

## Cavern Tavern Grows Stronger: A Year of Community and Music

**People served:** Just over 400 people

**Dollars raised:** Just under \$7,000

**Event Sponsors:** Douglas Downtown Development Authority, Sam & Janene Cummings, James Thomas Interiors & Saugatuck Brewing Company

Partners Involved:

**Impact on the community:** Cavern Tavern 2024 was a resounding success, building upon the momentum of the previous year. We witnessed a significant increase in both attendance and sales, demonstrating the growing popularity of this event within the community.

A key factor in this year's success was our collaboration with the Douglas DDA and the Great Lakes Brass Band. By partnering with the DDA, we were able to secure additional resources and support, which allowed us to enhance the overall experience for attendees. The Great Lakes Brass Band, with their energetic performance, not only drew in more people but also created a lively atmosphere that extended into the parade. Their innovative approach, starting their set outside Ox-Bow House and then weaving through the parade crowd, added a dynamic element that captivated the audience.

All funds raised from this event contributed to the Ox-Bow House Seed Fund which is working to raise money towards the purchase price of Ox-Bow House. Ox-Bow House has been integral in expanding our reach into the local community – providing a threshold for meeting community members and visitors alike. Over our first 2 years as a pilot program, Ox-Bow House hosted a diverse array of programs, including art exhibitions, artist talks, performances, and the Cavern Tavern. Our gallery has showcased the artwork of our alumni, told Ox-Bow and American history through our archives, and supported staff, alumni, local and regional artists through the sale of their work. The funds raised help bring us closer to ensuring Ox-Bow House remains a permanent part of not only Ox-Bow's artistic heritage, but that the building itself remains a part of historic downtown Douglas.