

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 6141 • TAHOE CITY, CA 96145

2022 Newsletter

What's New at The Gatekeeper's Museum?

New Staff, New look! It goes without saying, the pandemic lent unprecedented challenges to our non-profit. With the help of our motivated volunteers, staff, members and donors, our incentives to re-establish ourselves in the community and revitalize our museums have never been stronger. Our future is promising with plans for special guest exhibitions from visiting museums, new events and exhibit enhancement, we are certainly headed in a positive direction. We are so excited for what the future holds for our local Tahoe City museums. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Visit us online at
www.northtahoemuseums.org

New & Upcoming Exhibits



Events



In August 2022, we participated in the Concours D' Elegance Wooden Boat Show. We welcomed many new and old friends to our tent. The event was a great success and wonderful way for us to re-connect with the community. On October 31st we are hosting our first "Haunted Watson Cabin" Halloween event as a part of Tahoe City's "Trick or Treat." Kids can explore a spooky Watson Cabin for Halloween. New school outreach events and tour programs will be held this year in our effort to get local schools more involved in learning the history of Lake Tahoe.



"On the Lake" a journey through Lake Tahoe's maritime history, "Lake Tahoe in the Movies," "Nauajo Textiles," "Characters in Lake Tahoe," "Wish You Were Here," "The Gatekeeper's," "Lake Tahoe Resorts," and a wonderful revolving community exhibit local students are participating in are some of the many new exhibits we have welcomed to the museum. Our new exhibits have received an overwhelmingly positive response from the public this summer. Exhibits in the works are "Tahoe Maps," "At Home in Tahoe (featuring Monterey Furniture), and "Lake Tahoe in Nature." We hope you will come to the museum soon to see our new attractions!

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2022 Newsletter

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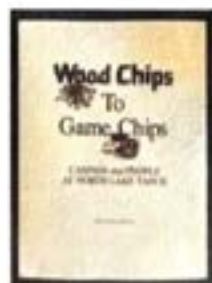


Marian Steinbach Native American Basket Museum & What's to come

Celebrating, admiring and preserving the cultural relics of the Native American baskets in our Marion Steinbach Native American basket collection has been our main goal since the construction of the basket museum in 1995. Although the baskets themselves speak for the beauty and craftsmanship of their makers, we are planning to tell more stories of the female basket makers to enhance our basket exhibit. A short history, images and baskets made by women such as Dot So La Lee, Tootsie Sam Dick, Sarah Jim Mayo, Jennie Bryant Shaw and many others will be highlighted in the new exhibit. Plans are also in place to offer the public a more interactive experience by letting the visitors touch and feel basket making materials. Enhancing our basket exhibit will most certainly improve our visitor experience at the museum.

Archival Project Fundraiser

Our museum houses a large collection of archival newspapers including both "Tahoe World" editions dating from 1963 and "Tahoe Tattler" editions dating from 1881. We are fundraising to build a custom shelving structure so the public can easily access these archives. For every \$25 donation to our library project, you will receive a free copy of "Wood Chips to Game Chips," a fascinating history of Lake Tahoe's casino industry. This book includes stories of Frank Sinatra, Baby Face Nelson, and Joe King-the famous gambler, bootlegger and bar owner whom Kings Beach is named after. Visit the museum to donate and receive your free book. Thank you for your support!



Proud to be Tahoe City's Only Local Bookstore

We have a large selection of books ranging from Native American basketry, Lake Tahoe history, winter sports, science, California history, mystery, children's books, trains, archeology, geology and more. Stop by our bookshop and see what's new!



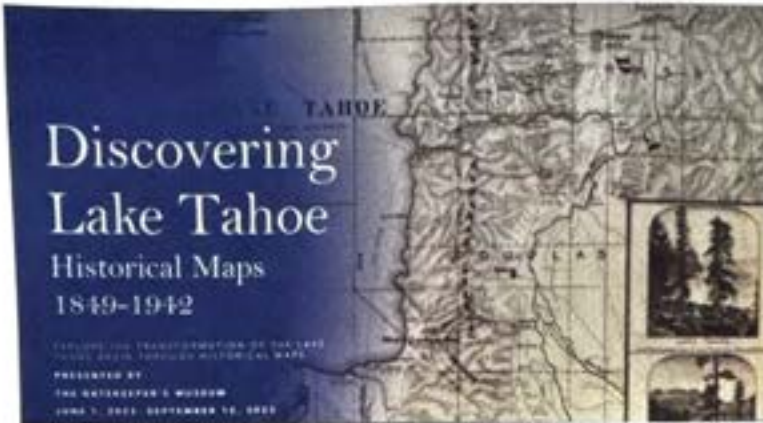
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2023 Spring Newsletter

Discovering Lake Tahoe: Historical Maps 1849-1942 Opening June 1, 2023

Join us for our featured upstairs summer exhibit *Discovering Lake Tahoe: Historical Maps 1849-1942*. Learn about the changing landscape of the Lake Tahoe Basin from the earliest European discoveries to the mid 20th century. Highlighted in the exhibit is the historical significance of these maps in relation to state politics, business and industry, and the changing Tahoe culture. All members are invited to attend the exhibit opening June 1, 2023 from 5pm - 7pm. Refreshments and appetizers will be available. Special thank you to the Peer family for sponsoring this featured exhibit!



Basket Weaving Class June 9th



Artisan basket weaving with Karey Dodge is back Friday June 9th from 1pm - 4:30pm. Create your own, one-of-a-kind basket and learn the art of pine needle basket making at the museum. Sign up online or call the museum to reserve your space. Limited space is available so please purchase your tickets in advance.

Revolving Community Exhibit Project



In May 2022 we opened our *Revolving Community Exhibit Project* which offers local students and artists the opportunity to display their Tahoe inspired artwork at the museum. We have displayed work from students at Tahoe Lake Elementary, The Lake Tahoe School and St. Clare's Tahoe since this program began. This summer, we are offering space for community members to submit their own unique artwork for display. All submissions are due May 15th with the exhibit opening May 20th. We are very excited to showcase the work of our talented community members at the Gatekeepers Museum.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2023 Spring Newsletter



Marian Steinbach Native American Basket Museum

This past March we closed our doors for 2 weeks for building maintenance and renovation. During this time, we remodeled our basket gallery. New paint and a new method of referencing the baskets were among the many priorities for the improved gallery. Our new basket display educates visitors about the Native American cultures through past and present images and information. We have highlighted female basket makers, and the function of unique utility baskets such as water jugs, cradleboards and burden baskets. The Washoe portion of the basket gallery honors the art of Washoe basketry and explains the Washoe presence in the Lake Tahoe basin from the words of the Washoe people. We hope you join us this summer to experience our new and improved Marion Steinbach basket gallery.



