Charlevoix Historical Society
Annual Report
2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Enriching Charlevoix culture through preservation, education and engaging experiences celebrating our history

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Denise Fate
Vice-President: Chuck Cleland
Secretary: Kay Heise (through June 30)
Treasurer: Jamie McLane
Finance Chair: Craig Mann
Directors: Virginia Cash, Tom Darnton, Lindsey Dotson, Phyllis Elzinga, Edward O’Neill, Amanda Wilkin
Advisory Board: Dr. Jack MacKenzie, Steve Paterka
Museum Curator and Editor: David L. Miles
Museum Curator of Collections: Trevor Dotson
Message from the President

This past year proved to be a colorful one in several ways that we can be very proud of. With funds generated from our Embrace.Preserve.Cherish. campaign in 2017, we were able to complete a multitude of renovations at the Museum at Harsha House and the Train Depot, including exterior paint schemes true to the period in which they were built, 1892. The interior of the museum was completely transformed as well, with two new major exhibits mounted. In the Victorian parlors in the front of the house, a wonderful new exhibit called Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art and Influence of Irene Harsha Young opened in May, thanks to the contributions of guest curator Jennifer Harsha Carroll who worked alongside curator Trevor Dotson.

In July a major exhibit opened in the museum called 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society, which includes an authentic replica of a photo studio from 19th century Charlevoix. Guest curator Ole Lyngklip provided much of the research, writing and even objects and images from his own collection for this exhibit.

We were so delighted when a special event came our way early in the year, thanks to Society patron Susan Kroll. Best-selling author Paula McLain did not disappoint the sell-out crowd with her book talk held in our lovely Depot Heritage Garden in August. She shared many stories of her experiences as a writer and discussed her new book “Love and Ruin”, on the relationship of Ernest Hemingway and his third wife, Martha Gellhorn.

Walking and bus tours of the city and the Earl Young Mushroom Houses, for which we provided guides, set a new mark, reaching 80 by the time the season concluded.

We are starting to hit our stride as part of the Charlevoix Cultural Corridor and reaping the benefits of our alliance with the Charlevoix Circle of Arts and Charlevoix Public Library. With each collaborative event, we see new faces of all ages coming through the museum.

I wish to thank our board for their continuing dedication and hard work guiding me and our organization, our staff for their loyalty and terrific work, and our members for their support year after year. We also welcomed several new volunteers who helped out immensely at the museum during busy times and special events.

Denise Fate, President
The Museum at Harsha House was buzzing with activity throughout 2018, with exhibit installations happening inside and restoration work happening outside. I started the year working with guest curator Jennifer Harsha Carroll researching and writing content for the exhibit Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art & Influence of Irene Harsha Young. This exhibit, installed in the front parlor rooms of the Harsha House, tells a brief story of the Harsha family, their love of the arts, and involvement in the community. Irene’s story is told from her early interests in art, studies at college, marriage and family life, and continuing contributions to art in the Charlevoix area. Invaluable information for the exhibit as well as artwork and artifacts were provided by Irene’s granddaughters Connie Gardner and Kitty Warner. Jennifer Earls provided assistance with design and layout. The exhibit was installed between March and May, with its grand debut Memorial Day weekend. In early May, prior to the opening of the exhibit, Jennifer Harsha Carroll and I presented an illustrated program about the exhibit, which went into fuller detail about the family and Irene.

While working on the Beautiful Charlevoix exhibit I was also preparing the museum exhibition space for the exhibit 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society. Society patron and guest curator Ole Lyngklip designed a new layout for the space which included new panel walls. In February and March I took down sections of the previous exhibit The Working World, so that contractors could begin building the walls, while leaving some content up for any visitors who happened to come in. By April the entire exhibit was down and artifacts had been returned to their proper storage areas. Much of May was spent finalizing the text and layout for the 150 Years of Photography exhibit, while in June, Lyngklip, curator David Miles and I completed the entire installation in time for the exhibit’s July 2 opening.

