



Tryon Palace



2015
Annual Report

From the Foundation

By all measures Tryon Palace has been successful over the past year. Volunteers, patrons, donors, and staff have played key roles in that success. Our mission is clear and compelling as we tell the stories of our past that are essential to the foundation of our future. Democracy requires an informed people and the political maturity that comes from a knowledge of the past. We can be proud of our patriotic contributions to this critical need.

With a dynamic new Executive Director now in place, the future looks even brighter. A lengthy and thorough process brought us the talents and leadership of Lee Johnson. Lee's analytical and management skills coupled with his vision are great assets. Building on our strengths, including our strong support system and attendance, Lee is committed to expanding the programs offered at Tryon Palace. He is particularly interested in a more thorough approach to the importance of our experience during the American Revolution and early nationhood.

While maintaining our colonial story, there is ample opportunity to give added attention to this later period. Our contributions to the emerging and new nation are deserving of full narration. In addition, our location on two beautiful rivers lends itself to interpretation of maritime and fluvial history, as well as a greater emphasis on the natural history of the area. All of these facets will help to broaden our audience. Interestingly, the gift of Clermont several years ago opens a host of possibilities for these new programs.

Our story is William Tryon. It is also Richard Dobbs Spaight, Abner Nash, James Davis, Minutemen and African American patriots from Harlowe. It is John Lawson and the richness of our natural environment. There is so much more to tell and audiences want to hear those stories.

Having passed through a period of transition, it is truly an exciting time to be associated with this site. Standing on the shoulders of great leadership from the past, Tryon Palace, and its Commission and Foundation—supported by loyal volunteers, donors, and staff—are eager to accept new challenges as we serve the people of our state and nation. Thank you for all that you contribute to this mission.

Sincerely,
Nelson McDaniel
President, Tryon Palace Foundation



2015 Annual Report

The Tryon Palace Annual Report is published to acknowledge the generosity of Tryon Palace's primary supporters and to highlight achievements from the previous year. This publication is available to all those who have supported Tryon Palace through the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Foundation.

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Funding, printing costs, and related postage for this publication have been provided by the Tryon Palace Foundation. For more information about the Tryon Palace Foundation:

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Mail: Tryon Palace Foundation
P.O. Box 1007,
New Bern, NC 28563

About Tryon Palace

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, NC, is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Tryon Palace is one of North Carolina's most significant historic sites. It is the home of the Governor's Palace, North Carolina's first colonial and first state capitol, and includes historic buildings, gardens, and the North Carolina History Center, which revolutionizes the visitor experience through use of the latest interactive technology. The History Center includes galleries, a performance hall, the museum store, and a waterfront café.

Tryon Palace's mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement in 1710, the development of statehood, and into the mid-20th century. It is dedicated to collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes, and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

Tickets and visitor information are available at Tryon Palace, 529 S. Front St., New Bern, NC. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, employment and more, visit www.tryonpalace.org or call (800) 767-1560.

ON THE COVER

Two monarch butterflies perch on a flower outside Tryon Palace's Mary Kistler Stoney Flower Garden off Pollock Street.

From the Commission

The year 2015 was a great one for Tryon Palace. With the hiring of a new executive director, the 70th anniversary of the Tryon Palace Commission, increased volunteer hours and visitation, there was plenty to be proud of last year.

Accomplishments arose early in the year with the reintroduction of the authentic 18th-century Blacksmith Shop to Tryon Palace's menu of living history offerings in early spring. A visitor favorite, the shop is a place where they can learn about the blacksmiths of the 18th century and watch one of our skilled blacksmiths craft items like cooking utensils, candlestick holders, hooks, and much more.

In addition to the Blacksmith Shop, Tryon Palace continued to add more programming for visitors of all ages that helped drive attendance throughout the year, including a record-breaking month in July, with a 23-percent increase in visitation over the previous July. A wildly popular Easter egg hunt on the South Lawn, Behind-the-Scenes tours of the gardens and costume shop, WWI Weekend, and the MumFest Kickoff Concert on the South Lawn were just some of the new events and programs for 2015 that drew thousands of new visitors to Tryon Palace.

Once again Tryon Palace also had the good fortune of hosting the annual PepsiCo shareholder's meeting in May, which brought executives and shareholders from around the world to the site. The 2015 annual meeting coincided with the 50th anniversary of the formation of PepsiCo and we are thrilled to be a part of the PepsiCo tradition.

