



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERIN HAMMERSTEDT



It is my honor to write this letter, recounting my first full year at Canterbury Shaker Village.

I spent my first year here living on site in the East House, learning as much as I could about this special place. I toured every building with the leadership staff, learning the uses and quirks of each space, from basements to bell towers and everything in between. I came to understand the extent of the Village collections, and the importance of the ongoing inventory project. I learned about past preservation work, and the current priorities. I met with lots of you, hearing stories about the good old days and the nostalgia of time at the Village over the years. We reminisced about the joys of coming to the restaurant and participating in events, and we talked about the needs and possibilities facing the Village today. In my spare time, I wandered the grounds and trails and read books about the Shakers.

In all, it was a year of gathering and thinking. All the while, of course, we were working on grant projects and fundraising for building preservation and the other work we do. I'll let you learn more about the work that was done as you enjoy this report. In a nutshell:

- We put new roofs on the Horse Barn and Bee House
- We exceeded our operational fundraising goal of \$450,000
- We raised just over \$2 million more for future projects and goals

After the close of the visitor season in November, we spent the winter preparing a new strategic plan, and getting projects and activities lined up for the 2026 season. Please enjoy this review of our work over the past year and join us in Canterbury this year as we ReDiscover the Village in 2026.

Sincerely,

Erin Hammerstedt
Executive Director
Canterbury Shaker Village



“Hands to work, hearts to god” - Mother Ann Lee

PRESERVATION PROJECTS

Canterbury Shaker Village enjoyed a very productive year, both completing active preservation projects and planning for others. Completed projects included the Horse Barn and Bee House each receiving new roofs. The Bee House will re-open with a new agriculture exhibition on August 29th, 2026.

Planning continued for a number of other projects. Funding was secured to preserve the East House from philanthropist Tami Nason and New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. This venture, along with the planned Meeting House improvements, are on track to be completed by fall 2026.

Furthermore, The National Park Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, awarded the prestigious Save America's Treasures Grant to the Village to preserve the Infirmary. Securing matching funding for this initiative will continue in FY27.



