

**Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission**

**TO:** Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair, Legislative Council  
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair, Legislative Council

**FROM:** Michael Mayton, Chairman, Governor's Mansion Commission  
Mary Ashleigh Harper, Governor's Mansion Administrator

**SUBJ:** Annual Governor's Mansion Report

**DATE:** Submitted November 1, 2024

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Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 22-3-805, the Governor's Mansion Commission submits this 2024 Annual Report for the fiscal year 7-01-2023 to 6-30-2024.

**Historic Mansion**

The Sanders Family have enjoyed the past year making 1800 Center Street their home. The Mansion served as a wonderful space for Governor Sanders and Mr. Sanders to host several inaugural events, and we hope for these events to grow into memorable traditions for the duration of Governor Sanders' administration. It is always a privilege to be able to open the Mansion doors to thousands of guests throughout the year, both fellow Arkansans and those from abroad. Our staff is honored to showcase the qualities and standards that have become synonymous with the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.

**Capital Projects**

Throughout this period, a number of capital improvement projects have been underway at the Governor's Mansion. These were made possible through the generosity of the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC). In May 2022, the Governor's Mansion was awarded a grant by the ANCRC in the amount of \$339,300 with funding available July 1, 2022. This grant was extended through June 30, 2024. A second grant was awarded in May 2023 in the amount of \$518,125 with funding available July 1, 2023, this grant has been extended through June 30, 2025. The primary goal of these grants was to fund the replacement of the Mansion's aging and obsolete water source heat pumps (mechanical) and an upgrade for the mechanical controls software. Acting as the grant contact and recipient, the Division of Building Authority has supervised the replacement of a total of fifteen (15) water source heat pumps in the original Mansion and Grand Hall during this period, as well as the controls software upgrade. While the water source heat pumps have been the primary focus of the grant funding, the grants also authorized funding for a number of additional projects that were identified as critical to the ongoing safe and efficient operation of the Mansion. These projects are listed below:



### **Capital Improvements completed:**

- Replacement of fifteen (15) water source heat pumps in the original Mansion and Grand Hall. (Five pumps remain to be replaced with new funding.)
- Upgrade of the mechanical control system that operates the heat pumps.
- Forensic testing of the building's envelope to identify air infiltration & ventilation issues contributing to excess moisture in the Mansion.
- Installation of four (4) dehumidifiers in the original Mansion attic as a result of #3.
- Addition of backdraft dampers, new thermostats and fiberglass batting and R board in the attic of the Mansion.
- Repairs to the exterior balconies of the Grand Hall to address ongoing leaks: replaced the roof membrane on both balconies and installed a Siplast roofing system with new flash drain bowls and concrete pavers.
- Re-worked the metal coping on the skylight in the Grand Hall atrium to eliminate leaks.
- Installation of a Concealed Weapons Detection System by Motorola operated by the Arkansas State Police for visitor screening.

### **Maintenance/Repairs**

As with any large complex that hosts many guests, the buildings and grounds of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion will have continuing needs. The staff and crew working at the property strive daily to uphold the standards required to keep the mansion in a condition for all Arkansans to take pride in.

- The Governor's office had a minor renovation that included installation of a mantle and bookshelves. Taxpayer money was not used, the renovation was fully funded by the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association.
- Ongoing repairs in the Grand Hall include properly cleaning, re-touching paint and repairing cracks.
- Two sections of the Grand Hall hardwood flooring were repaired due to water damage from the failing roofing from the two Grand Hall balconies.
- The staircase metal railing in the lower and upper atrium along with the railing in the Grand Hall were painted. Taxpayer money was not used, the project was fully funded by the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association.
- Two tankless hot water heaters were installed servicing the private residence and carriage house replacing existing failing hot water heaters.
- Partial exterior railing was installed on the west side of the Grand Hall balcony as a safety precaution. The exterior railing currently blocks over a 20 foot drop off.

### **Mansion Landscaping and Gardens**

- Exterior brick and pathways are extensively pressure-washed to remove grime.
- Two historic fountains on the property were repainted along with the fountains' filtration system being serviced and winterized annually.



- Gates on the property are properly serviced on an as-needed basis.

**Future Considerations:**

Due to an aging boiler, we are working on replacing the current boiler with an energy efficient boiler, which will be paid for by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC).

**Visitors**

Throughout the course of the year, we welcomed over 5,000 guests through the doors of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion as Governor Sanders and family hosted a multitude of events. It was an honor to open the doors to fellow Arkansans, as well as people visiting from different states and countries, and we look forward to welcoming many more in the upcoming year. Our staff and crew consider it an honor to serve in Arkansas' most iconic home.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ashleigh Harper".

Mary Ashleigh Harper  
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Administrator

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Mayton".

Michael Mayton  
Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission Chairman



## **Attachment**

### **Purchases Donated by Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association – FY 2023**

J. Jones Interiors: Various decorative and furniture items  
Brockinton Upholstery Company: Furniture items  
Sound Concepts: Installation of electronics and materials  
Wood Painting Contractors, LLC.: Labor and materials  
Cantrell Design Center: Various decorative and furniture items  
The Shade Above Lighting Collection: Decorative Items  
Park Hill: Seasonal Décor  
Tanarah Luxe Floral: Seasonal Décor  
Finley Design Group: Various decorative and furniture items  
Powell Creative Woods: Construction, labor and materials  
Cobblestone and Vine: Various decorative and furniture items  
Providence Design: Various decorative and furniture items  
Tablecloth Factory: Table linens