Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2022
The Rosenbach Museum & Library is a community that engages with and celebrates the art of the written word using our collection of rare books, manuscripts, and historical objects.
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Fiscal Year 2022

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Dear Rosenbach Community,

This is my final letter as Chair. Beginning July 1 the Rosenbach Board will be ably guided by my colleague and fellow Board Member, Benito Cachinero-Sanchez, a man well suited to the role in both temperament and experience. Benito has served on the Rosenbach’s Board for several years now, and, prior to joining us, served on the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation Board. He is well versed in the issues and opportunities before us, and well equipped to deal with them all. Please join me in welcoming him as our new Chair.

The phrase “hidden jewel” has too often been employed by many to describe the Rosenbach and its relationship to the Philadelphia cultural landscape. While jewel-like we may be, we no longer wish to be thought of as “hidden.” This past year has seen us make great strides in raising our profile, not just within Philadelphia, but indeed globally.

We end our fiscal 2022 year with a great deal to be proud of, and with a full slate of new initiatives that will strengthen the Rosenbach in the coming years. Our program offerings are deeper and broader than ever, attracting wide audiences we have never had before. Our new Young Friends group has been a source of amazing energy and support. We have launched “Rosenbach’s Company,” an outreach initiative aimed at keeping the Rosenbach front-of-mind within the rare book and scholarly communities. And, very importantly, we began work on a long term project to rehabilitate the historic buildings in which the Rosenbach is housed. We began in 2022 working on the garden and the rear façade, with more to follow in 2023 and beyond.

I’ll end with the observation that Kelsey Bates has now thoroughly inhabited her new role as Executive Director and is moving quickly to solidify and extend all the gains we have made these past several years. Together, and with the efforts of the Rosenbach’s highly motivated Board and dedicated staff, we all can look forward to even greater success in 2023 and beyond.

It has been an honor, a privilege, and indeed a pleasure to serve as Chair these past three years, the trials of the COVID-19 Pandemic notwithstanding. In that time I have gotten to know many of you personally, though not nearly as many as I would have liked. I can’t thank you all enough for the support you have shown to me, our Board, the staff, and the Rosenbach.

Thank you for all that you do.

Peter D. Nalle
Chair, Board of Directors
The Rosenbach Museum & Library
Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters of the Rosenbach,

When the Rosenbach reopened its garden during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, its beauty emphasized the fact that the rear façade of both 2008 and 2010 Delancey needed to be repaired as well. We discovered that the windows—all 36—needed to be fully replaced, and the historic bay windows on the first and second floors of 2010 needed to be conserved. The masonry was also in dire need of cleaning, repair, and repointing. The roofs of both houses were at the end of their lives. We also hoped to return the Rosenbach’s outdoor sculpture to the garden after over 20 years in storage.

Our Buildings Committee, led by Board Member Gene LeFevre, and the Rosenbach staff leapt into action, hiring Becker & Frondorf as project managers and Mara Restoration for the historically sensitive masonry work. Architectural Window began manufacturing mahogany windows, just like the originals, and Materials Conservation Company would conserve the leaded glass bay windows in the dining room and second floor gallery as well as the sculpture.

With gifts from the Wyncote Foundation, Jim and Janet Averill, the McLean Contributionship, Lily and Peter Ferry, and numerous board members, neighbors, and friends, the Rosenbach raised nearly $1 million to begin the nine-month project.

Even through the construction, the Rosenbach returned to near pre-pandemic levels of service in fiscal year 2022 (FY2022): we opened a new exhibition, Medium & Message, featuring the pop-up book art of Lothar Meggendorfer and Colette Fu, launched the first season of The Rosenbach Podcast, continued the popular Biblioventure web-series with Sundays with Jane, and presented in-person and online courses on Octavia Butler, Thomas Mann, William Faulkner, and the Brontës, to name a few.

The highlight of the year, however, had to be the return of Bloomsday to the 2000 block of Delancey Place on June 16 for the centenary of the publication of Ulysses. After two years of virtual Bloomsday, it was a most welcome event to have a beautiful day on which to read Joyce’s masterpiece aloud on the front steps of 2010 Delancey once again.