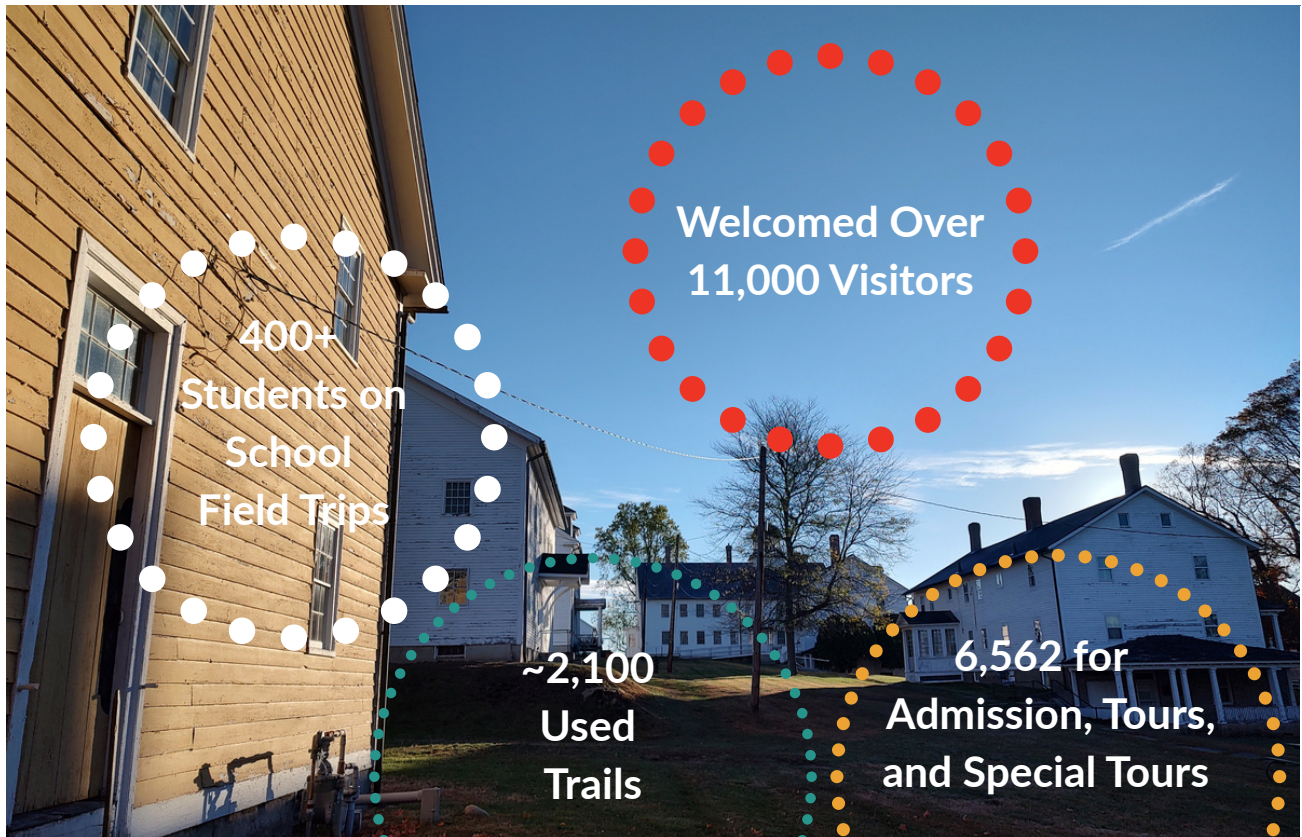
Preservation: noun

pres·er·va·tion, *pre-zər-'vā-shən*

the act, process, or result of preserving something: such as

the activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay.

VISITOR SERVICES & EDUCATION



- New general admission model increased visitor engagement through additional self-guided access to the Creamery, North Shop, and Laundry Engine Room
- New interpreter-led building tours on weekends opened an additional five buildings for visitor access
- Free admission to Canterbury residents
- New special tour series provided in-depth and niche tours beyond daily admission access

EVENTS

We welcomed many friends, neighbors, and guests to gorgeous events throughout the year!

In the summer, our Music on the Green concert series on the Meeting House lawn let people relax into the natural beauty of the hillside as music rippled into the early evening.

Halloween consisted of Ghost Encounters and Trick or Treat that welcomed old and young alike. Christmas at Canterbury was a delightful nod to the spirit of care and community. We enjoyed a festive Symphony New Hampshire concert in the Dwelling House Chapel, cheering the snowy, New Hampshire night.



The annual Simply Shaker fundraising dinner was another fantastic evening at the Village, raising funds for Collections.

We were also pleased to host some great events with other partners, including:

- **The Shaker Cross Country 5K** with *Delta Dental and Millenium Running*
- **Frederick Douglass Reading** with *Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and Elkins Public Library*
- **Vintage and Antique Car Show** with *Granite Region Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA)*
- **13th Annual NH Monarch Festival**



MUSEUM COLLECTION & ARCHIVES

Over the last year, Collections staff's focus has been where it should always be: thinking about the future while caring for and researching the Village's historically valuable materials to meet visitors' ever-changing curiosity.

The three-year museum collection inventory, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, continues to yield new knowledge while ensuring the proper documentation and care of objects.

Through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative, Collections and Education staff completed the first phase of an interactive deep map, charting the origins of the 1,800+ individuals who worshiped, worked, and lived in the Village between 1782 and 1992. This map also charts the Church Family's changing built environment in that period. This project was also supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities Deep Mapping Institute at Michigan Technological University. The Village was one of nine teams selected to participate in the Institute.

This deep map will become part of a new interactive website being developed with Michigan State University's Matrix Center for Digital Humanities & Social Sciences. So, too, will five short films featuring new interpretive themes through which to understand the Shakers. We are delighted to work again with SALT Project on these core elements of the Village's digital outreach.

