

Bix Beiderbecke
MUSEUM

RIVER MUSIC EXPERIENCE
Davenport, Iowa



Board Members and Officers

Nathaniel Kraft, Interim President
Randy Sandke, Vice President
Alex Van Tieghem, Treasurer
Chris Barry
Josh Duffee
Noel Howell, Secretary
Jim Petersen
Jared Van Tieghem
Muriel Voss



Advisors

Elizabeth Beiderbecke-Hart
Howard Braren, President Emeritus
Dr. Albert Haim
Carol Schaefer
Albert Van Tieghem

Bix Beiderbecke Museum
129 North Main Street
Davenport, IA 52801
563-293-4046
www.bixmuseum.org
contactbixmuseum@gmail.com

Hours

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM
Saturday by appointment
FREE ADMISSION



Mission Statement

The Bix Beiderbecke Museum and World Archives is dedicated to collecting, preserving and displaying material related to the life and musical legacy of Bix Beiderbecke, an icon of the jazz age. Our goal is to educate the public, both here and abroad, about Bix and his colleagues, and their vital contributions to American music.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2022 was a big year of events for the Bix Museum and Bix fans both good and bad. The museum surpassed reaching 2,000 people for a consecutive year through visitors and partnered programming. We got to see the 1981 Bix Documentary together now restored, and the museum shared a piece of our



collection with a new audience in Richmond, Indiana as they celebrated their own musical history of Gennett Records. It had been a great experience getting to go to Richmond personally to speak at their exhibit opening. The passion their community has for celebrating their mark on music history inspired me to cultivate that kind of excitement here as we get closer to the centennial of Bix's first records at Gennett.

We experienced loss with the passing of board member Gerri Bowers and her husband Kent, as well as the passing of Bix Sandke. Then the museum flooded this April due to the Mississippi flooding which has caused closures in 2023. Despite it all, the tremendous support of you, the Bix community, has helped us continue to provide quality experiences for guests to the museum and our programs. Most importantly, your support has inspired us to continue our work on new programs that connect the community to Bix through live concerts, special tours, and community talks. I am especially excited for many of the programs to come and hope we can continue reaching more in our community as the museum becomes more visible.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Kraft, Director/Interim President

2022 in Review



\$43,025

Raised through
Donors

12

Acquisitions



900

Museum
Guests

1,150+

Program
Reach

157+

New Facebook
Likes



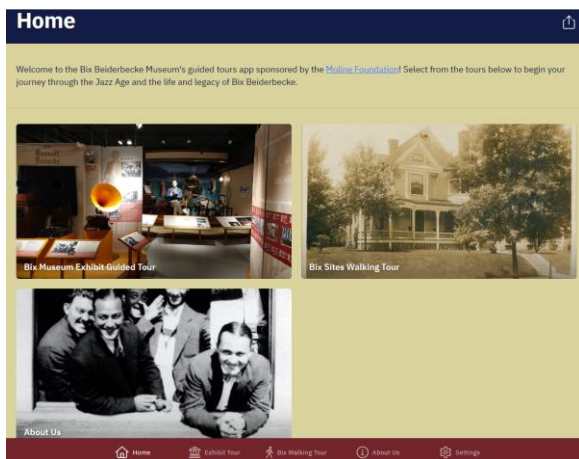
New Bix Tours App

Our awaited guided tours app is now live! Now when you visit the museum you can be guided through an audio and visual experience highlighting the important parts of our collection. The app is available through Google Play, the App Store, and a web link that can be found by scanning a QR Code at our exhibit site. We are now hard at work on the Bix Sites walking tour launching in the next year. The sites tour will utilize a geocaching feature that allows for each location to begin playing the content once you get close to it.

Looking at the future, we have begun to listen through the Phil Evans audio tapes in our archives. These tapes have never been released to the public and audio clips from them will be added to the tour so you can for the first time hear Bix's closest colleagues talk about him! This project has been a big undertaking as we still need to write text, record audio, and compile visual elements for new sections of the museum and the walking tour. We hope you enjoy it and we can secure long-term support for this app and project so that it can continue passed its first year of support granted by the Moline Foundation.



