SAINT-GAUDENS MEMORIAL

2026

IMPACT REPORT

Sculpting Our Future

The philanthropic partner of Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park





A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

A century ago, more than 900 subscribers came together, establishing a foundation of community support that continues to shape Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park today. As the park's official philanthropic partner, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial carries that vision forward, sustaining dynamic art programs, preserving historic grounds, and empowering new generations of visitors and creators.

Across the country, friends' groups like ours play a vital role alongside the National Park Service. We may be small, but we are mighty, and private philanthropy is the secret ingredient that brings these special places fully to life. SGM acts as a nimble catalyst: advocating for the park's long-term priorities, securing essential grant funding, and bridging operational gaps where private support can make the greatest impact.

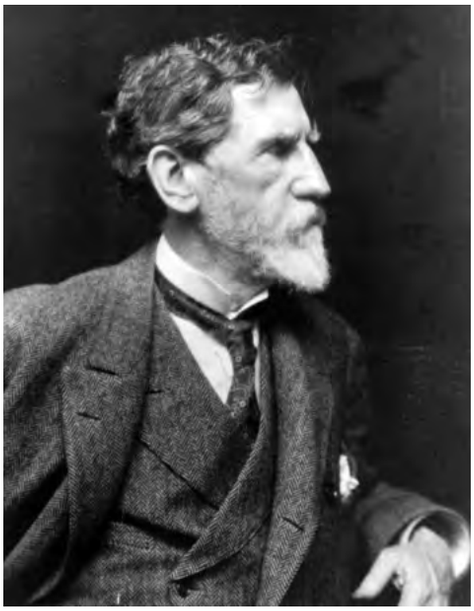
This past year, guided by our Saint-Gaudens @ 110 strategic plan, our shared commitment focused on making dynamic programming freely accessible to everyone. Through donor support, we underwrote signature experiences such as free Sunday concerts, the Saint-Gaudens Fellowship, art exhibitions in the Picture Gallery, and admission for families at the Art in the Park Festival, while expanding our reach through digital webinars for audiences near and far.

None of this happens without you. To our Friends and supporters, trustees and staff, and to all of our partners: thank you for keeping this park a vibrant, living memorial for generations to come.

With gratitude,



Jackeline Rocha
Executive Director





OUR MISSION

The Saint-Gaudens Memorial promotes the life and work of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848–1907), champions the creative arts and artists, past and present, and partners with the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park in Cornish, New Hampshire, to enrich its cultural offerings and natural setting.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our Saint-Gaudens @ 110 plan, adopted in June 2026, puts these priorities into action through 2030. This report is organized around them.

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PILLAR ONE

Support of the Creative Arts

We carry forward Augustus Saint-Gaudens's devotion to mentoring artists by supporting and growing our Fellowship for emerging artists, our exhibitions in the Picture Gallery, and our summer concerts in the Little Studio, each a living tradition of creative excellence.



The Villalobos Brothers with Ernesto Mercado-Montero at Aspet, August 23, 2026. Photo: Robert Gill.

Summer Concert Series

Eight free Sunday concerts featured a variety of musical traditions, including the Aba Diop Trio's fusion of Senegalese rhythms and jazz, John Davis's early New Orleans piano, and the Grammy Award–winning Villalobos Brothers, introduced by Dartmouth historian Ernesto Mercado-Montero.

Fellowship

This year we selected Emma Safir as our 2026 Saint-Gaudens Fellow, continuing a program that has supported emerging artists since 1978.

Sculptor-in-Residence

Heidi Mortensen served as Sculptor-in-Residence, working in the Ravine Studio from May through October. Running since 1969, it is the oldest continuously operating artist residency in the National Park Service.

Exhibitions

This season, the Picture Gallery hosted two exhibitions. Leslie Lyman's *The Work Beneath the Work* explored the hidden labor of women's lives, and 2025 Fellow Sarah Peters's *Sketchbook* echoed Saint-Gaudens's mastery of relief sculpture. Since 1948, Picture Gallery exhibitions have been included with park admission.

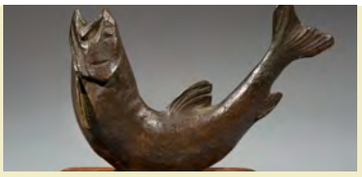
THE STEVENSON RELIEF

A $10,000 Moose Plate grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts is funding conservation of the park's monumental plaster cast of Saint-Gaudens's *Robert Louis Stevenson.*

STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

SAINT-GAUDENS MEDAL

In January 2026, SGM presented the Saint-Gaudens Medal to Gwen Pier, former executive director of the National Sculpture Society (NSS). The award recognizes Pier's 38 years of leadership, during which she grew the NSS endowment from $200,000 to over $15 million and expanded national exhibitions, publications, and artist support.



THE BRONZE FISH, C. 1895

SGM helped facilitate the acquisition of Saint-Gaudens's bronze fish for the park's permanent collection, thanks to funding from the National Park Foundation.