Crucial new hires were also key in making 2015 such a great year for Tryon Palace, including our Director of Collections Alyson Rhodes-Murphy and Executive Director Lee Johnson.

Alyson and her team were busy throughout the year managing Tryon Palace's extensive collection as well as honoring the past through excellent exhibits like "Rebuilding Tryon Palace" and "Celebrating Tryon Palace." "Celebrating Tryon Palace" commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Tryon Palace Commission and the 5th anniversary of the opening of the North Carolina History Center—both tremendous milestones.

A native North Carolinian, Lee Johnson took over the helm of Tryon Palace in October 2015 and brought with him expertise in management, communications and, perhaps most importantly, a love for North Carolina's history, Tryon Palace, and its mission. Under Lee's guidance, and with the exceptional staff and more than 700 volunteers, Tryon Palace is well positioned to grow and flourish.

In the coming years I look forward to seeing Tryon Palace continue its reputation as one of the premier historic sites in our great state while evolving to meet the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,
William Cannon
Chairman, Tryon Palace Commission





Volunteer Support Continues to Grow at Tryon Palace

Student Volunteers Help Increase Support Base to 731 People

With each and every year the level of volunteerism at Tryon Palace continues to grow as new volunteers join the ranks of the diverse and dedicated volunteer base. In 2015, the Tryon Palace volunteer base grew to 731 volunteers and produced 30,429 hours of work, which represents a value of \$701,997. This growth equates to a 21-percent increase in the number of volunteers, 5-percent more hours worked, and an 8-percent rise in value over 2014.

With an increase in the number of Tryon Palace volunteers and the need to ensure good customer service for our volunteers, the Tryon Palace Commission approved hiring a combined administrative office assistant and volunteer coordinator. In October 2015, Pam Stevens was hired to fill that position. Pam came to Tryon Palace with experience volunteering with MilitaryAppreciationDay.org and has now developed a relationship with our hundreds of volunteers at Tryon Palace.

Also in 2015, Ashley Peralta was hired as a temporary employee to create and launch a Student Volunteer Program at Tryon Palace. Ashley was hired in August and recruited 32 student volunteers by the end of 2015, while also updating the policies for student volunteers in the future.

Student volunteers have been from area elementary, middle, and high schools. Four of the first student volunteers are part of the Occupational Preparation program at New Bern High School. By partnering with the program coordinator, Ms. Anita Hardy, Tryon Palace received many more volunteers from other local schools.

Student volunteers have helped in areas like the Pepsi Family Center, New Bern Academy Museum, gardens, administrative offices, Hay House, and security. In addition, there are numerous energetic and amazing student volunteers at special events like Candlelight, WinterFeast, All Hallows Eve, and Holiday Kickoff Weekend. The Tryon Palace volunteer base has greatly benefitted from the young energy the student volunteers bring.

If you are interested in becoming a Tryon Palace volunteer, please visit www.tryonpalace.org/volunteer or call Pam Stevens at 252-639-3501.

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Ms. Megan Yearborough
Ms. Joann Young

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Mr. Hayden Baer
Mrs. Jennifer Baer
Mrs. Judy Bailie
Ms. Jeanne Ball
Mr. Tom Balsanek
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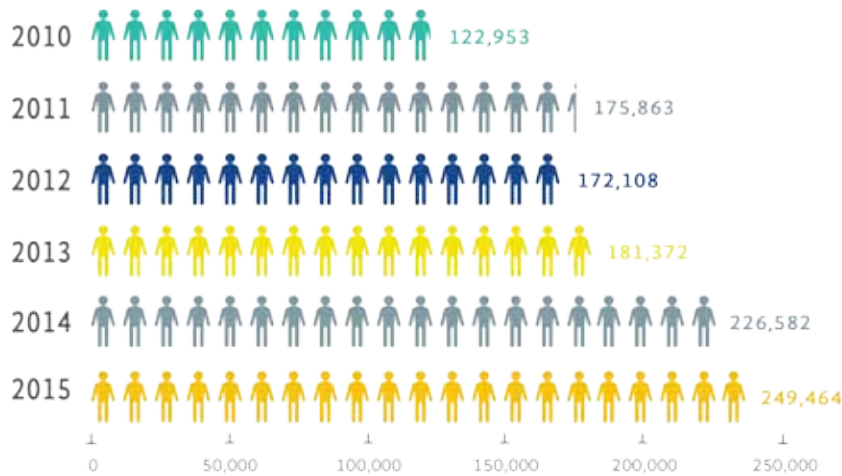
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The Year in Review

Tryon Palace continued to grow in 2015 with increases in attendance, volunteers, and earned revenue. Below is a snapshot of how support from donors and staff worked together in their efforts to fulfill the Palace's mission and laid the groundwork for another successful year in 2016.

