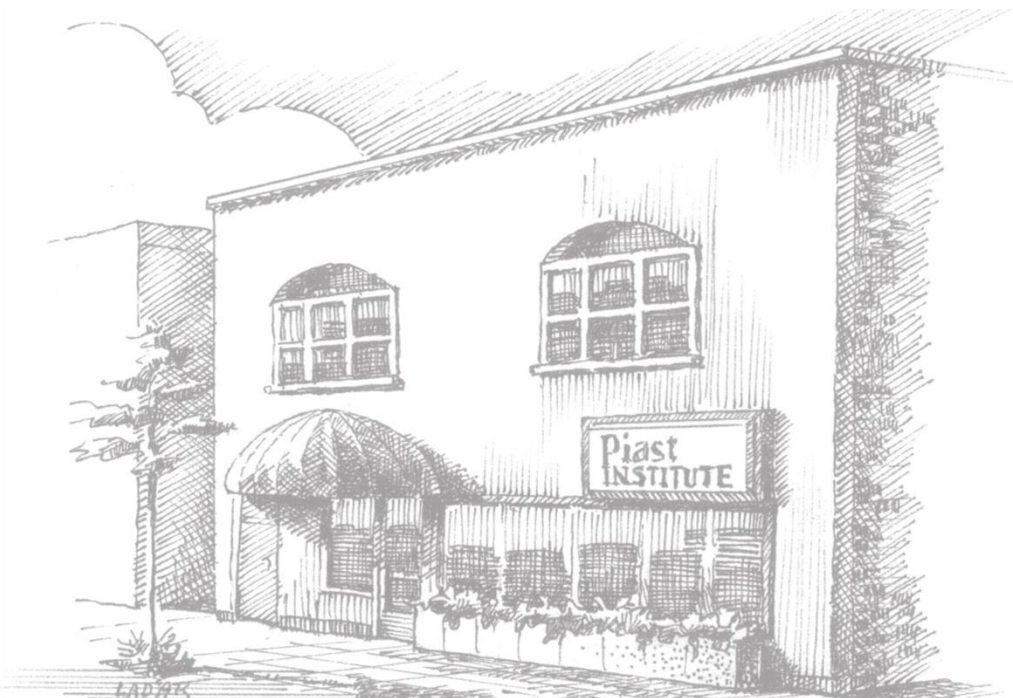


Annual Report 2022



11633 Joseph Campau
Hamtramck MI 48212
313.733.4535

www.piastinstitute.org



11633 Joseph Campau
Hamtramck, MI 48212

P 313.733.4535

F 313.733.4527

www.piastinstitute.org



A Message from the CEO...

As the fiscal year closes and the calendar year comes to an end, we want to share with you some of the work we have been doing in 2022. As you know the Piast Institute is a unique institution. Founded in 2003 as a 501(C) (3), it is a national, nonprofit research and service organization. The Institute studies and surveys the Polish American community to develop data, information, policy and publications to promote the flourishing of the Polish and Polish American community. It is committed through all aspects of its work to building bridges to other groups with whom Polish Americans share the American dream.

Since its inception, the Piast Institute has had a strong commitment to not only the Polish American people but to the entire community. It is important to the mission of the Institute to encourage the continuation of the culture and traditions that we value. Our vision is to grow the Piast Institute to be the premier resource and research center for Polonia and ethnic studies in the United States. We believe that a strong, united community requires dedication through citizenship and inclusion of diversity.

We hope you will take a few minutes to review our accomplishments and our plans for the upcoming year.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Virginia Skrzyniarz'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Virginia Skrzyniarz
CEO/Co-Founder

OUR MISSION

The Piast Institute is a national research organization and official Census Information Center (CIC). It serves the Polish American community and other ethnic groups, nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies through research, data analysis, publications, consulting and capacity building.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The Institute's scope of services includes but are not limited to, strategic planning, capacity building, cultural competency training, questionnaire development, grant management, social and economic research and reports, focus group facilitation, and mentoring.

Piast Institute Welcomes New Board Member

The Piast Institute was pleased to welcome Stella Szczesny to its Board of Directors. Ms. Szczesny was elected unanimously at the September 29th meeting.

