

# Community Engagement Report.

*Be curious.* | GRAND  
RAPIDS  
PUBLIC  
MUSEUM



2024

# 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 170 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,

This year, we proudly celebrated 30 years at the Van Andel Museum Center at 272 Pearl St., marking three decades as a community gathering space, where history, science, and culture come alive. The building is a gift, a place for the community and all visitors to the region, at any time of year, to walk through our doors and learn, consider, question, plan, and grow—a place to be curious.

In 2024, we made significant strides toward making our Museum even more inclusive by introducing accessibility initiatives like Sensory Sundays. The ongoing expansion along the riverfront includes pathways that exceed ADA standards and an accessible Carousel chariot. As lifelong learners ourselves, we are dedicated to doing better every day. We are committed to continuing to ensure everyone has an exceptional experience.

Looking ahead, the future is bright. This fall, the riverfront and Carousel will re-open to the public, alongside blockbuster traveling exhibits and the unveiling of new core displays. Our Camp Curious sessions are filling up faster than ever, and we can't wait to welcome another generation of learners and explorers.

If it's been a while since your last visit, we invite you to come back and enjoy special Kent County discounts, including free admission for Kent County kids 17 and under. Even better—become a member! We're confident you'll want to be a part of all the exciting things ahead.

Sincerely,



Dale A. Robertson  
President & CEO



Linsey Gleason  
Chair, GRPM Board of Trustees



*Museum Visitors in The Nature of Color Exhibit*



## Giving Back

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



**87,727**

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



**\$5,652**

in 2024 ticket donations;  
**1,105** 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.



**107**

objects on loan to 17 organizations in 2024



**947**

artifacts used for 52 Museum School projects

## New Donations to the Collections



**2,098**

artifacts and specimens received from 73 donors

## Igniting Curiosity.

In 2024, the GRPM ignited curiosity through engaging exhibits and educational programs that visitors of all ages could enjoy. **Building Buddies** launched in January, inviting children aged 2 to 8 to assist the fictional Walton family in constructing their new home. Activities such as painting walls, tending gardens, and fixing leaky pipes encouraged hands-on learning and teamwork, aligning with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) principles. In the summer, **The Robot Zoo** exhibit showcased eight robotic animals, including a nine-foot giraffe and a giant squid, demonstrating the wonders of engineering and zoology. Visitors could interact with these life-sized robots and learn about the real-life animals they represented.

Later in the year, the Museum introduced **The Nature of Color**, an exhibition exploring how color functions in nature and culture. This immersive experience delved into the science of color, its psychological effects, and its significance across various species and societies.

Additionally, the museum's **Camp Curious** summer program provided themed camps for students from pre-K through high school, offering opportunities to experiment, create, and be curious about the world around them.

Through these innovative exhibits and programs, the GRPM fostered a spirit of exploration and learning, sparking curiosity in the Grand Rapids community throughout 2024.



Anishinaabe Culture Day



Camp Curious Wand-Making with Volunteers

“

*I am always looking for ways to make what we learn in science and social studies come to life, and the Immerse program does this more than any other field trip we go on. Students bring up connections throughout the school year, tying what we are learning back to what they experienced at the Museum. The difference between going on a one-day field trip, trying to squeeze everything in, and being able to immerse ourselves in the Museum for five days is astounding. I love that the programs that are offered connect to what we learn in science, social studies, and Social Emotional Learning. As much as I attempt to make learning come to life for my students, I would never be able to do it alone. The resources and educators from the GRPM are unmatched.*

Museum Visitor  
May 2024



Students at GRPM Education Showcase



Cultural Heritage Festival





## Schools

384

school groups visited the Museum through in-person field trips (227 from Kent County)



## Students

43,967

students visited the Museum through field trips. 33,165 of these students attend Kent County schools

16,983

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



## Access to Museum Collections

64

tours of the Archives

1,380

students accessed the Collections, including Museum School students

14,000+

people have accessed the online Collections

## Educational Impact.

The GRPM is a highly sought-after destination for field trips and group visits for learners of all ages. Students can explore history, science, and culture through three floors of engaging exhibits, at their own pace with a self-guided format, utilizing various free educational resources. Classes can also select from engaging, curriculum-aligned guided education programs and planetarium presentations.

