



Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC

2023 Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we approach the one year mark of my Presidency, I have assembled this report to inform our membership about our organization's needs and undertakings. As you will see, thanks to your support our organization is continuing its 50+ year tradition of actively promoting Polish culture in our nation's capital. I invite you to review this report and I hope it inspires you to become more active and invested in our wonderful organization. I can be reached at anytime via email at paaa.wdc@gmail.com Any errors or oversights are mine alone.

Matthew Stefanski



www.paaa.us



YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year, PAAA was represented at the following events by its officers and board members:

- Friends of the John Paul II Foundation, Washington, DC, Chapter Luncheon, May 2022
- American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) Convention in San Antonio, July 2022
- Battle of Savannah Battlefield Tablet Dedication Ceremony, Oct. 2022
- Kosciuszko Foundation Gala, Washington, DC, Dec. 2022
- Polish American Historical Association 79th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Jan. 2023
- Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Division Meeting, March 2023
- ACPC Spring Board Meeting, Philadelphia, April 2023
- Various meetings at the Consulate and Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC

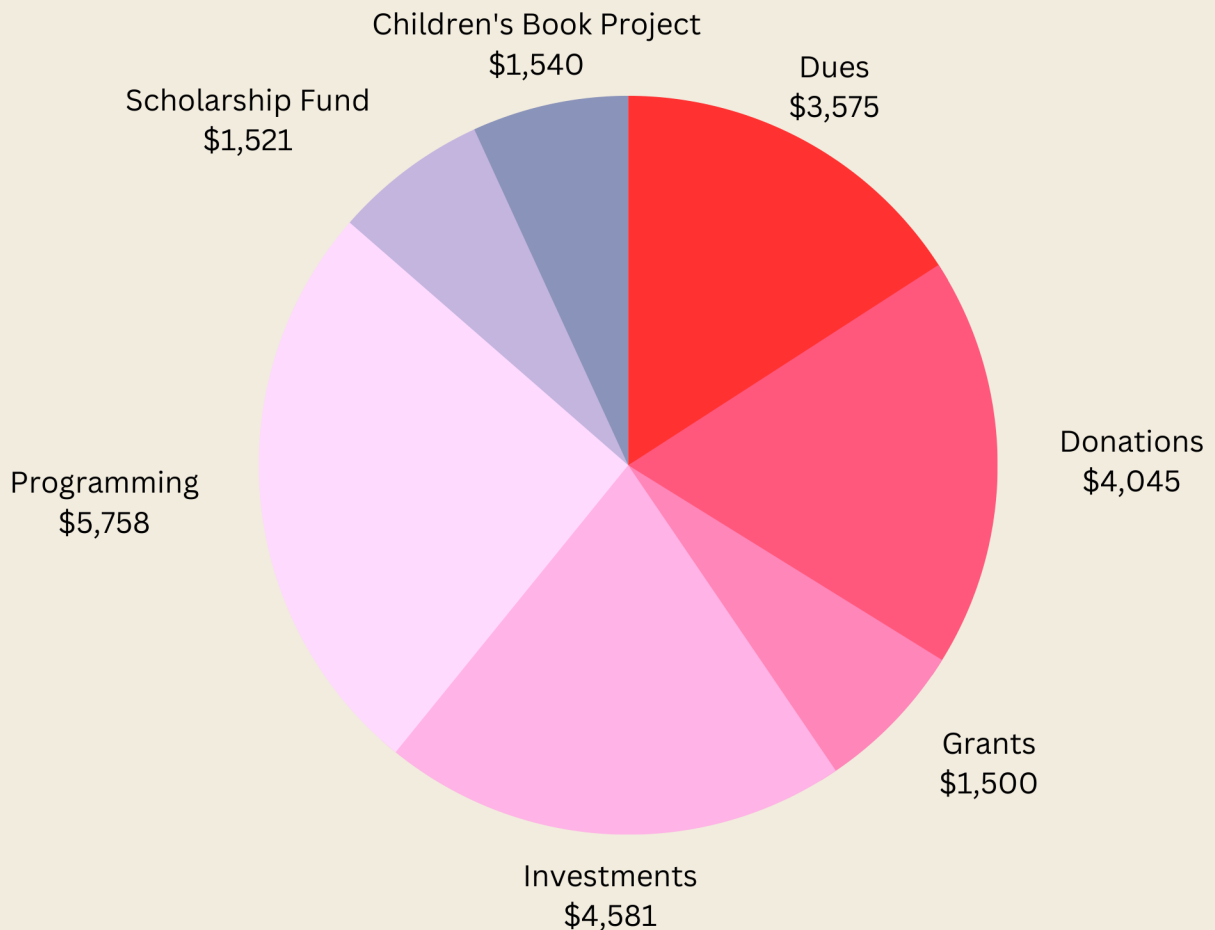
Our organization's work was featured in the *Polish American Journal*, the ACPC's *Heritage*, as well as our own newsletter.

