

Community Engagement Report.

Be curious. | GRAND
RAPIDS
PUBLIC
MUSEUM



2023

Vision

To inspire passionate curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Mission

We exist to be a living monument of artifacts, ideas, and stories told through exhibitions, events, and educational programming designed to inspire, motivate, and celebrate our human bond.

We enrich the life of our community through experiences of the wider world in a uniquely Grand Rapids context.

For 169 years, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has been a source of inspiration and a place to cultivate curiosity. From its beginnings in a house in downtown Grand Rapids to its affiliation with Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Museum, at its core, is a learning institution dedicated to accessibility and knowledge for all.



Your support enables the Museum to continue to foster inclusive & engaging experiences.

Dear Supporters and Friends of the Grand Rapids Public Museum,

In the past year, the GRPM has continued in embracing its role as a community-based and focused institution by partnering in and presenting a wide range of programs and experiences that reflect and inform the essence of who we are in West Michigan.

These initiatives, alongside record-breaking membership sales and our recognition as 'Best Museum' in the 2023 Grandtastic Awards, highlight the key role we play. Our efforts in placemaking and sharing the power of narrative underscore our dedication to organizational excellence and to welcoming all. We will continue to cultivate a Museum experience that inspires curiosity, fosters knowledge, and strengthens connections across all communities.

We're embarking on an exciting new era at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and have launched a transformative \$50 million expansion project, marking a new chapter in our nearly 170-year history. This expansion is a testament to our commitment to education, accessibility, and community engagement, poised to double our annual student capacity and enhance riverfront access for all.

We invite you to join us in this journey of growth and discovery. For more information and to stay updated on our progress, please visit grpm.org/expansion.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Dale A. Robertson
President & CEO



Linsey Gleason
Chair, GRPM Board of Trustees

Giving Back

The Museum donates tickets to various Kent County nonprofits and schools on an annual basis.



70,679

visitors from Kent County received free or reduced admissions in addition to free parking due to millage benefits



\$7,824

in 2023 ticket donations;
1,467 tickets donated to children in foster care

Artifacts on Loan

As a service to the community, artifacts from the Collections are loaned to museums, schools and other organizations.



110

objects on loan to 17 organizations in 2023



681

artifacts used for 56 Museum School projects



171

Discovery Kits brought artifact-based learning to 8,605 students

New Donations to the Collections



554

artifacts and specimens received from 95 donors

Igniting Curiosity.

A vibrant learning environment sparks imaginations within the Museum's walls. Students become explorers, discern history through hands-on encounters with artifacts, and learn to ask the next best question for themselves. It's here, surrounded by evidence of the past, that curiosity comes to life. These pivotal moments of discovery extend far beyond a single visit and can shape the future.

Interactive experiences, including educational initiatives such as **Camp Curious** and the Museum's **Immerse** program, are at the core of our mission. We are working to reshape the way people experience museums with the goal of inspiration and engagement in visitors of all ages. Every encounter becomes an opportunity for discovery, transforming the Museum into a community gathering place of exploration and imagination - a space where you can't help but *Be Curious*.

“

The Immerse program is a wonderful opportunity for students to take what we are learning in the classroom and be able to experience those things first hand. They are able to see and touch real artifacts, they are able to explore space in a unique way, and they are able to utilize other modes of learning to experience the content. They are able to solidify a lot of topics in their minds that we have already discussed in class, along with learning and experiencing new things. For my students, Immerse was a bright spot in their year, and they have even developed new aspirations because of it.

GRPS Elementary Teacher
2023

Cultural Exploration & Lifelong Curiosity

The Museum's cultural programming has further reinforced our commitment of community inspiration, with the **Cultural Heritage Festival** drawing an unprecedented crowd of over 1,500 visitors eager to partake in the celebration of diversity. Likewise, our participation in the Global Water Fest's **Dragon Boat Race** echoes our dedication to immersive, hands-on learning, highlighting the importance of cultural literacy and community involvement. These events and initiatives illustrate our belief that education is a continuous journey, one that fosters lifelong curiosity and broadens horizons.

Thought Provoking Exhibits & Programming

Our exhibit collaborations, such as the powerful **Overcoming Hateful Things** have not only presented history but also initiated dialogue, inviting visitors to engage deeply with the narratives of our collective past. Through such experiences, we affirm our commitment to education that is active, inclusive, and meaningful.

