



MEMO

GRIGNON MANSION

To: Common Council
From: Cassidy Mickelson, Grignon Mansion Executive Director
Date: January 18, 2022
Re: Grignon Mansion Annual Report

2021 was a year of success and adapting at the Grignon Mansion. After being closed to the public in 2020 due to the pandemic, staff and volunteers were eager to reopen for seasonal tours in May and hold annual special events. Although procedures were different to ensure the safety of visitors and volunteers, the community responded with overwhelming positivity. Despite being unable to host three special events or school tours, 2021 reflected one of the best years of attendance since opening to the public in 2013.

As we look back on the year, it is important to note that nothing would be possible without the City of Kaukauna, the Grignon Mansion Board, the Friends of the Grignon Mansion, local businesses and non-profits, and our community partners. Below, you will find a list of highlights for 2021 regarding volunteer participation, visitor attendance, and completed projects. Additionally, a list of goals and projects for 2022 is included. For any additional details, please contact me at cmickelson@kaukauna-wi.org.

2021 Highlights

185 seasonal tour attendees

107 tours at the Grignon Mansion Car Show

341 Civil War Living History Demonstration attendees

398 Grignon Mansion Christmas Tour attendees

356 new Facebook page likes, 408 new Facebook page followers

Completion of the Historic Structure Report by Legacy Architecture

- Made possible by the Wisconsin Historical Society (\$15,500), the Community Foundation's David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund (\$10,000), the Friends of the Grignon Mansion (\$2,500), and the City of Kaukauna (\$2,500)

41 active volunteers with the Friends of the Grignon Mansion, including 11 junior tour guides

1,250 hours logged by volunteers

\$2,500 in local business sponsorships and donations

- Hintz Trucking & Excavating, Kobussen Buses, Ltd., Fox Communities Credit Union, Richard's Diamonds & Gems, Midwest Carriers, Kaukauna Elks Club

In-kind donations from 16 local businesses and non-profits

- Action Auto, Pagoni's Pizza, Kaukauna Coffee and Tea, Sticky Fingers Café, Marshall Florist, Cherryland's Best, Trilliant/Victor Allen's Coffee, Hearthstone Historic House Museum, Building For Kids Children's Museum, History Museum at the Castle, Great Harvest Bread Co., Clever K9, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Stoneridge Piggly Wiggly, Woods & Ivy, Carstens Ace Hardware

2022 Goals and Projects

Grignon Mansion Repairs

- Based on the recommendations of the Historic Structure Report, extensive repairs to the structure need to be made to ensure the longevity of the building, which includes repairing/replacing the front and back porch, the front and back steps, the second-floor balcony, wood underneath the gutters, woodpecker damage on the east facade, weather-stripping doors and windows, and more. Funds for this project are in the City of Kaukauna's 2022 Capital Improvement Plan. Optimistically, most of these repairs will be completed by August 1, 2022, before Grignon Mansion special events begin the season.

Mold Mitigation

- The second floor of the Grignon Mansion is exhibiting rapid mold growth. The first steps will include a microbial inspection, and treatment will be based on recommendations. The funds for this project will be contributed by the Friends of the Grignon Mansion from a grant provided by the Community Foundation's David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund.

Re-establishing Annual 4th Grade School Tours

- The pandemic limited our ability to work with local 4th-grade classes – the age group learning about Wisconsin's fur trade and exploration. In 2022, we will work closely with teachers to provide virtual or in-person access to the Grignon Mansion.

Technology Upgrade

- The Grignon Mansion has an extensive collection of hundreds of artifacts, documents, and photographs that have not been inventoried in over a decade. To properly document and take care of these items, a large format scanner, a printer, laptop docking station, and dual screens will be purchased in early 2022. Funds for this project will be provided by a private donor working with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.