



H I S T O R I C
CANE HILL

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

CANEHILL ARKANSAS

2025 BY THE NUMBERS:

187

BEAUTIFUL ACRES
WITH WALKING TRAILS

4,400

CAMPUS VISITORS

242

HISTORIC CANE HILL MEMBERS
CREATING COMMUNITY

56

SPONSORS AND GRANTORS
SUPPORTING THE VISION

100+

VOLUNTEERS

160

WOOD WINDOWS IN
HISTORIC BUILDINGS



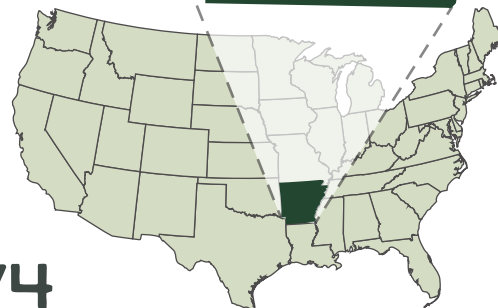
Photo by Russell A. Cothren

Visitors enjoy an exhibit in the Historic Cane Hill Gallery.

1827: First permanent European American Settlement established in Washington County



2013: Historic Cane Hill forms as a nonprofit



2020 Census Population: **74**



Photo by Vanessa McQuin

1891 Cane Hill Presbyterian Church.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CANE HILL,

I believe in celebrating milestones as markers along a meaningful journey. This year marked my fifth anniversary with Historic Cane Hill. When I look back at where we were five years ago and where we stand today, I am filled with gratitude. With your support, we have accomplished preservation of significant landmarks in Cane Hill; expanded exhibitions and programs; built membership, donor, and volunteer programs; and welcomed more visitors than ever before into our museum, gallery, trails, and historic buildings.



Photo by Russell A. Cothren

There were so many moments in 2025 that highlighted how preservation is not simply about historic buildings—it is about creating places where people gather, learn, and feel connected. Exhibitions like *Treasured Chests* and programming with Jerome Bias brought visitors from across the region to ponder the human stories connected to our material culture. Hands-on learning like the Colburn Barn timber framing workshop demonstrated how much historic structures have to teach us. Programs like Cane Hill After Dark, the Ozark Bug Crawl, Archeology Public Day, and music performances filled HCH's spaces with curiosity, conversation, and discovery.

This past year did present some challenges. In May, severe storms reminded us how vulnerable historic places can be. In September, heavy rain and lightning cut the Harvest Festival short. Yet even in those moments, we were grateful for the response. Volunteers pitched in. Sponsors stood by us. Guests adapted with understanding. Our community demonstrated grace, flexibility, and generosity. That spirit gives me tremendous confidence as we look ahead.

Cane Hill will celebrate its bicentennial in 2027. Preparations are already underway as we consider how best to recognize this great milestone while positioning Historic Cane Hill for its next chapter.

Historic Cane Hill exists because people care about places, about Arkansas stories, about rural landscapes, about Ozark culture and the arts, and about connecting with each other. Whether you are a member, volunteer, sponsor, partner, or visitor, you are part of Historic Cane Hill's story.

Thank you for helping us preserve, connect, and inspire. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Mckuin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

VANESSA MCKUIN, Executive Director

FROM A BOARD MEMBER

Pam and David Parks have long supported Historic Cane Hill's Harvest Festival through their family business, Prairie Grove Telephone Company. In 2024, Pam joined the Historic Cane Hill Board and her expertise in building community connection and collaboration has become invaluable. "David and I enjoy being an active part of the Historic Cane Hill community," says Pam. "Through the Kidd and Parks families, David has deep ties to Cane Hill, and we have loved learning even more about this historic place and the people who have lived here. It is important to us to see that the efforts of preservation, the arts and culture programs, and the lovely landscape are safeguarded through our financial support. Being a member of the board has also allowed me to join a group of like-minded individuals who care deeply, as we do, for this special place."



Photo by Eleanor Eichmann

Pam and David Parks serve popsicles at the Apple Blossom Society Social in April 2025 on the Cane Hill College grounds.