We have the deepest appreciation for those who helped us celebrate the art of the written word in FY2022. It is so, so good to be back!
Fiscal Year 2022

milestones

- Brought in $188,000 in general operating support through the Rosenbacchanal
- Supported 90 researchers, from 21 states and 4 countries, with on-site research
- Welcomed 2,871 visitors to the museum and historic house
- Replaced 27 original windows from the 1860s on the building
- Completed over 1,000 hours of stewardship work
- Received over $750,000 of grants and donations to begin a major capital project
Provided 2,891 images from the collections for researchers

Offered 23 virtual courses

Raised $3,000 for conservation efforts through a new [Young Friends](#) program

Connected with 357 attendees at 24 Behind the Bookcase tours

Introduced course scholarships, allowing greater access to programs

Initiated the return of 8 historic sculptures to the garden after 20 years
In June of 2022, the Rosenbach’s staff convened for the first all-staff retreat since the pandemic. A large part of this time was spent brainstorming institution-wide and department-specific goals to make the museum more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible. These goals included reassessing our lobby and public spaces to make them more physically accessible and welcoming to all visitors, increasing the diversity of topics for public programs, creating and publishing a reparative cataloging statement, providing DEAI training for staff, guides, and the Board, and revising our 2020 Statement of Equity.

Shortly after this brainstorming session, we reformed the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Committee, first founded in the summer of 2020, with Coordinator of Public Programs Isabel Steven as chair and Executive Office Coordinator Lara Bros and Manager of Events Amy Osterhout as co-chairs. The Committee has representation from staff in every department and every level of leadership as well as volunteer guides. It has been formed with the intent to fulfill the goals we set out in our staff retreat, to keep us accountable not only to ourselves, but to the public, put systems in place for consistent evaluation and training, and to make sure that DEAI becomes integral to all of the work that we do here at the Rosenbach Museum & Library.

Read on for an update to our 2020 Commitment to Equity Statement.

Sincerely,

Isabel Steven
Program Coordinator
Chair, DEAI Committee

Lara Bros
Executive Office Coordinator
Co-Chair, DEAI Committee

Amy Osterhout
Manager of Events
Co-Chair, DEAI Committee
Commitment to Equity

Read below for an update on our Commitment to Equity, originally published in 2020.

As a member of Philadelphia’s arts and culture sector, The Rosenbach will better reflect our city in every facet of our organization: a more diverse staff and board, an increase in representation of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), LGBTQ+ people, and other traditionally underrepresented groups in the courses and programs we offer, highlighting the diverse voices that already exist within the collections, and increasing the diversity within our collections through acquisitions and physical spaces that are equitable and welcoming. The Rosenbach’s Board of Directors and Staff are actively committed to continually working and learning to diversify the organization’s leadership and will share these initiatives annually. The Rosenbach will continue to learn, but we make the following commitments to our community today.

We acknowledge that museums are not neutral. They are a vital part of how we interpret and share stories, and we believe the diversity of the people working in these institutions strengthens us collectively.

1. Continue learning: The Rosenbach’s staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors will receive Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) orientation and training annually. The Rosenbach has a DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) Committee with staff members from all departments and all levels of management, and volunteer guides, led by a rotating chair. Currently, Coordinator of Public Programs Isabel Steven leads the committee.

2. Create equitable opportunities: We will be intentional about our hiring practices to increase diversity amongst our staff. Since the majority of the current staff is white, we will connect with BIPOC professional and alumni groups to widen our candidate pool and share future job or internship posts beyond traditional nonprofit online employment boards or our personal/professional networks.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage BIPOC, LGBTQ+ people, veterans, and people with disabilities to apply. The Rosenbach Museum & Library is committed to building a community that is inclusive and equitable, which strengthens our ability to maintain our shared cultural heritage.

All employment decisions are based on organizational needs, job requirements, and individual qualifications. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or any other status.

3. Increase the diversity of our leadership: In FY21, the Board of Directors committed to adding at least two additional BIPOC Directors and aims to achieve and sustain over time a Board that benefits from diversity of all kinds, including participation by BIPOC members at a rate that is at least 25% of the total Board. As of March 2023, the Board of Directors has 22% participation by BIPOC members.

