



From the Foundation

The past year has been remarkable for Tryon Palace and the Tryon Palace Foundation. As we mark the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Tryon Palace Commission and the 56th year of the opening of this site to the public, we can be proud of the shoulders on which we stand and the devotion of volunteers, donors, and patrons who continue to support the mission. That mission, the preservation and relating of the history of our state and nation, is essential today as it has been in the past. Beyond partisanship or ideological



debate, the knowledge and understanding of our past is absolutely critical to citizens in a participatory democracy.

When I see young people and families come to Tryon Palace, my confidence in our future is enhanced. They learn that the great debates and struggles of our past have assured us freedoms earned by others, and have given us opportunities and obligations to the present and the future. They learn the lesson that each of us has an existential choice to define our own personal contribution to this legacy. The benefits have come to us through the efforts of others. Our moment to contribute is now and that choice is ours.

When I reflect back to the leaders who helped assure this site and this mission, I am inspired. From the beginning, they envisioned a partnership between the resources of the state and the resources of individuals who would freely give of their time and personal material possessions to accomplish the task. As we look at the site today, all but one of the restored and reconstructed buildings have been accomplished with private resources. Collections have been acquired through private resources. Only the North Carolina History Center has relied on some public funding for its creation; public funding that partnered with tremendous generosity from the private sector.

To date, approximately two-thirds of the funding for the Tryon Palace site, owned by the citizens of North Carolina, has come from the private sector, including nearly half of today's operating costs. Volunteers, donors, and patrons have affirmed the value of this site. All three groups continue to grow their support.

Even as the transition toward new executive leadership for the site and public funding hurdles have presented challenges, these groups have been resilient and resolute in their determination that this story will be told. It's an exciting story and an inclusive story. It is our story and we celebrate it. My recently deceased friend, Luke Martin Jr., son of a U.S. Colored Troops soldier in the Civil War, and born into Jim Crow segregation, where he fought a second time for the freedom his father had already won, reminded us often that hard days are not bad days. If we have a purpose and a mission, we are fortunate.

At Tryon Palace, we have a purpose and a mission, and a record of accomplishment. The volunteers, donors, patrons, and staff can be proud that, when it was their turn, they stepped up to the challenges. The future is exciting and bright.

Thank you. Nelson McDaniel President, Tryon Palace Foundation



2014 Annual Report

The Tryon Palace Annual Report is published to acknowledge the generosity of Tryon Palace's primary supporters and to highlight achievements from the previous year. This publication is available to all those who have supported Tryon Palace through the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Foundation.

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Web: www.tryonpalacefoundation.org Email: foundation@tryonpalace.org Phone: 1-800-767-1560 Mail: Tryon Palace Foundation P.O. Box 1007, New Bern, NC, 28563

About Tryon Palace

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, NC, is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Tryon Palace is one of North Carolina's most significant historic sites. It is the home of the Governor's Palace, North Carolina's first colonial and first state capitol, and includes historic buildings, gardens, and the North Carolina History Center, which revolutionizes the visitor experience through use of the latest interactive technology. The History Center includes galleries, a performance hall, the museum store, and a waterfront café.

Tryon Palace's mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement in 1710, the development of statehood, and into the mid-20th century. It is dedicated to collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes, and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

Tickets and visitor information are available at Tryon Palace, 529 S. Front St., New Bern. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, employment and more, visit www. tryonpalace.org or call (800) 767-1560.

From the Commission

History would not be as interesting if everything stayed the same. Change comes with each passing year, and with those changes, we must learn to grow and adapt. Tryon Palace has been doing that since its inception. North Carolina's capital once moved between various cities around the state, but that changed when Tryon Palace opened in 1770 as the first permanent capitol. Although that Palace burned down just a few years later, we saw change once again when a reconstructed Palace opened in 1959.

In our recent history, change arrived with a vision of 21st-century engagement when the North Carolina History Center opened its doors in 2010. That vision was soon put at risk when budget cuts forced Tryon Palace to put several programs on hold (e.g., the blacksmith shop) and reduce its workforce. These reductions



threatened the Palace's quality of programming and attendance numbers, but the leadership challenged Palace staff to refocus their strategy on a vision for the future. Utilizing input from the Department of Cultural Resources, Tryon Palace Commission, Tryon Palace Foundation, and external consultants, Tryon Palace stepped forward in an effort to meet a lofty new challenge from the state's legislators: reach a point of 50/50 funding between state and private sources.