Stella Szczesny has been an active member of the Polish community on a local and national level.

Ms. Szczesny has been previously involved with the Piast Institute in various capacities including the Dekaban Committee, Polish Women's Hall of Fame project, and more recently on its drug free coalition, the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC).



Stella Szczesny has received her B.A. from Madonna College in Social Science and her M.B.A. from the University of Detroit. She has also studied Education and Reading Instruction from Eastern Michigan University and Business and Accounting from Marygrove College.

Virginia Skrzytniarz, Piast Institute CEO and Co-Founder, stated "Ms. Szczesny will be an incredible addition to the Piast Institute board, bringing years of experience serving Polonia."

POINTS OF PRIDE

Census

The Piast Institute is one of forty-seven United States Census Bureau Information Centers (CIC), and only one of two located in Michigan, which allows us access to all major databases of U.S. census information.

Polish Language Classes

The Piast Institute offered Polish language classes for adults and children at all levels. Beginner, intermediate, advance as well as conversational classes.

Anti-Defamation

Part of the mission of the Piast Institute is to present an accurate, nuanced and fully rounded picture of Poles and Polish Americans and of their histories and cultures in Poland and the New World. It is understood that bias, bigotry and discrimination against any group destroys the fabric of the community. A commitment to tolerance is at the heart of the Polish heritage.

Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy program is a voluntary Michigan Department of Education program to certify students who have high proficiency in both English and another world language. The Seal will provide employers, colleges and universities with a way to identify individuals with strong language and biliteracy skills.



Dekaban Fellowship

The Piast Institute Dekaban Board assists the Dekaban family in the oversight and management of the work of the Dekaban-Liddle Foundations. The Foundations facilitate agricultural, economic, and engineering faculty exchanges between Polish universities located in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Consular Visits

Several times a year, the Piast Institute hosts the Polish Consulate from Chicago. The purpose of the visits is to assist members of Polonia to process their applications and renewal for passports. This reduces the travel to Chicago of those in need of these services.

Socks for Ukraine

With the help of the community, the Piast Institute collected 7,885 pairs of socks in a very short span of time for Ukraine. The socks were sent in multiple boxes and were scheduled to arrive on Saturday, April 16, 2022 and will help so many men, women and children. The variety of socks was outstanding!

Community Outreach

The Piast Institute has a variety of outreach services that include demographic, social and economic research and reports, notary services, and birth certificate/marriage certificate translations (Polish/English).

HDFCC (Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition)

As part of our community outreach programs, the Piast Institute created the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC) in 2007, which works to implement substance abuse prevention programs for youth in Hamtramck and surrounding communities.



HDFCC sponsors many ongoing programs including the Annual Health Hike, Narcan training, Prescription Take-Back Programs, Parent/student drug prevention programs and many others.

Find more information on: **HamtramckDrugFree.com**



Photos from 2022 Hamtramck Health Hike hosted for the community to lead drug free lifestyles.

Featured Donor- 2022 Aleksandra (Sandy) Porter

The Piast Institute is proud to recognize Aleksandra (Sandy) Porter as featured donor of 2022.

She worked to aid the USCIS office in Detroit with Naturalization Ceremonies by acquiring donated locations, donated guest speakers, and donated masters of ceremonies, and contributed to preparation of printed ceremony pamphlets and execution of actual ceremony commencement.



As an immigration specialist, she worked closely with other ethnic communities all around the state of Michigan. She is competent in family immigration matters, such as the I-130, fiancée' visas, H1B visas, Labor Certifications, VAWA cases, U visas, Adjustment of Status, N-400, Employment Authorization to name a few of the types of her legal immigration filings. Sandy represented clients in court cases, as well as conducted immigration interviews with clients at the USCIS office in Detroit.

Though Ms. Porter has retired from her work with the Piast Institute, she continues to be a generous donor and steadfast supporter of the Institute.

Piast Institute Begins Partnership with New Cable Station

Hamtramck has a new local public access TV station. Greg Kirchner of the Hamtramck Public Library has been instrumental in helping to create a new cable TV station, WHPL Channel 19.