In reflecting on the year, it is evident that the Grand Rapids Public Museum has become more than a destination; it is a cornerstone of education in our community. We stand proud as a place where every individual, regardless of age, background or cognitive ability can embark on a lifelong journey of learning and where curiosity is not just encouraged—it is celebrated.



Dragon Boat Race

“

We loved our trip! We had children under one, up to fourteen. Nobody was bored, and there was enough information and exhibits to keep kids and adults busy and educated. Everything was nice and clean, and the layout was perfect. I'm so glad we purchased a membership, we will definitely be returning!

Museum Visitor

May 2023



Cultural Heritage Festival – Grand Rapids Community College Secchia Institute for Culinary Education



370

school groups visited the Museum through in-person field trips (217 Kent County)



40,725

students visited the Museum through field trips. 29,100 of these students attend Kent County schools

18,298

students participated in guided educational programs led by Museum educators; over 90% of those students attend Kent County schools



52

tours of the Archives

1,352

students accessed the Collections, including Museum School students

52,600+

people have accessed the online Collections

Educational Impact.

As a vital educational resource, the Museum offers learners opportunities to stimulate their curiosity through hands-on activities and access to more than 250,000 artifacts in person and virtually through the Museum's online Collections.

Grand Rapids Public Museum School Summer Workshop

In 2022, the Grand Rapids Public Museum hosted the inaugural **Museum School Summer Workshop** with partners, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Valley State University, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. This 3-day workshop shared the successes and learnings from the Grand Rapids Public Museum School with a broader community of educators. Several creative projects were born, including new curriculum for schools using Museum-based exhibits and artifacts. In 2023, the Summer Workshop included presentations focused on museum mindset, place-based education, and design thinking.

The 2023 workshop reached 34 secondary educators, representing 20 schools across 10 public school districts, 2 private schools, and 2 charter schools. Teacher testimonials speak to the value of this professional learning:

“

More effective than the last ten years of teaching PD I've experienced through my district. You have very seriously and intentionally thought of everything that I have ever struggled with in other professional developments.

Public School Teacher
August 2023

2022–2023 Immerse Program

The **Immerse** program provides a week-long learning experience for local schools. The week is crafted and led by the visiting teachers, leveraging exhibition spaces, Museum artifacts and enrichment programs. Teachers are trained and supported through a rigorous orientation in the summer and individualized planning support. The opportunities for teachers to achieve customized learning objectives are endless. Classes select from a variety of staff-led education programs and fascinating planetarium presentations aligned with grade-level curriculum standards. All together, the GRPM Immerse experience provides students with local, hands-on examples of history, science and culture. These experiences connect them deeply to their curriculum and community.

“

This experience strengthens students' appreciation of cultures, history, and community...My students see history come alive, take pride in their own heritage and have a deeper understanding of the community in which they live. The Museum is rich with their history and has so much to offer them in terms of a greater perspective of our city and state. It's also very exciting to use real artifacts to learn about culture and nature, and students truly enjoy being able to handle these objects. This week at the GRPM helps them understand that what we learn in school isn't confined to the walls of a school building and they can learn to use the Museum as a place to learn throughout their life.

Anonymous Teacher
2023



Immerse Educational Program

The 2022–2023 Immerse Cohort:



1,371
students

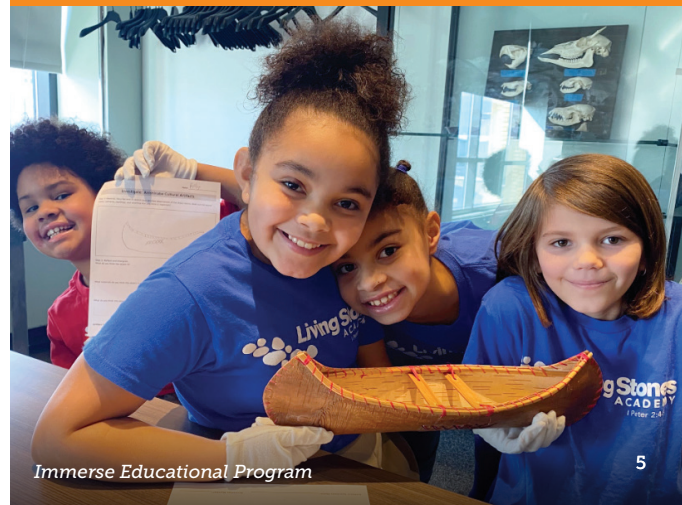


57
classes, grades 2-6



27
schools

6 public school districts
7 private schools
2 charter schools



Immerse Educational Program

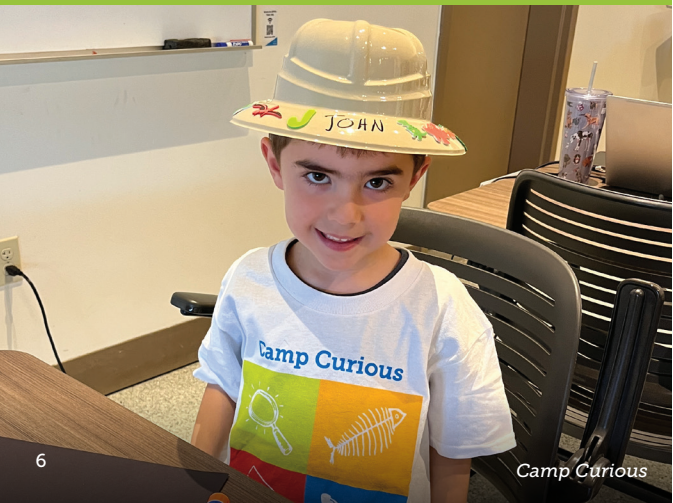


Camp Curious

“

I am very impressed with the teachers at camp. They are experienced, and have realistic age appropriate expectations of campers. My daughter has thoroughly enjoyed the camps she has attended so far this summer, and is eager to be old enough to attend Wizard camp.

Parent of a Happy Camper
Summer 2023



Camp Curious

Camp Curious

In 2023, **Camp Curious** welcomed over 920 young explorers. The Museum's camps provided an exciting summer of educational experiences. Themes varied from culinary arts to time travel, space exploration, and a journey into Michigan's Ice Age. A notable new program, **Digital Me**, immersed campers in the world of digital technology. They learned computer coding and design thinking, skills they used to conceptualize future interactive museum exhibits.

Summer Science Leadership Program

- The Summer Science Leadership Program, developed with Grand Rapids White Water, offered high school students a unique opportunity. Learning directly from community partners and officials involved with the River Restoration Project in downtown Grand Rapids, they gained experience in environmental science, including bug collecting, water sampling, engineering and community engagement. This program emphasized the principles of sustainability and responsible stewardship.

Van Andel Education Institute (VAEI)

- Another key partnership was with the Van Andel Education Institute (VAEI) for the **River Rescue! Exploring the Grand** camp. Over four days, campers delved into the Grand River's history and ecosystem. Activities included river exploration and laboratory work at both the Museum and VAEI, offering insights into the journey of stormwater through a city.

The Museum also hosted 14 sessions of Camp Curious: Snowflake Break in December 2022, engaging over 140 campers. These holiday sessions focus on history, science, and culture while connecting with our audience and keeping them curious throughout the year.

After School Partnerships

The DTE Energy Foundation has continued to support after school STEAM programs at the Museum which focus on inquiry-based learning and exploration of a wide range of topics. The program combines career-related exploration with diverse role models working in science professions and hands-on laboratories that emphasize design and innovation. This learning in a fun, after school environment compliments the learning happening during the school day. Lee Middle School students (Godfrey-Lee Public Schools) participated in Fall 2022, and Westwood Middle School students (Grand Rapids Public Schools) participated in Spring 2023.

2023 also brought about a new partnership with the Resurgence Program, housed within Bridge Street Ministries. Resurgence is an after-school mentoring program focusing on our youth's academic, spiritual, and social development. Middle School students from Grand Rapids Public Schools who were enrolled in the program were able to attend 12 weeks of programming that included a weekly trip to the GRPM where Museum educators challenged students to ask the next best question, actively construct their own understandings, and grapple with content.