We took several strong steps forward in meeting our 50-50 goal in 2014 (see a breakdown on page 6), but admittedly, we faced a couple of new challenges as well. Philippe Lafargue, Tryon Palace's assistant director, was named the Palace's new executive director in the spring of 2014 and given the support of a new assistant director. Unfortunately, our new assistant director needed to return to Raleigh soon after the announcement, and in November of 2014, Philippe needed a leave of absence to visit his family in France. Lafargue has since retired, leaving Tryon Palace in the competent hands of its new assistant director, LeRae Umfleet, who has been the on-site director for the Palace since November. In addition to Mrs. Umfleet joining our team in 2014, Tryon Palace hired several other key leaders in recent months, including new directors of development, collections and education.

Make no mistake, we are building for the future and in just a few short months we hope to build our leadership team even stronger with the addition of a new executive director. This adds up to change and our history has shown us that change is a good thing for Tryon Palace. It teaches us to adapt and look ahead. It shows us how to learn what is working and keep a keen eye on the future.

With the leadership structure we now have in place, Tryon Palace is not only focused on diversifying revenue streams with new programming and special events, but on remaining good stewards to our donors, our visitors, and more importantly, to the future of Tryon Palace.

Sincerely, William Cannon Chairman, Tryon Palace Commission



Tryon Palace Volunteers Make a Difference

28,928 hours of service donated in 2014

To the casual observer, the full impact volunteers have on Tryon Palace's daily operations often goes unnoticed. Whether it is maintenance issues, keeping up with the 16 acres of gardens, administration, driving the shuttle, serving as historical interpreters, assisting in the museum store, or working as summer interns, a volunteer can be found making a difference on the site.

Without the tens of thousands of service hours our volunteers provide each year, Tryon Palace would not be able impact the lives of the many visitors that enter our gates.

In 2014, the number of volunteers grew to 604, a 37-percent increase from 2013. Those dedicated volunteers contributed 28,928 hours of service to Tryon Palace, which equates to a labor cost value of approximately \$652,326.

LeRae Umfleet, Tryon Palace assistant director, said she always marvels at the tireless work each and every volunteer donates to the betterment of Tryon Palace and its visitors.

"It truly cannot be overstated how much our volunteers provide for the visitor experience here at Tryon Palace," Umfleet said. "Though they may not realize it, every year thousands of visitors, ranging from school children to seniors, benefit from the dedication of our volunteers. There is no way we would be able to reach as many people, or provide such a quality historical and educational experience if it were not for their time and talents."

In addition to all the areas supported by volunteer hours in 2014, Tryon Palace was also pleased to receive assistance from the Autism Society of North Carolina. For the third year in a row, young men from the Autism Society of North Carolina kept the North Carolina History Center windows clean.

With volunteer hours and participation numbers up from 2013, the strong dedication to volunteerism at Tryon Palace and New Bern continues to grow with even more increases expected for 2015.

If you are interested in becoming a Tryon Palace volunteer, visit www.tryonpalace.org/volunteer

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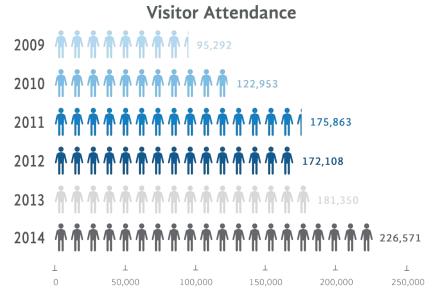
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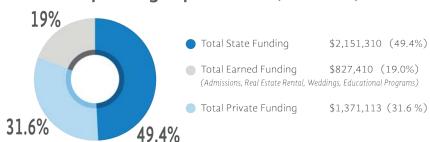
The Year in Review

Tryon Palace continued to grow in 2014 with increases in attendance, volunteers, and earned revenue. Below is a snapshot of how support from donors and staff worked together in their efforts to fulfill the Palace's mission and laid the groundwork for another successful year in 2015.

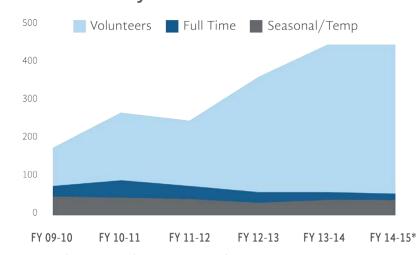


Denotes total visitation at Tryon Palace by calendar year.