Preserving Our Future Fundraiser

Winter 2022/2023 was one for the ages! We experienced storms that dropped as much as 11 feet of snow at a time! Luckily we avoided roof leaks as we were diligent with snow removal. However, we hope to be better prepared for the elements with a new roof next winter. We kindly ask our members to consider donating to *Preserving Our Future* fundraiser to replace our aged wood shingle roof with a new composite roof. Donate on our website, by mail or at the museum and help us continue our mission. Thank you for your support.



Improving Our Museum



As we continue to work towards our goals of improving visitor experience and building infrastructure, we are pleased to announce that another milestone has been reached: newly refinished floors! Special thank you to Jim Phelan and the Tahoe City Marina for this generous donation to help improve our building.

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2023 Summer Newsletter



Marion Steinbach Native American Basket Museum

We were fortunate to have been recently visited by Washoe tribal representatives and members. The intent of their visit was to view the grounds to implement a permanent tribal garden space. Additionally, tribal members that are involved in their master basket apprenticeship viewed the wonderful collection at the museum. We are hopeful the Washoe will begin to use the museum space as a gathering place for basketry apprenticeship meetings. Sharing our space with the ancestors of the native basket weavers whose artistry is on display is very important to NLTHS and we are excited for this opportunity.

What's Happening at the Watson Cabin



Our new Watson Cabin living museum experience is now open to the public on weekends and farmer's market Thursdays throughout the summer. View the oldest log cabin in Tahoe City and learn about the history of the cabin through a modified view which allows us to keep the cabin open to the public. Stop by and view this historic site this summer!



Special Thank You to Our Supporters

We would like to thank several donors that helped us achieve our goals in the last 365 days. Without the support of these special donors, we wouldn't have been able to improve our infrastructure, visitor experience and educational programs. Our NLTHS staff and board of directors thanks these and all of the donors that continue to support the mission of the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society:

- The Maritime Foundation
- Tahoe City Marina
- Muriel Harris
- Dagmar Dolby
- Ralph & Elizabeth Peer
- Bruce Scott
- Jim Williamson

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2023 Summer Newsletter



Summer Events At The Gatekeeper's Museum

We are proud to announce that we will be hosting a new type of *Members Gathering* event on August 2, 2023! Join us at the museum from 1pm- 4pm for our **Open House** featuring live music and light hors d'oeuvres on our patio. There will be museum tours, talks with a historian and opportunities to reconnect with friends of the museum. We hope you will join us to view our progress in upgrading the museum! Visit our tent at the Concours d' Elegance Boat Show at Obexer's August 11-12, 2023. Sign up for a special basket weaving and dream catcher making class on Friday August 18, 2023 from 1 pm-4:30 pm.

New Aquisitions



We have welcomed a number of newly acquired artifacts to our collection this year including a large Native American basket tray, likely from a Central or Northern California tribe, courtesy of Meredith and Peter Tallas. We also acquired close to 200 historical Tahoe artifacts courtesy of Paul Harr and Cheryl Bauman. The highlight of the Harr collection is an original oil painting of Lake Tahoe by William H. Bull, the first commercial artist employed by Southern Pacific Railroad. Thank you to these generous donors.

Permanent Edward B. "Bud" Scott Exhibit



Bud Scott wrote *The Saga of Lake Tahoe* Volumes I & II which, to this day are regarded as the "bible" of Lake Tahoe history. Mr. Scott's impact on preserving Tahoe's history has been invaluable and honoring his work is important to NLTHS. *The Man Who Saved Lake Tahoe's History* will be opening July 26th and will be a permanent feature at the museum.

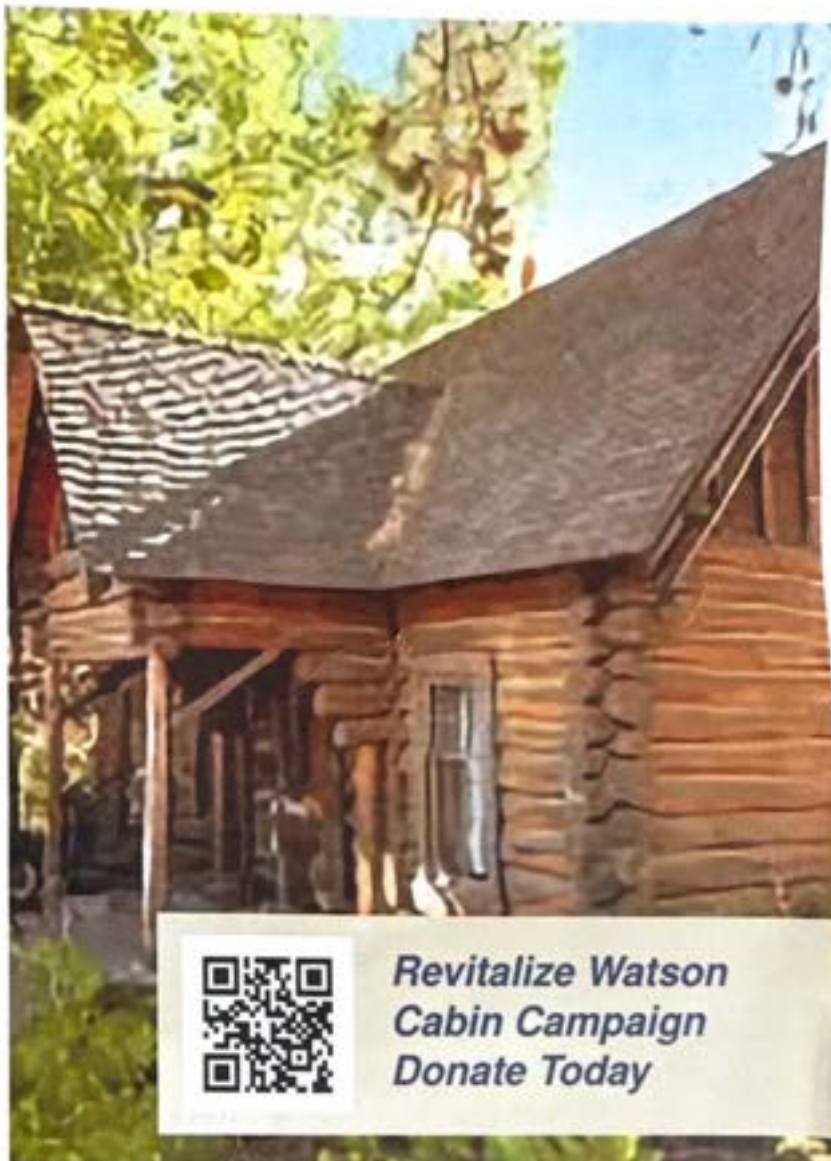


2023 Impact Report



www.northtahoemuseums.org

130 W. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6141, Tahoe City, CA 96145



**Revitalize Watson
 Cabin Campaign
 Donate Today**

Director's Message

The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society has been preserving the cultural and historical heritage of the North Tahoe region for 54 years. Although recovering from the deficits caused by the pandemic has been a challenge, we look to the future with ambition and enthusiasm as we continue to grow programming, preserve collections and support our community. Thank you for your continued support which helps us achieve our mission.