Also in June, I presented an illustrated program titled Then & Now: Images of Charlevoix. The program discussed landmarks, businesses, and houses that are no longer present or have changed over time. Photos, mainly from the early to mid-20th century, were overlaid with present-day photos of the same location so the audience could visualize the changes. In September I did an abbreviated version of the program at the Depot for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s Proactive Preservation workshop and expressed the importance of landmarks and historic buildings which help create a sense of place and community.

With the exhibits installed and the summer programs completed, I had time to focus on the museum’s collection. Volunteer and recent college graduate Andrew Smith and I accessioned over 255 individual objects between September and year end. This included photographing the objects, labeling them with accession numbers, placing them in proper storage, and then entering all this information along with descriptive details, into our PastPerfect museum software database.

2018 was the second year of the Charlevoix Cultural Corridor, which includes the Society, the Charlevoix Circle of Arts, and the Charlevoix Public Library. Like the previous year the three institutions held a block party where the public was encouraged to visit each location for unique activities, games, and music. The event was well attended. Members of the Dorothy Gerber Strings Program also performed in the museum exhibit space later in the year.

I look forward to 2019 when the Society will continue to be one of Charlevoix’s best assets. Anyone who loves Charlevoix should experience its rich history.

Trevor Dotson, Curator of Collections
As usual, 2018 turned out to be a highly productive year for the Society. From December of 2017 to the first days of July, 2018, my primary focus was on co-curating and mounting the biggest exhibit ever presented at our Museum at Harsha House. In company with Society patron and exhibit underwriter Ole Lyngklip, my co-curator Trevor Dotson and I researched hundreds of Society photographs reaching back to the late years of the 19th century from which we chose the finest examples from the work of Charlevoix’s first six professional photographers. Their work, accompanied by Mr. Lyngklip’s personal collection of vintage cameras plus selected museum artifacts, illustrated close to 150 years of photography in Charlevoix. The exhibit, aptly named 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society opened July 2 and has garnered enough positive response that we are considering leaving it up through 2020. It has been seen by visitors from at least 32 states and 11 foreign countries.

In conjunction with this exhibit, in July I presented a special illustrated lecture on the lives and works of the two later photographers, George Priest and my father, Bob Miles, both of whom captured the Charlevoix scene for well over three decades and left a tremendous photographic legacy of the town.

Also, I helped coordinate the photographs used in the first exhibit ever mounted in the Harsha House front parlors, Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art and Influence of Irene Harsha Young who grew up in the house and married Charlevoix’s master builder in stone, Earl Young.

My primary annual illustrated program focused on “Bragging Rights—Or, What Makes Charlevoix So Unique?,” an overview of the elements of Charlevoix that have established its reputation now known around the world. The program related how the town contributed to the regional, national and international economy, the national and international records set here in various fields, the renowned people who have walked our streets, and our vital roles played in both the victory in Europe during World War II and the success of the Apollo Space Program. The program was presented twice, at the Depot in April and at the Charlevoix Public Library in August, for a total of approximately 250 people.

One of the highlights of the year was being able to spend time with renowned author Paula McLain, whose novel “The Paris Wife,” on Ernest Hemingway’s marriage to his first wife Hadley Richardson, was an international best seller a few years ago. She spoke to the Society in the Depot gardens as part of her national book tour for her latest novel, “Love & Ruin.”

On September 2, Ole Lyngklip and I presented a “Photo Discovery Day” at the Depot to which people could bring their vintage photos for an assessment as to type of photo and approximate date it was taken. The turnout for the event was surprisingly robust.

From autumn of 2017 through much of 2018, I worked on an enormous project with Board member Ed O’Neill updating our PastPerfect museum records-keeping program. This involved reviewing the entire collection of over 20,000 scanned photographs, over 10,000 of which have been placed in the PastPerfect data base and search engine since 2004, to make sure all entries conform to Library of Congress terminology. Once this is completed, digitally scanning the rest of the Society’s photo collection, numbering in the thousands, will commence along with continually updated descriptive data entry.