### Guided Programs

GRPM educational programs embody a student-centered learning philosophy that aims to highlight unique historical artifacts and scientific specimens and provide concrete connections to the curriculum at local, national, and global levels. During guided education programs, students are led through engaging activities that utilize inquiry-based instructional strategies, allowing students to grapple with the content and generate understandings individually and as a class. This process is accessible and inclusive of varying perspectives and cultural differences that learners bring into the Museum.

“

*The GRPM educators were flexible, moved at a good pace and had high expectations for my students. I felt like I walked away with activities I could use in my classroom. I also loved the type of questions—deep, while leaving stepping stools for all students to access the question.*

3rd/4th Grade Teacher,  
Northview Public Schools

### Educational Impact

The Museum's Immerse program provides a week-long learning experience for Kent County 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 an orientation in the summer and individualized planning meetings. They are trained in project-based learning approaches and are prompted to develop a project that combines curricular objectives with some aspect of their time spent at the GRPM. These projects are presented in a year-end Education Showcase event that reaches an audience of over 1,000 community members. Project ideas across many subject areas have been explored, including: developing exhibit dioramas, researching artifacts, building websites, creating historical timelines and more. Immerse provides students with local, hands-on history, science, and culture. These experiences connect them deeply to their curriculum and community.

#### The 2023-2024 Immerse cohort included:

- 56 classes, grades 2 through 10
- 1,419 students from 30 schools

### Accessible Discovery

Discovery Kits are hands-on resources available for loan, and they are a great way for educators to incorporate primary source and object-based learning into the classroom. They can also help prepare for or extend a field trip. Kits include artifacts and specimens from the Museum's Collection that allow students to investigate global and local objects. Each kit includes authentic objects from the archives and suggested activities. Available thematic kits include Anishinaabe Culture, Early Hominin Stone Tools, Foodways, Fossils, Hats, Holiday Traditions, Meteorites, Music, Newcomers, Numismatics, Rocks & Minerals, Space Exploration, and Zoology.



Immerse Educational Program



To learn more about Discovery Kits and watch our safety video for students and educators, scan the QR code or visit [grpm.org/discovery-kits](https://grpm.org/discovery-kits)



198

kit reservations



10,896

students reached



Immerse Educational Program





Camp Curious

“

My daughter kept calling the camp “back in the day camp”—she loved learning about life in the 1800s, which inspired her to want to make things for herself. We plan on making our own soap and candles very soon!

Parent of Elementary Camper,  
from the Time Travelers Camp  
Summer 2024



Camp Curious

Camp Curious

In 2024, Camp Curious welcomed around 1,000 young explorers. Camp themes varied from building construction to Museum curation, culinary arts to the intersection of art and nature, wizardry and potions to river ecology. Futureville, a collaboration with the Van Andel Education Institute, encouraged young urban planners to transform the future of living! Campers were introduced to the principles of sustainable city design, focusing on innovative transportation and renewable energy solutions. They created blueprints for their ideal city, integrating eco-friendly infrastructure like solar power and green transit systems. This camp session tackled real-world issues like renewable energy, efficiency, conservation, and learning how a city can thrive in harmony with the planet.

Additional camp highlights:

- New in 2024, Museum Makers gave campers an all-access behind-the-scenes look at the GRPM. They investigated Museum jobs, perused the Museum’s extensive collection, and learned what it takes to create an exhibit. The week-long camp culminated in the grand opening of the campers’ very own exhibits.
- Nature’s Engineers explored the connections between engineering and the natural world of West Michigan through outdoor exploration and access to the GRPM Collections. Investigating natural creations like spider webs and beehives, campers explored how nature is filled with amazing structures and patterns, learning about biomimicry and inventions inspired by nature.