Susan Winter, Museum Director

Financial Snapshot

Revenue & Support

Programs & Grants	\$ 64,895
Fundraising	\$ 27,944
Admissions & Membership	\$ 25,513
Total Revenue & Support*	\$ 118,352

* Excludes net gains and loss from NLTHS Investment Portfolio

Expenses

Programs & Services	\$ 79,630
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 33,195
Operations	\$ 8,635
Other	\$ 10,440
Total Expenses	\$ 131,900



Education



Outreach



Preserving History

September 2023

Our Year at a Glance

Our year started with one of the largest snowfalls in the Tahoe basin on record! Luckily both the Watson Cabin and Gatekeeper's Museum structures only required minor repairs. Several days of museum closures due to weather allowed us to paint galleries, refinish floors, improve exhibits and expand programming. We were visited by over 600 students from different schools in grades Pre-K to high school. Students participated in newly developed museum scavenger hunts, educational tours and "touch and feel" projects. Because of donor support, we are able to offer all education programs free of charge. Our revolving "Community Exhibit" gained the participation of 5 separate school groups; all showcasing Tahoe themed art and history. Our school outreach initiative was launched with members of the museum visiting schools to teach students about Tahoe history and Native American basketry.

We installed a number of permanent and revolving exhibits including a "Bud Scott" exhibit and a featured summer Historical Maps exhibit. Our newly launched online "Guest Author Series" featuring bi-monthly articles, poems and research on Tahoe history continues to be popular with the public. We added beautifully made Washoe jewelry and a variety of Tahoe history books to our newly staffed giftshop. Our board of directors welcomed several new members and our volunteer staff grew over the summer. We sponsored "Concert in the Park" in Tahoe City, had a tent at the "Concours d' Elegance" boat show and hosted 2 sold out basket weaving classes in our library. We also revived our dormant members "Gathering" event which was a huge success as we reconnected with friends of the museum while inviting new ones to our membership program. We offered a special historical talk on the dam accompanied by a book signing by local historians and we continue to expand our oral history program with the help of volunteers and board members.

What a year it has been and we are still not finished! This fall we will be installing a new composite roof at the Gatekeeper's Museum and refinishing the logs around the cabin. We will also be participating in Oktoberfest outside the museum, Tahoe City scarecrow and Trick or Treat events and holding our second annual Watson Haunted House. It is through the support of our members and donors that we have been able to accomplish all of these projects and more.



Revitalize the Watson Cabin 2023 Capital Campaign

This summer we offered a modified visitor experience at the Watson cabin in lieu of our bigger plan to restore the cabin back to its original glory. Our plans include refinishing the original floors, repairing structural needs, restoring the original bathroom, refinishing logs, and repairing broken windows. Our goal is to have the cabin open 7 days a week in the summer months for visitors to enjoy. Our plans include offering a small scale museum gift shop, exhibits and concessions. Help us ensure the longevity of the cabin by donating to our fundraiser. You can donate via the QR code on the front of this flyer or send a check to NLTHS at P.O. Box 6141, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

Thank you for your support!

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2023 Winter Newsletter

Winter in Lake Tahoe Now on Exhibit



Explore the rich history of notable Lake Tahoe winters in our new upstairs exhibit! On display until April 31, 2023. This new interactive exhibit features an array of archival photos highlighting Lake Tahoe winters of the past, an opportunity to ring the sleigh bells from the Tahoe Tavern sleigh rides in the 1930's, and a chance for visitors to put their favorite memories of Tahoe winters on display for others to read. Learn about the food drops of the 30's and 50's at the Tahoe City Golf Course and the history of the old weather station in Tahoe City that was monitored by the original Gatekeepers.

Online Guest Author Series



The Gatekeeper's Museum is proud to announce a new *Guest Author* series available on our website! Bi-monthly articles and poems specifically related to Lake Tahoe history will feature our NLTHS collections and/or perspectives on this beautiful region. Visit our website today www.northtahoemuseums.org and stay up-to-date on Lake Tahoe history.

What's in Store for 2023



In the upcoming year, we are excited to offer a more unique visitor experience to our rotating exhibits. In October 2022, we welcomed *At Home: Functional Art in Lake Tahoe Cabins* featuring historical Tahoe collectible furniture. This exhibit offers the public a chance to appreciate the art history of the region. In maintaining this theme, we will be installing a large Lake Tahoe map exhibit featuring historically significant maps of the Tahoe Basin. We will also exhibit the artistic works of Anne Brigman, famous poet and photographer who often worked in the Tahoe area.

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2023 Winter Newsletter



Marian Steinbach Native American Basket Museum

To honor the craft of Native American basketry, the Marion Steinbach Native American Basket Museum introduces new perspectives on design and pattern represented in unique Native baskets in our collection. The planned remodel of a portion of our basket gallery will include the history of Native basketry, trade, function and art, and its impact on modern day society. This long-term installation consists primarily of west coast Native tribal artifacts and is intended to broaden the public's historical, cultural, and aesthetic understandings of Native American culture. For updates on the opening of this new exhibit and remodel, visit our website at www.northtahoemuseums.org

Preserving Our Future Fundraiser

"Preserving our Future" fundraiser launches in January 2023! Donate on our website, via mail at NLTHS, P.O. Box 6141 Tahoe City, CA 96145, or visit the museum and help us replace our wood, shingle roof. Fire safety in the Tahoe Basin is extremely important. In order to better protect our collections and ensure the longevity of the mission of the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, it is vital that we replace our aging wood roof with a composite roof. This fundraiser will run through December 2023. Help us preserve our future and donate today. Thank you for your support!



New at the Gift Shop



Gift shop inventory now includes new environmental and historical Lake Tahoe books written by North Tahoe residents and historians. We also welcome a number of new young adult fiction and non-fiction books and children's natural history books to our gift shop. Stop by today and see what's new in our bookstore!

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2024 Spring Newsletter



Tahoe City in 1920: Our newest addition!

Tahoe City in 1920 was a place where steam trains, cars and boats mixed with workers and tourists to form a bustling downtown. Trains ran along the waterline at modern day Commons beach while steamships were boarded at the end of huge docks, built with varying lake levels and boat hull lengths in mind. The Mercantile sold supplies and the Tahoe Inn offered a cozy room for a nights stay. Wouldn't it be great to see what Tahoe City looked like in 1920? Short of a time machine, we have the next best thing! After months of work with Kiwi Mill, we are proud to permanently display an exact replica of Tahoe City in 1920. A wonderful addition to our collection and visitor experience. Join us this summer to see our newest attraction!

