

Annual Report 2020

for *The Listening Point Foundation, Inc.*



Mission & Vision

Listening Point Foundation is dedicated to preserving Listening Point and advancing Sigurd F. Olson's wilderness philosophy.

Listening Point was a place of connection for Sig, continually renewing his sense of wonder and gratitude for the natural world. Honoring that, our vision is to foster people's connection to wild places by inspiring them to find their own listening point.

Population Served

Listening Point Foundation serves the general public in Northeastern Minnesota and visitors from across the United States and abroad.

Our on-location historic tours in Ely invite visitors of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds to engage in the life and legacy of Sigurd F. Olson. In non-COVID-19 years, we partner with area youth organizations and student groups for group tours and volunteers service learning. In 2019 we counted nearly 700 visitors who toured Listening Point and hope to attain that number again in 2021.

Also, our print and digital communications reach over 5,000 recipients across the United States and further abroad, as well as our audience on social media.

Major Programs & Accomplishments

We work to achieve our mission and vision through our three main programs: Preservation Efforts; Tours, Internship & Artists-in-Residence; and Newsletters & Outreach.

Preservation Efforts

In 2020, Listening Point Foundation continued the work of preserving the historic Listening Point property, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) since 2007. The resulting pause from COVID-19 meant that Listening Point was able rest from the heavy foot traffic that usually occurs each year. This allowed some regrowth around the cabin and trails that will continue to be monitored as visitors return in 2021.

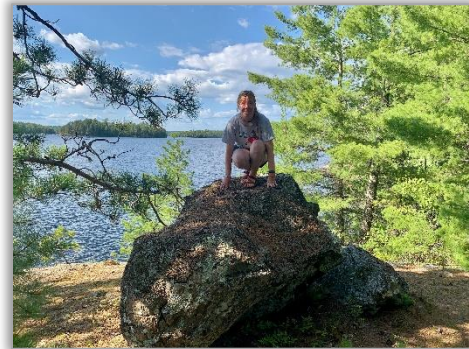


We also started a process to eradicate powder-post beetles from the interior and exterior walls of the main cabin to prevent damage to the structure and its contents. This will be a three-year project.

Additionally, despite delays due to the global pandemic, we finally finished the multi-year effort to list Sigurd's Writing Shack on the NRHP in mid-2020.

Tours, Internship & Artists-in-Residence

Due to concerns with COVID-19, Listening Point was closed to the general public for a large portion of 2020. However, in taking appropriate precautions we were able to revitalize our student internship program and were joined by our first undergraduate intern in several years.



Our intern, Freya Finkle, spent her time in Ely working on several tasks. Among other tasks, she helped in caretaking duties out at Listening Point, sorted and scanned archival materials, started an ongoing project for our exhibit area, and bolstered our social media presence.

We were also able to safely welcome an Artist-in-Residence in October 2020, Don Clark. A professor of photography at Minnesota State University Moorhead, his project centers around photographing on and around the places that have been instrumental in influencing the lives and writings of nature/environmental writers in order to discover and document the power of place. Individuals already highlighted include Theodore Roosevelt, Gene Stratton Porter, John Burroughs, Akiko Busch, Henry David Thoreau, Robert Finch, Edward Hoagland, Rachel Carson, Linda Hasselstrom, Aldo Leopold, and Sigurd Olson.

Newsletters & Outreach

Our twice-yearly print and digital newsletter, *The View from Listening Point*, reaches over 4,000 recipients across the United States and further abroad. This newsletter is available for free to anyone who signs up; it is an important part of our outreach at Listening Point Foundation and has been for the last 22 years.

In late 2019 we started our digital edition of *The View from Listening Point*, but 2020 saw us strengthen that platform and outreach with over 200 new digital subscribers.



Financials

At Listening Point Foundation, we are strengthening our commitment to transparency and accountability. We believe that public disclosure of financial information is part of that effort. Our balance sheet, financial statement, and expense allocations for 2020 are included below.

Balance Sheet for 2020 - Unaudited

	December 31, 2020
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	57,700
Inventory	8,419
Investments	456,920
Total Current Assets	523,039
Fixed Assets	
Furniture and Equipment	1,500
Real Estate	813,078
Art	25,000
Total Fixed Assets	839,578
Less Accumulated Depreciation	30,940
Net Fixed Assets	808,638
TOTAL ASSETS	1,331,677
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	847
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	326,435
With Donor Restrictions	1,004,395
Total Net Assets	1,330,830
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	1,331,677

Financial Statement for 2020 - Unaudited

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget
REVENUE				
Individuals	115,559	35,500	80,059	326%
Special Events	0	9,600	9,600	0%
Investments	16,346	8,600	7,746	190%
Unrealized Gain on Investements	24,459	0	24,459	
Sales	494	3,900	3,406	13%
TOTAL REVENUE	156,858	57,600	99,258	272%
EXPENSES				
Scholarships, Internships, Grants	4,268	2,075	2,193	206%
Contract Services	9,079	11,600	2,521	78%
Facilities and Equipment	13,126	7,723	5,403	170%
Operations	18,836	20,785	1,949	91%
Other Expenses	2,809	766	2,043	367%
Payroll	32,070	29,400	2,670	109%
Travel and Meetings	484	728	244	66%
Special Events	0	6,017	6,017	0%
Depreciation	4,941	4,941	0	100%
TOTAL EXPENSE	85,613	84,035	1,578	102%
NET REVENUE	71,245	26,435	97,681	270%

Functional Expense Allocation & Program Costs for 2020

Expense Category	Amount	Percentage	Major Program	Cost
Programming	\$56,580	66.0%	Preservation	\$20,042
Management & General	\$20,367	23.8%	Tours, Internship & Artists-in-Residence	\$15,032
Fundraising	\$8,729	10.2%	Newsletters	\$10,021

Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors 2020

- Patsy Mogush, Incoming President
- Douglas Wood, Outgoing President
- Charles Wick, Vice President
- Cori Mattke, Secretary
- Casey Campbell, Treasurer
- Mark Allsup
- Alan Brew
- Kathleen Floberg
- Sharon Rome
- JoyGenea Schumer

Key Staff

- Steffi O'Brien, Executive Director

Contact

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