Sensory Sundays

The GRPM launched Sensory Sundays, a new quarterly pilot program providing a more accessible Museum experience for those with sensory processing needs. Sensory Sundays feature adjusted sound and lighting within exhibits and offer additional quiet spaces to create a comfortable, low-sensory environment. Additionally, visitors could enjoy a low-sensory planetarium show in the Chaffee Planetarium. This program was made possible through 14 years of hard work from Museum staff, leadership, and partners like KultureCity, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Grand Valley State University’s Occupational Therapy Department, the ADA, and other advocates throughout West Michigan. The success of this program led to the expansion of Sensory Sundays in 2025 to once a month.

GR Stories

GR Stories, a series exploring national issues through a West Michigan lens, expanded to four events in 2024. New this year was the Learning, Loving, and Living series, highlighting the 14th Amendment’s impact in Grand Rapids.

**Learning:** Learning covered its impacts on local students when *Brown v. Board of Education* declared school segregation unconstitutional. A panel of community leaders discussed the closure of South High School and the subsequent transfer of Black students to the predominantly white districts on the West and North sides.

**Loving:** The second panel discussed *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down all state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. A panel of prominent Grand Rapids families in relationships legally affirmed by the *Loving v. Virginia* decision shared their stories, exploring challenges, acceptance, love, and how their unions have made Grand Rapids the city it is today.

**Living:** The final event focused on *Shelley v. Kraemer*, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and local fair housing efforts. A panel discussed Auburn Hills, the founding of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan, and President Ford’s role.



KultureCity Sensory Kit Communication Board



Lessons & Resources

In 2024, the GRPM published an extensive collaborative project with local history teacher Matt Vriesman. The result was a series of Grand Rapids Black History Lessons. This series explores the experiences and resilience of Black residents of Grand Rapids, and how the community responded to injustice over the 20th century.

The GRPM offers free educational tools—virtual kits, scavenger hunts, teacher resources, and tour videos—to help educators bring museum content into the classroom. Learn more by scanning the QR Code above.



GR Stories: Loving in Grand Rapids Panel Discussion





Building Buddies

## Traveling & Special Exhibits, 2024

*Building Buddies*

*Fashion + Nature*

*Mandela: The Official Exhibition*

*The Robot Zoo*

*The Nature of Color*

## New and Enhanced Exhibits and Programs.

Through support from our community and the generosity of donors, the Museum was able to bring in a variety of exhibits to serve a diverse and curious audience. These additions brought new perspectives, stories, and experiences that reflect the richness of our culture and history.

### *Building Buddies*

*Building Buddies*, designed for children aged 2 to 8, invited families to assist the fictional Walton family in constructing their new home. Our youngest visitors engaged in hands-on activities such as painting walls, tending gardens, fixing leaky pipes, and crafting doghouses, fostering early science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) skills. This experience encouraged collaboration and creativity, allowing children to explore, innovate, and contribute to building a vibrant community. Graphics inspired by *Building Buddies* adorned the Galleria windows facing the Museum's riverfront construction as a way for young visitors to learn about the machinery they see through the glass.

### *Mandela: The Official Exhibition*

*Mandela: The Official Exhibition* offered an immersive journey into the life of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first Black president and a global symbol of resistance against apartheid. Visitors explored experiential galleries that chronicled Mandela's life—from his rural childhood in Mvezo, Transkei, through his struggle against apartheid, to his presidency and enduring legacy.

The exhibition provided opportunities for community members to celebrate African cultures through a series of food, textiles, art, and educational programs. *A Night of Traditional Cuisine* with Motherland Xperience was a highlight—collaboration with a local small business. *A Celebration of Mandela* closed out the exhibit's run with a free-with-admission event featuring food vendors, artists, and music.

### *The Robot Zoo*

*The Robot Zoo* blended robotics and biology to explore the fascinating world of animals. Visitors experienced life-sized, robotic creatures inspired by real animals. Through hands-on activities, guests learned about the science behind animal movement and function, like how a chameleon changes color or how a grasshopper jumps.

