Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
FY2026 Highlights
(July 2025 – June 2026)

1. **New Board Members welcomed:** In December 2025 we welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors: **Phil St. John (Wyoming, IL) & Joan Wright (Galesburg)**.
    a. **Joan Wright** was raised in Galesburg with memories of Carl Sandburg's life and poetry from her youth. After a 40-year career in radio broadcasting in New England, Wright returned to her hometown and has taken a position as Communication Director at the National Railroad Hall of Fame in Galesburg.
    b. **Phil St. John** is from the Wyoming, IL area … and is also a member of the Friends of the Hennepin Canal Association.
2. **Capital Improvements are soon to be addressed by Illinois Department of Natural Resources.** Work should begin in the Fall 2026 on repairing the roof and porch of the Visitors Center. There are many other issues that have been approved by the legislature but still await funding by the state. We are hopeful that we may see additional needed improvements funded in the coming fiscal year. *[Sept 2026 update: New front door & sidelights installed on Visitors Center. New railing for entry next.]*

3. **CSHSA Memberships vs. Donations Received by Tax Year.** Since the distinction between the funds that we receive from Memberships & those one-time donations received is sometimes a bit unclear, I thought it might be helpful to show both types of donations we have received since Tax Year 2021 in the following table:

CSHSA Membership Receipts & Other Donations Received from Members & Nonmembers by Tax Year 2021-2026				
Tax Year (Jan-Dec)	Total Memberships Received	TOTAL Memberships & Donations	Membership Funds Recd	Add'l TxYr Donations Recd
2021	113	$ 10,250.00	$ 7,025.00	$ 3,225.00
2022	94	$ 8,829.61	$ 7,809.61	$ 1,020.00
2023	92	$ 11,874.00	$ 6,530.00	$ 5,344.00
2024	56	$ 11,874.32	$ 3,170.00	$ 8,704.32
2025	62	$ 5,773.43	$ 4,180.00	$ 1,593.00
2026 (thru 7/26)	39	$ 4,010.00	$ 2,810.00	$ 1,200.00

4. **CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2026. Total $54,615.68.** Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2026, reflected an increase in value $7,286.21 this past fiscal year. We did not receive any designated donations to the endowment during FY2026. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated **+15.4% return on investment in FY2026**! Our current **Spendable Balance: $13,795.55**.

5. **In Aug 2025 CSHSA purchased approximately 80 Sandburg-related titles at the Bednar Family Estate Sale** for resale at the Museum Bookstore. We have sold a number of these first

editions and signed titles already, with a number still being processed for resale in the near future. https://photos.app.goo.gl/9xWopncYGzTHqMLP6

6. **Local Business Contributions in FY2026**
   a. **Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – $100 received in FY2026 drawings.**
   We thank our local F&M Bank's support for local nonprofit organizations through their Hometown Hundreds program. The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association has received one $100 award in the weekly drawings in the past year. Since participating in the Hometown Hundreds drawings in 2018, CSHSA has been selected 17 times for a total of $1,700 in awards over the past nine years.

7. **Continuing Support from Master Gardeners!** We are extremely grateful for the dedication of our local chapter of the University of Illinois Master Gardeners who work the Site AND are CSHSA members. We continue to support the Master Gardeners annually with a donation of $350 for landscaping supplies.

8. **Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2026.**

Songbag Concert coordinator **Erin Glasnovich** and her Songbag Committee recruited and scheduled a diverse selection of performers through FY2026 beginning July 2025 through June 2026. The Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts begin at 2pm. The Songbag Concerts have once again been generously supported by a $1,200 grant from the Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund of the Galesburg Community Foundation.

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2026

- Sun, July 13, 2025 – Jake Stack, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Sun, Aug 10, 2025 – Jacqui Alpine, Iowa City, IA
- Sun, Sep 14, 2025 – Sullivan's Daughter, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Oct 12, 2025 – Anna P.S., Gwinn, MI
- Sun, Nov 9, 2025 – Angela Meyer Trio, McCausland, IA
- Sun, Mar 8, 2026 – John Heasly & Jerry Schroeder, Bishop Hill, IL
- Sun, April 12, 2026 – Randall Stephens, San Antonio, TX
- Sun, May 10, 2026 – Michelle Held, Detroit MI
- Sun, June 14, 2026 – Taproot Wranglers, Galesburg, IL

