

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



CONGRESSIONAL  
CEMETERY







# Letter from the President

Dear Congressional Cemetery Community,

When 2022 began, I announced to you all that Congressional Cemetery was ‘recalibrating’.

What I meant with this announcement was that my team was working to balance the plethora of programs, constituent groups, and tasks we take on every day to better reflect our mission. This process included an assessment of where we found our resources, how we used them, and which groups needed to be served differently. This audit allowed cemetery leadership to take a holistic look at where we have been to better understand where we need to be heading.

Our internal review resulted in targeted improvements to how we engage with our community. A K9 task force was formed to discuss improvements to the K9 Corps program, resulting in a board vote to expand the program by over 200 families for 2023. Our programming department realized a need for conversations around death and dying that branched out past choosing a final resting place, culminating in the creation of a volunteer residency program for a Death Doula. Our programming expanded, opportunities for engagement with our constituent groups increased, and new staff were added to help reach our new goals. Our year of recalibration has ended, and a year of implementation has begun.

Because of you, we met our second endowment and can now use those funds for part of the care and maintenance costs associated with the cemetery’s operations. I am so grateful for your patience, generosity, and support as we have worked throughout 2022 to live up to the moniker “America’s Hippest Cemetery.” I hope you will see the fruits of our labor in the years to come.

Yours in Service,



Jackie Spainhour  
President





# Staff and Board of Directors

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Dylan Payne, Gate Checker

# About Historic Congressional Cemetery

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ith its first burial in 1807, Historic Congressional Cemetery is among the oldest institutions in Washington, DC, and is the final resting place for scores of individuals who were instrumental in the founding of the nation and its new capital city. In addition, it is the only place in Washington where individuals can be buried at a site directly on L'Enfant's 18th century city plan.

Historic Congressional Cemetery was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011 and continues to build upon the legacy of over 200 years of American history. The Cemetery is administered by the nonprofit Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery and owned by Christ Church + Washington Parish. The Association is constantly striving to maintain the historic, cultural, and aesthetic qualities of this natural landscape along the Anacostia River.

- Hundreds of volunteers each year help preserve the cemetery and further its non-profit mission.
- Burial sites are still available to the general public.
- Notable burials include John Philip Sousa, the March King; Mathew Brady, the Father of Photojournalism; Elbridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration of Independence; and Belva Lockwood, the first woman to legally run for President.
- Veterans from every American war are buried in the Cemetery.
- We promote innovative and sustainable practices, such as beekeeping, a dog-walking program, and are the only cemetery in Washington, DC, that provides green burials.
- Congressional Cemetery is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. We welcome visitors to walk around the grounds and explore the Cemetery's rich history and environmental beauty.

*The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are fully tax deductible.*

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

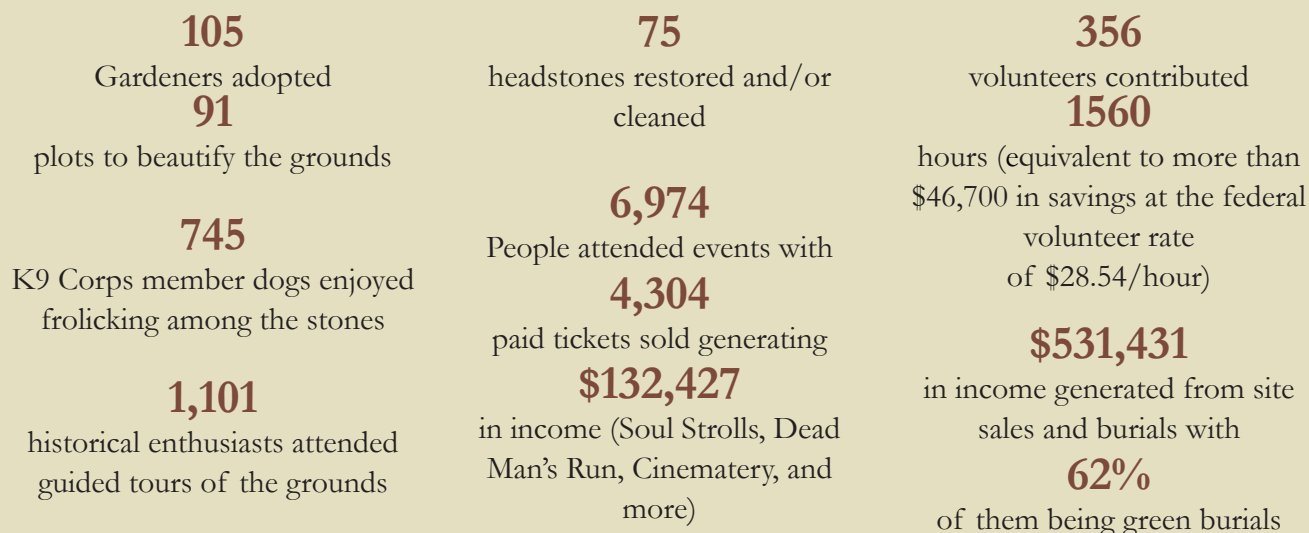
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## Our Mission