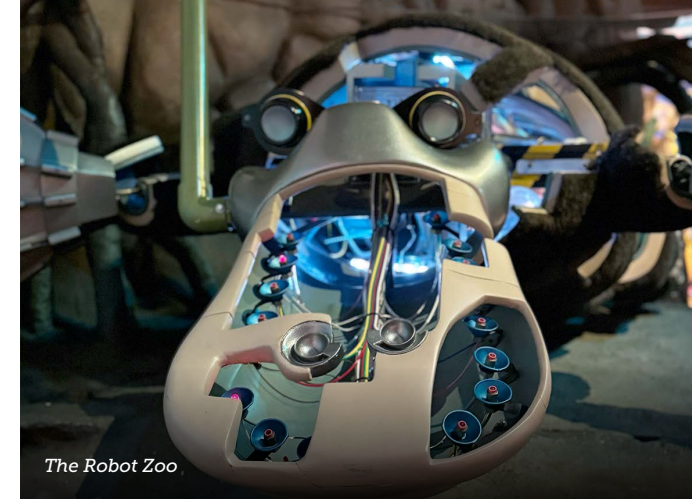
The exhibit allowed visitors to manipulate the robots, discovering how mechanics and technology can replicate biological processes.

### *The Nature of Color*

*The Nature of Color*, developed by the American Museum of Natural History, was a vibrant, interactive exhibition that explored how color shapes our world. Visitors saw how color communicates in nature—helping organisms find food, deter predators, and camouflage or stand out—and across cultures, where colors can signify everything from good luck and power to danger and urgency.

Through hands-on activities and engaging displays, guests discovered the science behind color—how it's created, how it's perceived, and how it influences behavior, emotion, and communication in the natural world. From the physics of light to the cultural meanings of color, the exhibit revealed just how powerful and essential color is to life on Earth.

Our friends at 13 On Your Side created a TikTok dance inside the immersive exhibit space, using the vibrant and interactive setting to engage with audiences.



The Robot Zoo

“

*The traveling exhibits are a very developmentally appropriate part of our visit. Children learn best through play. They also remember more experiences when infused with play.*

**Group Visit Leader**  
Summer 2024



Mandela: The Official Exhibition



The Nature of Color



# EXPANDING CURIOSITY.

The Expanding Curiosity Capital Campaign has raised over \$35,000,000 toward its \$50,000,000 goal.

The riverfront portion of the project will be completed in the fall of 2025 and feature advanced ramp systems, a standout geologic rock wall, and the seamless linkage of a 7.5-mile urban trail to other prominent regional trails.

Educational programming around the river will be a core focus, with plans for expanding those offerings to serve more learners annually.

The Cook Carousel Pavilion, home to the 1928 Spillman Carousel, was disconnected from the Galleria, improving access from the riverfront. Additionally, enhancements are ongoing inside the Cook Carousel Pavilion, providing improved customer flow and accessibility. An ADA-accessible chariot will be a highlight when the Carousel reopens in the fall, allowing guests with mobility devices to experience this community treasure.

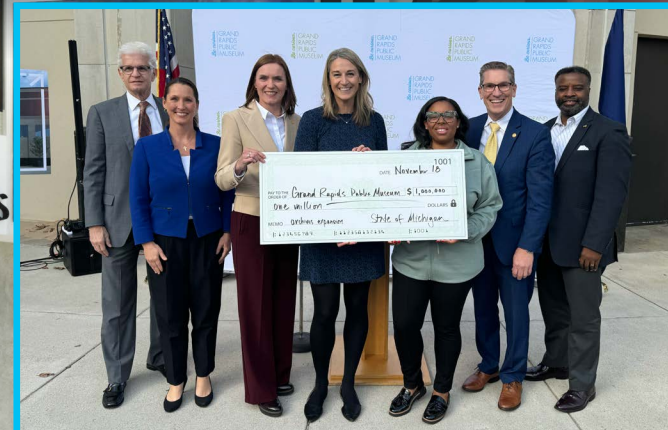


## GRPM Expansion.

The GRPM houses one of the largest public collections in the State of Michigan, consisting of over 250,000 artifacts. Only 5% of these artifacts are currently on public display, while the remaining collections are kept in the Community Archives and Research Center (CARC). The GRPM received a \$1 million grant from the State of Michigan, which helped to reach the \$3.75 million funding goal for improvements to the CARC.