WITH GRATITUDE to Philip Burling, whose generosity makes possible the Annual Rosamond Edmondson Memorial Concert; to Mascoma Bank and the James Tasker Covered Bridge Fund for supporting our Sunday concerts; to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for a $10,000 Responsive Grant supporting community programming; to the New England Foundation for the Arts, whose $3,150 New England States Touring grant supported the Villalobos Brothers concert; to the National Park Foundation for a $45,000 grant supporting collection acquisitions; to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts for a $10,000 grant for the Stevenson Relief; and to every donor and sponsor who keeps the Summer Concert Series free.

PILLAR TWO

NPS Partnership & National Visibility

Evolving our ongoing role as original site stewards into an active philanthropic partnership with Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, we amplify the work of the National Park Service in Cornish by helping to care for the home, studios, and art collection, and raising the national visibility of Saint-Gaudens's legacy at New Hampshire's only national park.



PARK INFRASTRUCTURE & HOUSING

$110,000

Innovation in Housing

National Park Foundation Partner Housing Catalyst Grant — Assessing feasibility and scaling options to expand workforce housing and seasonal staff capacity at the park.

$99,600

Sustainable Park Infrastructure

National Park Foundation Resilience & Sustainability Grant — Upgraded infrastructure through modern, eco-efficient climate systems and sustainability initiatives.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE & COLLECTION CARE

$10,000

Expanding Accessibility

National Park Foundation Accessibility Grant — Enhanced park accessibility through the acquisition of listening devices, audiovisual equipment, and a wheelchair.

$2,800

Conservation Efforts

Pan Bench Conservation — Supported by an SGM conservation grant, ACE crews and collaborative curatorial staff from Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP completed the extensive preservation and cleaning of the historic Louis St. Gaudens Pan Bench ends.

LAND & FACILITIES

The Mary Kaplan Endowment Fund provides for a new entrance gate at Blow-Me-Down Farm that recreates the farm's original historic fencing, and enables an accessible path at the Adams Memorial. Collaborative work under the Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) includes replacing Aspet's historic porch fences and advancing pedestrian safety improvements along Route 12A.

WITH GRATITUDE to the National Park Foundation for its housing, infrastructure, and accessibility grants to the park, which SGM helped secure, and to the Mary Kaplan Endowment Fund for the new gate and accessible path. With thanks to the American Conservation Experience (ACE) for its partnership in caring for the collection, and to our Lands and Facilities Committee.



PILLAR THREE

Capacity Building & Community Engagement

We build genuine, lasting relationships with visitors, art enthusiasts, and supporters nationwide while strengthening our deep roots in Cornish and the Upper Valley — expanding our geographic reach, fostering regional ties, and inviting stewards everywhere to connect with this remarkable place.

2,000 → 45,000

Monthly Web Views

A Rebuilt Website

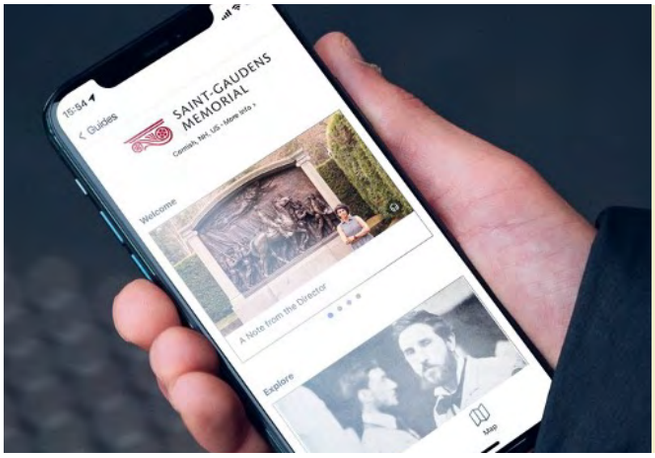
Modernization, search optimization, and analytics grew SGM's online audience more than twentyfold.

$10,000

Per Month, In Kind

Google Ad Grant

Donated advertising promotes the park's programs at no cash cost to SGM.



Bloomberg Connects

With support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, a free digital guide makes the park's tours, galleries, and concerts accessible from November through May and on days the park is closed.

Scan to get the guide

Free on iOS and Android. In the app, search for "Saint-Gaudens Memorial."

Reaching the Region

Trackable rack cards advertising SGM now reach New Hampshire welcome centers, rest areas, hotels, and restaurants, while a direct-mail campaign carried SGM's new brochure into regional households. SGM partnered with Louis Karno & Company to expand media coverage across New England and launched a quarterly public webinar series.

Building the Team

SGM welcomed Sarah Shebek as its part-time Communications & Operations Coordinator, bringing press, digital platforms, and operations in-house.

The Collective Campaign

SGM joined the National Park Foundation, the National Parks Friends Alliance, and 100+ park partners in a landmark $4.5 billion campaign to elevate national parks as a top philanthropic priority nationwide.

Connecting with Park Partners

With travel stipends provided by the National Park Friends Alliance, SGM's Executive Director participated in a national gathering dedicated to peer exchange and collective growth, contributing SGM's public-private housing strategy to an "Innovation in Housing" panel.