The Society’s step-on (myself and two others) guided bus tours reached a record this year with 80 tour groups from all over the country arriving in Charlevoix to see the Earl Young houses plus more. We also continue to provide 90-minute guided walking tours of the downtown area. It is estimated that we hosted well over 3000 visitors in 2018.
Curator's Report #2 (cont'd)

The Society continues to contribute to the Charlevoix Main Street program, with which it began a historic signage program for the downtown and lower channel areas, and the Historic District Commission for which it has provided much photographic assistance over the past years. In 2018 it also provided historic image assistance to the Charlevoix Public Library and the Charlevoix Circle of Arts.

The year was capped by the wonderful renovation and restoration jobs done to the Harsha House and Depot which makes it such a pleasure to work in both buildings.

David L. Miles, Curator of Photos and Documents
Membership Report

The Membership Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate lists of current members by category, issuing letters for membership renewal and sending acknowledgment letters for patron and Ralph Hamilton Circle renewals. Starting this year, email acknowledgments are sent to all other annual members renewing. Membership dues are a significant source of income for the Society which help cover day-to-day expenses. They are paid on an annual basis for the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Members (Individual $25 or Family $50*)</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total membership</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Family memberships are counted as one member.

Within our membership are those who wish to support the organization with additional donations and become:

- Ralph Hamilton Circle Members (annual gift of $150): 57
- Patrons* (annual gift from $350 to $2000 or more): 43

*includes membership in the Ralph Hamilton Circle

Often families and organizations choose to honor loved ones with honorary gifts or memorials. These donations are greatly appreciated and help us to continue our work in preservation and restoration. These donors might or might not be members of the Charlevoix Historical Society.

The Society wishes to thank all members and donors for their generous and essential support of the Society.

Additionally, at the end of our fiscal year for governance, June 30, Secretary Kay Heise reached her multiple term limit of three, having served nine years on the board in this capacity. She did a splendid job. Kay’s dedication, enthusiasm and voice on the board were all much appreciated and will be missed. Thankfully, by year end we had at last identified an individual who could and was willing to step into the role: Susan Van Wieren. Her duties begin in 2019.

Denise Fate for Kay Heise, Secretary

Museum Committee

The Museum Committee is designed to serve a variety of functions: Acquisition, Preservation, Restoration, Exhibit, Special Depot Exhibits, and Adopt-a-Painting. Its goal is to organize and preserve our artifacts, physical and digital, and plan for the future. It also advises the Board of restoration needs and creates exhibits for the public. The Museum Chair position was unfilled during 2018. The functions are being carried out by the curators in the interim, with Chuck Cleland acting as board liaison on museum matters.
Publicity and Marketing

In 2018, the Historical Society was not only well recognized in the community but also statewide and nationally. Our Circle Michigan membership, which promotes the Society offerings at group tour trade shows across the nation, has brought in many additional step-on guided bus tours of the Earl Young Mushroom Houses and the city. More than 5000 of the Mushroom House overview brochures were given out and over a hundred more of the Mushroom House guide books were sold in 2018.

We got wide ranging radio coverage this year, including for of the opening of the exhibit 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society on the PURE Michigan radio show on WJR in Detroit. Additionally, Earl Young and the mushroom houses were covered on WWJ news radio in Detroit, and the former World’s Largest Cherry Pie in Charlevoix on Our Americana’s podcast.

Collaborative efforts with the Charlevoix Cultural Corridor (“CuCo”) created additional awareness of the Historical Society. Before year-end the three institutions put the wheels in motion for the creation of a Cultural Corridor logo, which will be used for CuCo ads and promotions. The logo was finalized in January.

The Society placed an advertisement in the Charlevoix Visitors Guide and Travel Planner which printed more than 50,000 copies between them. The digital versions were also viewed over 50,000 times.

The Society’s email newsletter had a higher than average open rate, and by listing events, programs and opportunities has helped those who are more digitally inclined to keep informed of the Society’s offerings.