The GRPM aims to create a space where curators, educators, students, and the public can engage with the collections. This renovation will improve public access to the Museum's artifacts, with an additional 5,000 square feet of community space being added to enhance access to the archives and increase capacity for school groups.

Construction on the CARC will begin in late 2025. To discover more about this exciting chapter in the Museum's story, please visit [grpm.org/expansion](https://grpm.org/expansion).



\$1 Million Grant Check Presentation from the State of Michigan

Below: Construction crews unearthed pieces of history at several points during construction. Findings included turbines from the former Voigt Mill and a centrifugal pump from the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company. These artifacts are planned to be salvaged for educational and exhibition purposes.



Construction Crew and GRPM Staff with newly discovered Voigt Mill Turbine





Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on the Blue Bridge

## Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium

The Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium had an incredible year of connecting our community with the wonders of space. From celestial events to immersive programming, 2024 brought countless opportunities to spark curiosity, foster learning, and make science accessible to all.

### Total Solar Eclipse

One of the year's most memorable moments was the April 8 total solar eclipse. While Grand Rapids wasn't in the path of totality, safety and awareness were still essential. Partnering with WOODTV 8, we led a public education campaign months in advance, distributing 10,000 branded eclipse glasses and providing accurate, engaging information to our community. On the eclipse day, we welcomed over 300 people to a viewing party on the Blue Bridge—downtown workers, families, and amateur astronomers all gathered to witness this rare celestial event together.

### Roger That!

In February, we co-hosted the *Roger That!* space exploration conference with Grand Valley State University. This two-day event drew 330 academic attendees and over 1,400 museum guests, with programming designed to inspire future innovators. We distributed 200 STEAM kits to underserved K-12 schools and offered an engineering challenge for students in 4th grade and up. Our keynote speaker, astronaut Dr. Robert Satcher, delivered a free public lecture and an experience many described as unforgettable.

### Advancing Technology

In preparation for the future, the planetarium closed in September for dome cleaning and repainting. These improvements are part of a major upgrade set for June 2025, including new computers, software, and laser phosphor projectors—the most significant technology update in over a decade. These upgrades will greatly enhance the visual experience and allow us to serve our community with more engaging, high-impact programming.

Together, we're inspiring the next generation of explorers—right here in West Michigan.

## Volunteer Impact.

The GRPM could not operate without the hard work and dedication of loyal volunteers, who donated more than 10,000 collective hours in 2024. Volunteer retention is critical to support many needs throughout the Museum. The GRPM welcomed 24 new volunteers in 2024 and supports over 100 active volunteers.

Volunteers touch nearly every aspect of the Museum's educational programs, including:

- 74 Snowflake Break activity shifts
- 148 Camp Curious support shifts
- 373 Education Assistant shifts
- 1,338 combined shifts in the *Streets of Old Grand Rapids* and Lathe
- 2,600+ hours researching at the CARC

Additional volunteer activities include playing the Wurlitzer organ, greeting groups, gardening at the Van Andel Museum Center, operating discovery carts, counting anglers, cleaning shells, offering continuing education, and any other fun activities our exhibits department needs.

“

*We are so fortunate to have a cadre of skilled and caring volunteers who willingly work to make our visitors happy that they came.*

GRPM Volunteer  
Fall 2024



Volunteers in *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids*



66,650

visitors experienced educational programming at the planetarium in 2024—a powerful reminder of how strong the public's interest in science remains.



The Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium introduced a new show in 2024, *Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge*.



Over **100** active volunteers.



The longest length of service by an active volunteer is **24 years.**



12 active volunteers with over **10 years** of service to the GRPM.