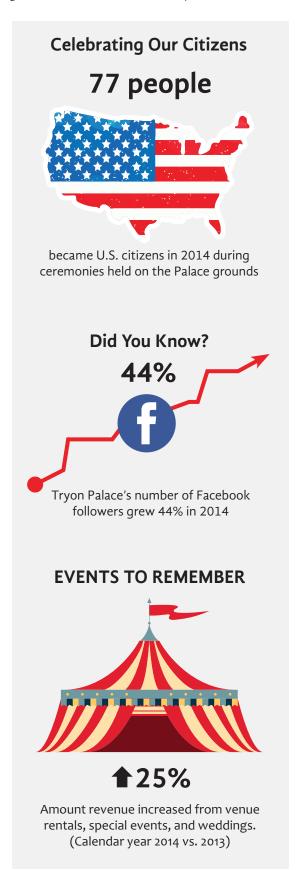
Annual Funding Sources for Tryon Palace Operating Expenditures (FY 13-14)



Tryon Palace Workforce



Number of people (full time, seasonal/temporary, and volunteers) working at Tryon Palace on a fiscal year basis. (*Numbers available through 6/22/2015)



Thank You to All Our Supporters

When I first considered moving to New Bern to join the Tryon Palace team, the thought overwhelmed me. I would be venturing into unknown territory, only knowing one person in town, and leaving behind my beloved friends, family, and the comfortable life I had built for myself during 12 years of living in the Triangle. But there was something about Tryon Palace that captured me. The smiles I saw, the passion I felt, and the feeling that Tryon Palace is a place that makes a difference won me over and I joined Tryon Palace as the new development manager in the fall of 2014.

The community of New Bern has welcomed me with open arms. Members of the Tryon Palace Foundation are a huge part of that community, and I am forever grateful. I am even more thankful for your investment in the place that also captured my respect. Tryon



Palace does so many things with a level of excellence that is hard to find, and we are very blessed to call it

As we forge our way into 2015, let us remember that we are part of a great organization. We have a story worth telling and a gem in our community to share. We cannot tell that story without the continued support of our members, whether it be through your time, treasure, or talent. Our growth is in your hands, so I encourage you to find someone who is not familiar with this great place you support and show them the passion and excellence we have here at Tryon Palace.

Thank you for all you have done for Tryon Palace and for all you will continue to do. I look forward to meeting you at the Palace!

Anna Shepherd Development Manager

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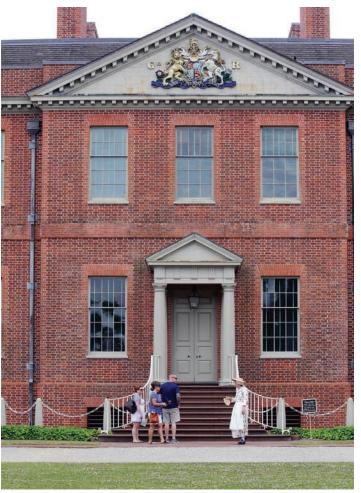
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2015 Events and Exhibits

North Carolina in the Great War (exhibit)

Through Sept. 13

North Carolinians contributed to the efforts of World War I in a variety of ways. From women serving as nurses in military hospitals in France, to the production of artillery shells in Raleigh and ships in Wilmington, and ultimately the 480,491 men from North Carolina who registered for service, the Tar Heel state played a significant role in the Great War. See these contributions come to life with a free exhibit in the Duffy Gallery that includes photographs, artifacts, uniforms, and a model trench.

Civil War Living History Weekend

Aug. 15-16

The sights and sounds of the Civil War will come to life during Tryon Palace's Civil War Living History Weekend held at the New Bern Academy Museum. The Academy will be home to reenactors, artillery, and infantry demonstrations, and lectures throughout Civil War Living History Weekend. In addition to the special activities at the Academy, Tryon Palace will also hold Civil War-themed tours on the Palace grounds and the Civil War-era Hay House will be open on Eden Street.

Stanly-Spaight Duel

Saturday, Sept. 5

On Sept. 5, 1802, a prominent New Bern lawyer met his political rival, a former state governor, in a lethal duel on the streets of New Bern. Step back in time to an era where a man's personal honor was his most cherished quality and any incursion on this prized value could result in fiery and violent retribution. Watch the drama unfold before your eyes in a gripping reenactment of this fateful day. Come early and enjoy the gardens before a special performance by Tryon Palace's Fife and Drum Corps starts off the event at 4:00 p.m.