Thanks to generous donors, an Important Shaker relic underwent treatment at Northeast Document Conservation Center. The relic's handwritten label explains the Shakers' reverence for it: "Hitching ring taken from elm tree at Shirley [Massachusetts], where Mother Ann and the Elders hitched their horses. Probably about 1780."

Collections staff taught Collections Camp, a nine-day seminar and workshop covering the fundamentals of professional collections practice. Among the participants were Village demonstrators and interpreters, graduate students, library and archive specialists, and historic house volunteers.

Thank you donors for your generosity in deepening the Village's collection and expanding our knowledge of the Shakers at Canterbury. Your support is invaluable and our ability to research and tell stories via objects and artifacts is greater with your contributions.



We were honored that our adult cradle out on loan for Shaker Museum's installation of *Cradled*, in Kinderhook Knitting Mill in Kinderhook, NY, September 15-December 22, 2024, was used again for a second installation of *Cradled* at Hauser & Wirth in Los Angeles, CA, November 22, 2025-January 4, 2026.

In January 2026 we hosted two showings and discussions of *The Testament of Ann Lee* at Red River Theatres, in Concord, NH, making connections of the film's subject and themes with the Village and objects in the collection.

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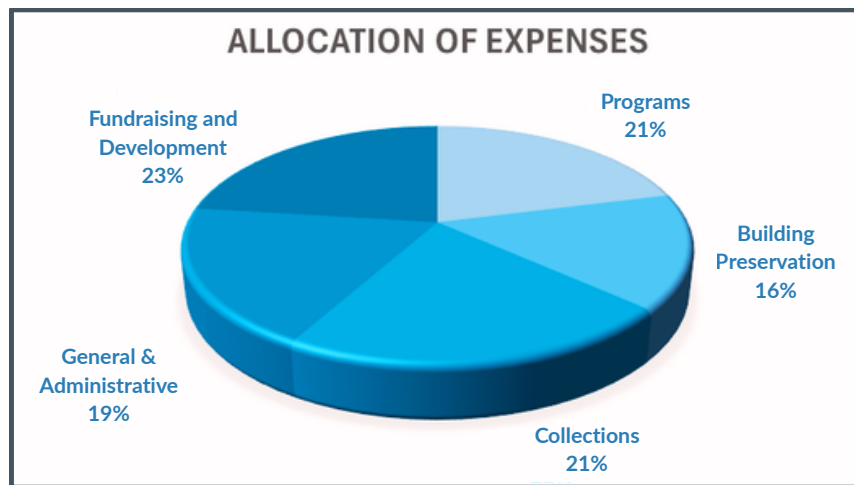
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erin Hammerstedt

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026

FY26 was a busy year for the Village, putting tremendous effort into fundraising for operations and future projects, and achieving great success.

Museum admissions were down in large part due to a loss of international visitors. Most notably, all group tours from Canada were cancelled. These tours have been a consistently dependable source of income in years past. To help offset these impacts, we introduced new programs and events that boosted visitation numbers and revenue. We are fortunate to have reliable rental income and investment interest income to help supplement our revenue.