The Moline
FOUNDATION



Bix Sandke Memorial



In Memory of Bix William Sandke: May 21, 2007—September 25, 2022

1. Bix at his first Bix Festival, 2007. 2. Bix at Bix Beiderbecke's Gravesite, (c. 2013). 3. Bix cutting the ribbon for opening of Bix Museum, 2017. 4. Bix at Venice Beach, Florida, 2021. 5. Bix in Santorini, Greece, Sept. 2022. 6. Bix and Randy Sandke, Bix Museum, May 2022

The son of Bix Museum board member Randy Sandke, Bix William Sandke, died on September 25th in a car accident at the age of 15. He was a bright young man who left a major impact on the lives of those he met. Randy and Karen started a Memorial Fund in his name and in 2022 donors have helped raise over \$10,000 to honor his life. Memorial funds were delegated to help fulfill our mission of preserving and teaching the life and musical legacy of jazz legend Bix Beiderbecke, a cause near and dear to both Randy and Karen. This summer we are erecting a bench and plaque dedicated to Bix Sandke, so that his memory will continue to live on. Your support has helped the museum continue offering free tours and admission to our museum, live jazz concerts, and the ongoing development of online content we make available. The Bix Museum, Randy, and Karen thank you so much for your gracious contribution, kind words, and support of our mission to keeping Bix's life and legacy alive.

Thank YOU to all the Bix Sandke Memorial Fund Donors!

Peter BarenBregge
Chris Barry
Chris Beiderbecke
Kim Blass
Gerri and Kent Bowers
Julie Buckler
Maryjo Bush
Margaret Carpenter
Debra Costa
Peter Degroff
Nancy Denton
Rachel Domber
Lglabeno Dominguez
Deborah Eichten
Henry Ettman
Margaret Gillham
Diana Gow
Paula Grieves
Marguerite Guilmette
Regan Heiserman
Joe and Toby Hines
William Hoffman
Henry Horenstein
Ellen Kaplan
Nancy Kelly
Chris Kelsey
David Leonnig
Agatha Lubas
George McLain
Susan McPeters
Kathryn Metcalfe
Madeleine Morel
Jo Morello
Roben Olsen

Lisa Pathak
Jim and Sue Petersen
Claiborne Ray
Deborah Ross
Nancy Roucher
Andrea Sandke
Jordan Sandke
Cynthia Sayer
Carol Schaefer
Michael Scott
Daryl Sherman
Marian Skabeikis
Richard Smolens
Annamarie Smolenski
Susan Straub
Frances Strutt
Margaret Swinton
Marta Tracy
Dena Tribbett
Elizabeth and Alex VanTieghem
Ruth and Albert VanTieghem
John Vero
Judith VerPlanck-Elliott
Paula Vinci
Frank and Jennifer Vogel
Muriel Voss
Mary Williamson
Victor and Dianne Wilson
Margaret Winchester
Arbors Records Inc
Reading with Babies
Old Lumberyard Antiques
Pecos Valley Jazz Festival

Acquisition Highlights

The Bix Museum added 12 new acquisitions to our Collection and Archives in 2022. The most important acquisition of the year was Spigle Willcox's trombone, Carnegie Hall played megaphone mute, and other artifacts donated by his children, Charles and Cynthia. Willcox played with Bix Beiderbecke in the Goldkette Orchestra from 1926-27 and enjoyed a long career in music until his death in 1999 at the age of 96. The Conn trombone is engraved with Spigle's name and was prominently used by the musician in the later years of his



life at concerts and jazz festivals all over the world. The donated megaphone mute was made specifically for Spigle at the 1975 Goldkette Orchestra reunion and Tribute to Bix Beiderbecke concert at Carnegie Hall.



Spigle at Bix's gravesite during the Bix Fest gravesite concert.

Another set of recent acquisitions comes in the form of photos of Spigle at several Bix Fests taken by Denny Benes. Denny also included an original pencil drawing commemorating the 1973 Bix Fest by the late artist Ken Prestley. The drawing was displayed at the annual Bix gravesite concert during several Bix Fests over the years. Moving into the next year, the museum is looking for more collections of photos from past Bix Fests to help preserve the tradition.

Museum Bench Project



New to the museum in 2022, two benches dedicated to the late Ray Voss and Rich Johnson. After receiving feedback from many guests about wanting to have a place to sit inside the exhibit, we fundraised a project to make that a reality! This project was headed by board member Gerri Bowers with the intention to improving visitor experience while honoring the lifelong commitment of two important figures in the preservation of Bix's Legacy.