Lake Tahoe and WWI, A Soldier's Letters Home



In 2019 we accessioned a wonderful time capsule to our collection. Donated by the Callender family, former owners of the Willow Wood Camp Resort in Homewood and the Hut Sandwich Shop, we received an old suitcase filled with pictures, newspapers and a fantastic scrap book detailing Bill Callender's WWI experience. Bill's letters home reminiscing of Lake Tahoe in 1918 are incredibly vivid. Bill's pictures and postcards detail the history of the Great War. "Lake Tahoe And WWI, A Soldier's Letters Home" is now on display through October 2024.

Washoe Led Community Gathering at the Museum



Among the many events we have scheduled for the 2024 season is a Washoe led community gathering on May 18th from 11am-4pm at the museum. The event will include song, dance, demonstration and conservation on the future of caring for Lake Tahoe. Creating relationships with the Washoe community is incredibly important to our mission and we hope to see you at this event.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Mark Your Calendars!

2024 Class & Events Schedule

Historical Talks

Carol Van Etten Author & Historian May 30, 2024 3:00 pm

Bo Grebitus Author & Historian + book signing June 15, 2024 1:00 pm

David & Gayle Woodruff Authors & Historians June 29, 2024 1:00 pm

*Alice Wilson Historian July 30, 2024 4:00 pm

Adam Michalski, Nevada State Railway Museum August 8, 2024 2:00 pm

David & Gayle Woodruff August 24, 2024 1:00 pm

Classes

*Basket Weaving Class May 31, 2024 & October 11, 2024 12:00 -4:00 pm

*Gourd Making Class- August 23, 2024 12:00- 4:00 pm

Other Events

Washoe Led Community Event May 18, 2024 11:00 am

Watson Cabin Opening- June 1, 2024

Open House & Heritage Days- Aug. 3, 2024

Concours d'Elegance- Aug. 9-10, 2024

*Makers Camp at the Museum- Aug 19-23, 2024

*Live History Performance- Sept. 20-21, 2024

* ticketed events



To learn more and purchase tickets for ticketed events please visit our website at www.northtahoemuseums.org



NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2024 Summer Newsletter

New Nature Trail, Black Bear Forest & Walking Story Book



Nancy Taft

Dave DeVoe

Over 15 years ago, Dave and Susan DeVoe, two of NLTHS's wonderful volunteers, created and implemented a natural history experience on the grounds outside the museum for families and visitors to enjoy. Along with their hard work on improving our visitor experience, they dedicated their free time to building fixtures, maintaining our facility and helping with events. Sadly, Dave passed away recently at the age of 90. To honor Dave and Susan's dedication to NLTHS, we have revamped their Black Bear Forest and Nature Trail- both of which fell into disrepair. Thanks to our team member and artist Nancy Taft, we were able to bring Dave's animal wood carvings back to life. Susan's original nature trail now has a new spin featuring a Walking Story Book. Families and visitors can now learn about Lake Tahoe's natural history and enjoy this fun adventure trail all summer long! We are forever grateful for Dave, Susan and Nancy's amazing work.

Live History Performance Coming September 2024



Live History

In partnership with Tahoe City Friends of the Public Library, we will be hosting a two day performance by "Live History," a theatre company that specializes in bringing local history to life. Live History shows take audiences on a one hour adventure through time. Audiences will experience a full tour of the museum while interacting with characters, and assisting them in solving an urgent issue that can only be resolved with the audiences' help. Performances will be held on September 19, 2024. Purchase tickets on our website at www.northtahoemuseums.org. Tickets include small bites, refreshments and museum raffle.

From the Archives: Folk Art



Can you help us identify the origin of this artifacts and it's connection to Lake Tahoe? This folk art frame, circa 1872, was found in the Watson Cabin many years ago. A marriage certificate was also found in the frame which declares Mr. Riley D. Robinson and Miss Sarah Jane Fluno married on November 7, 1872. This frame is very unique with crab claws, metal pieces and even a bullet decorating the outside. Email us if you have any information. exec@gatekeepersmuseum.org

Special thank you to the Tahoe City Marina, Dolby Foundation, Peer Family and the Scott Family for supporting the Watson Cabin project.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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REVITALIZE WATSON CABIN PROJECT UPDATE

PHASE I COMPLETE

Thanks to our donors and the North Lake Tahoe Community Alliance and their TOT-TBID Dollars at Work program, NLTHS was able to secure a grant for \$43,010 to complete Phase I of our "Revitalize Watson Cabin" project. In two months time, we were able to make necessary upgrades to the Watson Cabin to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for the public to access. New and refinished floors, plumbing and electrical upgrades, a new museum space, landscaping and an updated museum gift shop were completed in time for our official June 1, 2024 opening. We are thrilled to be able to finally preserve and share the oldest cabin in Tahoe City with the community and visitors alike throughout the summer! Our work however is still not complete.

PHASE II

In order to further preserve the historic Watson Cabin for generations to come, it is necessary to replace some of the cabin's original 116 yr old logs which have sadly succumbed to the elements of our mountain climate. Replacing these logs will require the participation of two construction teams (historic building specialists and a general contractor). We hope to finance this project through grant and individual donor support, with a target completion of June 1, 2025. Help us achieve our goal of preserving the Watson Cabin by donating today!



TO DONATE GO TO www.northtahoemuseums.org FOR MAIL IN DONATIONS: NLTHS P.O. BOX 6141 TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
Thank You For Your Support!



2024 Impact Report



Director's Message

What a year it has been at the historical society here in beautiful Tahoe City! Not only were we able to open the oldest log cabin in Tahoe City for visitors to enjoy throughout the summer and fall months, but we welcomed over 700 students to our newly revised education program, hosted an important Washoe community gathering at the museum and revived our historical talk series- a hit with members and visitors alike! New programming and revolving exhibits have been made possible because of the generosity of our members and donors. It is because of you that we can continue to share the wonderful history of North Lake Tahoe with the public. We are truly grateful for your support.