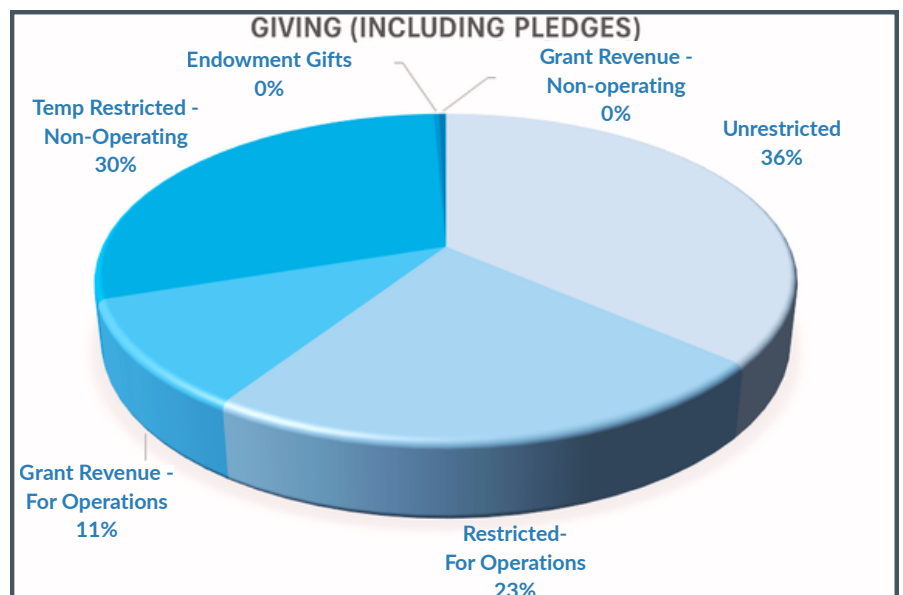


Canterbury Shaker Village is more dependent on fundraising revenue than we would like to be. We are working to expand earned income and grow the endowment to provide alternative means of support, but that will take time.



We are pleased to report that the generosity of our Board Trustees and Corporators, members, and other donors and supporters of the Village allowed us to exceed our goal of \$450,000 in unrestricted funding for fiscal year 2026.

Thanks to all who supported the Village this year. We are incredibly grateful for your support.



Village Supporters

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Gifts to Canterbury Shaker Village support daily operations and fund necessary projects to ensure this National Historic Landmark's future. We are grateful to the following donors, many of whom have consistently and faithfully supported our essential annual appeals.

\$250,000+

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\$100,000+

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CHARLES TABOR (FLOODWATERS PRESS)

Designer and letterpress printer **Charles Tabor of Floodwaters Press** had a lively season leading hands-on experiences in traditional letterpress printing. Running presses that Shakers used in their own printing business, Charles beautifully showcased and taught this art form, helping visitors create hand-printed cards to take home.



MASTER GARDENERS & LAND STEWARDS

The Village is grateful for the leadership of its Master Gardeners and Natural Resources Stewards who donate 2,000 hours each year to this special place. **The Gardeners** pruned grapevines, tended to the gardening beds and herb garden, and planted flax and broomcorn for educational purposes. They ensure the Village looks beautiful all season long. **The Stewards** removed downed trees, pruned the historic apple trees, replaced planking on trail bridges, and cleared dikes around the mill ponds. It is because of these dedicated volunteers that the Village's conservation land remains welcoming and enjoyable to the public.



INTERPRETERS

Our **interpreters** are the soul of Canterbury Shaker Village during our tour season, imparting the legacy of the Canterbury Shakers with illuminating depth and hospitality. Our nine tour guides spent 1,600 hours connecting with guests, leading tours, and answering questions.

THE INFIRMARY: A HISTORIC LEGACY OF SHAKER CARE



Canterbury Shaker Village received a \$410,000 Save America's Treasures Grant to help preserve our Infirmary. In FY27, we are raising the match for the grant.

Expert medical practice. Scientific discovery. Community care.

For the Shakers of Canterbury, all these activities were centered in their community's Infirmary. This wood frame building was constructed in 1811 to house visitors to the Church Family. In 1849, the Shakers repurposed the building as an infirmary, creating a progressive health care facility containing an office, a pharmacy, patient rooms, and a kitchen. The Shakers recognized the importance of sanitation in health care, and continually upgraded the facility with features such as metal beds and running water in patient rooms.

Brother Thomas Corbett (1780-1857) trained as a physician, then developed and managed the community's successful medicinal herbal business in the mid-nineteenth century.

Shaker sisters were integral to the community's medical care, so much so that the Infirmary was also called the "Nurses' Shop." For much of the nineteenth century, the sisters themselves (and Federal Census takers) recorded their occupation as "phisioness" (a woman physician). So important was their knowledge and practice that early feminists, such as Swedish reformer Fredrika Bremer (1801-1865) and Harriott Keziah Hunt (1805-1875), the first woman admitted to Harvard Medical School, visited the Canterbury Shakers to investigate their medical practices. They also remarked on the overall better health of the Shaker sisters.