On the cover: Cane Hill College at sunset. Photo by Russell A. Cothren

PRESERVE, CONNECT, INSPIRE

Throughout 2025, guided by our mission *“to preserve, connect, and inspire through meaningful experiences with history, education, architecture, nature, and the arts,”* Historic Cane Hill stewarded irreplaceable cultural assets, deepened community engagement across Northwest Arkansas, and offered programming and exhibitions that sparked creativity and curiosity for visitors of all ages. The 2025 year brought together artists, archeologists, musicians, historians, educators, naturalists, children, and families to become a part of the story at Historic Cane Hill.

PRESERVE

In 2025, Historic Cane Hill advanced our preservation work through the care and keeping of the community’s historic buildings, cultural landscapes, and archival materials. Major work focused on restoration and conservation of key 19th century structures, including the **Colburn Barn, the John and Alice Edmiston House, and the 1878 Pyeatte-Moore Mill Painting by Henry Moore.** Improvements to

gallery and museum collection storage and exhibit spaces, and documentation of newly acquired artifacts relating to early education, agriculture, and Presbyterian history were also completed. Staff and volunteers provided maintenance across 187 acres and 15 historic buildings and sites, ensuring long-term sustainability of the rural campus. These efforts reinforced Historic Cane Hill’s leadership in rural preservation and reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to safeguarding the physical and documentary history that defines Cane Hill.



Photo by Russell A. Cothren

Historic Cane Hill received a 2025 Excellence in Preservation Through Restoration Award from Preserve Arkansas for the John and Alice Edmiston House.



Photo by Amanda Cothren

Jane Moore and Conservator Rick Parker with the Mill Painting.



Colburn Barn timber framing workshop in June 2025. Photo by Russell A. Cothren

CONNECT

Historic Cane Hill continued to deepen community relationships throughout 2025 with a calendar bursting with educational programs, public events, and partnerships. More than **4,400** guests enjoyed visiting our campus, the museum, and trails. Although the signature **Cane Hill Harvest Festival** was hampered by inclement weather, guests moved indoors to visit the fiber artisans and view the quilt show, and the museum and gallery enjoyed the busiest day on record. Tours, history walks, and programming engaged visitors from across the region. Hundreds of children, along with their families and friends explored the fields and Jordan Creek at the annual **Ozark Bug Crawl**. Collaboration with regional institutions—schools, arts organizations, tourism partners, and agricultural groups—expanded Historic Cane Hill’s reach beyond Washington County, inviting new audiences to explore the campus and learn about the local stories that shape Arkansas’s broader cultural narrative.



Photo by Amanda Cothren

▲ Ozark Bug Crawl - Guided by the University of Arkansas Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology staff and volunteers, Bug Crawlers explored the HCH campus and worked in teams to find insects in different orders to the soundtrack of insect-inspired songs performed by the Back Yard Bugs.

▶ Historic Cane Hill partnered with the University of Arkansas German Section for an event in Dutch Mills exploring the history of a mid-19th century community through Hidden Hermannsburg - History Passport: Reconnecting German Settlers and their Arkansas Neighbors. This project was one of only 14 projects, nationwide, to receive funding from the National Humanities Center for the 2025 Being Human Festival. Pictured: Holly Johnson and Barbara Hodson



Photo by Amanda Cothren

INSPIRE

Throughout 2025, Historic Cane Hill inspired all ages through diverse programming. The Historic Cane Hill Gallery presented the annual **Arkansas State Quail and Turkey Stamp Art** and **High School Artists competitions and exhibitions** as well as **Confluence: The Buffalo River, Ozark Mountains, and New York City: Landscape Paintings of Wendel Norton**. Rounding out the exhibitions was the **Treasured Chests: 19th Century Furniture Made by Northwest Arkansas Craftsmen** exhibition with guest artist and interpreter Jerome Bias. Bias presented **“Persistence of Hope: Seeing Ourselves in the Decorative Arts”** a lecture and a furniture-making demonstration exploring African Americans’ contributions to southern material culture. The **Treasured Chests** exhibition featured selections of more than 25 pieces of historic hand-crafted work from Cane Hill and surrounding areas. The 1891 Cane Hill Presbyterian Church was filled with music as we welcomed the **Symphony of Northwest Arkansas’s Sequoyah String Quartet** for two community performances in October, and the music of Starr Mitchell and George West as a part of **Cane Hill Christmas**. These exhibitions, performances, and programs made Historic Cane Hill a vibrant gathering place—inspiring meaningful connections through arts and culture.