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2027 Scheduled

- Sun, July 12, 2026 – Lyndsi & the Mix
- Sun, Aug 9, 2026 – Maggie Lowe, Charlotte, NC
- Sun, Sep 13, 2026 – Nicole Montgomery, Peoria, IL
- Sun, Oct 11, 2026 – Forrest & Margaret McCurren, Jefferson City, MO
- Sun, Nov 8, 2026 – Feral Anthem, Spokane, WA

9. **CSHSA makes final payment on 5-year pledge to support the construction of Galesburg's new public library building.**

With our recent $1,000 donation CSHSA Board has fulfilled its pledge of $5,000 over five years towards the construction of the new public library building on East Main Street in Galesburg! We are very proud and honored to play a small part in the funding of this wonderful new public library in our community!

10. Taliya Kay Galloway was awarded CSHSA's Annual Sandburg Prize Scholarship for the 2025-2026 Academic Year at Carl Sandburg College

Board President, Pat Kane, attended the Sandburg College Scholarship Reception at the Vault on October 23, 2025, and sat with Taliya, CSHSA's 2025 Sandburg Prize recipient.

11. *Inklings & Idlings* – Publication paused

The most recent issue of *Inklings & Idlings* published was the Winter 2025 issue which included articles by Ed Safiran, Rick Sayre and Rex Cherrington. We are still seeking an editor who will be able to devote more time to *Inklings & Idlings*. In the meantime, we will use our CSHSA Facebook & Website to share any articles of interest.

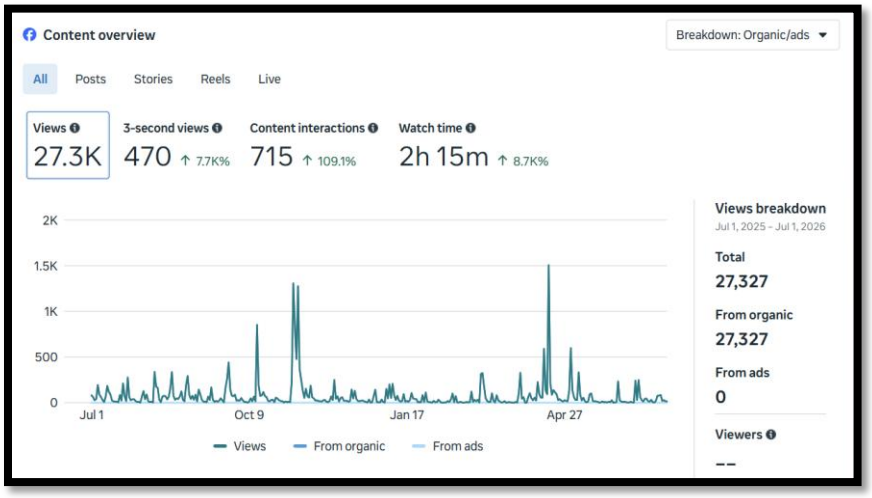
12. CSHSA Website / Facebook – FY2026

a. We are extremely grateful to retired historian, **Dr. John Quinley** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, who provided our CSHSA website with 28 monthly articles on Sandburg exclusively for our website under the series title of ***Letters from a Sandburg Docent***. **Quinley** is the author of *Discovering Carl Sandburg: The Eclectic Life of an American Icon* and is a former docent at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of our State Historic Site's IDNR staff member, **Tommy Wallenfeldt**, as an administrator on our CSHSA Facebook page!

c. **We are entering into our third year with JoneSolutions.com as CSHSA's webhost provider. In August 2024** our sandburg.org website was successfully transferred from our longtime "BeTheHost.com" webhost site. Our webhosting cost: $24/yr. JoneSolutions.com offers us the following: • 5GB NVMe SSD Storage • 2TB Bandwidth Per Month • $24/year. We continue to note the much speedier response times for our site to load with JoneSolutions. We also appreciate Preston Kroll, current administrator of our "sandburg.org" domain name account with TuCows.com who has also been generously covering any of the annual fees with TuCows for us.