Weekend Programming

Saturday Investigations for children and families immersed participants in identification of artifacts and specimens, exploration of exhibits, and behind the scenes access. The Museum hosted four Saturday Investigations in October 2022 and four in March 2023. Content included topics from Augmented Reality to West Michigan Habitats. Investigations offered a unique opportunity for intergenerational learning with children and their guardians working together in fun, small-group sessions.



After School Programming

In fiscal year 2023 the number of special events and programs doubled, including new collaborations with community partners. Alongside our Cultural Celebration and STEAM programming, we joined forces with partners like Ebony Road Players, Arab American Intellectual Property Association, and several others. These partnerships support our aim to enhance our community presence and impact, realized through engaging weekend activities for all ages.



Saturday Investigations



Bugs Exhibit

New and Enhanced Exhibits and Programs.

Through support from our community and the generosity of donors, the Museum was able to explore new worlds, spark curiosity, and bring exhibits to life with our 2023 programming. Here are some highlights:

Bugs

The Grand Rapids Public Museum witnessed a resurgence to pre-pandemic visitation numbers with the introduction of the **Bugs** exhibition on October 14, 2023. This exhibition, a result of a collaboration between Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Wētā Workshop, provided an interactive and educational experience centered on the intricate world of insects.

The exhibition was structured into four immersive chambers, each highlighting the fascinating capabilities of insects like the orchid mantis and jewel wasp, to the collective defense strategies of bees. The aim was to showcase the intelligence and survival skills of these creatures through dynamic, engaging displays.

Bugs represented a key achievement for the Museum, both in terms of visitor engagement and educational impact, highlighting the Museum's dedication to bringing unique and thought-provoking content to its audience, ensuring a legacy of lifelong learning and curiosity.



Historical Reflections: GRPM's Lantern Slide Showcase

This year Grand Rapids Public Museum revealed a historical gem: a collection of magic lantern slides, including scenes featuring the Tuskegee Institute and its President, Booker T. Washington. This discovery invites a glimpse into diverse narratives and educational methods of the past.

Visit grpmcollections.org for a look at the past



Booker T. Washington Lantern Slides, GRPM Collections

Ice Age: Michigan's Frozen Secrets & Snow: Tiny Crystals Global Impact

The 2023 launch of the *Ice Age: Michigan's Frozen Secrets & Snow: Tiny Crystals Global Impact* exhibitions at the Museum marked a significant event, emphasizing its commitment to paleontological research and education. The excitement began in August 2022 when a juvenile mastodon was discovered in Kent City, Michigan, during culvert repairs by the Kent County Drain Commission. The find, made on the Clapp Family's land, led to an extraordinary act of community generosity as the family allowed the excavation and donated the bones to the Museum. This contribution not only enriched the Museum's Collection but also showcased the power of community collaboration in enhancing our understanding of natural history.

The Museum's successful recovery of the mastodon bones demonstrated its trusted role in managing significant paleontological finds and reinforced its reputation as a steward of natural history. Local officials' presence at the exhibition openings further highlighted community support for the Museum, acknowledging its vital role in education, culture, and public engagement. The Clapp Family Mastodon exhibit stands as a testament to the power of partnership in bringing prehistoric life to the public and emphasizes the importance of collective efforts in natural history conservation and interpretation.

Overcoming Hateful Things: Stories from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Imagery

The Grand Rapids Public Museum hosted the *Overcoming Hateful Things* exhibition, which opened on June 3, 2023, delving into African American resilience against racial injustice and the Jim Crow era's lasting impact on race relations. The exhibit included two panel discussions led by the Curator of the Jim Crow Museum and Professor at Ferris State University, Dr. David Pilgrim, with a notable session on August 13 featuring Dr. Bill Pink, Shannon Wilson, and Cyndi Tiedt, addressing diversity, community impact, and historical preservation. This initiative, created by the Jim Crow Museum, encouraged a dialogue on racism and empathy, serving as a platform for education and societal progress.



Traveling & Special Exhibits 2023

Overcoming Hateful Things: Stories From the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Imagery

Ice Age: Michigan's Frozen Secrets & Snow: Tiny Crystals, Global Impact

Fashion + Nature

Bugs



EXPANDING CURIOSITY.

Last year, with the support of our community and state, the Museum began a landmark \$50 million expansion project. This extensive renovation, the Museum's most significant since 1994, is dedicated to enhancing accessibility, expanded programming, and doubling the number of student visitors annually, all while enriching visitor experiences.