The Governor's Challenge Cornhole Tournament Friday, Sept. 18

Spend the day playing your favorite backyard game in North Carolina's favorite backyard as the Home Builders Association of Craven and Pamlico Counties presents the "Governor's Challenge" cornhole tournament. Held on the Tryon Palace South Lawn, the Governor's Challenge invites amateur cornhole players to kick off the last weekend of summer with a day of food, drinks, beautiful views, and of course, cornhole. Proceeds from this event will be used to support Tryon Palace.

Fall Festival

Saturday, Sept. 19

Families and children of all ages will enjoy interactive crafts and activities during the Fall Festival at Tryon Palace. Craft activities and demonstrations designed for the entire family will be held throughout Tryon Palace and the North Carolina History Center. Teachers are invited to attend Fall Festival free (requires teaching credentials) and receive a



complimentary One Day Pass that includes access to the Governor's Palace, North Carolina History Center, gardens, and historic homes situated around the palace.

Celebrating Tryon Palace (exhibit)

Sept. 26- Nov. 8

In honor of the Tryon Palace Commission's 70th anniversary, Celebrating Tryon Palace explores the founding of the commission and its contributions to Tryon Palace over the past 70 years, including its support for the North Carolina History Center, which will celebrate its 5th anniversary this October.

Kitchens of New Bern Tour

Saturday, Sept. 26

The Kitchens of New Bern Tour is a unique opportunity to explore the heart of some of historic New Bern's most outstanding residences, as well as Tryon Palace's Kitchen Office and 16 acres of gardens. Join homeowners who have opened their kitchens in support of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at New Bern as they invite you to garner ideas for designing your own new kitchen or renovating the existing center of your home.

Autumn in the Gardens

Oct. 9-11

Visit Tryon Palace grounds free of charge during Mumfest weekend. Thousands of mums will be on display in our gardens along with a variety of fall blooming plants. Free garden admission; interior tours require the purchase of a ticket.

Fall Heritage Plant Sale

Oct. 9-10

Fall is for planting! Pick up your own ornamental kale, flowering asters, or mums for your fall and winter garden. Held during Mumfest weekend, Tryon Palace's Fall Heritage Plant Sale offers only plants grown locally and in our nursery yard. Supplies are limited so come early for the best selection.

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11

A special salute to the military men and women who have defended Eastern North Carolina for over three centuries! Free admission for all active duty and military veterans with the presentation of their military ID, with discounted admission for immediate family members.

Child's Play (exhibit)

Nov. 21-Jan. 10, 2016

Just in time for the holiday season, come see an exhibit on the evolution of toys! Ranging from 18th-century ivory dominos to 20th-century model trains, from homemade toys to tech toys, this exhibit will feature a variety of objects both old and new. Visitors will learn how industrial advances have changed toys not only in appearance but in availability as well. No matter your age, toys are for the child in all of us.

Festive Holiday Kick-Off Weekend

Nov. 27-29

Join us as we kick off the holiday season on Thanksgiving weekend. Christmas decorations are hung in the North Carolina History Center, Governor's Palace, and in our historic houses. Special performances, craft activities, and holiday tours officially launch us into the Christmas season.

${\bf 35th\ annual\ Candle light\ Celebration}$

Saturdays, Dec. 12 and 19, 4:30-9:30 p.m. This famed North Carolina tradition returns to Tryon Palace in 2015 with beautiful, new decorations and heartwarming holiday vignettes illuminated by the magical glow of candlelight. Join costumed characters in the Governor's Palace, Stanly House, Dixon House, and the Commission House as each home is brought to life with families celebrating Christmases past. Also be sure to catch the circus acts, fire eating, acrobatics, and black powder fireworks in celebration of the holiday season.



Your Membership Plants a Seed for the Future

Families love the gardens at Tryon Palace. Whether they are shopping for heritage plants, strolling through the Kitchen Garden, or taking a selfie among the tulips and mums, you have probably seen a family enjoying the beauty of Tryon Palace's gardens. Some families visit the gardens once or twice a year, but true garden lovers join our family by becoming members of the Tryon Palace Foundation.

Did you know all Tryon Palace Foundation members are able to enjoy the gardens for free? That's just one of the many perks of supporting North Carolina's first state capitol. Members also enjoy free admission to the Palace, historic homes, and the North Carolina History Center, which is home to the Pepsi Family Center, an interactive exhibit that excites imaginations of the young and the young at heart. Members also receive free or discounted admission to numerous special events throughout the year, including behind-the-scenes tours, lunch-and-learn programs, children's programs, and more.

By joining the Tryon Palace Foundation, members are planting a seed for Tryon Palace's future. Contact us today to learn how your membership can help build a legacy of education, preservation, and excitement for North Carolina's first permanent capitol.