13. Facebook Content Overview FY2026 (823 Followers … up from 795 in FY 2025)

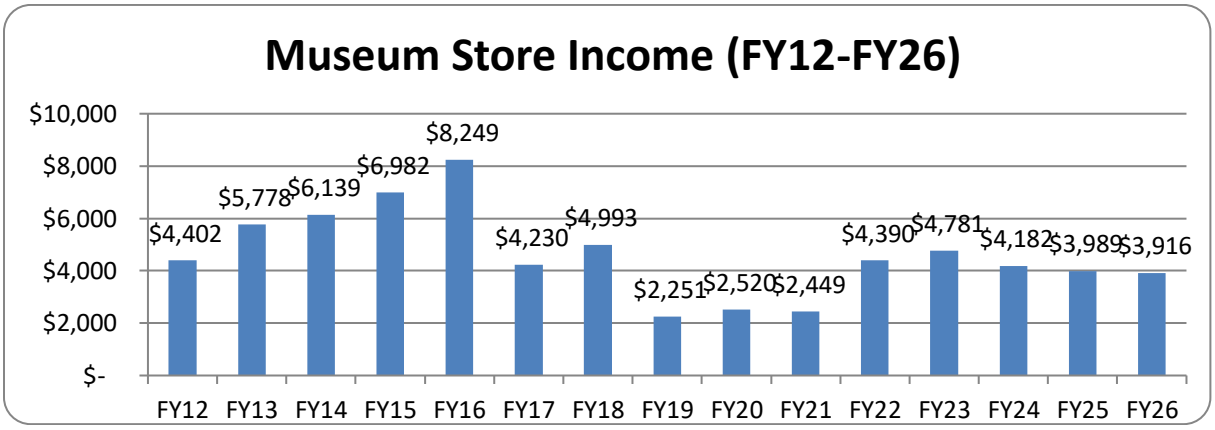


14. Museum Store Sales FY2025 / IDNR Vendor agreement update

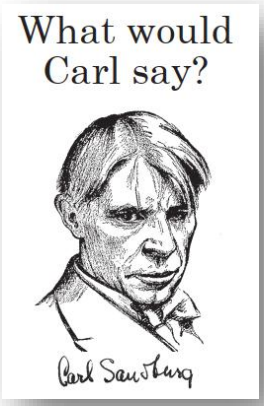
a. **Museum Store Sales, Expenses & Net Income FY2026 were virtually even with FY2025**.

CSHSA Museum Store Sales & Expenses			
FY2026		**FY2025**	
Sales	**Expenses**	**Sales**	**Expenses**
$ 3,926	**$ 1,497**	**$ 3,989**	**$ 1,483**
Net Income		**Net Income**	
$2,353		**$ 2,368**	

b. **Out-of-Print Offerings.** We continue to seek out-of-print copies of the many published books by and about Carl Sandburg. The 80 titles purchased at the Bednar Estate Sale in August 2025, many of them first editions and signed by Sandburg have been very popular. Tommy Wallenfeldt has reported many Sandburg fans who are impressed and pleased to find the number of out-of-print titles that are now on sale in the Museum Store.



15. **Wordsmith Bookshoppe has created a new "Sandburg Shelf" of Carl Sandburg-related books provided by the CSHSA Museum Store.** Sandburg-related titles provided by our Museum Store will be sold on consignment. In the past Wordsmith Bookshoppe has tried not to compete with the Sandburg Site's museum store and has referred these customer requests to the Historic Site and our Museum Store. This past year Teri Parks, the owner of Wordsmith Bookshoppe proposed creating a "Sandburg Shelf" as an alternative that would allow them to meet the needs of their customers interested in Sandburg and to allow the Museum Store to profit from the sale of these publications, as well. We have currently provided Wordsmith with Sandburg-related publications acquired by our Museum Store that are currently in-print. Our many out-of-print & used titles will not be sold through Wordsmith at present. We received our first quarterly Consignment check from Wordsmith for $169.99 from the sale of 9 books from the Sandburg Shelf!



16. **What's new in the Museum Store: "What would Carl Say?" greeting cards.** The Museum Store is now offerings a series of greeting cards designed by retired local graphic designer, **Karen Noble**. There are six different greeting cards for different occasions that will be sold individually and as a set of six cards that include some whimsy and quotes from Carl. The cards have been printed locally by Tom White, Discount Printing. We thank Karen Noble for her idea and design which she is providing gratis to the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association for sale the Museum Store.

