

Annual Report 2022

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. We partner with area youth organizations and student groups for group tours and volunteers service learning. In 2022 we counted nearly 700 visitors who toured Listening Point and are likely to attain and hopefully surpass that number again in 2023.

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, & Service Learning; Creative Engagement at Listening Point; and Newsletters & Outreach.

Preservation Efforts, Tours, & Service Learning

In 2022, 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.

Our free, guided tours of Listening Point remain one of our most well-established program areas. Visitors from around the country (and world) are able to easily schedule a visit through our website (www.listeningpointfoundation.org).



Since 2021, we have been able to rebuild our relationships with student groups and youth organizations, increasing our exposure to youth from Minnesota and abroad. This year, teenagers in the Leadership Development Program (LDP) at YMCA Camp Northern Lights visited Listening Point several times over the course of the summer, helping maintain the property while learning about Sig and his legacy.

In 2022 we also finished our 3-year treatment of powder post beetles on the interior and exterior walls of the main cabin, aimed at preventing further damage to the structure and its contents. Due to the high water and major flooding during the spring, the sauna dock was dislodged and remained floating in Burntside Lake during the 2022 tour season. We will be rebuilding the dock during the summer of 2023, along with continuing our plans for re-roofing the main cabin in the next year or two.

Creative Engagement at Listening Point

Our first Women's Writing Retreat in September 2022 was a great success. Participants in the 3.5 day workshop enjoyed creative mentorship through the Gateless Writing methodology, reflection times at Listening Point, and focusing on the connections between people and place. We will be making this an annual retreat workshop.

Among other program successes, we also had about 120 7th and 8th grade students visit Listening Point during September 2022 from the Great River School in St. Paul. The students were able to spend time alone at the Point, journaling and experiencing the beauty and quiet nature of their surroundings. We had follow-up Zoom sessions with the students after they had returned to St. Paul to answer more of their questions about Sigurd Olson and Listening Point. Several of their reflections appeared in our Fall/Winter newsletter, *The View from Listening Point*.

We also embarked on our second video project, which will focus on exploring the Olson family home and Sigurd F. Olson's historic Writing Shack. The first video in our series was released in fall of 2021 and featured beautiful footage of Listening Point.

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 24 years. The newsletter features articles from local writers and authors, historic and current photographs, and reflections from visitors among other content.

Since we started our digital edition of *The View from Listening Point* in 2019, our digital subscriber list has increased to over 1400 and continues to grow. We were also able to welcome our friends, supporters, and community to our popular Annual Northwoods Dinner in



September. Participants enjoyed socializing, dinner, and an informative program on the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, a close partner organization of Listening Point Foundation now in celebrating its 50th year. This was our first true in-person event since 2019.

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 2022 are included below.

Balance Sheet for 2022 - Unaudited

December 31, 2022

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	42,389
Inventory	7,404
Investments	178,882
Restricted Assets	282,252
Total Current Assets	510,927
Fixed Assets	
Furniture and Equipment	1,500
Real Estate	813,078
Art	25,000
Total Fixed Assets	839,578
Accumulated Depreciation	(40,822)
Net Fixed Assets	798,756
TOTAL ASSETS	1,309,683
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	2,322
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	977,223
Temp Restricted Net Assets	123,708
Unrestricted Net Assets	309,727
Net Income	(103,297)
Total Net Assets	1,307,361
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	1,309,638

Financial Statement for 2022 - Unaudited

	Actual	Budget	Variance	% of Budget
Income				
Direct Public Support	70,771	105,784	35,013	67%
Special Events	5,975	0	5,975	
Investments	25,680	21,300	4,380	121%
Unrealized Gain on Investments	24,459	0	24,459	
Sales	3,704	7,920	4,216	47%
TOTAL Income	106,130	135,004	28,874	79%
Cost of Goods Sold	1,950	5,940	3,990	32%
EXPENSES				
Scholarships, Internships, Grants	2,300	4,500	2,200	51%
Contract Services	8,179	12,100	3,921	68%
Facilities and Equipment	15,342	22,780	7,438	67%
Operations	16,638	24,724	8,086	67%
Other Expenses	2,918	3,400	482	86%
Payroll	54,491	60,240	5,749	91%
Travel and Meetings	2,954	200	2,754	148%
Special Events	3,621	0	3,621	
TOTAL EXPENSE	106,442	127,944	21,502	83%
NET REVENUE	2,262	1,120	3,382	

Functional Expense Allocation & Program Costs for 2022

Expense Category	Amount	Percentage	Major Program	Cost
Programming	\$74,517	67%	Preservation Etc.	\$30,771
Management & General	\$23,026	21%	Newsletters & Outreach	\$23,197
Fundraising	\$13,840	12%	Creative Engagement	\$15,475

Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors 2022

- Patsy Mogush, President
- Charles Wick, Vice President
- Cori Mattke, Secretary
- Casey Campbell, Treasurer
- Mark Allsup
- Alan Brew
- Annette Drews
- Sue Duffy
- Kathleen Floberg
- Sharon Rome
- JoyGenea Schumer

Key Staff

- Steffi O'Brien Huberty, Executive Director
- Freja Finkle, Program Coordinator

Contact

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