Rotunda with Construction Fencing



Dale Robertson accepting a special tribute from Senator Huizenga, Kent County Commissioner Stek, and City Manager Washington

GRPM Expansion.

The project commencement was marked by a ceremonial groundbreaking, on Monday, October 30, 2023. Initial funding for this ambitious project comes from a mix of public and private contributions.

The completion of extensive site work along the riverfront will set the stage for the introduction of native plants and other landscaping improvements, enhancing the Museum's natural surroundings, opening up new learning opportunities, and welcoming the community to closer connectivity with the river.

Advanced terrace and ramp systems that exceed ADA standards are being prioritized to support total riverfront accessibility. It will also seamlessly link a 7.5-mile urban trail to prominent regional trails, such as the White Pine

Trail and Kent Trails, creating a more cohesive Grand River Greenway.

Community demand has driven the expansion from its earliest stages where visioning sessions were held to develop the plans. They align with the Museum's educational mission and aim to double the capacity for student groups in response to a 279% increase in visitation over the past decade.

Extending well beyond physical enhancements, the project reflects the continuation of the Museum's commitment as a community host of enrichment, education, preservation, and access. To discover more about this exciting chapter in the Museum's story, please visit grpm.org/expansion.



Educational Programming with PublicOS

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PublicOS has been the fastest way to bring my students from zero technical knowledge to authoring digital experiences they're proud of.

Ben Hoff
Museum School Teacher



Students at Tech Defenders Booth

Revolutionizing Digital Literacy.

Grand Rapids Public Museum's Trailblazing PublicOS Initiative

Started in 2013, the Museum's **Digital ME** Initiative took a huge leap forward with its PublicOS platform. The Museum has not just embraced the digital era – it's leading it. With a mission to make digital literacy accessible to all, PublicOS will transform how our community interacts with technology, turning everyday gadgets into powerful educational tools.

The Core of PublicOS:

PublicOS stands out for its ability to empower lifelong learners to both consume and create content using cutting-edge technologies like AI, XR (Extended Reality), and IoT (Internet of Things), all from the devices they already own. A prime example was the **Digital ME** Camp, where students harnessed Chromebooks to craft 3D virtual exhibits. These weren't just any exhibits; they brought real artifacts from the Museum's digital collection to life, viewable through XR.

The initiative's success is also marked by its collaborations with local entities like Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, The Midwest Tech Project, and educational institutions like Innovation Central and KCTC. This synergy birthed diverse projects ranging from step-by-step coding tutorials to immersive digital dioramas and VR job simulators.

One standout innovation was a digital diorama of how atoms work, created by students from our Museum School. Using spatial technology, they transformed a simple classroom project into an interactive 3D experience, complete with virtual interactions of real scientific principles.

Capping the year, the Museum's invitation to a major conference on digital privacy around AI and immersive web technology highlighted its leadership in the digital domain. Looking ahead, the Museum aims to enrich its digital collections with more public contributions, fostering community involvement and expanding knowledge for all.

Volunteer Impact.

For many Museum visitors, our volunteers are the public face of the organization. During this last year, the GRPM offered 15 different volunteer opportunities to interested community members. Our volunteer office greeted school groups, interacted with day to day guests, facilitated special events activities, and assisted other department's projects within the Museum. GRPM volunteers are research and education assistants, gardeners, organists, and exhibit interpreters, all bringing history, science, and culture to life.

The GRPM is proud of its ever-evolving team of volunteers. Our longest serving volunteers have been with us for over 20 years, while others have started in recent months. Our oldest regularly scheduled volunteer is 96 and our youngest is 16. We are grateful for college students who fit volunteering into their busy schedules and find value in giving back to the community through their own passions for history or education. Early retirees bring enthusiasm, as well as a trove of skill-based experience which supports the endeavors of the Education Department. Those who remember the "old Museum" help us to remember and appreciate our story, while high school volunteers keep us excited about where we are going.

“

As an education assistant at the GRPM I fully expected and looked forward to interacting with lots of inquisitive students and helping them to learn about the world around us. What I did NOT expect was how much learning about our world that I too would pick up on from my time at GRPM. The world is a cool and interesting place. From my personal experience, GRPM is doing a great job helping students and educators alike to both answer questions and remain curious.