The Bix Museum would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions to making this project happen!

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Carol Schaefer | Jim Petersen |
| Catfish Jazz Society | Mary Williamson |
| Chris Barry | Muriel Voss |
| Dixie Melquist | Randy Sandke |
| Glenda Childress | Robert Rothberg |

FINANCIALS

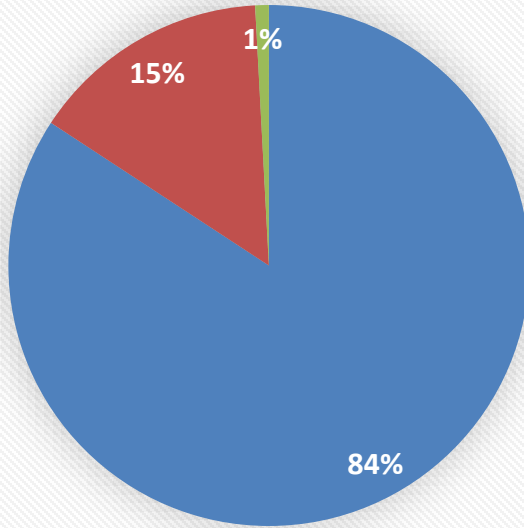
The Bix Museum ended 2022 with breaking even after a down year in 2021. This positive cash flow was helped from the generosity of the Bix Sandke Memorial Fund and the pledges of several donors. We are working at expanding our organization capacity through 2023 to better help us to grow our funding bases as we have done the last few years.

FY2021

FY2022

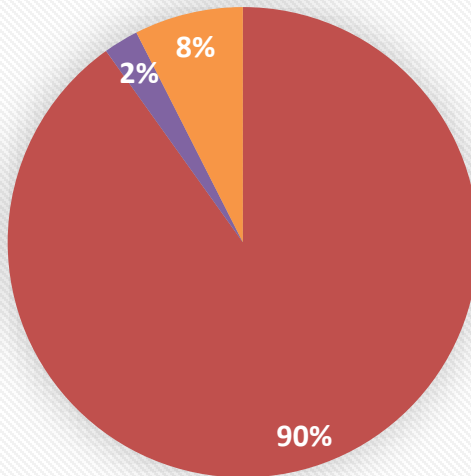
	2021		2022
REVENUE		REVENUE	
Contributions	\$38,617	Contributions	\$53,525
Grants	\$18,273	Grants	\$9,488
Membership Dues	\$250	Membership Dues	\$535
Total Revenue	\$57,140	Total Revenue	\$63,548
EXPENSES		EXPENSES	
General & Administrative	\$58,076	General & Administrative	\$57,003
Exhibition Renovation	\$6,873	Exhibition Renovation	\$1,521
		Programming	\$4,730
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$64,949	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$63,254

2022 Revenue



■ Contributions ■ Grants ■ Membership Dues

2022 Expenses



■ General & Administrative ■ Exhibition Renovation
■ Programming

Museum Donors

The Bix Museum would like to thank all of our supporters who's continued support has kept the museum growing since 2017!

Museum Members FY2022

Wally Baldwin
Eric Frankhauser
Victoria Graves
Steve Hoog
Noel Howell
Nathaniel Kraft
Edward and Cheryl
Lamoureux
Greg Lindholm
David Mahon
Gary McConnell
Rob Messner
Bob and Carol Olsen
Simon Powell
Legare Robertson
Don Rosentreter
Kenton and Diane
Schroder
Matt Tolentino
Hal Vickery
Barry Winograd
Jane Williamson

FY2022 Donors

Alex & Anne Vantieghem
Andrew Sordoni III
Barry Winograd
Bernadine McGuire
Bob Jacobsen
Carol H. Schaefer
Carol Williamson
Catfish Jazz Society
Charlie Saxe
Christopher Barry
Churchill Family Charitable
Foundation
David Dawes
David Mahon
David Schultz
Dixie Melquist
Don Rosentreter
Eric Frankhauser
Gary McConnell
Gerri and Kent Bowers
Glenda Childress
Gregory Lindholm
Hal Vickery
Janet Curra
Jim and Sue Petersen
Joan Beiderbecke-Dupont
Joe and Toby Hines
Joseph Porceli
Julia and Richard Hyman
Keith Cygan
Kelvin Sidney
Kent and Diane Schroder
Laura Scott
Legare Robertson
Liz Beiderbecke-Hart
Mark and Dorothy Menich
Mary Williamson
Matt Tolentino
Michael Scott
Micheal Dooley
Mike Steffenson
Muriel Voss
Nathaniel Kraft