Museum Visitors at *Roger That!*



Volunteer Working the Lathe





Snuffbox Mussels

“

*It is exciting to have so many partners including government agencies, nonprofits, and universities all working together for the good of a single species. The enhanced understanding of Lake Sturgeon through this project is of ecological significance and spotlights the Grand River's broader importance.*

**Dr. Stephanie Ogren**  
GRPM Vice President  
of Science and Education



Lake Sturgeon Research

## GRPM Research Projects.

### Snuffbox Mussels in the Grand River

The Grand River is a vital habitat for the threatened snuffbox mussel. In 2024, the City of Grand Rapids, in partnership with Grand Rapids Whitewater, launched an extensive relocation program to safely move these mussels before initiating river revitalization efforts. To raise awareness, the Grand Rapids Public Museum developed educational materials to inform the public about the project. This digital resource is accessible to both schools and families, making it an engaging tool for learning and community involvement. The GRPM also hosted riverwalks in association with the Museum Program - Grand River Adventure to share with the public the process of mussel relocation.

### Lake Sturgeon Research

For the past seven years, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has been conducting research on lake sturgeon. In 2024, with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the team launched a pilot study to evaluate the use of hydroacoustic sonar in the Grand River to document spawning lake sturgeon. This data will complement the genetic analysis of juvenile lake sturgeon, providing a baseline genetic fingerprint for the Grand River and serving as an important indicator of the river revitalization's restoration success. Key partners in this initiative include Encompass Social-Ecological Consulting, John Ball Zoo, Grand Valley State University, and the USFWS.



To learn more about this and other projects such as continued Paraguay Field Research, visit [grpm.org/research](https://grpm.org/research) or scan the QR code.

## Core Exhibit Refresh.

The GRPM is making exciting updates to its core exhibits. We're not just upgrading our space; we're expanding the way we connect with visitors.

The *Anishinaabek: The People of This Place* exhibit, a cornerstone since 1995, is now closed for a full redesign. Led by Anishinaabe Curator Katrina Furman, the GRPM team is collaborating with the Estoojik ("the ones who create") Advisory Council—a group of Anishinaabe people across Michigan—to develop a new exhibit. This exhibit will honor the legacy of the previous generation while telling contemporary stories that emphasize the theme "We are still here."

While the exhibit is under redesign, the GRPM is committed to ensuring Anishinaabe stories remain a key part of the Museum experience. Visitors can explore:

- *The Anishinaabek Exhibit Vision and Progress Board*
- *Anishinaabe Stories on the Michigan Map*
- *Anishinaabe Culture Days*
- *And more to be announced in 2025!*

The giant topographical map of Michigan on the GRPM's 3rd floor is nearly 100 years old. It was created by WPA artists during the Great Depression.

In 2024, the GRPM enhanced this historic exhibit with projection mapping technology. The display features two cutting-edge projectors, illuminating the map with animated visuals that tell six Anishinaabe stories:

- The historical tribal territories of the Three Fires communities
- Anishinaabe place names across Michigan
- Traditional Anishinaabe pathways and their evolution into modern highways
- The changing natural landscape of Michigan, from pre-contact to the present
- Treaties and ceded boundaries
- The headquarters of autonomous tribal governments in Michigan



Anishinaabek Exhibit Vision and Progress Board

“

*I look forward to the exhibit redesign and continued collaboration with our partners to create something very empowering for the community.*

**Katrina Furman**  
Anishinaabe Curator



Anishinaabe Stories on the Michigan Map





Museum Visitor in The Nature of Color Exhibit

“

We're proud to offer a fun and educational space for students and their families.