Sheri Shroeder
GRPM Volunteer



Volunteer in the Dolls Exhibit

Volunteer Hours:



8,660

volunteer hours

an increase of **27%**
over the previous year.



Volunteer Working the Lathe



Paraguay Field Research

GRPM Research Projects.

Paraguay Field Research

GRPM's Science Curator Dr. Cory Redman is co-leading an international research project based in Paraguay. The project examines the distribution, composition, and preservation of vertebrate remains in the Pilcomayo distributive river system (DRS), to improve our understanding of the distribution and condition of vertebrate fossils in the nonmarine rock record. The Pilcomayo DFS in Paraguay was chosen for this study because it is one of the largest, largely unmodified DRS in the world and is home to a diverse group of vertebrates, including large and small reptiles, mammals, birds and fishes, making it a good comparison to the fossil record. Dr. Redman was part of a twelve-person team that spent three weeks in Paraguay and mapped 175 sites in remote areas near Pozo Hondo and General Diaz. This multi-year project is being co-led with Dr. Jason Moore at the University of New Mexico, in collaboration with three Paraguayan geologists at the Universidad Nacional de Asunción.

“

Museum-led research will directly inform programming and educational opportunities for the community.

Dr. Stephanie Ogren

*GRPM Vice President
of Science and Education*

Lake Sturgeon Research Partnership

The Grand Rapids Public Museum has been conducting Lake Sturgeon research for the past six years. Last year, with the successful location of juvenile sturgeon in the Grand River, we were able to grow the program to include researchers and graduate students from Grand Valley State University. This year with support of the USFWS the team again conducted surveys and documented Lake Sturgeon. The project also includes habitat assessment and innovative research to look at population dynamics and spawning estimates. Partners include Encompass Social-Ecological Consulting, John Ball Zoo, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



Lake Sturgeon Research

Core Exhibit Redesign.

As part of its capital campaign and redesign, the GRPM is working on exciting updates to its core exhibits. These educational and immersive spaces define the GRPM experience. The work we do now will ensure they continue to delight visitors for generations. Exhibits include:

- *Anishinaabek: The People of This Place*
- *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids*
- *West Michigan Habitats*

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is pleased to provide an update on its ongoing collaboration with Michigan tribes and the Grand Rapids Native community. The original exhibit, *Anishinaabek: The People of This Place*, was first introduced 30 years ago and has witnessed substantial transformations within Michigan's tribal landscape over the years. Michigan Tribes are leaders in business, environmental stewardship, and cultural revitalization, and we are delighted to be working alongside the Native community to share these significant milestones with the broader public.

In addition to the exploration of traditional ways of life, the upcoming exhibit will place emphasis on contemporary tribal individuals, showcasing how the Anishinaabe community continues to preserve and invigorate its culture.

The Museum's Curatorial, Exhibits, & Education staff are also working on developing three new immersive spaces to finish the upper story of *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids*. We are currently working on code compliance and accessibility for the second floor of the Streets and will announce the new 1890s businesses soon. These brand-new shops will be accessible to all through a new lift and staircase.



Visitor in the West Michigan Habitats Exhibit

“

The GRPM's core exhibits keep visitors coming back again and again. These updates will ensure that they remain accurate and relevant for another generation.

Alex Forist
GRPM Chief Curator



Visitors in the West Michigan Habitats Exhibit



Intersection of Art and Nature Programming

“

Camp Curious is an inclusive and welcoming program that offers something for every child. We have been participating since my oldest child was eligible and will continue until my youngest ages out. We feel very lucky that such a great museum with incredible programming so close to us!

Museum Visitor
Summer 2023



Saturday Investigations

2023 Engagement.

The GRPM engaged with visitors both in-person and virtually this year, through additional digitally-accessible programs, the GRPM's online Collections and more.

2023 Attendance

Total visitors:

203,615

Total school group attendance:

40,725

Kent County visitation:

70,697

Kent County school group attendance:

29,100

Website visitation:

364,736

GRPM Collections visitation:

50,870

Planetarium attendance:

67,026

Museums for All visitation:

10,158

Museum member households:

4,098*

Fiscal year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

* Museum Member households at the end of FY23





GRPM Collections Tour

“

What a gem of a museum. Lots of interactive exhibits for the kids and interesting exhibits for all ages. From Bugs to Dolls, old Grand Rapids to Outer Space, this is a well-designed museum with a lovely view of the river.