At one time, the city had a daily and weekly newspapers including a daily radio program. As time passed, they all went away, except for The Review newspaper. Hamtramck needed a mass media outlet that can get information to its residents daily.

The Piast Institute and the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition are very excited to partner with the Hamtramck Public Library and WHPL Channel 19 to share not only our upcoming events, but health and drug prevention messages. This media venue will give us the opportunity to reach a much broader audience.

Not only can it be reached on TV if you have Comcast, but live access is available through the Hamtramck Public Library Youtube page:
https://youtu.be/6FUs_YSOxSM

Some of the content on the station include council meeting highlights; commission meeting highlights; library programs for adults and for children; story times for young kids; and events sponsored by local organizations. The station will broadcast school events; sports events; social gatherings; informational videos prepared by governmental entities; opinions expressed by residents and business owners; debates and discussions on local issues; and performances by local musicians and artists.



Piast Institute Board

Jason Booza, Ph.D.	Director
Father Andrew Kowalczyk	Chaplain
John Kromkowski, Ph.D.	Director
Zofia Sylwanowicz Ladak	Secretary
John Radzilowski, Ph.D.	Director
Konrad A. Salaber	Director
Virginia L. Skrzyniarz	CEO & Co-Founder
Dominik A. Stecula, Ph.D.	Chair
Levi F. Smith, J.D.	Director
Stella Szczesny	Director

Staff of Piast Institute

Virginia Skrzyniarz, CEO/Co-founder
Malgorzata Tulecki, Executive Director
Robin Koyl, Finance Director
Francine Foote, Senior Researcher
Geneva Rivera, Data Analyst
Marzanna Owinski, Director of Cultural & Educational Programs
Michelle Odrobina, Communication Specialist
Lara Girdwood, HDFCC Director
Shannon Shafer, C3 Program Director
Franciszek Buciek, HPS Student Intern

Sustainability

The Piast Institute works very hard to garner funds from various sources to build our sustainability. While several more are pending, the following list are those grants we have received this year:

Drug Free Communities Grant (DFC)

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

Coalition Support & Community Change Program (C3) from Prevention Network

Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

Wayne Metro Community Action Agency Grants

Family Table-Wayne County Commissioners Award

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grant (STOP Act Grant) by SAMHSA



AmeriCorps



Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Upcoming Events for 2023

In March 2023 the Piast Institute will host, in the first part of a series, author Imogene Salva who will discuss her family's experiences that she has related in her book, "One Star Away."

When Soviet soldiers force their way into the Nowicki home at 3:00am, Ziuta has no idea why her family is being arrested, where they are going or when they will return. From the safety of home in Poland to the slave labor camps of Soviet Russia, Ziuta's family suffers starvation, arctic temperatures, and separation. At their most desperate hour, only a miracle would keep each family member alive. Could a kind-hearted Maharaja from faraway India be the one to rescue Ziuta and hundreds of other distressed Polish children? Imogene Salva reconstructs her mother's wartime experiences to expose us to a part of World War II history not familiar to most Westerners. This thought-provoking true-life story is sure to inspire, while reminding us that human compassion can be found in the most remote corners of the world.

In May 2023, we will host the second part of the series of Polish Americans Today and Yesterday. Dr. Dominik Stecula will discuss the findings of the 2020 Polish American survey that resulted in the publication of second edition of Polish Americans Today in 2020. Dr. Stecula will offer insights and explanations of some of the unpublished data as well as discussion of the data from the book itself.

Piast Institute Building is 100!

The Piast Institute is located in the former Pieronek Photography Studio that was built in 1923. A celebration will be held in 2023 to honor the historic building and all the many events-weddings, communions, families-that were commemorated with photos. The building that was not only the studio but the home of the Pieronek family for many years was donated by Dr. Joann Pieronek to the Piast Institute in 2005.

The Piast Institute turns 20 in 2023!

2023 will mark 20 years that the Piast Institute has been in existence. Several events will be held throughout the year to celebrate. From its very modest beginning in a house on Talbot to its current location on Joseph Campau, the Institute has become a strong presence and a source of community pride in Hamtramck.