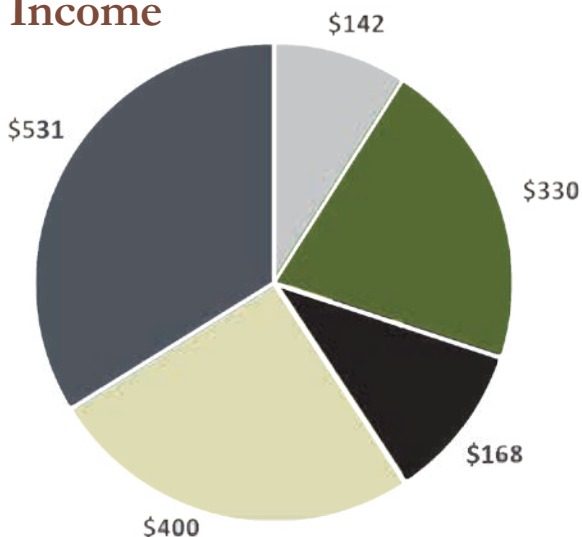
Historic Congressional Cemetery preserves, promotes, and protects our historic and active burial ground. We respectfully celebrate the legacy of those interred here through education, historic preservation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

## 2022 at a Glance

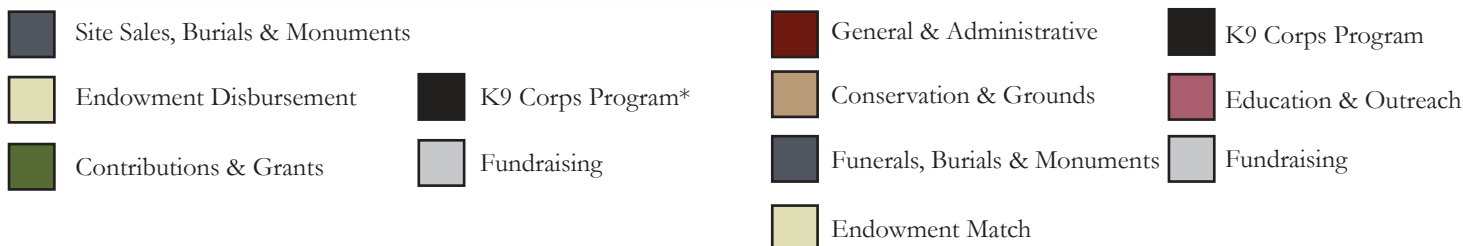
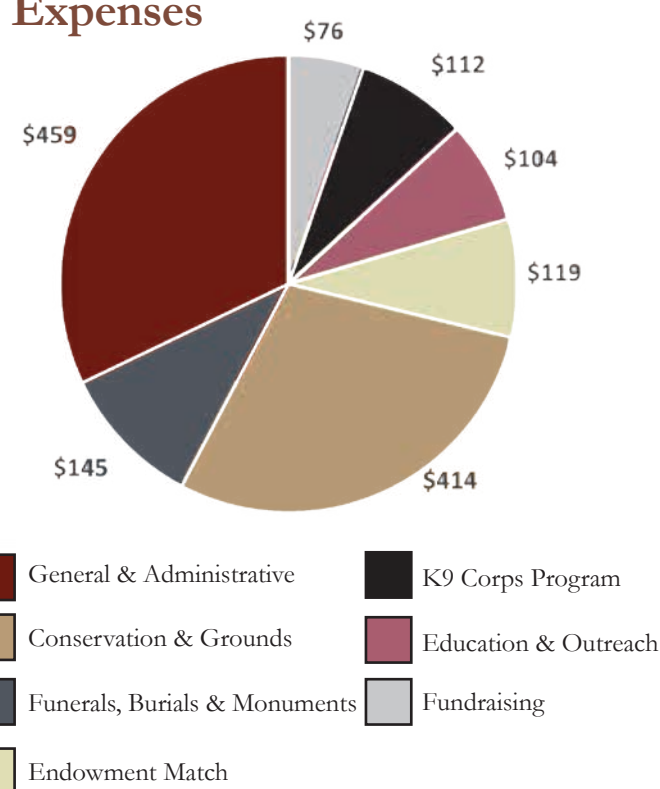