The Facebook page saw even greater successes in 2018, with a fan base approaching 1,000, more than 400 of these new followers. Some posts’ engagements reached thousands of people.

Curator Trevor Dotson writes regular delightful blog posts for the Charlevoix Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote the history of Charlevoix. The Society gets credit for the blogs and this avenue helps increase the reach to a different market.

In the Museum store at Harsha House, sales were more stagnant than we would like, creating the need for fresh, relevant merchandise and publications, which are under evaluation.

The Society’s website has been updated to include more Society information and to allow the sale of practically all of our merchandise as well as memberships. The site generated more traffic in 2018 than was seen in prior years.

Promotion, publicity and new merchandise will continue to be an important focus for the Historical Society in 2018.

Amanda Wilkin, Marketing and Publicity Chair
Buildings and Grounds

2018 was a busy year for the Society as we worked to maintain, restore, and plan for the future of our historic structures. Late in 2017 Curator of Collections Trevor Dotson and Vice President Chuck Cleland worked on an analysis report to address both the short and long term use of space in the Museum at Harsha House. The report identified three major functions of space which need to be accommodated in both present and future planning, which include exhibit space, artifact storage space, and administrative office space. The analysis includes photos of current conditions and written recommendations for how each space could best be utilized. The intent of the analysis was to be a roadmap for historic architect Rick Neumann to work from to help develop a Master Plan for the interior renovations at the Museum at Harsha House. The full report is available at the Historical Society office.

At the Harsha House the necessary exterior improvements were completed during the fall of 2017 and it was time to repaint. The new colors were selected to imitate the darker colors that were present in historic photos taken around the time of construction. Since the vinyl siding on the house is yellow, complimentary greens were selected to help accentuate the architectural features of this Victorian Queen Anne home. The porch received splashes of accent color, the doors and windows were painted a dark color, and the cedar shakes took on the green as well. Windows were also reglazed as needed.

The Historic Train Depot went through extensive maintenance/repairs of exterior features such as cedar shakes replacement, column reinforcement, and general repair of wear and tear. While this work was being conducted paint samples were collected and sent off for analysis by historic finishes expert Steve Seebohm. The Society received a complete report detailing the original color scheme of the depot and it surprised us all. We learned that in 1892 the depot was painted a combination of olive green, hunter green, and a pale yellow color with black accents around windows and trim. After much debate and support from the City of Charlevoix Historic District Commission, the Board voted to restore the depot back to its original color scheme. In addition to the exterior repairs and painting, fencing was installed in the depot gardens in partnership with the Charlevoix Area Garden Club to better accentuate the property line. The new fencing was an extension of the fencing that was already present at the gate and either end of the garden.

Lindsey J. Dotson, Buildings & Grounds Chair
Again, the Charlevoix Historical Society both presented and was involved in myriad programs and events throughout the year. The primary theme for 2018 was the history of photography based on the major exhibit mounted at the Museum at Harsha House. Attendance at all of the Society events was quite good.


April 10: First presentation of the fully illustrated “Bragging Rights, or What Makes Charlevoix So Unique?” program by museum curator David L. Miles, at the Depot.

May 1: “Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art and Influence of Irene Harsha Young” program, in conjunction with the upcoming exhibit of the same name then being mounted in the front parlors of the Harsha House, Irene Young’s home before she married master builder in stone Earl Young. This program, at the Depot, was presented by Society curator Trevor Dotson, and Irene’s great-niece, Jennifer Harsha Carroll, who acted alongside Trevor as guest curator of the exhibit.


June 5: “Then & Now: Images of Charlevoix” program, a side by side comparison of what once was on specific sites in Charlevoix compared to what is there now, presented by museum curator Trevor Dotson, at the Depot.

June 25: Charlevoix Cultural Corridor Block Party with the Charlevoix Circle of Arts and Charlevoix Public Library, at all three locations downtown.

