



Be a Hero for Your Community


**WESTPORT  
MUSEUM**
 for  
history  
&  
culture



[www.WestportHistory.org](http://www.WestportHistory.org)  
 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT 06880

# Making history whole

Do you value having a history Museum in your town? If so, you're onto something! A 2021 study found a direct correlation between positive social well-being and the presence of museums in a community.\*

At Westport Museum, we're proud to connect, educate, and encourage social growth in our community. We want you to see yourself in the American story through our exhibits, programs, and special events. Whether you're 9 or 90, Westport Museum is a place for you.

\*Understanding the Social Wellbeing Impacts of the Nation's Libraries and Museums, 2021 Institute for Museum and Library Services



**\$834 million**

**The financial impact that museums have on the Connecticut economy.**

Source: Oxford Economics, IMPLAN, 2017.

We're committed to telling the truth about history (even when it's uncomfortable), because we only move forward when we learn from the past. For forward-thinking citizens, Westport Museum can spark important conversations that lead to a more inclusive society. *But we can't do this work without you.*

As a nonprofit organization, we depend on your generosity to keep Westport Museum thriving. Please consider making a gift today to help create a more just tomorrow. You'll inspire the next generation of leaders and make our community one where everyone's voice is heard.

## *Did you know?*

As a history museum, we work to ensure untold stories don't stay that way. That's why we launched our LGBTQ+ Oral History project in 2023. Interested in participating? Email [info@westporthistory.org](mailto:info@westporthistory.org).



*We applaud Westport Museum's work creating a regionally important humanities center where everyone is included in the American story. As lifetime Westporters, we're proud they're in our town."*  
-Darcy Hicks & Josh Koskoff



# *It's been a busy year!*

If you've driven or walked by the Museum in the past year, you know there's been a lot going on! From major beautification projects to exciting new programs, we've been hard at work creating an engaging museum environment to share with you.

This past year was one for exciting exhibitions, including *Legacy: The Adairs of Westport*; *Bittersweet: Chocolate In the American Colonies*; and *I Thee Wed: Bridal Fashions from the Collections*. A special addition to the lineup, *Reluctant Liberators: Westport In the Civil War*, was researched and curated by Staples High School senior, Talia Moskowitz.

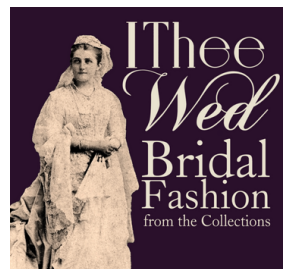


You might have noticed our new look, too. In 2023, we completed a rebranding project with the Purpose Collective, a consulting firm that focuses on cause-based marketing. Our new logo and tagline, *Making History Whole*, honors our mission more completely.



Plan to visit us this fall when and enjoy our reopened our grounds as an idyllic garden with walkways, benches, and areas for reflection. Our popular escape room in the newly renovated barn is also returning with a new theme based on the two pastoral Westport sanitariums that served high society in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

We're already looking forward to bringing you new experiences in 2024. As you peruse these pages, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into making Westport Museum *your* community hub for history and culture.



Please consider making a gift to Westport Museum this season. With your support, every visitor will leave knowing the truths of history — and that they can help build a more equitable future. To donate, visit [westporthistory.org/appeal](https://westporthistory.org/appeal) or mail a check to 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT 06880. Thank you for being a hero for our community.

We appreciate you!



A stylized, cursive signature of Ramin Ganeshram.

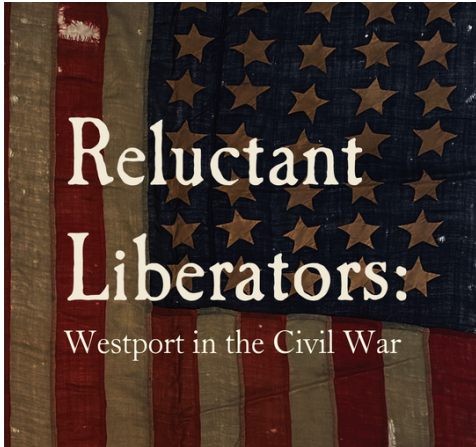
Ramin Ganeshram  
Executive Director



A stylized, cursive signature of Greg Porretta.

Greg Porretta  
Chairperson

# Volunteer Spotlight



## Meet Talía Moskowitz, Student Exhibitor

Talía Moskowitz is a Staples High School senior who spent the 2022-23 school year researching local attitudes to the Civil War, using primary sources found in the Museum's archives. After putting together her findings, Talía worked under the direction of the Museum's staff and in collaboration with senior interns from Weston, Wilton, and Westport, to create *Reluctant Liberators: Westport In the Civil War*.



*"I have learned so much from my experience conducting archival research at the Westport Museum and sharing my findings in an exhibit. I had the opportunity to work with expert archivists and museum experts and work on my own skills as a student of history while learning about my town's history in the Civil War. This experience deepened my passion for the study of history and helped me realize the path I want to take as I enter college!"*

— Talía Moskowitz, Staples High School,  
Class of 2024



Did you know that the Westport Museum produces a student-run exhibition every year? High school students from Weston, Westport, Wilton, Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Fairfield are welcome to apply at [westporthistory.org/studentcurator](https://westporthistory.org/studentcurator).



