Pavilion to provide a destination for arts, cultural events, performances and host large outdoor events.