July 1: Private Showing and Reception for Ralph Hamilton Circle members of the new exhibit 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society at the Museum at Harsha House.

July 2: Grand opening of 150 Years of Photography exhibit.

July 17: “Charlevoix Photographers of the 19th and Early 20th Century” illustrated program by museum curator David L. Miles, at the Depot.


August 7: “Civil War Photography” program, a study of Civil War era photographic artifacts found during the 2017 excavations at Camp Nelson in Kentucky, presented by archaeologist Dr. Stephen McBride, at the Depot.

August 14: A repeat of the “Bragging Rights” program by David L. Miles, at the Charlevoix Public Library.


August and September: Three Michigan Historic Preservation Network workshops on 1) wood windows, 2) masonry maintenance and repair, 3) proactive preservation, were hosted by the Society at the Depot.

September 2: Photo Roadshow and Michigan Historical Photographic Society display, primarily a vintage photo identification and dating session with guest curator Ole Lyngklip of New York and Society curator David L. Miles, at the Depot.

October 12: Open house and reception to celebrate the completed Harsha House exterior renovations, at Harsha House.

December 4: Annual Holiday Dinner at the Grey Gables Inn and Restaurant.
Finance Committee

The Charlevoix Historical Society was, again, financially successful in 2018. This was perhaps the most successful year in our history. Many thanks to our generous members and patrons for their gifts and pledges. Additional funds were provided by: foundation and trust grants, fundraising events, sales of books and other items in the gift shop, museum fees, bus and walking tours, and Depot rentals.

Exclusive of funds received as a result of the Capital Campaign, the Society’s gross income totaled $142,500 which was well in excess of the year’s operating expenses. Additionally, $130,000 was spent on restoration and improvements to the Harsha House and the Depot. This was a planned capitalized expense and within budget.

Our cash balance and operating funds at year end totaled $104,000, while reserve funds at the Charlevoix County Community Foundation totaled $101,000. The Society is in an excellent financial position to continue its mission well into the future.

Craig Mann, Finance Committee Chair


Funding of $130,000 raised in 2017 for the capital campaign was put to immediate use during 2018 on important restoration projects at the Museum at Harsha House and the Train Depot. During 2018, additional gifts totaling $71,619 were received (above and beyond the 4th qtr 2017 $50,000 challenge match which was paid in January), bringing the total for the campaign to date to $301,702. In addition to this, there are pledges receivable of $17,500.

After paying for the restoration projects at the museum and depot, we have around $61,000 available for new projects during 2019. The endowment fund has a principal balance of $62,780. Fundraising efforts will continue.

Denise Fate, Co-Chair

EMBRACE. PRESERVE. CHERISH.
Volunteer of the Year

There were a number of volunteers who helped the Society with exhibits, planning events and docenting this year. We are grateful to each one for their contributions. Event planning was especially complicated in 2018 with the back to back exhibit openings and a summer fundraiser. I would like to thank Susan Kroll, Debbie Mann and Leanne Ackert who helped us pull this off seamlessly. Jennifer Harsha Carroll and Jenn Earls provided wonderful support for the Irene Harsha Young exhibit.

Two individuals making significant contributions of talent and time on major projects culminating in 2018 were selected as our Volunteers of the Year: Edward O’Neill and Ole Lyngklip.

Ed O’Neill was recognized for his outstanding work on our photo digitization project. He worked countless hours from home and at the museum on this important project to organize our digital photographic collection in a professional manner, giving expert guidance to Dave Miles along the way to implement it.

Ole Lyngklip was guest curator for the 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society exhibit at the museum. He devoted an enormous amount of time, passion, energy and resources into this project, directly at the museum between December 2017 until it opened July 1, 2018, and for many years prior to that in research. We very much appreciate the expertise and devotion Ed and Ole provided in making these significant contributions to the Society.

Denise Fate, President

South Pier Lighthouse

There was no activity pertaining to the South Pier Lighthouse this year. We did have a site visit by our preservation architect during the summer, Michelle Smay, and she reports that the red coating is holding up extremely well.