Last summer, PAAA submitted a comment to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) regarding their Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative, which seeks to reimagine the design of the iconic Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. As part of their public comment period, the PAAA called on the NCPC to ensure that in any future plan, the equestrian statue of General Casimir Pulaski, located on Freedom Plaza, remains displayed prominently and without obstruction so that future generations can continue to learn about and appreciate this Polish American hero.

Income

05/2022 - 04/2023

TOTAL: \$22,520



Dues

After pausing our dues collection due to the pandemic, one of the first pressing tasks that we tackled was to resume membership dues, which are a vital funding source for our organization. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our organization. **Unfortunately, our dues-paying membership is notably down as compared to pre-pandemic totals.**

Donations

We are grateful to all the generous donors who have made financial contributions to the PAAA this past year, including:

- * Celia & Richard Larkin * Stefan Lopatkiewicz * Piotr Gajewski
- * Renata Greenspan * Richard Poremski * Elzbieta Vande Sande
- * Constance Donnelly * Eve Marie Szczepanski * Laura Kafka Price

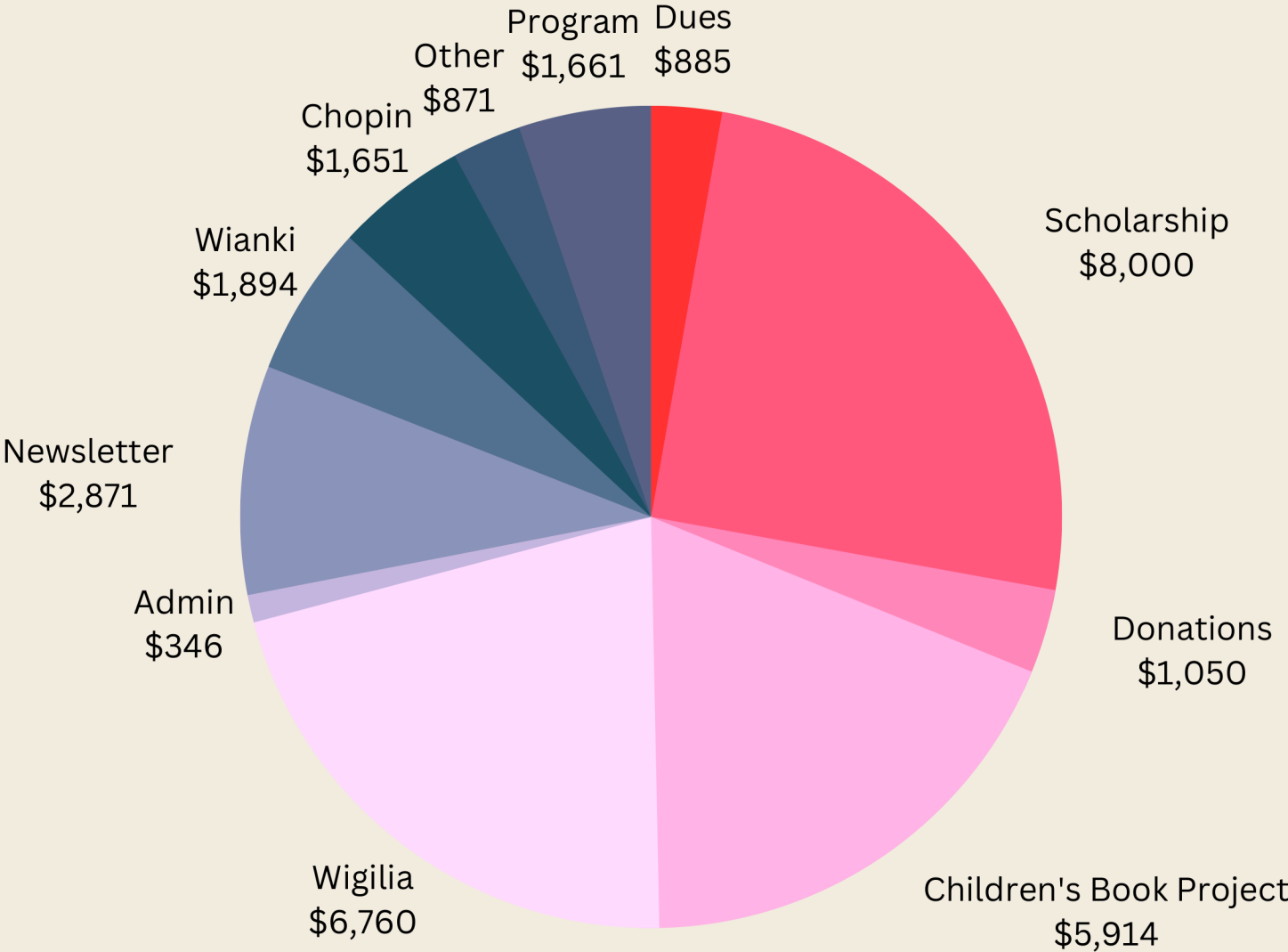
- Investments** The PAAA maintains an investment portfolio which is predominately made up of our scholarship endowment, but also some holdings belonging to the association's discretionary funds. This was an uneven year in the markets, but the income from our investments remains an important source of ongoing funding for our organization's undertakings.
- Grants** The PAAA is fortunate to have a robust cultural partnership with the Consulate and Embassy of the Republic of Poland. For many years, the Consulate has been supporting our annual Wianki festival, and this year we were grateful to also receive a grant to offset growing costs associated with organizing our annual Wigilia. Going forward, one of my key priorities is to pursue cultural grants awarded by US grant making entities, including the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities, MidAtlantic Arts Foundation, and others.
- Programming** These funds are related to the tickets sold for our annual Wigilia event which resumed after a two-year hiatus.
- Scholarship Fund** This income comes from our new collaboration this year with the National Philharmonic, where we jointly promoted Brian Ganz's "Chopin and Friends" performance, as well as our holiday card project, which was initiated to further promote our organization, support artists and raise funds for our scholarship program.
- Children's Book Project** Funds collected from the sale of the Children's Poland book, sponsored by our organization. This effort, led by Cecilia Glembocki, continues to receive great interest, resulting in another printing.