4. Increase accountability: We will amend our existing strategic plan with specific due dates and measurables in areas of DEAI initiatives. The DEAI Committee will create institution evaluations for the six month and year mark annually. Every year we will report on the progress of DEAI initiatives in the Annual Report and on our website.
5. **Amplify the history, literature and culture of marginalized communities**: Collections form the foundations of research, public programming, and outreach at the Rosenbach. As we continue to develop these collections, it is important that our acquisition strategy reflects our institutional commitments to equity, and to addressing historical injustices and contemporary issues. Our holdings have increased by a third since our founders’ day and, as we collect into 2023 and beyond, we intend to build on our existing strengths and areas of focus in history and literature. At the same time, our strategy attempts to foreground people and communities that have been overlooked, works that have been under-appreciated, and stories that have yet to be told.

In our original statement in 2020, we committed to amplifying Black history, literature and culture in response to the cultural moment of summer 2020. We continue to commit to showcasing the history and literature of Black communities through our programs, tours, exhibitions, and courses; we also commit to showcasing the history and literature of other traditionally underrepresented and marginalized communities and people like the LGBTQ+ community, members of religious minorities, Indigenous people, people of color, and women. We will do so by creating and offering programs, tours, exhibitions and courses that focus specifically on these histories, and by ensuring that these histories are also included and featured in other offerings when they are not the focus.

5. **[Original goal from Summer 2020] Amplify Black history, literature, and culture beyond this moment**: In response to our commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement, we will showcase Black narratives in a major new exhibition on the life and work of Alice Dunbar-Nelson in fall 2020, “I Am An American!”, which will include courses, discussions, and a conference with our partner University of Delaware. In addition, at least five new virtual offerings on varied topics amplifying Black lives will be debuted over the next six months.

6. **Continue to pursue public input in the development of Rosenbach programs and services**: We strive to be responsive to our community. We will consistently solicit input from audience stakeholders, partnering with BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ owned businesses, organizations and institutions, and working with compensated community advisory groups. We will work to create mechanisms for visitors and those who use our services to provide feedback and a system for responding to that feedback and for creating resolutions.

7. **Change our physical spaces to better reflect our community**: We will feature the BIPOC writers and artists in our collections in our public spaces. We will also create a Statement of Institutional Values reflecting our commitment to equity and change in a highly visible area of our front lobby and on our website. We will make the lobby and all other public spaces accessible and welcoming to visitors with disabilities and different needs. We recognize that our physical space extends to the street on which we reside and will work to make the street more welcoming and accessible to visitors with the use of pedestrian banners and other signage.

8. **Examine our list of vendors**: We will consciously partner with companies founded or led by BIPOC, women, LGBTQ+ people, and/or people with disabilities, and/or commit to employing individuals from these communities. If you are interested in working with the Rosenbach Museum and Library as a vendor (e.g. catering, etc.), please contact info@rosenbach.org and we will ensure that your inquiry is addressed by the proper member of the Rosenbach staff.

9. **Concentrate funding efforts**: We will proactively research and apply for funding opportunities that allow the Rosenbach Museum and Library to provide programming created and led by BIPOC, LGBTQ+ people and other traditionally underrepresented and marginalized communities.

10. **Increase engagement from a diverse audience**: We will increase our engagement scope to reach diverse audiences by partnering with BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and other community-owned or led publications and nonprofits to share our programs, events, and opportunities.

To be successful in this endeavor, it is imperative that we commit to all of the items listed above.
Reparative Cataloging

With the help of several grants, the Collections team at the Rosenbach began the process of reparative cataloging. These ambitious endeavors present a concurrent opportunity for staff to review and address, in collaboration with community partners, language used in the past to describe our collections.

Near the end of FY22, the Rosenbach’s Collections team began a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to update its database for non-library objects. The grant funded the migration of object records stored on a local server to a cloud-based Collections Management System, PastPerfect Web Edition (PPWE). This effort would also include the decommissioning of the local server after the migration. It would provide temporary storage and public accessibility for existing library records pending receipt of a second grant (through a late-FY22 grant application to the Institute for Museum and Library Services) to modernize and refine our library catalog and make all records available internationally through WorldCat. The total timeframe for the intertwined projects would be four years.

Some of the content of records dates to the creation and use of our oldest objects though our founders’ day, while some has been added over the nearly 70 years of the Rosenbach’s institutional history. Through descriptive text and outdated standard terms, these records may feature language that is insensitive and/or harmful to users today. We acknowledge the need to address such language, and we have begun the process of researching and experimenting with how best to proceed. We have begun work on a thorough Q & A document that will appear on our website to explain this process to the public and solicit input.

We do not wish to erase the past, but instead to mitigate the impact of harmful content, while also balancing the needs of research.