Museum Visitor
November 2023



Chair Camp

Facilities Updates.

Thanks to the generous support of our community along with private donations and grants, the Museum was able to make investments that provide better experiences for visitors and improve the efficiency and sustainability of our operations.

Van Andel Museum Center

- Replaced HVAC motor on air conditioner #8
- Added 3-phase power to rooftop for chiller units
- Added a backflow preventer to reverse osmosis unit on 4th floor
- Freight elevator modernization thanks to a capital grant through MACC

Carousel Renovation Project

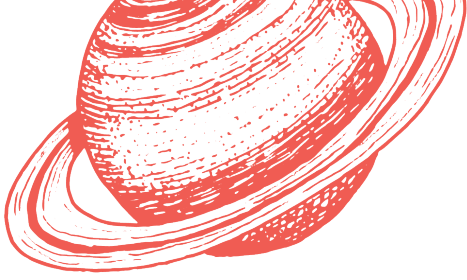
- A total of 16 horses have been completely refurbished and reinstalled on the carousel with another 5 horses currently being painted, 2 in the sanding process, 7 primed, and 2 being repaired offsite
- Replaced seal on carousel gear box
- Began restoration of Wurlitzer band organ
- Installed a new tapered coupler allowing for a greater capacity of riders
- Installed oiler that will improve maintenance, and extend the life of the carousel
- Passed our second annual full carousel inspection since reopening the carousel

Exhibits

- Work continues on designs for *Anishinaabek: The People of This Place*, *West Michigan Habitats*, and *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids* exhibits refresh
- Installed dust collector, gear box, and emergency shut off in the *Lathe* exhibit
- Work has begun on second floor of *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids* exhibit including the design of stairs for an egress

Construction

- Removed artifacts, trees, lamp posts, and bollards from Museum lawn
- Installed fencing and portion of site work lights
- Removed all riverside overgrowth
- Installed a live feed camera across the river to capture entirety of the project



Planetarium

- New seats and headrests installed
- Armrests refurbished

Ramp

- Replaced signage throughout
- Bird deterrents added
- Improved lighting at first floor elevator landing
- Parking Ramp Asset Management was completed by December 2023, including repairs to concrete, electrical, and drainage as well as application of traffic coatings and sealants

Voigt House

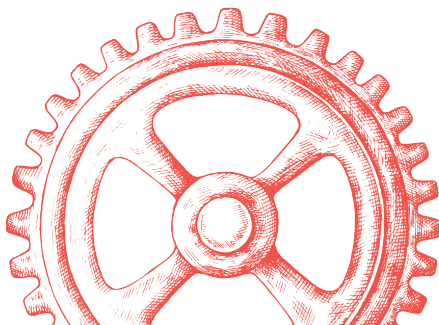
- Maintained the facility and garden
- Repaired missing slate roof tiles
- Opened gardens up for Heritage Hill tour

Calkins Law Office

- Repaired porch and foundation
- Open to public for Heritage Hill tours
- Repainted exterior

The Mounds

- Regular inspections and clean up excursions



Making the MexiRican City Panel Discussion

Investing in Kent County

By shopping local whenever we can, we support our Kent County vendors by purchasing various goods and services. These range from insurance and administrative needs to the procurement of local designers, artists and other craftspersons. In 2023 the Museum had over \$6.3 million of expenses, 54% of which was reinvested into our community through local organizations.