## 2022 Income and Expenses

### Income




### Expenses



Dollars in Thousands

\*Tax deductible portion of K9 Corps Memberships are reflected in Contributions & Grants.



A woman with brown hair styled in an updo, wearing a pink ruffled off-the-shoulder dress with gold floral embroidery and long white gloves, stands in a cemetery at dusk. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, there are tombstones and trees under a twilight sky with a full moon.

Historic Congressional  
Cemetery preserves,  
promotes, and protects  
our historic and active  
burial ground.

# Accomplishments and Highlights

## Education

The history of Congressional Cemetery is the story of all of us. The various headstones, memorials, and gravesites, and the stories associated with them, are a microcosm of the American experience. 2022 marked another successful year of sharing the stories of our interred residents with the community and respectfully celebrating their legacy through our educational outreach programs. This year:

- Our dedicated docents provided 73 public and private tours to an audience of 1,101 visitors.
- In close coordination with our docent corps, we developed and delivered several new special topic tours. Examples include Murder and Mayhem, Mostly Mothers, and the Lincoln Assassination tours.
- The new Mathew Brady Memorial was installed and dedicated in September to an audience of over 100 visitors. In addition, we released a new Photography Hill tour and brochure alongside the dedication event.
- We conducted educational programs for several organizations including the Smithsonian Associates, Naval Lodge 4, The General Meade Society, and Arlington National Cemetery, among others.

## Historic Preservation

Our commitment to protecting Historic Congressional Cemetery as a National Historic Landmark was made possible this year thanks to the efforts of a part-time conservation assistant, a professional conservator, our Director of Conservation, and the sweat equity of our volunteers. The work of these individuals made possible:

- The cleaning of 31 headstones, repairing of 21 foundations, and repairing of 28 memorials.
- A comprehensive safety audit of every headstone in the cemetery was performed, resulting in a discovered \$11,605,000 estimated in needed repairs to prioritize in our fundraising initiatives.
- The safety audit revealed 109 “Priority 1” headstones to repair ASAP and the need to set down several hundred for safety. Over 200 “Dangerous Headstone” signs were also placed as a result of the safety audit.
- An expanded partnership with professional conservator, Devlin McDonald, who repaired 23 priority 1 stones over the summer for \$53,000.
- A records audit began in the fall to help consolidate the historic records of the cemetery with more modern site sales and burials.





## Community Engagement

With the worst of the pandemic behind us, Congressional Cemetery was fully open once again, hosting numerous events, programs, and private parties. We remained a community cornerstone that vibrated with life amongst the stones. This year:

- Our Summer-of-Space themed Cinematernity events saw 867 visitors attend, generating \$11,381 in sales.
- Soul Strolls returned with record numbers. 1,688 visitors met our interred residents involved in a world of Criminal Sin, generating \$69,090 in sales.
- Dead Man's Run 5K had its comeback year as 770 runners, the highest attendance in the event's history, broke a sweat on our grounds, generating \$25,788.
- The annual John Philip Sousa birthday was a well attended affair. The Marine Band performed some of Sousa's iconic music for a live crowd of approximately 200 people.
- Death Cafes returned and dozens of enthusiastic participants enjoyed our Death Positive Programs.
- Partnerships returned and expanded, working with organizations such as DC Frontrunners, Special Olympics DC, the American Chestnut Foundation, DC Strings, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

## Environmental Stewardship

Congressional Cemetery continued to focus our efforts on the landscape that provides comfort and clean air to our visitors. We prioritized native plantings and mitigating safety issues on the grounds. This year:

- The Adopt-a-Plot program expanded, with a total of 91 plots representing 105 volunteer gardeners.
- As part of Casey Trees' mission to re-canopy DC, 10 new trees were planted.
- Staff and volunteers worked with The Hill Center to divide and move their perennials to the cemetery.
- Congressional Cemetery welcomed a new Horticulture & Grounds Manager.
- Eagle Scouts completed 6 Projects, such as a doggy day spa renovation, planting around the Chapel garden, and cleaning up the East End of the cemetery.
- Our bee pollinator partnership with DC Beekeepers Alliance flourished, resulting in a successful honey harvest and sale which sold out in 13 minutes.
- The cemetery continued to be supporters and proponents of green burials, honoring the final disposition wishes of dozens of individuals and their families.









