

CHLPC Summer Concerts Room Tax Funding Report

The Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission's Summer Concert Series continues to grow in popularity! We had our largest crowds ever this year approaching or exceeding 300 concert goers for each of our three concerts. We have especially enjoyed seeing more families and young people attend the series, gaining exposure to what CHLPC is and appreciation for our work in Columbus. We attribute this demographic shift to the additions of local performers as openers and free supper for kids for the past two summers. This year we enjoyed the return of Partners Dance Studio, and the Summer Concert debuts of the Red Bud Players and local singer/songwriter Chris Carter. Our headliners included Vintage Vegas, featuring Columbus Band Member Dominic Famularo, the Waunakee Big Band, and Madison-based Columbus Native Mark Croft with his Mark Croft Trio. These events truly brought the best of our small town to beautiful Fireman's park. It was such a pleasure to watch neighbors visit and relax under the oak trees, and many expressed their gratitude personally to members of our commission.

We do not have a lot of hard data on concertgoers for this year. We do know that we had 300 or more people at each of the three concerts. Walking through the crowd, we saw many from Columbus, as well as visitors from surrounding communities including Fall River, Cambria and Fon du Lac, Washington State, Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina and even the Netherlands. Those from out of state or county were joining friends and family from Columbus. At each of the three concerts, 20-30 free kids meals were enjoyed.

In addition to entertainment, many local businesses and organizations also enjoyed the opportunity to serve and achieve outreach in our community. Local businesses Sweet Memories, Cercis Brewing, and Little Sister Cookies offered delicious sweets and beverages. The American Legion and the Marines took advantage of the concerts to raise funds through food sales, each choosing to sponsor the meals for kids. We also invited the Columbus Area Historical Society for an opportunity to outreach and fundraise for their new museum home. For our part, we were successful in raising awareness of our current project, the rehabilitation of the Rest Haven in Fireman's park. We had success raising funds in cash donations from concert goers, and, perhaps more importantly, made community connections regarding this historic and culturally significant structure. These connections help create a sense of pride and place in Columbus and also help foster relationships with major donors.

Thank you for your support in this successful community event, Katie Nichols, Commissioner, CHLPC

Attachments: invoices, band contracts (which list payment) and photos