Susan Winter, Museum Director

Financial Snapshot

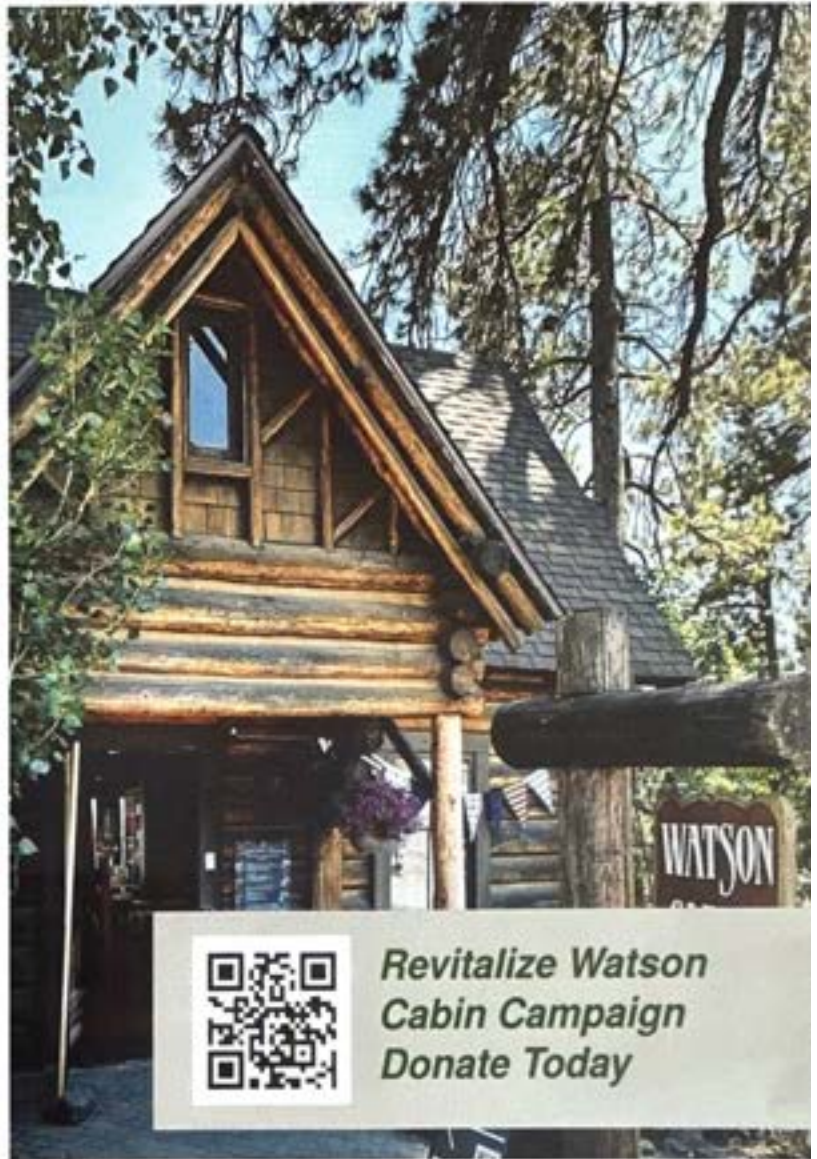
Revenue & Support

Programs & Grants	\$ 78,403
Fundraising	\$ 21,153
Admissions & Membership	\$ 26,697
Total Revenue & Support*	\$ 126,253

* Excludes net gains and loss from NLTHS Investment Portfolio

Expenses

Programs & Services	\$ 40,123
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 49,497
Operations	\$ 59,880
Total Expenses	\$ 149,500



Revitalize Watson Cabin Campaign
Donate Today



Community



History



Education



Conservation

Our Year at a Glance

2024 was our year to bring the Watson Cabin back to life and introduce our new museum initiatives to the world. We reinvented the entrance way at the Gatekeeper's Museum to reflect our commitment to preserving the history of and cultural heritage of North Lake Tahoe. Books celebrating Tahoe's past, inspirational basket making kits, artifacts and a Washoe land recognition all greet visitors when they enter our beautiful building. But where did our gift shop go? Thanks to a grant we received from TOT TBID dollars and the North Tahoe Community Alliance, we completed Phase I of our Watson Cabin project and moved the gift shop over to the most central location in town. Utilizing the Watson Cabin as a museum gift shop and living history museum has not only brought Tahoe history to the forefront of people's minds but has also given us the opportunity to refer more visitors to the Gatekeeper's Museum. The results of our new model have been remarkable! over 7,000 people visited the Watson Cabin in just 3 months. Admissions at the Gatekeeper's Museum is up and retail sales have grown. More people are getting excited about Tahoe history and we couldn't be happier.

Along with the success of our new museum initiatives, we have continued to implement revolving history exhibits which includes a wonderful replica of Tahoe City in 1920. Thanks to our members and donors, our education program has grown with over 700 students participating in our free school and outreach program. We introduced a summer art camp and rejuvenated our outdoor Nature Trail and Black Bear Forrest.

Our new events received rave reviews from participants as we introduced a historical talk series, three basket making classes, a ticketed photography talk and Live History performance and held a very important Washoe led community gathering where we were all able to listen to the stories of the Washoe people. What a wonderful year it has been!

We hope that you will consider donating to our general fund or Phase II of our Watson Cabin project. It is because of members and donors like you that we are able to preserve and share the history of our unique region. We are truly thankful for your generosity.



Revitalize the Watson Cabin PHASE II 2024 Capital Campaign

"I love this cabin," a phrase we have heard hundreds of times this summer from people visiting the oldest log cabin in Tahoe City. We have been so lucky to share the joy and history of the Watson Cabin with thousands of visitors and it is our hope that we can continue to do so in the future. Phase II of our project includes exterior structural repairs necessary to keep the integrity of the cabin safe and sturdy for another hundred years. Help us ensure the longevity of the cabin by donating to our fundraiser. You can donate via the QR code on the front of this flyer or send a check to NLTHS at P.O.

Box 6141, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

Thank you for your support!

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2024 Winter Newsletter

New Website



We are proud to announce the launch of our new website! As we look into the future at NLTHS, we understand the importance of gaining public exposure. Our goals for the future include sharing and preserving the historical and cultural heritage of North Lake Tahoe with as many visitors and community members as possible. A refreshed website spotlighting our collections, mission, exhibits, events and programs helps us achieve our mission. Please visit our website regularly to stay up to date on upcoming events, community involvement and expanded programming. Help us in sharing the love of Lake Tahoe history with everyone by sending our website link to your friends and family! www.northtahoemuseums.org

History in the Making



Can you imagine what Robert Montgomery Watson would think if he traveled 116 years to the future and saw his log cabin still standing in the center of Tahoe City open for all to enjoy? With the help of grants and donor support we are anticipating restoring the interior and exterior of Mr. Watson's 1908 cabin in 2024 & 2025 with the goal of opening this living history museum to the public seven days a week in the late spring and summer months. Help us restore this important piece of North Tahoe history by donating on our website today. Updates on the Watson Cabin project will be available all year on our site as well.

Featured 2024 Summer Exhibition



Come see our featured 2024 exhibit "And Then There Were Trains: Lake Tahoe Railway" opening May 1, 2024. A diorama of downtown Tahoe City in 1920 will highlight this interactive exhibit along with artifacts on loan from the Nevada State Railway Museum and a rare painting by William H. Bull. Learn about the history of Lake Tahoe trains in this interactive exhibit.