# Donors

Historic Congressional Cemetery wishes to thank its many donors and supporters whose generosity makes it possible for us to continue to celebrate the legacy of those interred here and serve as stewards of more than 200 years of history in our Nation's capital.

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In Memory of Elizabeth A. Kendall

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In Memory of all Elliots

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In Memory of John Philip Sousa

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*Anonymous*

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## GIFTS IN KIND

*The following have provided donations and in-kind services in support  
of our programming and special events.*

DC Beekeepers Alliance

Eye Street Cellars

Fulcrum Properties Group

Hawk & Dove

Lax Wine & Spirits

Trinity Wine & Spirits

## THE MATHEW BRADY MEMORIAL

Larry West

## THE GIFT OF TIME

During the past year, Historic Congressional Cemetery's  
356 volunteers contributed more than 1,560 hours  
in support of our education, historic preservation,  
community engagement, and environmental stewardship  
programs.

## BRADY MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPH BY

Jay Vizcarra

## FRONT COVER + ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Kitty Linton

*Partial funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided by the 1998 Congressional Cemetery  
Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for  
Historic Preservation.*



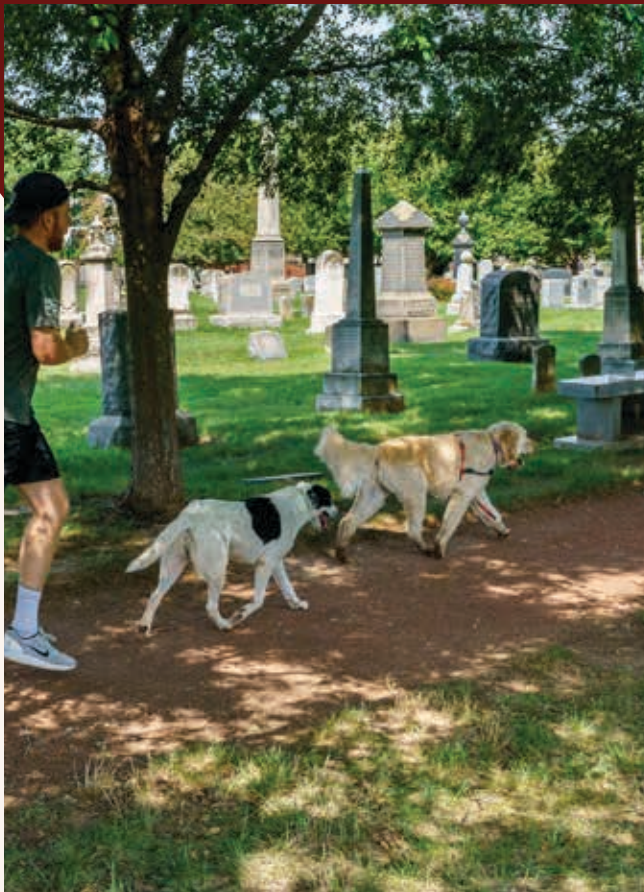


## Dogs in a Cemetery?



The K9 Corps at Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, off-leash dog walking program which brings life, community, and volunteerism to this extraordinary burial ground.

Dog walking at the cemetery is permitted by membership only, with the exception of one-time paid day passes for visitors.



### *Benefits of the K9 Corps*

Annual dues provide almost one quarter of our operating budget to assist with conservation and grounds maintenance projects.

The majority of members also volunteer for cemetery events, programs, and on the grounds.

The presence of dog walkers also provides security and surveillance on the grounds.

Many choose to become donors to keep this historic treasure financially secure.





SOUSA

— LEADER —  
UNITED STATES MARINE BAND  
1880 — 1892

The Association for the Preservation  
of Historic Congressional Cemetery

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202.543.0539

[www.CongressionalCemetery.org](http://www.CongressionalCemetery.org)