We may include, for example, preserving the original language of titles or descriptions of materials for historical accuracy while also providing the social context of a specific time, among other changes.

As terminology and best practices evolve over time, we recognize that reparative cataloging is complex, ongoing work, and we are dedicated to continuously educating ourselves and improving our process. We will strive for transparency by maintaining a record of revisions made to catalog records and sharing our efforts with other library, museum, and archive professionals, as well as the broader community. Though we aim to remediate harmful content in our records, we acknowledge that, as individuals, we regularly describe people or communities that may not be our own. We may not always make the right decisions and, in fact, may sometimes fail, so we not only welcome but encourage the feedback and suggestions of our colleagues and users.
Capital Project

At the Rosenbach we’ve begun a much needed, multi-year project to modernize the systems that run our buildings and house our collection of over 400,000 rare books, manuscripts, and decorative arts objects.

In FY22 we began a project that included replacing the roof, replacing the windows on the rear façade, and restoring the masonry of the rear façade on both 2008 and 2010 Delancey Place. The windows, which were original to the 1860s home, were long overdue for replacement. We continued an earlier project to restore the garden with the re-installation of sculptures, which are returning to the garden after conservation treatment, and the return of the bay window following conservation treatment. This project was set to be completed by spring of 2023.

These upgrades will protect the Rosenbach from water infiltration by creating a seal on the building envelope and will ultimately assist in preserving the building, books, paper, and historical objects inside for generations of future visitors.

The next phase of this project slated to begin in FY23 includes upgrading the HVAC system. Modernizing the temperature control system will ensure our collections are preserved and maintained according to best practices and standards. We will also upgrade our security system, streamlining and modernizing our equipment to the highest industry standard.
Financial Statement

The following figures reflect the Rosenbach’s audited financial statement from Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

Total Operating Expenses:
$1,967,487
Total Operating Support and Revenue:
$1,782,937
Programming Highlights

The Rosenbach constantly innovates in the public programs it offers to adult audiences, both to keep our interpretations of our collections up to date, and to serve a changing cultural heritage marketplace. In FY22, we offered many new onsite and online programs to our audience, including:

Courses

The Rosenbach’s portfolio of online and in-person courses are the highest-revenue public program currently offered by the institution. Courses offer an opportunity to help members of our community read more deeply the many aspects of our collection. The slate of courses offered during FY22 reflected the diversity of both the Rosenbach’s collections and our community of teachers and learners.

Samples of Courses from FY22

Reading Octavia Butler with Gerry Canavan

The Curator’s Toolkit: Up Close and Personal with the Rosenbach’s Collections Team

The Lives of Early American Women: Revolutionary Women with Kalela Williams

Aubrey Beardsley and the Decadents with Petra Clark
Behind the Bookcase Tours

Onsite, single-session Rosenbach programs offered engaging opportunities for audiences to explore big ideas while getting up close and personal with collection objects. Our Behind the Bookcase hands-on tour program invited participants to view, touch, and discuss rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts from the Rosenbach’s collections.

Biblioventures

A follow-up of the Rosenbach’s successful Sundays with Dracula program, Sundays with Jane Eyre offered 30 weeks of free digital content to audiences around the world and resulted in a dramatic expansion of the Rosenbach’s virtual audience and significant growth in membership and donations. Additionally, the free content drew new audience members into other program opportunities.

Samples of Tours from FY22

Rebellious Love: Exploring Queer History, Art and Literature at the Rosenbach

The Artistry and Industry of Bookmaking

Yours Forever: Love Letters in the Archive

Written in my Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors

Titanic: The Rise of Rosenbach
Generous Donors

Delancey Society
The Rosenbach acknowledges the following members of the Delancey Society in fiscal year 2022

James Joyce Circle ($20,000 and above)
Cindy and John Affleck
Janet and James H. Averill
Peter D. Nalle and Eleanor Nalle
Lenore H. Steiner and Perry A. Lerner
Arthur Spector

Bram Stoker Circle ($10,000 to $19,999)
Emily and Michael Cavanagh
Amy and R. Putnam Coes, III
Lily and Peter Ferry
Amy L. Finkel and Richard J. Braemer
Eugene LeFevre and Deborah Boardman
Susan B. Muller