Visitor Attendance

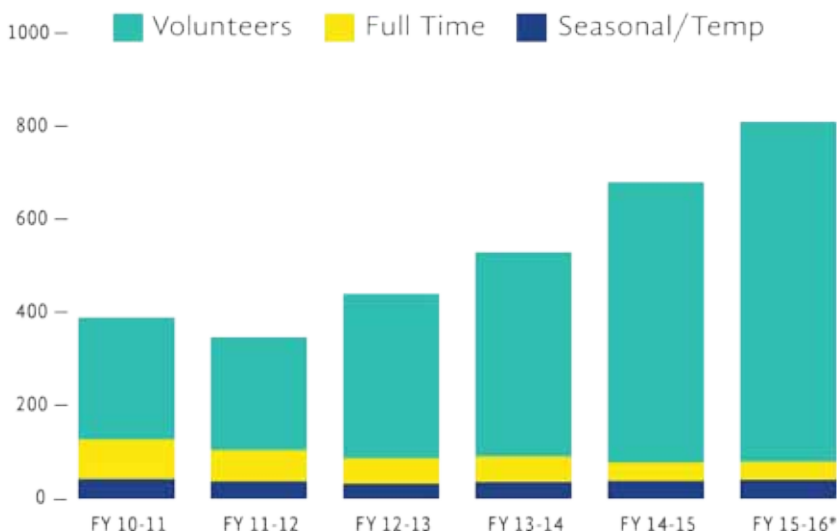


Denotes total visitation at Tryon Palace by calendar year.

Annual Funding Sources for Tryon Palace Operating Expenditures (FY 14-15)

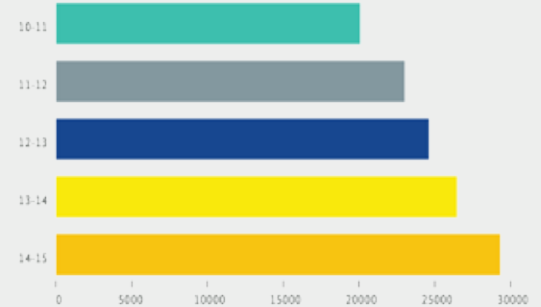


Tryon Palace Workforce



Number of people (full time, seasonal/temporary, and volunteers) working at Tryon Palace on a fiscal year basis. (*Numbers available through 12/31/2015)

Volunteer Hours



Number of volunteer hours worked at Tryon Palace by fiscal year.

RECORD BREAKING EVENTS



The 35th annual Candlelight Celebration marked a record-breaking year for Tryon Palace in 2015. Combined attendance for both nights marked a 28% increase over the previous year, and more than 500 visitors beyond the previous record set in 2008.



↑ 36%

Amount WinterFeast's contribution to Tryon Palace increased from 2012, the fundraising oyster roaster's inaugural year, to 2015. In 2015, Tryon Palace's largest annual fundraising event sold 529 tickets and raised more than \$17,000.

From the Director

New beginnings. While the saying may be cliché, it rings true for both myself and for Tryon Palace. After assuming my position as Executive Director in October of 2015, I immediately went to work. It was important for me to understand the vision of its creators, where things stood in relation to that vision at the end of 2015, and where our emphasis should be placed in 2016 and the years to come.

What I found was a dedicated collection of staff and volunteers, and a strong wellspring of support from the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Foundation. The Palace appeared well-positioned for growth. The trend lines for visitors, financial stability, infrastructure improvements, and creative and professional programming were positive.

However, I soon realized that there were many maintenance, preservation, and facility projects that are either urgent or will become so in the near future. I have considered the options and resources available to me and the Palace and have begun immediate action to address the most pressing needs.

I have also implemented a staff reorganization. During my initial due diligence period I discovered certain smaller departments within the organization were not receiving the support they deserved. I have combined the staff into five major Branches:

- (1) Education, Exhibits & the Visitor Experience
- (2) Public Affairs, Marketing & Special Events
- (3) Operations & Maintenance
- (4) Grounds & Gardens
- (5) Administration

The objectives are to promote teamwork and collegiality, emphasize efficiencies, and empower managers and team members to better utilize their expertise without excessive micro-management from the top. I also wanted to provide the staff with greater freedom to create and improvise. I think you will see demonstrable progress on our priorities and in fulfillment of our mission as this new organizational structure matures.