The Infirmary today represents not only the improvements in medical science but also in compassionate care. Many of the World's People sought medical treatment at the Infirmary. Extant historic infirmaries are uncommon. Canterbury Shaker Village's Infirmary is a rare surviving example of a Shaker hospital and is the only one currently accessible to the public. The Infirmary's pharmacy is also the only historic pharmacy on exhibition in New Hampshire.

Canterbury Shaker Village's Infirmary is a fascinating legacy of the Shakers' relationship with the science of medicine and the communal practice of care, for Shakers and non-Shakers alike. Today, the public may tour the building's first and second floors, where they will find in each room exhibitions on the Canterbury Shakers' duty of care through medicine, technology, and comfort.



"With a progressive approach to community health care, supported by modern facilities and equipment, the Canterbury Shakers could provide medical care superior to that available to the average New Englander."
Scott T. Swank, Shaker historian



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR DAVID KATZ



Reflecting on 2026, we are filled with immense gratitude for the collective spirit that guides Canterbury Shaker Village. This was the defining year we officially transitioned from planning to getting things done.

Our theme for the coming year, "ReDiscover the Village," invites long-time friends and new guests alike to experience our 694 acres of historic trails, pristine mill ponds, and 26 original structures with fresh eyes. Our ultimate goal remains clear: to make the Village an active, alive, and welcoming space for all visitors. This year, that vision took physical shape through vital preservation projects, dynamic community workshops, and expanded seasonal programming. Next year there will be that, and more!

This momentum is only possible because the entire CSV community—our dedicated board leadership, visionary donors, tireless staff, supportive neighbors, and passionate volunteers—truly came together. Your shared commitment lifted CSV to a higher level, ensuring that Shaker values of innovation, simplicity, and community remain vibrant and relevant today.

As we work to create and sustain a vibrant Canterbury Shaker Village, we are thrilled to report on our remarkable progress over the last twelve months. The funds raised are directly securing our infrastructure and expanding our educational outreach, safeguarding our National Historic Landmark for generations to come. We invite you to come to the Village this season and enjoy our works in progress.

As we look toward the future, we carry forward the Shaker legacy of industrious optimism. Thank you for walking this path with us, investing in our preservation, and helping us breathe continuous life into this magical place.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Dave Katz
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Canterbury Shaker Village





Purpose

This strategic plan establishes priorities to guide Canterbury Shaker Village over the next five years. It focuses limited human and financial resources on initiatives that protect core assets, enhance visitor engagement, and secure long-term financial sustainability.

Mission

Canterbury Shaker Village preserves and shares the legacy of the Canterbury Shakers, promoting learning, connection, and rejuvenation for people from down the street and around the world.

Vision

Canterbury Shaker Village envisions a future where Shaker values, culture, and concepts such as community, ingenuity, and intentional living inspire people to live more meaningful, connected lives.

Values

- **Stewardship:** Protecting and sharing the Canterbury Shakers' legacy for the benefit of current and future generations.
- **Relevance:** Connecting Shaker heritage to today's world.
- **Community:** Welcoming all to find joy and inspiration through shared activities and experiences.
- **Integrity:** Acting truthfully, ethically, and responsibly in all circumstances.
- **Fortitude:** Demonstrating thoughtful courage in decision making that consistently supports long-term well-being.

The plan is organized around three strategic priorities:

Preserve the Past

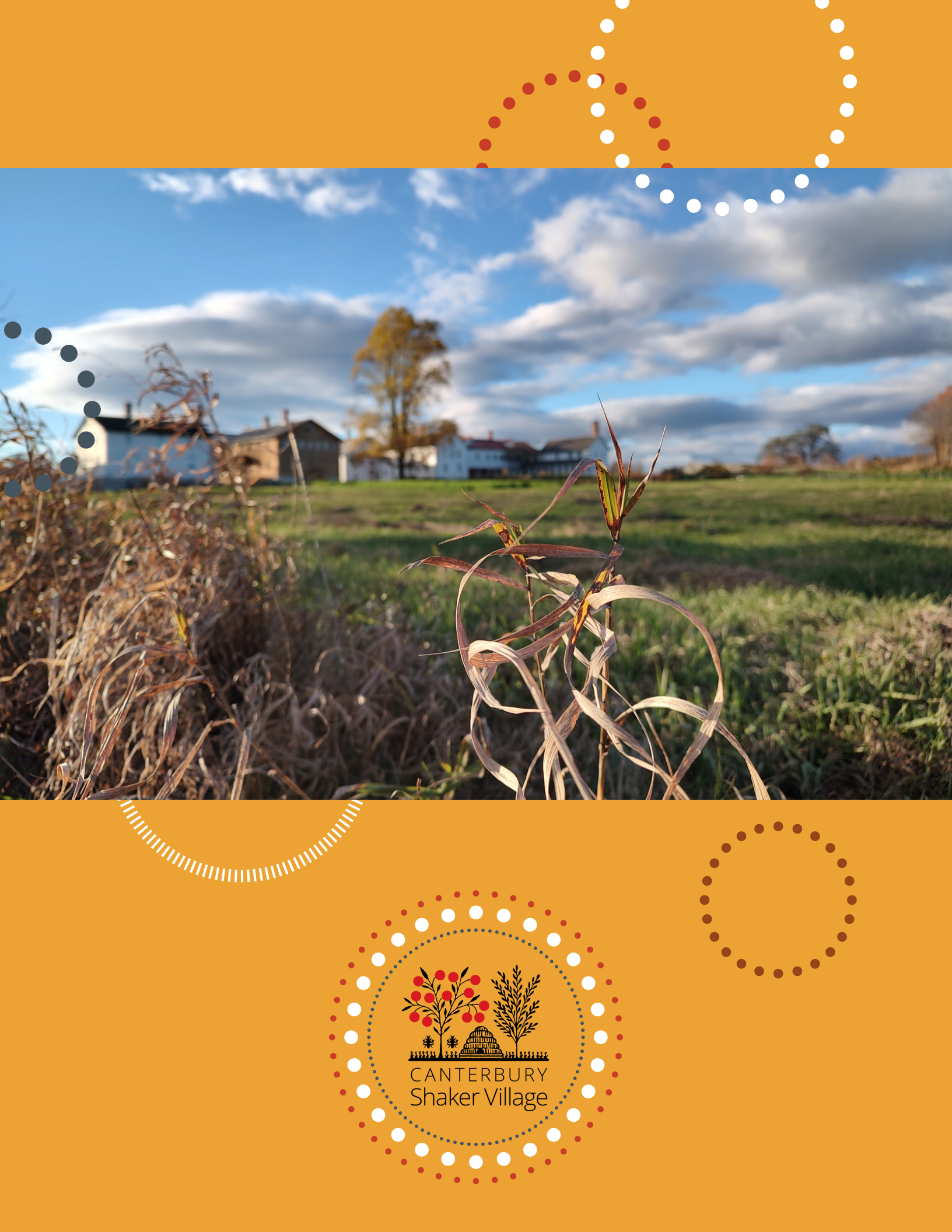
Protect and leverage historic assets. Long-term sustainability begins with responsible stewardship of the Village's physical and cultural resources. We will develop integrated planning tools to guide activities and investment, ensuring mission-aligned prioritization. We will execute prioritized preservation and conservation initiatives, to strengthen stewardship credibility and improve access to collections.

Enrich the Present

Activate the Village experience. To be relevant and financially viable, the Village must offer compelling, high-quality experiences that attract visitors and encourage repeat visitation. We will invest in improvements that upgrade first impressions and create stronger destination appeal. We will increase breadth and depth of programming, and modernize and revitalize interpretation, including expanding our digital interpretive resources.

Shape a Sustainable Future

Build financial and organizational resilience. We will define and implement a sustainable business model that establishes an appropriate mix of revenue streams, aligns expenses with predictable income, and supports disciplined, measured growth. We will grow the endowment, maintain strong annual fundraising, expand and diversify earned income, and build a high-performance organizational culture.



CANTERBURY
Shaker Village