Marianne Moore Circle ($5,000 to $9,999)
Amy Branch and D. Jeffry Benoliel
Willo P. Carey and Peter A. Benoliel
Deborah G. Gorman and Benito Cachinero-Sánchez
Amanda DiChello and John D’Arcy
Alexandra V. Edsall and Robert S. Victor
Karen Flannery James and George James
Gage Johnston and Jack I. Jallo
Charles P. Keates
Eileen Kennedy and Robert C. Heim
Jacqueline and Eric Kraeutler
Danthu T. Phan and Will Luttrell
Pamela L. Schreiber
Liza and Jonathan Seltzer
Robert K. Urquhart
Lisa Washington

Joseph Conrad Circle ($2,500 to $4,999)
Elizabeth H. Gemmill
Todd Hummel
Mady Jourdan
Arlan and Bruce Kardon
Janet S. Klein
Genie and James Murphy
Eileen and Jordan Silvergleid
Stephen G. Somkuti M.D., Ph.D.
Barbara H. Sutherland and L. Frederick Sutherland
Valerie A. Wells

Lewis Carroll Circle ($1,000 to $2,499)
Dr. Emmy Abella and Dr. Romeo Abella
Edith W. Barnes
Diane and Robert Bass
Kelsey Scouten and Glenn Bates
Judge Phyllis W. Beck
Leslie H. Benoliel and Alex Hamilton
Elaine W. Camarda and A. M. Williams
Tobey A. G. Dichter and Mark S. Dichter
Peter Downs
Janet H. Dreher
Alisa G. Field and Alan Mark Sands
Karl Fong and Neal Krouse
Pamela and Peter J. Freyd
Carole Haas Gravagno
Margaret Greenawalt and Richard A. Greenawalt
Anne Hall and Philip Cohen
David F. Hoffman
Individual Project Supporters

The Rosenbach is pleased to recognize the following individuals who generously funded Rosenbach programs and restricted projects during fiscal year 2022.

Matthew Adams
Cassaundra Amato
Joanna Amick
Robert Arnold
James & Janet Averill
Kelsey & Glenn Bates
Robert Billet
James Broderick
Mary Ann Casey
Bethany Chisholm & Justin Yost
Thomas Cleveland
Amy and R. Putnam Coes, III
Phil Cooke
Pia Deas
Amanda DiChello
William Dohman
Edward Dougherty
Derick Dreher & Gudrun Dauner
Lily & Peter Ferry
Allen Freedman
Pamela Freyd
Elizabeth Gemmill
Alix Gerz & George Matysik
Ben Gever
Joseph Gonzales
Debra E. Guston & Patricia Nixon
Frederick Haas
Mary & Howard Hurtig
Gage Johnston & Jack I. Jallo
Nadine Lomakin
Patrick Madden
Agnes Madden
Marcy Mancini
Nancy & Peter Marvin
Robbin McCarthy
Sandra McLean
George McNeely
Genie & James Murphy
Peter D. Nalle
Margaretta Noonan
Ron Ozer
Emilie Parker
Scott Patterson
Danthu T. Phan & Will Luttrell
Siobhan A. Reardon
Kate Royer Schubert
Sally Love Saunders Poetry & Arts Foundation
Pamela Schreiber
Liza & Jonathan Seltzer
Robert Shropshire
Arthur Spector
Indraneel Sur
Barbara Toll
Robert Urquhart
Lisa Washington
Marina Weber
Christine Wierzba
Steve Williams
Julie Yeh

Institutional Contributors

The Rosenbach is proud to acknowledge the following corporations, foundations, and government entities that provided vital support during fiscal year 2022.

Consulate General of Ireland
Evelyn Toll Family Foundation
Independence Foundation
Louis Nayovitz Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Philadelphia Consortium of Special Collections Libraries
South Jersey Celtic Society Inc.
The McLean Contributionship
Wyncote Foundation
Dedicated Guides

The Rosenbach recognizes the following individuals who volunteered as tour guides in fiscal year 2022.

Laurie Abel
Eileen Astor-Stetson
Ray Brebach
Justin Borkowski
Kerry Bryan
Joseph Chrol
Daniele Clay
Phyllis Gottlieb
Charlie Karl
Martha Kearns

Rhonda Mandel
Ellen O’Neill
Claire Owen
Chris Palmer
Robert Sprafkin
Nancy Stock-Allen
Hao-Li Tai Loh
Mary Alyce Thompson
Gary Turetsky