WITH GRATITUDE to the National Park Foundation for its $90,000 Capacity Building Initiative and $55,000 Park Partner Impact Initiative 2.0 grants; to the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, whose $40,000 gift matched the first, and to our trustees, who matched the second; to New Hampshire Humanities for a grant supporting our webinar series; and to Bloomberg Philanthropies and Google for in-kind support.


PEN
TUDIO
HOURS
Please come in.

PILLAR FOUR

Financial Sustainability

To guarantee long-term operational resilience and program excellence, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial is building robust revenue streams, expanding philanthropic partnerships, and stewarding resources to support our site, staff, and artistic community.



RE-ENERGIZE INDIVIDUAL GIVING & ANNUAL SUPPORT

Relaunched the Friends of Saint-Gaudens
Re-introduced annual membership levels ($100–$1,000), drawn from the giving levels of the 1926 subscription campaign.

Established The Leadership Circle
Cultivating major donor circles ($2,500–$25,000+) to provide essential operational funding, support staff, and sustain core programming.

EXPAND PLANNED GIVING & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Growing The 1919 Society
Building legacy and estate-giving participation to ensure permanent long-term funding for site preservation, artist fellowships, and concert series.

Leveraging Corporate & Foundation Funding
Formalizing business memberships, Summer Concert Series sponsorships, and institutional grant pipelines to boost community visibility and revenue stability.

DRIVE DIGITAL & STRATEGIC OUTREACH

In the year ahead, we will utilize campaign storytelling (including video assets and QR-driven digital outreach) to connect SGM's history, from the 1926 subscribers forward, with future funding priorities.

WITH GRATITUDE to every Friend of Saint-Gaudens, 1919 Society member, and Business Member; and to each donor who answered our appeals this year, carrying forward what more than 900 subscribers began in 1926.

PILLAR FIVE

Board Governance & Organizational Capacity

A committed and engaged Board of Trustees guides the Saint-Gaudens Memorial as a model of nonprofit stewardship.

$20,000

Accelerator Fund

Inspired by a challenge gift from a fellow Trustee, the Board matched the donation to establish a $20,000 Accelerator Fund. This pool of responsive funding supports new strategic initiatives and ensures continuous momentum during organizational transition.

100%

Board Participation

Demonstrating total commitment to Saint-Gaudens Memorial, 100% of Trustees contributed personal financial gifts this year.



Saint-Gaudens @ 110

Rooted in our revised Strategic Framework, we actively track and advance our Saint-Gaudens @ 110 priorities each year—driving intentional growth, accountability, and bold vision for our future.

WITH GRATITUDE to our Trustees, who give their time, judgment, and resources. The full Board of Trustees and staff are listed on page 15.


Patriot
Pediatrics

Access, Education & Community

Fostering inclusion and inspiring curiosity. We support accessible educational pathways, underwrite community events like the Art in the Park Festival, and partner to make our grounds, galleries, and programs open to all.

Art in the Park Festival

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, SGM underwrote admission to the Art in the Park Festival, so every visitor could attend free of charge. The event was held in partnership with the Upper Valley Arts Alliance, as part of its "Arts for All" campaign and in celebration of National Public Lands Day.



396
Elementary students engaged

547
More students reached through regional training and research

36
Local educators trained

STEAM Program for Fourth Graders

A grant SGM secured from the National Trust for Historic Preservation made possible the park's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics) program for fourth graders. Park Rangers led students through the studios and grounds, focusing on the women who shaped Saint-Gaudens's legacy.

Three Field Trip Lessons

Process of Sculpting. Modeling, casting, and the women assistants in Saint-Gaudens's studio.

Female Figure Models. Measuring human proportions and sketching from observation.

Caring for Art. Augusta Saint-Gaudens's role in founding SGM, and hands-on conservation.



STEAM reference cards feature sculptor Elsie Ward Hering, sculpture model Hettie Anderson, and sculpture model Davida Johnson Clark.

In the Classroom and Beyond

SGM directs education support where the need is greatest, from student transportation for field trips to professional development for educators, and grows programs for learners of every age, from families to seniors. Our $1,250 grant this year to the Cornish School District helped build a choice-based studio for Pre-K through 8th grade.

WITH GRATITUDE to every donor who made the Art in the Park Festival free for all, and to the Upper Valley Arts Alliance for its partnership; to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic Artists' Homes and Studios (of which we are a partner site) for a Dorothy C. Radgowski Learning Through Women's Achievement in the Arts grant supporting the STEAM program.

Support SGM

SGM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the philanthropic partner of Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park. Federal funding maintains the park's buildings and grounds. Private gifts make everything else in this report possible.

In 1926, more than 900 people gave from 25 cents to $10,000 to open Aspet to the public. Thank you for carrying that tradition forward.

Support SGM at saint-gaudens.org

Scan to give to Music, Education, Exhibitions, the Fellowship, or where needed most.

You can also join the Friends of Saint-Gaudens, name SGM in your estate plans through The 1919 Society, become a Business Member, or sponsor a concert. EIN 02-0223438.

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