

JANUARY 31, 2025

# 2024

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## **PRESQUE ISLE LIGHT STATION ANNUAL REPORT**

**MORE INFO :**

[admin@presqueislelighthouse.org](mailto:admin@presqueislelighthouse.org)  
[presqueislelighthouse.org](http://presqueislelighthouse.org)

814-833-3604

# Mission



To shine a light on Erie's maritime history by providing engaging and inclusive public access and educational programming to the Presque Isle, North Pier and Land lighthouses for today's visitors and preserving the historic structures and their stories for future generations.



# Board of Directors 2024

## OFFICERS

Greg Henning, President

Eric Dahlstrand, Vice President

Amanda Spaeder, Treasurer

Becky Weiser, Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

Holly Best, ex-officio

Mike Geiger

Melinda Meyer

Tom New

Greg Sesler

Steve Srnka

Hannah Moran

Geoff Domowicz

Ryan Astemborski



# Committees

## **Executive**

Greg Henning, President

Eric Dahlstrand, Vice President

Amanda Spaeder, Treasurer

Becky Weiser. Secretary

## **Building and Grounds**

Tom Sebald, Chair

Eric Dahlstrand

Mike Geiger

Jack Watts

STAFF: Rose Pregler Hitt, Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort

## **Education**

Becky Weiser, Chair

Melinda Meyer

Hannah Moran

Greg Henning

Vince DiMichele

Patti Rial

Holly Best

STAFF: Dom DelGreco, Kim McMahon Smith, Averie

Shaughnessy-Comfort



# Committees

## **Finance**

Amanda Spaeder, Chair

Ryan Astemborski

Greg Henning

STAFF: Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort

## **Personnel and Governance**

Tom New, Chair

Geoff Domowicz

Steve Srnka

Greg Sesler

STAFF: Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort



# Staff Members

Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort  
*Executive Director*

Deborah Lohr  
*Gift Shop & Events Manager*

Domenic DelGreco  
*Community Engagement and Programming Manager*

Kimberly McMahon-Smith  
*Site Manager and Admin Assistant*

Rose Pregler Hitt  
*Site Manager and Curatorial Assistant*

Kate Kelly  
*Interpretation Assistant, Seasonal*

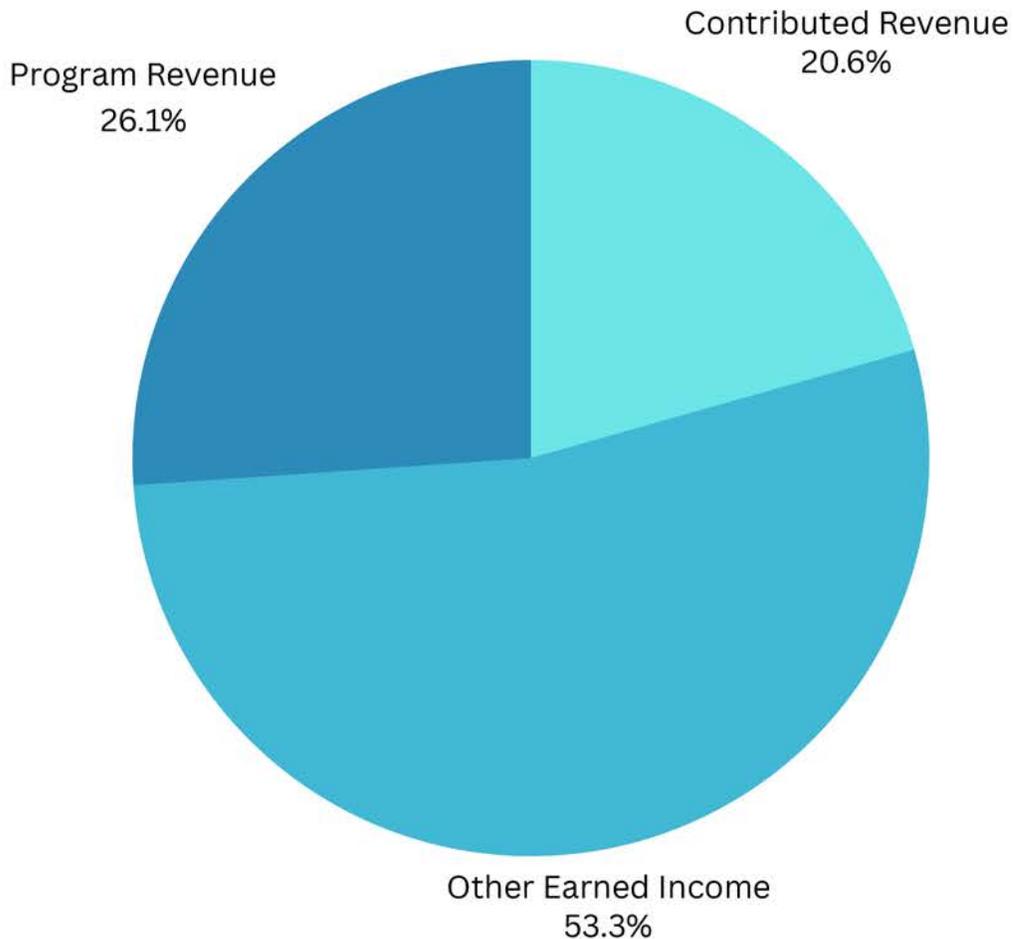
Allison Lucas  
*Interpretation Assistant, Seasonal*