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2024 Winter Newsletter



Expanding Educational Programs

Our new and expanded Education Program cultivates an inspired love of culture and local history! Thanks to our members and volunteers, NLTHS hosts approximately 600 students from surrounding schools for free each year. We also offer educational outreach where members of our museum visit local classrooms with touch and feel boxes and lesson plans. In 2024, we plan to expand our Education Program by adding more trained outreach educators to our staff. Additionally, we plan to implement our first Museum Summer Camp. Thank you to our members and donors for supporting our education initiatives.

Historical Talk Schedule



Please join us at the Gatekeeper's Museum for our 2024 Summer Historical Talks Series presented by local authors and historians. Learn more and RSVP at www.northtahoemuseums.org

May 30, 2024- Carol Van Etten
June 15, 2024- Bo Grebitus
June 29, 2024- David & Gayle Woodruff
July 30, 2024- Alice Wilson (Ticketed Event)
August 24, 2024- David & Gayle Woodruff
TBD - Adam Michalski



Preserving History

Inspired by the plaster totem statues that used to sit outside the Tahoe Inn in the late 1930's and were made for the 1936 movie *Rose Marie*, these wood carved totems came to North Tahoe just after the 1960 Winter Olympics. Once apart of a single pole, these totems sat outside the Safeway complex for many years. Eventually the pole was reduced to smaller figures and removed. The remaining totems went to a private residence, then to the patio of the Blue Agave in Tahoe City. With the sale of Blue Agave, NLTHS was contacted to preserve and display these historic Tahoe artifacts. We are proud to continue the legacy of displaying these statues outside of the museum and hope you get a chance to see how great they look next time you visit us!

Tahoe's Lumbering Past

Lumber Boom And A Changing Landscape

Summer months in the late 1800's in North Lake Tahoe were vital for logging due to the easier access to timber stands and the ability to transport logs using various methods. Lumbering, Tahoe's earliest Western industry, was fueled by the development of the Transcontinental Railroad and the Comstock silver mines in Virginia City. By around 1890, 80% of the basin had been logged. Logging in Tahoe initially drove economic growth and resource extraction, contributing both to infrastructure development and a significant negative impact on the natural environment.

Logging's colorful page in Tahoe's history will now be featured in an upcoming exhibit at the museum! Thanks to a grant from the Maritime Foundation for new display cases, we will be showcasing Tahoe's earliest industries, such as logging and boating in an updated permanent display scheduled for 2026. **Special thanks to the Maritime Foundation for their generous support.**



Community Enrichment

Enhancing the vibrancy and well-being of Tahoe City

As we continue our initiative to support more local community projects and events, we are proud to have sponsored Tahoe City Downtown Association's Concert in the Park Series this summer. Additionally, we are a main contributor to the Tahoe City information sign project which will see the replacement of 41 public signs throughout North Tahoe. Our robust education program supports local schools as we continue to teach close to 1,000 school kids about local history and Native American basketry at the museum. Your continued support not only helps preserve history but also helps community involvement. Thank you!





Watson Cabin Update

Phase 2 Revitalize The Watson Cabin Project

Phase 2 of Revitalize the Watson Cabin Project is officially underway! Thanks to TOT/TBID Dollars at Work Program the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society received a grant to restore the outside of the oldest log cabin structure in North Lake Tahoe. Phase 2 of the project includes much needed exterior restoration of some of the original 116 yr old logs. The masonry work on the original chimney is complete and the east side of the building has been sanded. New backdoor stairs have been installed and the new logs are currently being cut and notched. August should see the start of the replacement of some of the original 1908 rotten logs.

Be apart of Tahoe history and donate to the Watson Cabin restoration project on our website. Those who donate \$1000 or more will have their name engraved on a permanent plaque located in the cabin. **Thank you for recognizing the importance of preserving history and thank you for your support!**

• Gatekeeper's Museum Upcoming Events

- Historic Talk Series Friday August 15th, "Memories of Bonanza" presented by Historians and Authors David & Gayle Woodruff
- Historic Talk Series Saturday August 23 "Trains, Logging, Milling and Fluming, Tahoe's Earliest Industries" presented by Chris Dewitt lead restorer at the Nevada State Railway Museum
- Basket Weaving Class Friday Sept 5
- Paper Crafting Class Oct. 12

Mark Your Calendars!

2025 Class & Events Schedule

Historical Talks

Lizzie Pintar, Archaeologist and Basket Curator- *Archaeology of the Tahoe Basin* June 26, 2025 4-5:30 pm

***Alice Wilson**, Historian- *Mythology and Magic of Tahoe's Iconic Vikingsholm* July 24, 2025 4:30- 6pm

David & Gayle Woodruff, Authors and Historians- *Memories of Bonanza* August 15, 2025 1-2pm

Chris Dewitt- Historian and Head Restorer at the Nevada State Railway Museum- *Trains, Logging, Milling and Fluming, Tahoe's Earliest Industries* August 23, 2025 1- 2pm

Classes

*Paper Crafting Class June 15, 2025 & October 12, 2025 12- 1:30 pm

*Basket Weaving Class June 20, 2025 & September 5, 2025 12-4pm

*Washoe Led Beading Class July 25- 26, 2025 1-3pm

*Gourd Making Class October 24, 2025 12-4 pm

Other Events

Snowfest Exhibit "Tahoe's Snowboarding Movement" March 1-7, 2025

Washoe Led Community Event May 17, 2025 11-4pm

Museum Garage Sale May 10, 2025 10-1pm

Watson Cabin Opening May 31, 2025

Open House & Heritage Days August 2, 2025 11-2pm

Concours d'Elegance August 8-9, 2025

Watson Cabin Haunted House October 31, 2025 4-6pm

*Ticketed Events

To learn more and to purchase tickets for ticketed events visit our website at www.northtahoemuseums.org

2025 Winter Newsletter



Tahoe Dogs



Turn of the Century Fashion

Tahoe's Snowboarding Movement
Celebrating Tahoe Snowfest 2025
Tom Burt
Photo By Bud Fawcett

2025 Exhibits & Upcoming Events

We are proud to announce our featured exhibits for the upcoming 2025 season! After a long hiatus, the Gatekeeper's Museum is once again participating in Tahoe City Snowfest- our towns largest community event. This year we are holding a special exhibition at the Watson Cabin celebrating the rich history of snowboarding in Tahoe. "Tahoe's Snowboarding Movement: The Origins of Freestyles Riding in Lake Tahoe" will be on display March 1-7, 2025 at the Watson Cabin.