Photo by Russell A. Cothren

Guest Artist Jerome Bias demonstrates traditional furniture-making techniques.

SUSTAINING HISTORIC CANE HILL TOGETHER

Historic Cane Hill's community of philanthropic supporters continued to grow as an essential foundation for preservation, education, and cultural experiences. Dedicated donors, sponsors, and grantors sustained the organization through annual contributions at every level.



Photo by Amanda Cothren

Total membership grew to 242 and the 32 members of the Apple Blossom Society—Historic Cane Hill's leadership-level membership circle—played a particularly important role by providing more than \$80,000 for preservation initiatives, building and trail maintenance, and community programming. All members enjoyed exclusive engagement opportunities throughout the year, including behind-the-scenes preservation tours, history hikes, and receptions, building a deeper connection between supporters and the work their generosity makes possible.

APPLE BLOSSOM SOCIETY

Founders Circle (\$10,000+)

Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Tim and Amy Leach

Shannon Pippin (\$5,000+)

John and Tricia Greer
Neil and Jean Helm
Willard and Pat Walker
Charitable Foundation
Phyllis McKuin
Pam and David Parks

Wilson June (\$2,500+)

Tareneh and Lance Manning
Stanley Yates

Howard Sweet (\$1,000+)

Ted Belden
Teresa and Alex Cornett
Donna Crawley
Courtney and Amber Crouch
Courtney and Brenda Crouch
Sally Kirby Hartman and
Ron Hartman
Malcolm and Ellen Hayward
Genevieve Pennington and
Vera Hall Endowment
Barbara Hodson
Tim Hudson and Charlotte Taylor
Paula Irwin
Holly and David Johnson
Marsha Jones
Mary Madden and Gary Thompson
Vanessa and Tim McKuin
Carl H. Miller Jr. Foundation
John and Joan Miller
George West and Starr Mitchell
Jane Moore
Mary Purvis
Carol Sue and Alan Wooten
Susan Young
Stephanie Haught Wade

HISTORIC CANE HILL MEMBERS

Foundation (\$500+)

Russell and Brenda Clem Black
Robert Burns
Betty and Billy Freeman
Laura Goodwin and Owen Kohler
Joel McKuin
Martha McNair
Tom and Cala Pence
Cathy and Denton Seilhan

Cornerstone (\$100+)

Julie Allison
Susie and Terry Baker
The James Burton Blair
Family Foundation
Amy and Brent Boyd
Julie Brannon
Joel and Lynn Carver
Ken and Linda Coffey
Russell and Amanda Cothren
Gretchen and Daniel Crane
Amanda, Arthur, Chester,
Hazel and Felix Crane
Gaye Cypert
Chuck and Lori Debes
Lodie Dixon
Hugh and Donna Dunnahoe
Nathan R. Finch and
Barbara K. Patchen
Paul Gibson
Phyllis Hagan
Hillary Hagan
Ken and Cyndy Hatfield
Sarah Helmer
Rob Hileman
Gary and Judy Holland
Clark and Georgi Irwin
Sandy Jenkins
Ron and Wanda Jenkins
Jeremy Kelly and Cole Barton
Gerald Klingaman
John Lehnen and Luis Murillo

Cornerstone, cont.

Jim and Diana Lewis
William Martin
Janet and Fred Martinez
Sharon McCone
Myrna McCormack
Bob and Mary McKuin
Michael McLellan
Katrina and Larry Thomas
Denise "Nese" Nemec
Carolyn and David Newbern
Cheri and Mark Nichols
Liz Norton
Heather Nunn
Luke and Janet Parsch
Rachel and Drue Patton
Gene Pharr
Andrew Proctor
Barbara and Bob Reynolds
Mary and Robert Richardson
Bill Russell and Mary L. Ryan
Michael and Suzanne Saltz
Kem and J.J. Scroggin
Karen Shank
Frank Sharp
Larry and Patti Snodgrass
Mary Stockland
Tim and Patty Sullivan
Loyd and Carole Swope
Devin Tabor and Sky Tabor
Ling Ting
Hadley Twilley
Brian, Howard, and
Donna Umberson
Constance Waddell
Chris and Carmen Weaver
Deborah Weiser
Darren and Stephanie
Williamson
Kathey and Stanley Wilson
Mike and Mary Woods