Derek Smith  
*Maintenance Associate*



# Year At A Glance

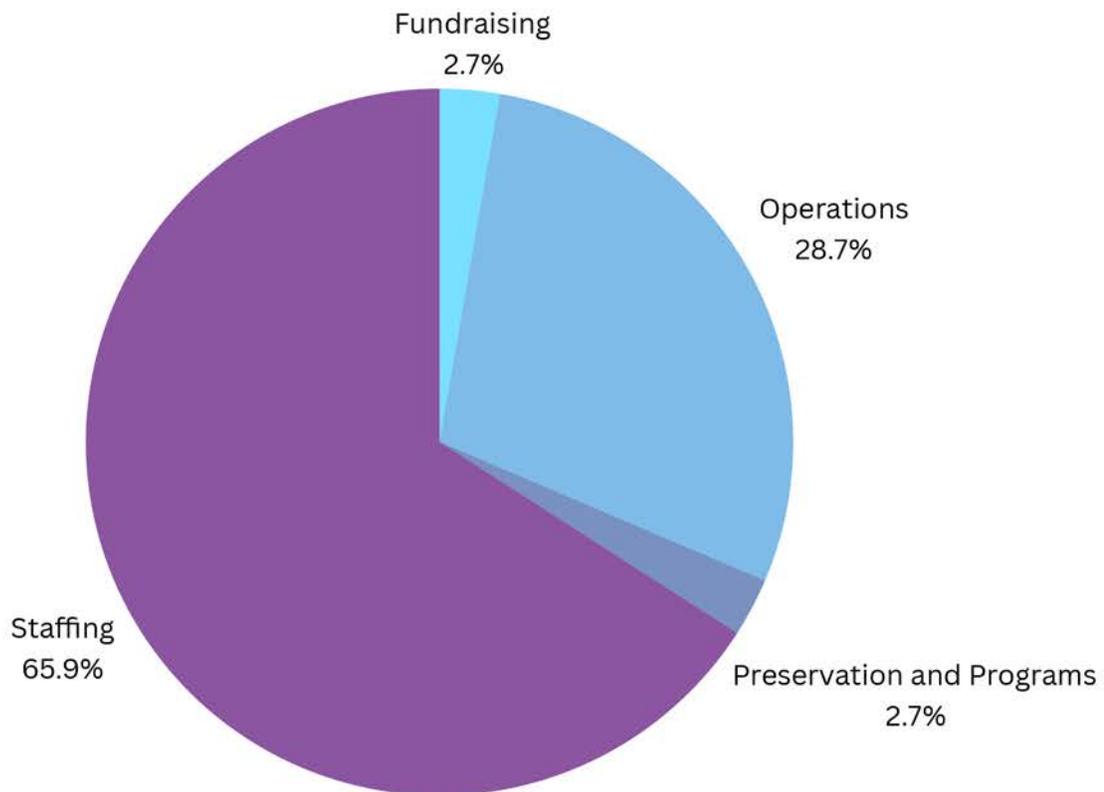
## 2024: Income \$360,336



- Contributed Revenue (donations, sponsorships, memberships, grants, events)
- Program Revenue (tours, community programs)
- Other Earned Revenue (rentals, gift shop)

# Year At A Glance

## 2024 Expenses \$352,325



- Staffing - 2 FT, 5 PT
- Fundraising - Event expenses, appeal
- Operations - overhead
- Preservation Program Service - Maintenance of Presque Isle and Land Lighthouse

# Fast Facts

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- Free Event Attendance: 897
- Youth and Groups - Individuals Served: 311
- Special Events Income: \$9,379
- Membership Income: \$11,294
- Donation Income: \$41,668 (up 15% from 2023)
- Direct Public Grants: \$26,462 (up 38% from 2023)
- Government Grants: \$19,558 (up 78% from 2023)
- Erie Gives 2024 Total: \$15,334



# Corporate Support

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**Erie Insurance**

**Wegman's**

**Creative Imprint Systems**

**Visit Erie**

## **Sponsors and In-Kind Donors**

- Lavery Brewing
- Erie Seawolves
- Sara's Restaurant
- Scott Enterprises
- Sheetz
- Johnno Prascak and Maria DeSimone Prascak
- UFrameIt
- Brian Payne
- Marcia Hatton
- Cheryl Johnson



# Individual and Foundation Support

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**\$10,000 +**

**Norton Trust**

**\$2,000 +**

**Patrick and Candyce Delaney**

**Mike and Carol Geiger**

**Martha Hilbert Fund**

**\$500 - 2,000**

**Wendy Miller**

**Tom and Denise Sebald**

**Joao and Delores Tavares**

**Tom and Janice Showler**

**Bill and Dell Becker**

**Thomas B. Hagen**

**Amanda Spaeder**

**Dianne Allaire**

**Gregory Henning**

**Gail and Chris Detar**

**Carol Hymiak**

**Melinda Meyer**

**Michael and Rebecca Okel**

**Becky Weiser**

**Patrick McCreary**

**Ken and Terri Venmar**

**Rob and Carrie Lowther**

**Cathy Ann Solomon**

**David Uhlig and Patti Williams**

# Grantors

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Pennsylvania  
Historical & Museum  
Commission