We couldn't have
done it without your
generous *support.*

Expenses

05/2022 - 04/2023

TOTAL: \$31,907



Dues As part of the American Council for Polish Culture, our organization pays dues to the ACPC based on our reported membership figures. As a result, our members are also members of ACPC, and receive the ACPC publication *Polish Heritage*. The sum here reported are the dues for both 2022 and 2023 fiscal year.

Wigilia For a full breakdown of Wigilia expenses, please see page 7.

Admin These are the costs for maintaining the PAAA USPS box, various postage and mailing expenses, as well as financial fees.

Newsletter	The PAAA publishes three newsletter editions annually. With the increasing cost of shipping and printing, currently our dues are almost entirely absorbed by newsletter costs. This reported cost is for the Summer-Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 newsletter editions.
Donations	As an organization committed to the promotion of Polish culture and the arts, we strive to support organizations and initiatives that share these aims. The PAAA purchased an ad in the Kosciuszko Foundation program for its annual gala in Washington, DC, as well as an ad in the American Council for Polish Culture's program for its annual convention in San Antonio, Texas. We also made a donation to the ACPC Social Studies project, to support the presence of a Polish booth at the annual national conference of social studies teachers.
Wianki	The main expenses for Wianki each year are the artist honorarium paid to the musicians and folk dance ensembles who perform at the event. This expense is offset in part by an annual grant received from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is not reflected in this report as it was received in the previous fiscal cycle.
Chopin	In 2022, the PAAA hosted its annual Chopin Concert in March at the Arts Club of Washington, featuring Haley Myles. Due to delays, some of the event expenses were not covered until the start of this fiscal calendar, which is why they are noted above. Since this event was not in this fiscal calendar, it will not be detailed in this report.
Scholarship	In 2022, the PAAA awarded three students scholarships totaling \$8,000. Additionally, our organization presented a \$500 honorarium to Steve Zazenski, who painted the holiday scene which was used for our holiday card.
Children's Book Project	Due to the popularity of this project, a new printing run was ordered of 1,000 soft-cover books. This was the cost of that printing.
Program	Catering and venue costs for our Spring and Fall 2022 Membership meetings.
Other	Fees associated with DC registration, artist honorarium for Holiday Card project, as well as miscellaneous expenses.



