

ELDRIDGE PARK CAROUSEL PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC

2022 Annual Report



The Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society Inc is dedicated to preserving the past, while continually enhancing Eldridge Park for the enjoyment of residents and visitors across the community

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2022 was a year of rebirth for Eldridge Park. From the dedication of the park in 1870 to the introduction of the carousel and all the years in between, Eldridge Park has found a way to reinvent itself constantly.

The pandemic stifled operations in 2020, however 2021 & 2022 were banner years in bringing back the fun and magic of Eldridge Park. We continued to expand entertainment events including a spectacular Mermaid Show and the return of the Annual Fireworks. Eldridge Park was also the hosting site for the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall attracting visitors from a wide region.

The Park requires constant attention and updating and with a solid staff and strong Board of Directors we have been able to constantly improve and grow. Financially, 2022 saw reinvestment and a solid footing with support from area companies and businesses as well as local, state and federal government support.

2023 will see the opening of the Splashpad, a new stage area and expanded entertainment. The Fireworks will return with our new partnership with Seven Mountains Media and we continue to take patron suggestions to improve this family treasure. Future plans call for additional ride offerings as well as additional rental space to maximize use of the park.

Thank you to our Volunteers, Board, Executive Director and Staff, the City of Elmira and our Patrons!

Bob Kramarik

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was an exciting year for us, with the pandemic restrictions lifted, we were able to plan for a full season again. With the help of sponsors and business partners, we had a robust season that brought joy to all ages. It was such a pleasure having the opportunity to witness eyes light up at meeting a live mermaid, the community come together to gaze in wonderment at the Fireworks display, smiles and laughter as they spun around on the carousel, and people dancing on the midway as they were taken over by the spirit of music.

While this year did have its own challenges, we still finished it strong and were able to continue the growth momentum that we started in 2021. Our revenue increased on all fronts including grants, sponsorships, donations, and ticket sales. With this growth, we were able to make some updates to our operations and expand our programming. We were also able to start progress on a few of our major projects such as a new stage and a new Splash Pad.

We are looking forward to an even bigger and better 2023 season! I hope that you will consider joining us again by either volunteering, following us on social media, or attending our events.

Sincerely,

Beth Clark



PRESERVATION & ORGANIZATION UPDATES

We continued preservation efforts for the historical attractions located at Eldridge Park and expanded the organization to meet our growth needs.

- Alex Taylor returned to finish up paint restoration on the carousel animals. This was coordinated with the help of Community Arts of Elmira.



- Started the process of relocating our Museum from the Café dining room to the Carousel Building by moving large museum pieces. We also partnered with a local collector to display his beautiful Wurlitzer Organ



- An original bumper car was purchased from a private collector and donated to the organization by Dale Bryant & Robby Robertson. It is currently at GST BOCES to be repaired and preserved to join our museum.



EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We were able to finish off the 2022 summer season of events with a bang

- Introduced new large-scale events by giving the community the chance to meet a live mermaid. 2,000 attendees were able to experience Circus Siren Pod performers at this event.
- Our Family Fun Days made a return, redesigned as "Family Fun Thursday" with free live entertainment and 1 free attraction. We held one event each month. June was sponsored by The Chemung County Youth Bureau and featured circus performances by Elmira native Michael Dubois and his partner Viktoria Grimm along with free Kiddieland Rides. July was sponsored by Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and featured creatures from Tanglewood Nature Center and free Carousel Rides. August was sponsored by M&T Bank and featured live demonstrations by Corning Museum of Glass and free Thunderbird Rides.
- Held 9 concerts as part of the Summer Concert Series sponsored by Elm Chevrolet. Then also partnered with Twin Tiers Community Orchestra to add 1 more concert to the summer season.
- Partnered with Seven Mountains Media to bring back the Fireworks event with our other event sponsors Chemung Canal Trust Company and Wegmans on Labor Day Weekend.
- Continued our regular schedule of Car Shows, as well as hosting local Food Trucks during all of our events.
- Had a successful 2nd season of our Halloween Event where we transformed the Miniature Golf Course into a fun haunted attraction. Also partnered with Near Westside Neighborhood Association to host a movie in the park event
- Coordinated with multiple organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 803, Italian Americans Veteran Club, to support the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall displayed at the park.





PARK ENHANCEMENT

We continued to make improvements to enhance the park for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors across the community

- Broke ground on a brand new 2500 sq ft Splash Pad that is funded by a private donor for the community to enjoy. Projected completion is the spring of 2023.
- Tore down the old stage after it was no longer safe to use without major repairs. Started the prep work for a new stage construction at the park.
- Utilized a professional web designer to give our website a makeover. This allows us to not only showcase the attractions, but also what the whole park has to offer and its history.
- Voted #1 Best of the Twin Tiers in 3 categories: Park, Family Entertainment, and Local Event. The progress that we have made in the last 2 years has made an impact!
- Took Movie Producer Jeff Austin on a tour of our Historic Carousel and the rest of the park as he scouted new filming locations.
- Added a drinking water fountain to the outside of the Carousel Building.
- Coordinated with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, and the City of Elmira to plant 140 native trees & shrubs around the park as part of the Trees for Tributaries program.