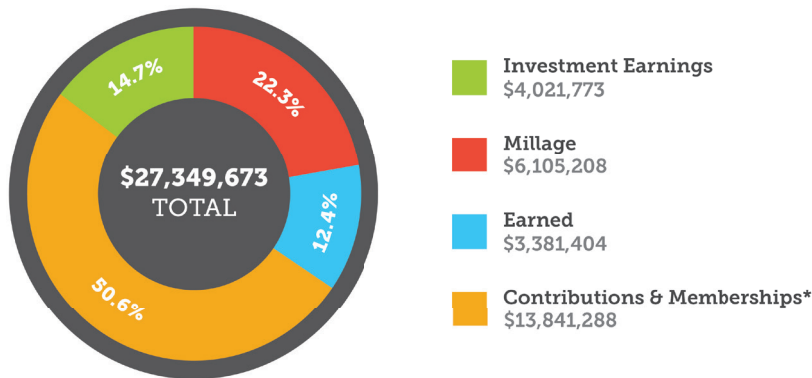
Meteor Shower at Veen Observatory

2023 Museum Budget.

The Museum is grateful to the voters of Kent County for the millage that covers core operational costs, including caring for 250,000+ community artifacts, allowing for facility improvements and previously deferred maintenance and enhancing educational programs and exhibits.

Budget Breakdown

REVENUE

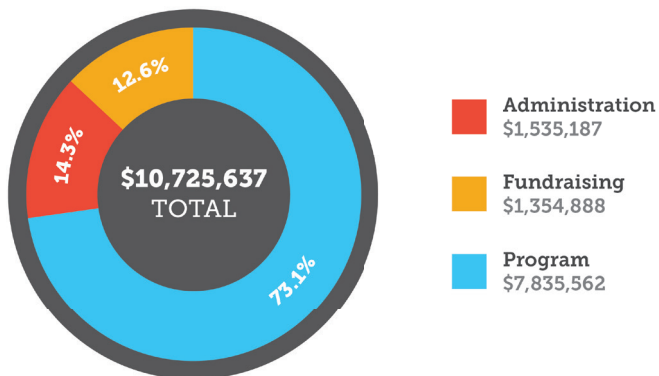


Total Net Assets

\$73.7 million

*\$11.5 million raised for GRPM Expansion

EXPENSES



Board of Trustees

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 Dr. Lupe Ramos-Montigny
 Lyman Parks, Jr.

Thank you to these individuals and corporations who have made contributions to the Museum in 2023.

Fiscal year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

\$100,000+

Amway
City of Grand Rapids
Great Lakes Fishery Trust
Jandernoa Foundation
Kent County
Klopocic Family Foundation
State of Michigan
The Right Place
John S. Widdicombe Trust

\$50,000+

Consumers Energy Foundation
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
James & Barbara Haverman
Michigan Arts and Culture Council
Sebastian Foundation
Martin Shedleski Non GST Exempt Trust
David & Carol Van Andel Family Foundation
The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation

\$25,000+

Meijer, Inc.

\$10,000+

13 ON YOUR SIDE
Peter C. & Emajean Cook Foundation
Baldwin Foundation
Michelle Behrenwald
Creative Machine Repair, LLC
Eileen DeVries Family Foundation
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.
Erhardt Construction Co.
Fox 17-WXMI
Gillett Family Foundation Trust
Hoerr Schaudt
Howard Miller Company
iHeartMedia, Inc.
John & Nancy Kennedy
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.
The Peter & Joan Secchia Family
SHARPE
Townsquare Media
Allen & Nancy Vander Laan
Varnum LLP
Williams Kitchen & Bath

\$5,000+

Anonymous
BDO Seidman, LLP
Buist Electric, Inc
Chase Creative Unlimited
Crystal Flash, Inc.
Cumulus Media
Custer, Inc
Eenhoorn
Marlin Feyen & Ruth Posthumus
Grand Valley State University
Cindy Porter Janes & Mark Janes
J.C. & Tammy Huizenga

Kum & Go
Lacks Enterprises, Inc.
Mercantile Bank
Mnemonic Technology Consulting, LLC
Modales Vineyard & Winery
New Holland Brewing Company
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the
Potawatomi
OUTFRONT Media
Kara Peltier
Kelli Jo Peltier
Bruce & Rebecca Pionton
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Grace L. Schouten Memorial Fund
TowerPinkster
Via Design
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Wolverine Worldwide Foundation
WOOD TV8

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Kennari Consulting
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Carol Muth
Newco Design Build
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Joan Secchia
Steelcase Inc.
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WGVU Public Media
Yellow House Architects

\$1,000+

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Kristen Aidif
A.K. Rikk's
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Janet Baxter
Syd & Mary Baxter
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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Foundation
John & Susan Borgman
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Fred Goldberg & Holly Perkins
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Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Rapids Kids
Grand Valley Automation, Inc.
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