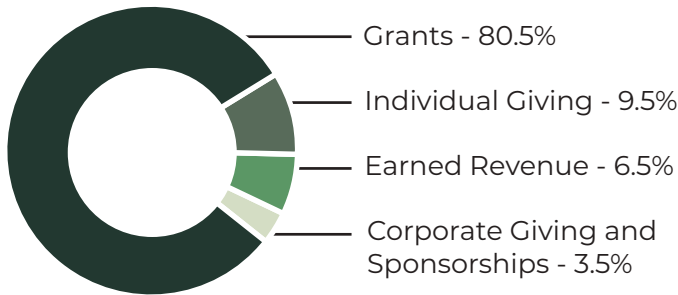
To become a Member or join the Apple Blossom Society, visit historiccanehillar.org/join-support

FINANCIAL REPORT

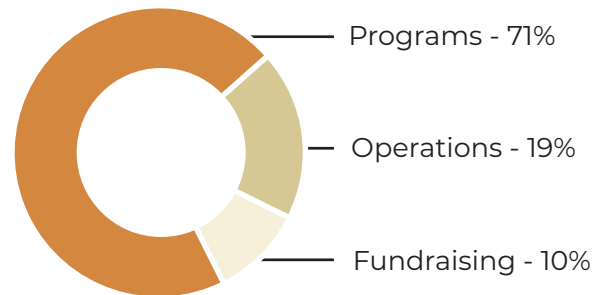
Community support is invaluable to the work of Historic Cane Hill. From individual donors to businesses and foundations, philanthropic gifts have made the difference. Historic Cane Hill remains committed to directing the majority of funding toward historic preservation, educational programming, and community initiatives. Additionally, more than 100 volunteers contributed their time and talents to projects and programming, including the Cane Hill Harvest

Festival, special events, museum operations, trail and ground maintenance, research, administrative support and more. Twenty twenty-five was a record breaking year of fundraising. Generous grantors, individual and corporate donors, and sponsors enabled Historic Cane Hill to further invest in its mission to preserve, connect, and inspire. Below see an overview of revenue and expenses.

2025 INCOME - \$1,123,481



2025 EXPENSES - \$747,142



2025 BOARD AND STAFF



Vanessa McKuin
Executive Director



Holly Brain Johnson
Director of Development



Amanda Cothren
Programs and Events Coordinator



Daniel Crane
Grounds Assistant



Board of Directors
From back to front
Neil Helm, *Treasurer*
Susan Young, *Secretary*
Tareneh Manning
Jay Young
Mary Madden
Paula Irwin
Tim Leach
John Greer, *President*
Pam Parks



Lawrence McElroy
Director of Arts and Culture



Carly Squyres
Administrative and Operations Manager



Jackson Wells
Historic Sites Manager
August 2025 - Present



Jared Biggs
Historic Sites Manager
Through April 2025

Advisory Board
Betty Colburn
Scott Davis
Bonnie Haegele
Jim Lewis
Daylene Reed
Leonard "Archie" Reed



Historic Cane Hill's 2025 programs, events, and exhibitions were supported by the generosity of the following sponsors and grantors:

\$10,000 and more



THE ROY AND CHRISTINE
STURGIS
CHARITABLE AND
EDUCATIONAL
TRUST
OF ARKADDELPHIA, AR



James Steve &
Eileen Guthrie



THE DIAN GRAVES OWEN
Foundation



PERMIAN BASIN
AREA FOUNDATION

\$5,000-9,999



Paula
Irwin



\$2,500-4,999



Tareneh
& Lance
Manning



\$1,000-2,499



Alex &
Teresa Cornett



Curtis Moore
Washington County



Genevieve
Pennington
& Vera Hall
Endowment



Wallace Group
of Wells Fargo Advisors



\$500-999



Tony &
April Price



\$100-499

Advance Pest Control • American Drive In • Auto Glass and Mirror Inc. • Benchmark Equipment Rentals •
Carter's Flowers • Drip Drop Health & Wellness • Farmers Coop Lincoln • Fourkiller Lawn Solutions •
Laffery's Propane • Landmark CPAs • Luginbuel Funeral Home • Poor Man's Auto Parts •
R & R Truck and Trailer • Spears and Son Tree Service • Spinks Ten Acre Market

Learn more about the programs, exhibitions, and events at Historic Cane Hill! Visit www.historiccanehillar.org



@historiccanehill