FINANCES

This year, we were able to bring back crowd favorite events such as the Fireworks and Family Days. We were also able to expand on our programming with new events. Our expenses centered around payroll, maintenance, and general operational expenses such as utilities and insurance.

REVENUE

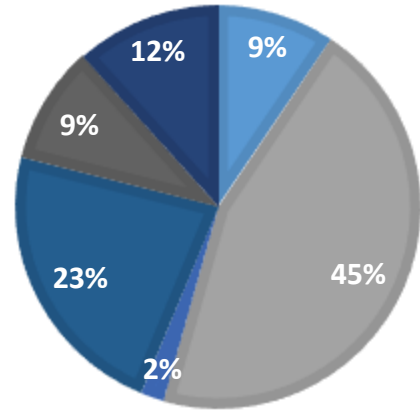
- Attraction Ticket Sales
- Grants
- Sponsorships & Donations
- Rentals
- Café & Gift Shop Sales

EXPENSES

- Events & Fundraising
- Maintenance
- Café & Gift Shop
- Business Expenses
- Insurance
- Payroll

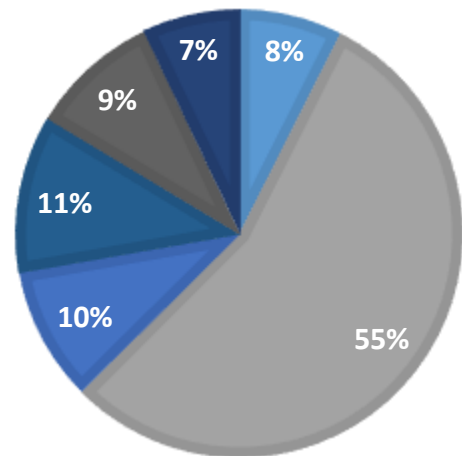
REVENUE

- Grants
- Sponsorship & Donations
- Rentals
- Attraction Ticket Sales
- Café & Gift Shop Sales
- Other Revenues



EXPENSES

- Café & Gift Shop Expenses
- Payroll
- Maintenance
- Business Expenses
- Insurance
- Events & Fundraising



Our Business Supporters, Sponsors, Grant Funders, and Community Partners

- AC Computer Repair
- American Legions Post 442
- Anchor Glass
- Anderson Foundation
- Benchmark Audio
- Chamberlain Acres
- Chemung Canal Trust Company
- Chemung County
- Chemung County Youth Bureau
- Chemung Valley Farmer's Museum
- City of Elmira
- CNY Arts Inc.
- Coca Cola
- Community Arts of Elmira
- Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes
- Ed's Heads
- Elm Chevrolet
- Elmira College
- Elmira Community Cycle
- Elmira Elks Lodge
- Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
- First Transit
- Friends of Chemung River Watershed
- George Hoare Memorial
- Gerould's Pharmacy
- Gough Foundation
- GST Boces
- Hale Roofing
- Hardinge Inc.
- Hilliard Corporation
- ID Booth
- JH Design
- John King
- Kiwanis Club - Elmira
- Kool Treats Entertainment
- KW's Fresh Coat Painting
- Larry Vanderhoff Excavating
- Lindau Foundation
- M&T Bank
- Music Depot
- National Historic Amusement Park Association
- Near Westside Neighborhood Association
- NY State Tourism
- NYS Council on the Arts
- Popcorn Truck Preservation Society
- Seven Mountains Media
- The Arctic League
- The Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
- Thomas Edison High School
- Tripp Foundation
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- Visions Federal Credit Union
- VVA Chapter 803
- Wegmans
- White Eagles Club
- Williams Companies

GALLOPING INTO 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Kramarik – President, Bobby K Entertainment Inc.

Walter Booth – Vice President, I.D. Booth Inc.

MaryBeth Drake– Treasurer, Retired Accountant

Michael “Robby” Robertson – Secretary, Howard Hanna Realtor & Retired Elmira City Police Chief

Dale Bryant – Retired Educator

Brian Cassetta – Physician with Guthrie Medical Group

Jane Joralemon – Retired Beekeeper

Mike Mitchell – Owner of Riverside Suites

Bob Pfuntner – President of WQRW Radio

Pat Poppleton – Owner of Poppleton Gardens

Casidhe Gilboy – Lawyer

Mike Sullivan – Owner of Hilltop Inn

Sue Tyron-Rogers – Retired from Elmira City School District

Richard Quinn – Mechanical Electrical Engineer with Corning Incorporated

STAFF

Beth Clark, Executive Director