**Historic Preservation Planning and Construction  
Grants for Presque Isle and Erie Land**



Erie  
Insurance®

**Safety + Equipment Upgrades at Erie  
Land Lighthouse**

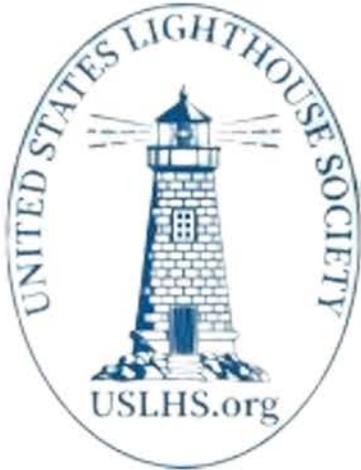


**E·C·G·R·A**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**Special Events 2024**

# Grantors

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United States Lighthouse Society  
Historic Preservation Grant to  
Repoint the Land Lighthouse

## Partners

**PA DCNR, Presque Isle State Park**

**Erie-Western PA Port Authority**

**Presque Isle Partnership**

**Erie Maritime Museum**

**Erie County Public Library**

**Hagen History Center**

**Penn State Master Gardeners**

**VisitErie**

**Smiley's Ice Cream**

**Erie Unknown Paranormal Investigations**

**Andrew Huzar**

**Brian Payne**

**Marcia Hatton**

# 2024 Projects Completed

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- Completion of restoration of the Summer Kitchen
  - Addition of stove, table, icebox, Hoosier
  - Repainted
  - Repaired Window
  - Refinished flooring
- Cleaning and repointing of the Erie Land Lighthouse
  - 100% repointed joints
- Completed variance requests with PA Dept of Labor and Industry and received a new Occupancy Permit for the Presque Isle Lighthouse
- Cleaned and painted upper railing in Lantern at Erie Land Lighthouse
- Finalized application to GSA and National Park Service to acquire Erie Harbor North Pierhead Light



# Strategic Plan

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In 2022, the Board of Directors approved a 3-year strategic plan serving through 2025 focusing on these goals:

1. Preserve, maintain, and restore Erie's historic lighthouses
2. Engage the community, region, and tourists in Erie's historic lighthouses
3. Develop organizational capacity for management of all 3 lighthouses
4. Ensure financial sustainability

**On the next page, you'll see highly anticipated projects for 2025.**



## Presque Isle Light

Tower resurfacing and repointing on lower level

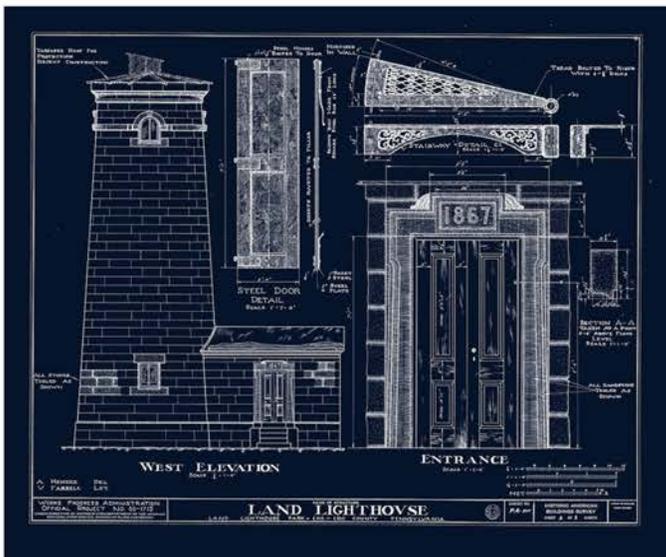
New exhibitions and new interpretation in the Kitchen.



## North Pier

Aiming to acquire through GSA by Spring 2025.

Digital “access” of interior.



## Land Lighthouse

Increase free and discounted programming.

Increase community partnerships

Begin work on Keeper's Cottage

# The Future

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The Light Station plans to expand its mission and become the steward of all three historic lights in Erie, PA. The North Pier Light is being divested by the Coast Guard and our organization has submitted our Letter of Intent to secure ownership, make the site accessible to the public, and undertake its significant restoration.

This site, in combination with the other two, have the potential to be nationally significant and a source of great local pride. We plan to introduce self-guided audio tours for the site and offer educational programming, similar to our current work at the Presque Isle and Erie Land Lighthouses.

Our staff and board work diligently to preserve and interpret these important sites to inspire community pride, drive economic growth in the region, and welcome tourists and lighthouse enthusiasts.

The Presque Isle Light Station | Lake Erie Lights  
is a private registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation  
registered in 2014.



[presqueislelighthouse.org](http://presqueislelighthouse.org)