



# vertika

[www.americanhelicopter.museum](http://www.americanhelicopter.museum) | 610.436.9600

WINTER 2020



## 2019 annual report

# chair's message



**IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR MY ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW.** This will be my last one, as after 7 years as Board Chair I will be stepping down in December. The position will be filled by our dedicated Vice Chair, Chuck Dilabbio. Thanks to a host of dedicated Board members and volunteers, during my tenure the Museum has shown remarkable growth and a strengthened financial position. Most notable was our expansion, which included our state-of-the-art theater. In 2019, we saw another transition as Sarah Sands retired and we welcomed Allison Titman. Allison brought small museum experience to the job and is already making a positive impact with her energy, enthusiasm, and insight.

Last year we had many exciting developments as we strove for continuous improvement. We welcomed new additions to our collection, including the Sikorsky S-76D, McCulloch J-2 gyroplane, and a scale model of the Jaunt Air Mobility eVTOL aircraft, and continued to add to our audio guides to enhance the visitor experience. Our outstanding Girls in Sciences and Technology (GIST) program grew in numbers and scope and we have added and enhanced educational offerings like STEAM Storytime for preschoolers, Science Saturdays for older children, and hands-on

STEM workshops. Haunted Helicopters proved a popular addition to our roster of annual events, and the Gala, FatherFest (now FamilyFest), SantaFest, and helicopter rides gave visitors a reason to return to the Museum over and over again.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chairman of the world's premiere all-rotorcraft museum. In 2020 we have plans to continue to add ways to fulfill our mission to preserve rotary-wing aviation history, educate society on helicopters and their missions, and inspire future generations. As always I am grateful for our host of volunteers and donors, without whom we could not exist.

Coming up we have our first-ever Open Cockpit Day on April 5, and we also anticipate a formal rollout of the Sikorsky R-6, which is the pride of our restoration volunteers. I hope to see you all at the Museum.

Best Regards,

*Marc Sheffler*

BOARD CHAIR

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# 20 *by the* 19 NUMBERS

## EDUCATION

### GIRLS IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (GIST)

**73 Girls** made solar cars, learned about acids & bases, launched stomp rockets, built Archimedes screws, and explored the universe

**9 college student mentors** led **7 courses** for girls ranging from 8 to 18

**9 corporate/academic volunteers** provided assistance

**10 public speakers** discussed their careers in STEM disciplines to provide role models for GIST participants

### WORKSHOPS

**220 students** in **11 classes** at Fugett Middle School learned about the forces of flight, rotor blade shape, materials engineering, and drag balances

Nearly **100 kids** participated in **5 workshops** on astronomy, coding, and robotics, and **5 sessions** of "Science Saturday"

### TEACHER TRAINING

**120 teachers** took part in a continuing education seminar

## MUSEUM TOURS

**2,207 visitors** took pre-booked group tours of the museum.

Including **164** in the **Fund a Field Trip** program for schools that serve low-income communities & **116** through the Museum's partnership with Art-Reach, which serves the disability community in the greater Philadelphia region

**990 guests** celebrated as **33 kids** blew out the candles on their birthday cakes and enjoyed a hands-on helicopter activity during birthday parties at the Museum

## STUBBY

Our traveling helicopter exhibit was "flown" by **25,100 pilots** of all ages and over **50,000** cheered for it at parades

## VOLUNTEERS

**135 returning volunteers** & **13 new ones** spent over **10,450 hours** giving tours, answering questions, restoring helicopters, making facility improvements, working with exhibits and collections, and more

## NEW EVENT

Over **330 people** enjoyed trick-or-treating, button-making, and spooky stories during Haunted Helicopters in October

## NEW EXHIBITS

**Sikorsky S-76D helicopter**, a gift from Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company.

Completed fabrication and assembly of missing parts on the **Sikorsky R-6**, a World War II-era helicopter that will roll out of the restoration shop after painting and decal application

Completed mechanical and fabrication restoration of the **McCulloch J-2 gyroplane**

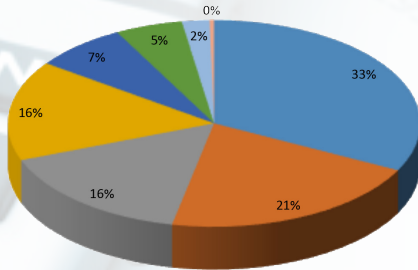
Placed the **Control Tower** in the Pioneer Hall area and utilized it as a mini movie theater, with a looping video about the innovative work of rotary-wing aviation pioneers Igor Sikorsky, Frank Piasecki, and Arthur Young

Video display about the **Bell-Boeing U-22 Osprey**, showing the arrival of the Museum's aircraft and operational video with the Marines

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

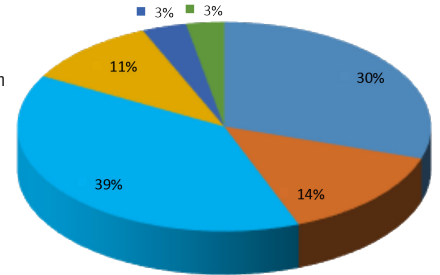
## INCOME

- Contributions
- Admissions
- Program Fees
- Tenant Income
- Grants
- Retail Sales
- Memberships
- Other Income



## EXPENSES

- Programs & Education
- Depreciation
- Administration
- Facility
- Fundraising
- Marketing



## 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Museum’s financial stability and success always rest on the support it receives from its generous donors and corporate supporters as well as the visitors who come through its door to experience its exhibits, programs, and events.

In 2019, one-third of the Museum’s income was received through contributions, with admissions, program fees, and tenant income providing key earned income streams. Grants were also important to the Museum’s continued operations, as were sales of items in the Museum Store and the membership program.

To generate that income and provide fun, educational experiences, about two-thirds the Museum’s funds were spent on administration, programs, and education. These functions provide the oversight and supplies the organization needs to serve its visitors. The remaining third was split between depreciation expense, facilities, fundraising, and marketing.

We hope you will continue to support this institution as we do our best to manage our resources and use them for the benefit of the public.

## 2020 helicopter ride schedule

Helicopter rides will be available at the Museum for \$65 per person on these dates:

**May 9 • May 23 • June 21 (Family Fest) • July 11  
July 25 • August 8 • August 22 • Sept 12 • Sept 26**

For more information or to purchase a ride, visit [www.americanhelicopter.museum](http://www.americanhelicopter.museum)



# thank you to our Supporters!

The American Helicopter Museum and Education Center gratefully acknowledges the generosity of everyone who supported our mission in 2019.

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*We are deeply grateful to our DONORS, MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS. We make every effort to be accurate and complete when acknowledging your generosity. Please call 610-436-9600 to report any errors.*



# Larry Barrett AWARD

In December, the Museum inaugurated a new award: the **Larry Barrett Volunteer Award**, to be given each year to the volunteer with the most hours worked. At the Museum's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in December, Executive Director Allison Titman presented the 1st Barrett Award to its namesake, Larry Barrett. He was pleased to receive it and proud that he was still atop the volunteer list at 97 years old!

We hope that the award will serve as a fitting tribute to Mr. Barrett, who recently passed away. He was a Founding Member of the Museum and a dedicated volunteer for many years.