Randy Sandke
Rob Messner
Robert and Carol Olsen
Robert Rothberg
Rosanne Krubsack
Ruth and Albert
VanTieghem
Shaun & Victoria Graves
Steve Hoog
Victor and Dianne Wilson
Wally Baldwin
William Elsinger
William Hoffman

FY2022 Grantors

Bechtel Trust
Iowa Department of
Cultural Affairs
The Moline Foundation
National Endowment for
the Arts

Memorial Donors

In Memory of Gerri Bowers

Carol Schaefer
James and Susan
Petersen
Mary Williamson

In memory of Mike & Emilie Peters

Emilie Mills



Bix and Tram, Bix Beiderbecke Museum & Archives

Remembering Gerri

Long-time Bix historian Gerri Bowers passed away on Christmas Eve 2022. Her husband, Kent, had passed earlier in 2022 as well. Gerri was a member of the Bix Jazz Society from the beginning over 50 years ago. She helped write a book about Bix, creating the most comprehensive family history on his family and Bix's life here in Davenport. She was on



the Bix Society's Board of Directors for many years and was currently serving on the Bix Museum's Board of Directors as our board historian. She was a Bix Lives award winner, and rightly so.

"When hired as Director of the museum in 2020, my only real experience with Bix was hearing about him for the first time while interning at the Davenport School Museum the year prior when a volunteer asked me if I knew about him before showing me a class photo featuring Bix in their collection. Over the past three years she was an invaluable source of information whenever I needed help finding something or had an information request I did not know the answer to." –Nathaniel Kraft

We are saddened by this loss and send our condolences to the Bowers family. She lived "Bix," delving deep into the archives to learn everything about him, and taught anyone who wanted to know about him. She was a giant in the world of Bix — and now she's with him.

Flood of 2023

In late April, the Bix Museum's exhibit space flooded due to high water levels from the Mississippi River. For a little over a week, we had standing water in the exhibit with round the clock help pumping water out. While the artifacts and the exhibit were mostly unaffected by the waters, areas of drywall, carpet, and wood siding in the space were. Remediation work of the affected areas has begun with re-opening set for July after restoration crews finish their work and add extra flood-preventative measures. Portions of the exhibit had to be deinstalled so crews can work and will be reinstalled once work is completed. We would like to thank the many volunteers who came out to help us pump water and deinstall the exhibit from affected walls. Your support has helped us continue to serve our mission during this tough time!



Flood prevention efforts in the exhibit during the Spring of 2023.

Looking Forward

Through 2022 and into 2023 the Bix Museum has been able to grow our programming and accomplish several goals. From hosting documentary screenings to loaning artifacts to the Wayne County Historical Museum for an exhibit on Gennett Records, we grew our relationships with a lot of new organizations and met new audiences. We received grant funding to build an office space in the exhibit for volunteers and staff to better serve our mission. Most importantly, we have been able to grow our ability to host tours and give talks on Bix for a wide variety of groups in the community from all backgrounds with more to come in the future!

As we move into the later end of 2023 and into 2024, we are looking to celebrate the centennial of Bix's first recordings back in 1924 at Gennett Records in Richmond, Indiana. In 2023, we partnered with the Catfish Jazz Society with their Annual Bix Birthday Bash and in 2024 we are celebrating together again on Sunday, March 10th with a special orchestra playing a special instrument from the collection. Look out for more details as we get closer because you won't want to miss the many events we are planning in celebration! Because of you, Bix Lives!



Bix Birthday Bash 2023 attendees dancing to the music of Alan Knapper's Five Bridges Jazz Band.

Bix Beiderbecke
MUSEUM

RIVER MUSIC EXPERIENCE
Davenport, Iowa

129 North Main Street
Davenport, IA 52801



Ben Rosenblum Trio performing at the Redstone Room February 2023.