Rob Schuitema  
Director of Public Programs



GRPM Education Showcase

## 2024 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.

### 2024 Attendance

Total visitors:	Total school group attendance:
229,646	43,967
Kent County visitation:	Kent County school group attendance:
87,727	33,165
Website visitation:	GRPM Collections visitation:
364,525	approx. 14,000
Planetarium attendance:	Museums for All visitation:
66,560	15,194
Museum member households:	
3,704*	

Fiscal year: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024  
\* Museum Member households at the end of FY24



Student Participating in Immerse Programming





GRPM Collections Tour

“

*Lots of interactive and family friendly exhibits with a scavenger hunt. Could step inside and explore 1800s / early 1900s stores with volunteers in costume providing information on area history. Our kids most enjoyed the Robot Zoo and building blocks area on top floor.*

**Museum Visitor**  
July 2024



Camp Curious

## Facilities Updates.

Thanks to the support of our community, 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 #1
- Replaced the variable frequency drive in the first-floor mechanical room
- Installed and upgraded the video game arcade on the second floor
- Installed and upgraded water softener unit for use in the HVAC system

### Carousel Renovation Project

- Completed refurbishment of 22 horses, with another 10 horses currently being painted, and 1 in the sanding process
- Designed a wheelchair-accessible chariot and ramp system
- Sent 6 figures and 3 chariots to Carousels and Carvings for work

### Exhibits

- Removed the *Anishinabek: The People of this Place* exhibit and began its redesign
- Continued work on a 2nd-floor expansion of *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids*
- Commissioned the construction of a Clapp Family Mastodon exhibit
- Replaced lighting within exhibit spaces on the second and third floors
- Removed outdated lift from *The Streets of Old Grand Rapids* and prepped for installation of new lift with improved accessibility

### Construction

- Constructed new surround for the Cook Carousel Pavilion, including prep work for the second-floor deck and new roofing
- Poured concrete for ramp access along the riverwalk
- Excavated multiple historic turbines and pump discoveries from the construction site

### Planetarium

- Repainted the 50-foot dome

### Ramp

- Parking Ramp Asset Management completed
  1. Completed concrete and masonry repairs
  2. Installed traffic coating and sealants
  3. Repainted necessary areas
  4. Completed drain pipe and electrical repairs

### Voigt House

- Repaired gutter drainage system
- Repaired failing mortar in the retaining wall

### Calkins Law Office

- Retained company to repair the porch

### The Mounds

- Conducted regular inspections and clean-up excursions



Cultural Heritage Festival

## Investing in Kent County

By shopping local whenever we can, we support our Kent County vendors by purchasing various goods and services. The Curiosity Shop carries a variety of gifts and mementos - including items from more than 40 local artisans and consigners - 65% of which are female and/or BIPOC-owned.

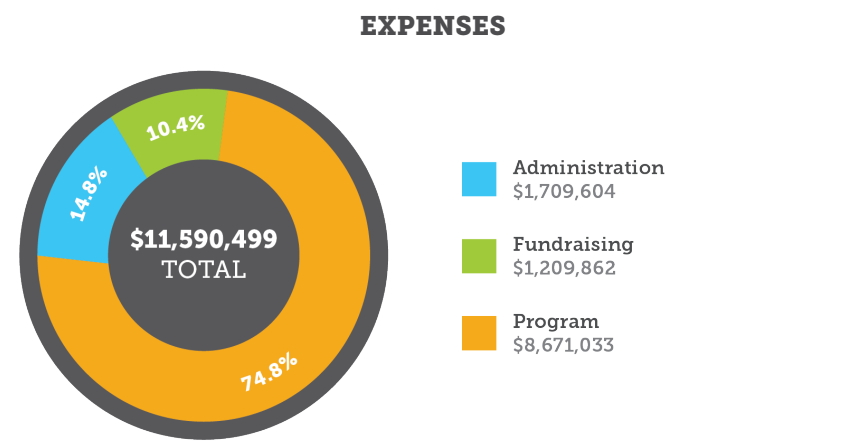
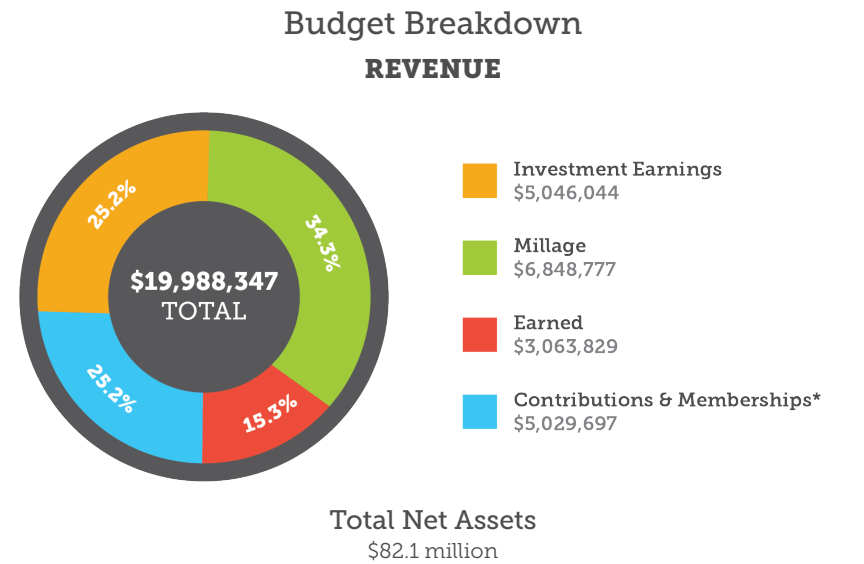