Denise Fate, President
Near Term Society Goals (2019-2021)

The goals were established as a result of workshops with the Board of Directors.

Membership:
• Increase overall number of members to 500, and the share of Ralph Hamilton members and patrons
• More extensive communications to promote membership, including social media
• Personal contacts to recruit members and show appreciation for existing ones

Public Relations/Marketing:
• Increase foot & online traffic to museum & store
• Consistent, impactful advertising, marketing and PR where appropriate
• Enhance retail operation, focus on unique merchandise
• Continue to increase utilization of social media (Facebook)
• Refresh and enhance appearance of newsletter mailed 4-6 times per year
• Re-design & publish Society brochure with new photography of the depot and Harsha House
• Continued support of bus and walking tours

Programs and Events:
• Develop a calendar of versatile programs, with a cohesive theme when possible
• Engage youth in our activities
• Further develop experiential events
• Plan creative and engaging fundraising events

Buildings and Grounds:

Depot
• Finish exterior repairs and renovations: chimney, roof and awnings
• Make depot more accessible to visitors
• Working with Charlevoix Main Street, design and implement Historic Signage project in downtown Charlevoix and at Depot

Museum at Harsha House
• Complete master plan and report by preservation architect Rick Neumann
• Develop projects based on the master plan and available capital funding for further renovations according to priorities:
  o Near-term
    • Improved and safer access to upper levels of the Harsha House
    • Renovate 2nd floor to improve circulation, create curator offices and workspace
    • Replace/repair systems per engineering recommendations: electrical, HVAC and plumbing
    • Construct fire-safe room on 1st floor
  o Mid-term:
    • Relocate gift store to rear entrance
    • Open up front foyer and restore entry to parlor

Lighthouse
• Secure funding for long-range maintenance through capital campaign
Near Term Society Goals (2019-2021)  (cont’d)

**Museum Operations:**
- As part of the Charlevoix Cultural Corridor, attract more visitors and engage community in the museum
- Work with Charlevoix Main Street as advocates of historic preservation, in particular for Charlevoix’s historic buildings
- Complete cataloging at least 1,000 more digital images in Past Perfect V
- Secure funding and manpower for on-going needs to digitize and catalog the Society’s outstanding photographic collection, estimated to be well in excess of 20,000
- Write and publish a biography of Earl Young
- Procure sufficient fireproof storage for photograph collection
- Review inventory of artifacts and ensure everything is properly cataloged
- Install necessary storage space, environment and location system for artifacts and archives
- Develop a museum strategy, in particular for exhibit space
- Continue evolving as the leading center for historic research in Charlevoix

**Financial:**
- Further develop planned giving (legacy) program
- Define major financial needs for each property and raise sufficient capital funds
- Increase operating funds to meet expanding needs, in particular payroll

**Staffing:**
- Ensure proper HR tools available
- Cross-train full-time curator in all functions of operation and develop for professional growth
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<th>Ordinary Income/Expense</th>
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<td>Membership Dues &amp; Assessments</td>
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<td>Shop Sales</td>
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<td>Depot Building</td>
<td>371,873.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harsha House</td>
<td>295,558.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>56,646.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land - Operating</td>
<td>68,945.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accum Depr - Investment Assets</td>
<td>-425,610.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>367,413.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies Inventory</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>508,189.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES & EQUITY          |            |
| Liabilities                   |            |
| **Current Liabilities**       |            |
| Other Current Liabilities     |            |
| Sales Tax Payable             | 139.94     |
| **Total Other Current Liabilities** | 139.94 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | 139.94     |
| **Total Liabilities**         | 139.94     |

| Equity                        |            |
| Opening Bal Equity            | 92,027.60  |
| Unrestricted Net Assets       | 282,347.44 |
| **Net Income**                | 133,674.13 |
| **Total Equity**              | 508,049.17 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**| 508,189.11 |
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