17. **In early May 2026 we posted an article to Facebook provided by John Quinley, Hendersonville, NC, entitled "The Four Winds Will Have Us All": A Lost Poem by Carl Sandburg Once Again Found By Franklin Mason and John Quinley.**

18. **John Quinley also sent a copy of his script of a "Social Justice General" presentation (see link) …with permissions for CSHSA to use, if we wish. Social-Justice-General_Quinley_2026.pdf**

19. **John & Melissa Quinley Visit from Hendersonville, NC - August 21-22. Reception, Thursday, August 21, 2025. 3-5pm at the Site.**

    We had a delightful reception for the Quinleys with members of the CSHSA Board and other CSHSA Members on Thursday, Aug 21, 2025. John provided a short summary of his personal journey with the life of Carl Sandburg and as a docent with the National Historic Site, including his work on the book ***Discovering Carl Sandburg***, the ***Letters from a Sandburg Docent*** series and now his readers' theatre production of ***The Many Lives of Carl Sandburg***. We were joined by **Steve Duchrow (Dekalb, IL)** author and performer of a wonderful one-man Sandburg play. On Sept 27, 2025, Duchrow provided the Sandburg narration in the opening performance of Aaron Copland's ***Lincoln Portrait*** for the Knox-Galesburg Symphony at the Orpheum Theatre, Galesburg.

    Finally, we enjoyed a group dinner at Galesburg's Packinghouse restaurant.

    Rex Cherrington provided the Quinleys with his legendary Sandburg history driving tour of Galesburg on Friday morning before they continued their vacation through Illinois, Wisconsin & Michigan before returning to North Carolina.

20. **Shanon Hudgins from IDNR's Concessions & Leasing Office offered a revised IDNR contract that addressed the issues we had discussed in her February 6, 2026 visit to the Site.** Shanon Hudgens shared the latest version of the proposed Museum Store "IDNR Concessions" Contract.

Summary of the adjustments CSHSA has received in our Concessions contract:

- **a.** Elimination of the $25 per event activity fee CSHSA-sponsored events, i.e., Songbag, and reports related to the events and our gate receipts.
- **b.** Elimination of the $100 space rental fee for our Museum Store operations.
- **c.** Allowance for IDNR staff to continue to handle sales transactions.
- **d.** Allowance for CSHSA use of IDNR's Wifi for our Square sales credit card transactions.
- **e.** CSHSA will add the IDNR required insurance coverage for "Hired & Non-Owned Auto" coverage our "employees." (Indiana Farmers has provided this add-on coverage at a reasonable cost.)

21. **Shanon Hudgins from IDNR's Concessions & Leasing Office sent a copy of the final IDNR concessions contract with all the official signatures. Treasurer Sayre also provided the following annual documentation for her records:**

    a. **2026 Price list of all items sold**
    b. **Business Registration**
    c. **Picture(s) of items Made in the USA**
    d. **Certificate of insurance for Hired and Non-owned auto**

22. **Adda George Collection Donation Received / Gillian Hollenberg / July 2026**
    In July 2026 the Historic Site received a collection of papers and clippings donated by Gillian Hollenberg, Adda George's great-granddaughter. The papers include newspaper articles and other documents related to the acquisition and restoration of Carl Sandburg's Birthplace Cottage at 331 E. Third. We are anxious to see these valuable documents appropriately organized and digitized.

    Google Photo Album: **Adda George Collection Donation To Carl Sandburg State Historic Site - Gillian Hollenberg / July 2026** **[https://photos.app.goo.gl/57ewgRfCR4gcTJm38**

23. **Thomas Wallenfeldt, IDNR Site Interpretive Coordinator**, is in his seventh year of serving the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site has officially been promoted to a full-time position with IDNR along with the expanded hours of the site now operating Wed-Sun (9am-4pm). Thomas has been able to devote more time to address many of the Site's needs…but most importantly providing the additional hours of access to Site visitors. The Board continues to be very grateful for Tommy's enthusiasm and dedication to the board, the visitors, and the activities at the Site. We are starting to see more movement on IDNR addressing the physical needs of the Visitors Center and Sandburg's Birthplace Cottage.

24. **Scott Roman, our Historic Site's IDNR Site Superintendent** is responsible most directly with the Blackhawk State Historic Site in the Quad Cities area. In his role as Site Superintendent, he has been overseeing six IDNR historic sites for the state, including Bishop Hill State Historic Site.

Scott has been serving in an ex-officio capacity on our board. His 27 years of experience with Illinois state historic sites has been invaluable.

Link to FY2026 Annual Statistical & Financial Reports on Dropbox

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sayre – CSHSA Treasurer & Board Member (9/8/2026)