We are also going to place enhanced emphasis on telling the stories of our American patriots who occupied Tryon Palace and New Bern during the American War of Independence, and from which our first revolutionary governments and assemblies prepared North Carolina for war.

This part of our history will be reflected in the daily interpretation on site as our historians and interpretive staff develop new themes and provide a deeper context for our visitors. This new emphasis will honor those who fought for our freedom and helped to create not only our great state of North Carolina, but also the United States of America.

Each of you are a part of that historical legacy. It is a proud tradition of service in the cause of freedom and liberty. My goal is to remain faithful to that tradition and ensure that Tryon Palace remains strong and viable for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Lee Johnson
Executive Director, Tryon Palace



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** Indicates donors that have given to Tryon Palace for more than 10 consecutive years.*

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 Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Jacobs
In Memory of Marybelle Hollowell
 Chesnutt, Clemmons and Peacock
In Memory of Katie Hood
 Chesnutt, Clemmons and Peacock
In Memory of Nancy Packer
 Dr. and Mrs. Wright D. Shields
In Memory of William S. Powell
 Mrs. Virginia W. Powell
In Honor of Freda Pyron
 Brunswick County Master Gardener
 Volunteer Association
In Memory of J. Harold Talton
 Mrs. Patricia S. Talton
In Honor of Pat Talton
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Leiendecker
In Honor of LeRae Umfleet
 Pamlico County Historical Association
In Memory of Tim Valentine
 Chesnutt, Clemmons and Peacock
 Dr. James B. Congleton, III
In Memory of Jo Carole Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. William P. Kemp, III
 Mrs. Linda J. Stauch

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2016 Events and Exhibits

Gardens of North Carolina

Free Exhibit Open through Aug. 14

This spring, come see an exhibit on the gardens and landscapes of North Carolina. From kitchen gardens to farms and flower beds to early landscaping, North Carolina is home to many iconic landscapes. Visitors will learn about the history of gardening and how historic site garden interpretation has changed in this new exhibit. Open daily in the Duffy Exhibition Gallery, located in the North Carolina History Center.

Military Appreciation Day

Monday, May 30

In honor of those who served our country over the years, and those who still do, Tryon Palace will offer free admission to all active duty and military veterans with the presentation of their military ID or proof of service. Discounted admission will be given to accompanying family members.

Fife and Drum Summer Camp*

Monday, June 20-Friday, June 24

Musicians were an important part of the 18th-century military, and you can become a part of that tradition this summer at the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps youth camp. Participants will learn from experienced instructors the basics of reading music, scales and rudiments, marching, history, and tunes that will prepare them to join the

The Glorious Fourth

Monday, July 4

Enjoy the anniversary of the birth of America at Tryon Palace with historical interpreters, games and crafts for all ages, exhibitions, and a live reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Palace steps. This free event also includes a performance by the Fife and Drum Corps and free access to the Palace gardens. The fun continues at night with a special ticketed event at the North Carolina History Center that includes music, food, and waterfront views of the fireworks.

Richard Dobbs Spaight (exhibit)

Aug. 27 to Jan. 8

This free exhibit in the Duffy Gallery will focus on the first native-born Governor of North Carolina, his contributions to New Bern, the formation of the United States, and his legacy in serving the Revolutionary cause and during North Carolina's early statehood.

Civil War Living History Weekend*

Aug. 13-14

The sights and sounds of the Civil War will come to life during Tryon Palace's Civil War Living History Weekend held at the New Bern Academy Museum. The Academy and Tryon Palace's South Lawn will be home to reenactors, artillery, and infantry demonstrations throughout the weekend.



Stanly-Spaight Duel*

Saturday, Sept. 3

On Sept. 5, 1802, a prominent New Bern lawyer met his political rival, a former state governor, in a lethal duel on the streets of New Bern. Step back in time to an era where a man's personal honor was his most cherished quality and any incursion on this prized value could result in fiery and violent retribution. Watch the drama unfold before your eyes in a gripping reenactment of this fateful day. Come early and enjoy the gardens before a special performance by Tryon Palace's Fife and Drum Corps kicks off the event at 4 p.m.