PAAA Wigilia 2022

EXPENSES

Venue & Catering	\$5,675.60
Artist Honorarium	\$450
Insurance	\$353.75
Printing	\$75
Total:	\$6,554.35

INCOME

Ticket Sales	\$5,265
Poland MFA Grant	\$1,500
Raffle	\$300
Donations	\$193.73
Total:	\$7,238.63

On Sunday, December 18, over fifty PAAA members and friends gathered for our traditional Wigilia dinner and to celebrate Polish culture and togetherness. Following dinner, which featured Wigilia staples such as barszcz, herring, fish, pierogi, kapusta, and makowiec, attendees were treated to a beautiful artistic program organized by PAAA artistic advisor and board member Dr. Laura Kafka-Price. This year's program featured music from Ukraine as a symbol of our ongoing solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Many guests left the evening carrying gift baskets with Polish treats won during the raffle donated by PAAA board members, but all guests left with their bellies full and their spirits filled with Polish Christmas charm.

POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION

2022 Holiday Card Project



BENEFITING THE PAAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PAAA Holiday Card Project

EXPENSES

Artist Honorarium	\$500
Card Printing	\$915
Envelopes	\$244
Card Boxes	\$277
Total:	\$1,936

INCOME

Sale of Cards	\$691.50
Total:	\$691.50

The PAAA Holiday Card Project was initiated last summer as a means to raise awareness about our organization, support Polish-American artists, raise funds for our scholarship program and create new projects to show our membership and followers that we are active in the field of the arts. With the involvement of recognized Polish-American painter Steve Zazenski, a holiday card was created and a total of 26 sets of cards were purchased. Included in each set are high-quality gold envelopes and a custom-made gift box.

While this project was not as successful as intended this year, we will try to continue to promote the cards during the next holiday season, and look to see if a partner organization would be interested in a bulk order. The expenses for this project, aside from the honorarium, have been shouldered by the PAAA President and will not be recouped until the project at least breaks even.



National Philharmonic 2023 Brian Ganz Chopin Performance

EXPENSES

Total: \$0.00

INCOME

Ticket Sales \$350

Donations: \$200

Total: \$550

This year the National Philharmonic, at the initiative of Maestro Piotr Gajewski, our honorary member, extended a generous offer to our organization to collaborate in the promotion of Brian Ganz's annual Chopin performance on his quest to publicly perform Chopin's entire oeuvre. The PAAA promoted the performance, and many of our members attended this world-class performance. The National Philharmonic generously shared ticket sale revenue from all tickets purchased using our code in order to benefit the PAAA Scholarship program.



Wianki 2022

EXPENSES

NPS Permit Fee \$120

Honorarium for artists \$1,600

Supplies \$174.81

Total: \$1,784.81

INCOME

MFA Grant \$1,000

Total: \$1,000

Over the years, the PAAA has presented many Polish folk dance and song ensembles from near and far at our annual Wianki Festival on the National Mall. In 2022, we featured the PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia and Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble based in Atlanta, Georgia. Music was provided by our very own Joyful Skrypczuk Duo. We are grateful to soprano Laura Kafka-Price who has performed pro bono at our Wianki for many years, as well as our Wianki Chairperson Marianna Eckel who works so hard every year to prepare this always popular event, which showcases our beautiful folk traditions to thousands of visitors to our nation's capital. We warmly invite everyone to join us on June 24, 2023 for this year's edition of Wianki!

Goals for 2023-2024

- Continue to attract new and returning members to PAAA
- Continue to improve PAAA's financial standing by attracting new members, increasing dues revenue, and increasing transparency about costs
- Continue to expand programming, so as to attract new members and showcase our organization's benefit to the community
- Continue to partner with external organizations to broaden our reach
- Pursue cultural grants awarded by US grant making entities, including the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities, MidAtlantic Arts Foundation, and others
- Be responsive to membership initiatives, ideas, and feedback

Please visit our website regularly to stay up to date with our planned events.

Website: www.paaa.us | **Facebook:** PAAA - Polish American Arts Association

Save the Date and we hope you will join us for our upcoming events:

Annual Wianki Festival of Wreaths

Saturday, June 24, 2023 | 6 - 10 PM

Reflecting Pool at Lincoln Memorial

Remembering Wisława Szymborska

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Busboys & Poets, 450 K St NW, Washington, DC

Thank You!