Our featured Gatekeeper's Museum exhibit, "Turn of the Century Fashion" will showcase exquisite dresses (including a Bliss family dress from 1880), swimsuits, shoes, accessories and even fine china from the late 1800's. Learn how Lake Tahoe served as a backdrop for the gilded age of fashion in this interactive exhibit! Our revolving community exhibits, "Tahoe Dogs" and "TCNS Dreamcatchers" are sure to make you smile as our local kids and favorite pets are spotlighted. Visit our website to learn more www.northtahoemuseums.org

New Accessions



Ute Cradleboard



Achumawi Basket

Thank you to the Holcombe family for donating five Native American baskets to the museum. The Ute leather and beaded covered cradleboard is now one of the finest cradleboards in the collection. We were also fortunate to accession Apache, Tohono O'odham, Washoe and Achumawi baskets from the same donor. Thank you to the Davis family for donating two new exhibit cases for permanent use in the basket gallery. We plan to exhibit revolving accessions and unique baskets that are not on permanent display in our new cases. We are so fortunate for this support from these special donors.

Special Projects



Among the many projects we are working on at the Gatekeeper's Museum, we are particularly excited about our archival project focused on digitizing our Tahoe history documents and artifacts. In addition to our archival work, we are also working on a free online walking history tour of Tahoe City available on our website. If you are interested in volunteering to help us with these special projects please email us at exec@gatekeepersmuseum.org

Preserving History One Accession at a Time!

Camp Talawanda, New Baskets & Carol Van Etten's Archives!

This spring we have been busy accessioning artifacts! Thanks to Carol Van Etten, our lead historian and board member, we have begun acquiring a huge trove of images, information and artifacts from Carol's archives. Among the more unique items, we now have an original wooden "Lake Tahoe Lumber Co." sign from 1930 and a receipt from the 1880's of personal supplies Joseph Pomin purchased in Tahoe City. Carol also donated several Garwood catalogues, images and posters.

Memorabilia from Tahoe Vista's Camp Talawanda, the oldest established girls camp in the Tahoe region, is now at the Gatekeeper's Museum. Dorrie Newton donated a large collection of images and information on this popular camp which ran from 1932-1970. We intend to feature the Camp Talawanda collection in an upcoming exhibition.

Rounding out our busy accession season are fifteen items acquired from a Bay Area museum partner which Marion Steinbach had donated in the 1980's. We are very pleased to join Marion's collection back together to continue to preserve Tahoe's cultural history.

Thank you to all who donated to preserve our region's local history!



2025 Upgraded Nature Trail, Walking Story Book & Black Bear Forest

Family Fun For All

Last year, with the help of the Friends of the Tahoe City Library and our wonderful employee and artist Nancy Taft, we brought our free Nature Trail, Walking Story Book and Black Bear Forest back to life on the museum grounds. This year we have added several new animals and information stands to enrich our nature trail experience. Learn how Tahoe Bobcats survive during the winter months and see if you can spot all 7 birds added to the forest. Free family fun for all at the Gatekeeper's Museum!!





What's Happening At Watson Cabin?

Phase 2 Revitalize The Watson Cabin Project



Phase 2 of Revitalize the Watson Cabin Project is officially underway! Thanks to TOT/TBID Dollars at Work Program the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society received a grant to restore the outside of the oldest log cabin structure in North Lake Tahoe. Phase 1 of the project was completed in Spring of 2024 and consisted of repairs and accessibility upgrades to the interior of the cabin. Phase 2 of the project includes much needed exterior restoration of some of the original 116 yr old logs as well as chimney repair. Although most of the exterior of the cabin will be surrounded by gates, visitors can still view the inside of the cabin during construction over the summer. The Watson Cabin will be open May 31-Oct. 15 Tuesday-Sunday 11 am- 4pm.

Be apart of Tahoe history and donate to the Watson Cabin restoration project on our website. Donors will be recognized in our Summer Newsletter. Those who donate \$1000 or more will have their name engraved on a permanent plaque located in the cabin. **Thank you for recognizing the importance of preserving history and thank you for your support!**

Gatekeeper's Museum In The Community

- Proud to sponsor Tahoe City's Concert in the Park series on June 29 and host the North Tahoe Chamber Mixer on August 14 at the Gatekeeper's Museum.
- Historic Walking Tour Now Available on Our Website!
- We have many upcoming events scheduled in the next three months. Please check our website to sign up for classes, join our historical talks and attend our special events.



gatekeepersmuseum.org

Watson Cabin Platinum Donors 2024/2025

North Tahoe Community Alliance TOT/TBID Dollars Program

Bruce Scott & Family

Williamson Family

Antoinette & Ralph De Vere White

Muriel Harris

Dinah-Maria, Ayrton and Sebastian

Jan Brisco

Ray and Dagmar Dolby Fund

Tahoe City Marina

Elizabeth & Ralph Peer

Jennings Construction

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Bill Thompson

Randall Faccinto



Museum Donors 2024

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Rolf Lesem

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Joe & Jane Lynch

Jeanie & Gordon

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Dolores Macrae



2024 Donors Continued

Monica Mary March
Britt & Mary McConnell
Sherry McConnell
Alfred & Joanne Moore
Sybil Patten
Judy Pendergast
Bruce & Sheri Pohle
Carolyn Pretzer
Lee Proimos & Pam Warnock
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Susie Johnstone
Marshall & Nancy Kraus
Greg Mix
Jim Phelan
Lee Proimos
Bruce Scott
Dick & Louise Wiesner

Phase 2 of the Revitalize the Watson Cabin Project Nears Completion!

Thanks to the TOT/TBID Dollars at Work Program and the many generous donors who supported this initiative, the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society is proud to announce that Phase 2 of the Watson Cabin restoration is nearly complete!

This phase focused on the much-needed exterior restoration of the oldest log structure in North Lake Tahoe – now 116 years old! Key updates include:

- Restoration of several original logs
- Fresh locally sourced, hand-cut logs on the lower east side of the cabin
- New masonry work on the chimney
- A new back deck entrance for improved access

These improvements ensure that the historic charm and integrity of the Watson Cabin are preserved for future generations. We think Constable Robert Watson would be proud! A special thank you to Jennings Construction for their expert craftsmanship, and to all the companies and individuals who contributed to this important project. Stay tuned for details on the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the full reopening of the Watson Cabin in 2026!