GRPM Volunteers



# 2024 Museum Budget.

The Museum is deeply grateful to the voters of Kent County for their support through the millage, which helps fund essential operational costs. This funding allows us to care for over 250,000 community artifacts, make much-needed facility improvements, address previously deferred maintenance, and enhance our educational programs and exhibits.



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## Thank you to these individuals and corporations who have made contributions to the Museum in 2024.

Fiscal year: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

### \$100,000+

David L. DeBruyn  
Eileen DeVries Family Foundation  
Frey Foundation  
James H. Helm Living Trust  
J.C. & Tammy Huizenga  
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The Peter & Joan Secchia Family  
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Dirk Hoffius  
Mark & Wendy Holtvluwer  
Hope Network Foundation  
Rhonda & Marshall Huisman  
John R. Hunting  
Integrated Packaging Machinery  
Win & Kyle Irwin

### \$50,000+

David and Joyce Hecht Foundation  
Charles W. Loosemore Foundation  
David & Carol Van Andel Family Foundation  
The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation

### \$5,000+

Allegra Marketing Print Mail  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan  
Chase Creative Unlimited  
Custer, Inc  
Grace L. Schouten Memorial Fund  
Grand Valley State University  
Wallson & Rebecca Knack  
Herb & Sharon Lantinga  
Macatawa Bank  
Mnemonix Technology Consulting, LLC  
Nottawaseppi Huron Band  
of the Potawatomi  
Perrigo Company Charitable Foundation  
Townsquare Media  
Matthew & Sharon Berger  
Varnum LLP  
Vault Catering & Events  
Vicinity Energy Grand Rapids, LLC

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Calvin University  
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William & Marilyn Crawford  
Crowe LLP  
CycleSafe  
Gayle DeBruyn  
The Detter Family Foundation  
dizzybird records  
Dr. James & Gail Fahner  
Engels Jewelry Company  
Ferris State University  
Fred Goldberg & Holly Perkins

Blake & Mary Krueger  
Norman & Marilyn Leven  
Lighthouse, an Alera Group Company  
Mary Free Bed Foundation  
Mercantile Bank  
Carol Muth  
James & Mary Nelson  
George & Bess Orphan  
Rockford Construction  
Sam's Club- Muskegon  
Brian Schwartz & Hon. Elizabeth Welch  
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### \$10,000+

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Armway Grand Plaza Hotel  
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Cumulus Media  
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.  
Fox 17- WXMI  
Gerald R. Ford International Airport  
Max & Janet Gibbs  
Gillett Family Foundation  
Howard Miller Company  
iHeartMedia, Inc.  
John & Nancy Kennedy  
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MSU Federal Credit Union  
Ottawa Avenue Private Capital  
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### \$2,500+

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BDO  
BHS Insurance  
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Eenhoorn  
Elevator Service Inc.  
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