# An Exciting Season In Store



Exciting things are happening at Westport Museum, including the return of our Escape Room with a new theme: *Into The Sanitarium*.

Mid-November begins Holly Days, our month of inclusive winter celebrations. Join our Wreath Making Class with Westport Garden Club on November 19th.

There'll be ornament making in our historic barn after the Town Tree Lighting at the end of November. On December 9th, everyone will enjoy gingerbread cookie decorating.

Visit throughout December for programs, and unique gifts in our shop. Don't miss the Winter Market on December 2nd featuring local artisans.

Your generous donation today helps keep these exciting programs (and more) going strong!



## Did you know?

The Museum has archives dating back to the 1690s as well as art, object, and significant textile/costumes collections. Your gift today will help maintain and conserve these precious objects.

## Want to rent the museum?

The historic Bradley Wheeler Barn and our beautifully renovated gardens are available for events. Contact [programs@westporthistory.org](mailto:programs@westporthistory.org) to learn more.

# Coming in 2024...



## Leisure Exhibit

Our 2024 exhibit will focus on all the ways Westporters had fun in the golden age of accessible leisure. From community sports to board games, parades and everything in between. Opening Reception: Friday February, 23rd, 5-7pm. Member preview hour: 4 to 5pm.



## Mock Colonial Wedding

You're invited to a colonial-style wedding in May 2024! Join us as we re-enact the 1779 nuptials of Isaac Disbrow and Elizabeth Gray — complete with authentic 18th-century dress, refreshments, and music. It's a celebration you won't want to miss!



## Partnership with Not Your Momma's History

We've embarked on an exciting partnership with public historian and social media star Cheyney McKnight of Not Your Momma's History to produce a video series about three important Black women in Connecticut history.



## The Real Revolution Picture Book

Have you ever wondered about what life was really like in a town like Westport during the American Revolution? Our picture book, *The Real Revolution*, gives readers of all ages insight into daily life for a diverse group of Westporters during the war for American Independence.



## Calling All Podcast Junkies!

Do you love podcasts? What about history? Listen to Westport Museum's podcast, *Buried In Our Past* produced with Norwalk's Factory Underground. Learn about the hidden and unknown stories of our local and regional history. Available on all podcast platforms. Be sure to check out our Real Story of Thanksgiving episode!



# We're Thankful for Your Support

Since 1889, the Westport Museum has been a cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting regional and national history. Your contribution helps fund all aspects of our work in serving the public by learning from our past to guide our future.

Thank you for believing in a world where everyone's story matters equally. Your decision to support the Westport Museum will bring our community an honest retelling of history so that we can move towards a more hopeful tomorrow. Any amount you are able to give will make a meaningful difference.

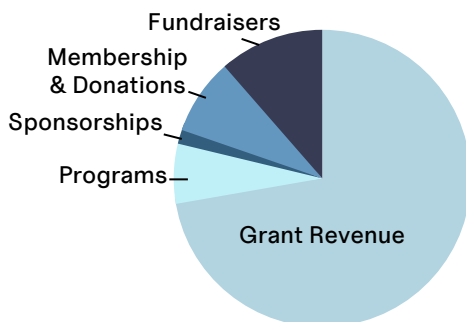
To make your gift, please visit [WestportHistory.org/appeal](https://WestportHistory.org/appeal) or mail a check to 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT 06880. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



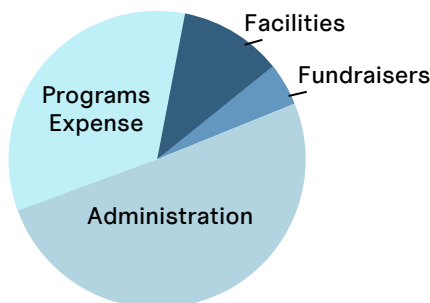
*"I was very moved by [the exhibit]. I grew and learned a lot. You have done a spectacular service to our community."*

**— Congressman Jim Himes on visiting Remembered: The History of African Americans in Westport**

## Supporters



## Where It Goes



## 2023 Capital Improvements



Westport Museum is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Many people are surprised to learn that we don't receive funds from the Town of Westport. All of our work is made possible through grants, private funders, and donations from heroes like you.

**WM<sup>H&C</sup>** 25 Avery Place,  
Westport, CT 06880

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Westport, CT  
06880  
Permit No. 64



@westportmuseum



@westporthistorymuseum



Westport Museum for History & Culture



@westporthistory



Scan the QR code with  
your phone's camera to  
make a donation today!

*Westport Museum for History and Culture is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,  
EIN 23-7402125. All contributions are tax-deductible.*

*[westporthistory.org/appeal](https://westporthistory.org/appeal)*



**WM<sup>H&C</sup>** 25 Avery Place,  
Westport, CT 06880

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Westport, CT  
06880  
Permit No. 64



@westportmuseum



@westporthistorymuseum



Westport Museum for History & Culture



@westporthistory



Scan the QR code with  
your phone's camera to  
make a donation today!

*Westport Museum for History and Culture is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,  
EIN 23-7402125. All contributions are tax-deductible.*

*[westporthistory.org/appeal](https://westporthistory.org/appeal)*