Be a part of Tahoe history and donate to the Watson Cabin ongoing restoration project on our website. Those who donate \$1000 or more will have their name engraved on a permanent plaque located in the cabin. **Thank you for recognizing the importance of preserving history and thank you for your support!**



 **GATEKEEPERS
MUSEUM**
NORTH LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

gatekeepersmuseum.org

Director's Message

Greetings from what feels like the construction capital of the U.S.! If you haven't been to Tahoe City this year, you may be surprised to see construction at nearly every turn. While we will soon enjoy the benefits of a new grocery store, repaved roads, a new Fanny Bridge, and a revitalized Watson Cabin, the ongoing work has certainly posed challenges for local businesses. Despite these hurdles, we've continued to see wonderful momentum and positive visitor feedback throughout our 2025 season. This year was filled with new classes and events, expanded school group visits, exciting new accessions, and meaningful building restoration projects—all focused on celebrating local culture and history in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. It has been a joy connecting with you this year, and we look forward to an even brighter 2026!

Susan Winter
Museum Director

Financial Snapshot

Revenue & Support

Programs & Grants	\$ 105,552
Fundraising	\$ 38,695
Admissions & Membership	\$ 32,544
Total Revenue & Support*	\$ 176,791

* Excludes net gains and loss from NLTHS Investment Portfolio

Expenses

Programs & Services	\$ 38,459
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 58,742
Operations	\$ 122,664
Total Expenses	\$ 219,865



Be sure to check out our 2026 lineup of exhibits & events at gatekeepersmuseum.org

COMMUNITY

HISTORY

EDUCATION

CONSERVATION



Our Year at a Glance

Our 2025 season began with a wonderful new snowboarding exhibition at the Watson Cabin in celebration of SnowFest. In the spring, we proudly hosted our second annual Washoe-led Stewarding Knowledges event, which drew a record turnout of more than 200 visitors. We also offered three basket-weaving classes, two paper-crafting classes, and two Washoe beading classes—all of which sold out within days.

Our Historic Talk series continues to be a favorite, drawing record attendance, while our Annual Open House and Heritage Trails events went off without a hitch. This year also marked two exciting firsts: our inaugural Chamber Mixer with the North Tahoe Chamber and our first Trivia Night at the Tahoe Wine Collective. At the Concours d'Elegance, our tent was bustling with friends both new and old, and our newly launched Tahoe City Walking History Tour, available through our website, has already received rave reviews.

Our education program continues to grow, with more than 1,000 schoolchildren visiting our museum free of charge. We are especially excited for our biggest upcoming community event: the Watson Cabin Haunted House, part of Tahoe City's Trick-or-Treating celebration.

It has truly been a fantastic year! While we are proud of our successful events and expanding education programs, our organization is also facing an unexpected \$30,000 annual increase in our fire insurance policy—a cost that will significantly impact our bottom line. To help us meet this challenge, we invite our wonderful supporters to consider making a gift, or increasing their annual donation, so we can continue fulfilling our mission of preserving the cultural history and heritage of North Lake Tahoe.

*Thank you for your generous support
of the North Tahoe Historical Society.*



New Permanent Exhibit

1920 Topographic Map of Tahoe

This winter, the museum is proud to unveil a remarkable new permanent exhibit: a 5-foot by 8-foot topographic map created in 1920 by renowned cartographer J.T. Edwards. Weighing an impressive 500 pounds, this extraordinary piece was recently acquired from the Drum estate and represents both technical mastery and historical significance.

J.T. Edwards was known in the early 20th century for producing highly detailed topographic and survey maps used by engineers, planners, and institutions at a time when precision relied heavily on ground surveys, hand-drawn calculations, and field observations. Among his most ambitious works was a massive map of California measuring approximately 600 feet in length, underscoring both the scale of his vision and the painstaking labor involved in his craft. What makes this newly acquired map especially striking is the accuracy and clarity of its elevation contours and geographic detail—achieved decades before modern satellite imagery or widespread aerial photography were available. Considering the limited access to aerial viewing in the 1920s, the level of detail and accuracy is nothing short of remarkable.

We invite you to stop by the museum and experience this impressive piece of history for yourself—a testament to early cartographic skill, patience, and ingenuity in Lake Tahoe.



J.T. Edwards

Cataloging the Archives of a Famous Local Historian

Legacy of Carol Van Etten



This winter, we are carefully cataloguing thousands of photographs, documents, and archival files entrusted to us by Carol van Etten, who sadly passed away recently. Carol was Tahoe's most devoted historian, authoring numerous books on local history and sharing her deep knowledge with generosity, humility, and care. She was involved with NLTHS beginning in the 1970s and remained a guiding presence for decades.

Carol also pioneered our oral history efforts, understanding the importance of preserving personal stories alongside the historical record. In her honor, this work now continues as the Carol Van Etten Oral History Program. With the support of local grants, we hope to digitize the hundreds of hours of interviews Carol conducted. Carol will be deeply missed, and her passion for Tahoe's history will continue to live on through the stories she saved.



What's Happening At Watson Cabin?

Revitalize the Watson Cabin – Restoration Complete

Phase 2 of the Revitalize the Watson Cabin Project is complete! Thanks to the TOT/TBID Dollars at Work Program and the generosity of our individual donors, we were able to restore both the interior and exterior of North Lake Tahoe's oldest standing log cabin.

While the major restoration is finished, ongoing maintenance is essential to protect this historic structure for future generations. The cabin will be open May 23 through Labor Day weekend, and we look forward to celebrating the completion of this project—stay tuned for details!

You can help support the Watson Cabin Preservation Project through our website. Donors will be honored with a permanent plaque at the cabin.

Thank you for helping us preserve this vital piece of Tahoe history.

Gatekeeper's Museum in the Community

- Special Thanks to the Maritime Foundation for their generous grant, which allowed us to add new display cases to the museum.
- Introducing our new YouTube page! We've been working hard to digitize our video archives, and you can now explore them—along with other museum happenings—on @GatekeepersMuseum.
- Upcoming Events: We have many exciting programs planned for Spring/Summer 2026. Our full event list will be included in the Spring Newsletter, and updates will be posted regularly on our website.
- Discover our new revolving basket displays for 2026! Explore how Native American basketry has inspired artisans around the world and see the latest accessions added to our collection. These rotating exhibits highlight both tradition and innovation in basket making—don't miss the chance to see these beautiful pieces up close.

Watson Cabin Platinum Donors

North Tahoe Community Alliance TOT/TBID Dollars

Bruce Scott & Family

Williamson Family

Antoinette & Ralph De Vere White

Muriel Harris

Virginia DeMaria

Dinah-Maria, Ayrton and Sebastian

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Bill Thompson

Randall Faccinto

Susan & Terra Stiffler

Judith Tornese & Jerry Winters

Don & Shirley Hale Family

Dolton Family

Bruce & Linda Taylor



Become a Platinum Donor

Support the Watson Cabin Preservation Project and have your name permanently displayed on a plaque inside the cabin!

Donate \$1,000 or more through our website

www.gatekeepersmuseum.org

or by mail at NLTHS, 6141 Tahoe City, CA 96145

Thank you for helping preserve this important piece of Tahoe history!