Fall Festival*

Saturday, Sept. 24

Families and children of all ages will enjoy interactive crafts and activities during the Fall Festival at Tryon Palace. Craft activities and demonstrations designed for the entire family will be held throughout Tryon Palace and the North Carolina History Center. Teachers are invited to attend Fall Festival free with identification and receive a complimentary One Day Pass that includes access to the Governor's Palace, North Carolina History Center, 16 acres of gardens, and four historic homes situated around the palace.

Tryon Palace Foundation Preview Plant Sale*

Thursday, Oct. 6

Fall is for planting! Pick up your own ornamental kale, flowering asters, or mums for your fall and winter garden before the plant sale opens to the public. Each year Tryon Palace's Fall Heritage Plant Sale offers foundation members an early opportunity to purchase plants grown locally and in our nursery yard. The sale opens to the public Oct. 7-8.

Autumn in the Gardens

Oct. 7-9

Visit the Tryon Palace gardens and grounds for free during Mumfest weekend. Thousands of mums will be on display in our gardens along with a variety of fall blooming plants. Free garden admission; interior tours require the purchase of a ticket for nonmembers.

All Hallows' Eve*

Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ghouls, ghosts, and witches are taking over Tryon Palace! Bring the kids dressed in their favorite costume and get into the Halloween spirit with friendly ghosts, crafts, games, spooky stories, and of course, candy! While wandering the haunted grounds you'll encounter friendly ghosts. Designed for ages 12 and under, the brave children who attend "All Hallow's Eve" will receive candy and toys by trick-or-treating the different characters located around the site, play games, and make take-home crafts.

Veterans Day

Friday, Nov. 11

Free admission for all active duty and military veterans with the presentation of their military ID, with discounted admission for immediate family members.

Candlelight*

Saturdays, Dec. 10 and 17, 4:30-9:30 p.m.

This famed North Carolina tradition returns to Tryon Palace in 2016 with ornate decorations and cheerful holiday vignettes illuminated by the magical glow of candlelight. Join costumed characters in the Governor's Palace, Stanly House, Dixon House, and the Commission House as each home is brought to life. Also be sure to catch the circus acts, fire eating, acrobatics, and black powder fireworks in celebration of the holiday season.

WinterFeast: Oysters, Brews, and Comfort Foods

Friday, Jan. 27, 2017

Dive into a table full of hot, steamy, oysters, sample your favorite winter classics prepared by local chefs, and wash it all down with delicious brews. This annual ticketed event marks the Tryon Palace Foundation's largest fundraising event of the year.

**Tryon Palace Foundation members receive free or discounted admission*

Caring for the Collection

The Tryon Palace Collection offers one of the most important opportunities for Tryon Palace to preserve North Carolina's history for future generations to enjoy. Diverse and varied in the different kinds of items it contains, the Tryon Palace Collection includes paintings, photographs, statuary and furniture. These delicate artifacts tell our story today, but the continuation of that story requires a skilled and multifaceted staff that maintains, preserves, and conserves these precious items. In addition to the Tryon Palace collections staff, a number of volunteers contribute their time and talents to preserving the collection. Below are just a few of the steps our staff and volunteers took in 2015 to protect your love and investment in North Carolina's history.



Conservation specialist Richard Baker repairs the frame on a Nathaniel Dance painting from 1768 for exhibit in the "Child's Play" toy exhibit from Dec. 2015.



Volunteer Sue Gurley cleans one of the Italianate statues in the Hawks Allée.



Left photo: Registrar of collections Kristie DaFoe reassembles the four-poster bed inside one of the second floor rooms in the Dixon House during a cleaning project in 2015. Middle photo: Stone conservator James Robertson tests different mixes to repair the front steps of the Governor's Palace. Right photo: During his time on site, James Robertson also worked to repair one of the urns behind the Governor's Palace and reattach it to its base after the urn was knocked over.

Two Hearts BEAT AS ONE



Fall in love with handcrafted items from the Blacksmith Shop when you visit the Tryon Palace Museum Store. Plus, you will find artwork from local artisans, fine foods, an array of books, heritage plants, and more. As always, Tryon Palace Foundation members receive a 10-percent discount in the Tryon Palace Museum Store and the Craft and Garden Shop.

The Museum Store is open seven days a week inside the North Carolina History Center, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Tryon Palace Museum Store | 529 South Front St., New Bern, NC | 252-639-3532