

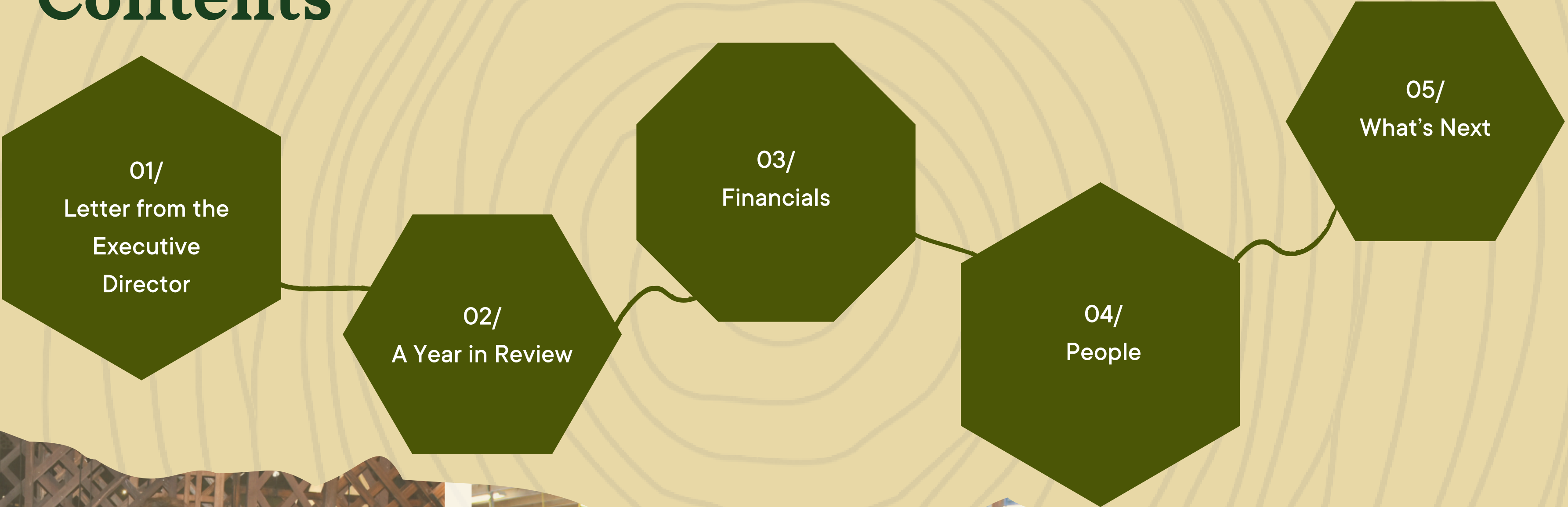
2023

Impact Report: State of the Museum



Museum
for Art
in Wood

2023 Contents





Welcome

Dear Friends of the Museum,

On January 30, 2023, the Center for Art in Wood officially became the Museum for Art in Wood. The excitement of that day has carried us forward, and I am thrilled to share with you our first *State of the Museum Report*!

Our evolution from Center to Museum was a natural progression that encapsulates all that we do as a leading voice for exhibitions, education, collections, and advocacy for art in wood, while continuing to be an essential resource for artists. As the only museum for contemporary art, craft, and design in the material of wood, we carry an important responsibility to our artists, patrons, and community. Building on a legacy of creativity, community, and artistic exchange, we aspire to make the Museum for Art in Wood a must-visit and must-return destination through the vibrant programming, accessibility, and depth it continually offers.

Thank you for believing in this institution and investing in its growth and stability.

The Museum strives to be more than a destination; it's a vibrant gathering space where craft, community, and curiosity come alive. We create engaging, memorable, hands-on experiences that foster skill-building, friendships, and mentorship. Since our public transformation into a museum, we've become a cultural hub, offering expanded programming that spans interactive discussions, family-friendly workshops, collaborations with performing arts groups featuring live music and dance, and more. Each program brings fresh energy into our intimate spaces, inviting participants of all skill levels to explore and create together.

The Museum for Art in Wood is truly one of a kind. Here, visitors from around the world encounter art unlike anything they've seen before, yet each work evokes a familiar, meaningful connection to people, places, and experiences. With free entry, a welcoming atmosphere, and no barriers to discovery, the Museum stands as one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures. We are honored to showcase the thoughtful, skillful, and ambitious work of artists dedicated to the art of wood in this special place.

Thank you for supporting the Museum, for believing in its mission, and for helping us move boldly into the future. I hope you enjoy the *Report*, and I look forward to seeing you at an exhibition or event soon!

With gratitude,

Jennifer-Navva Milliken
Executive Director and Chief Curator

2023

02/
A Year in
Review





Exhibitions

The Museum for Art in Wood is a leading artistic voice for art in wood and a keeper of the history of the craft. The Museum's exhibitions challenge conventions and assumptions about the creative potential of the material of wood while inspiring wonder among visitors. They invite artists to push their vision and skill to create transformative works, installations, and experiences that demonstrate the imaginative power of the tree, the forest, and wood in combination with the human spirit in its highest forms of expression in art, technical and material achievement, craft and innovation, and user-oriented thinking in design. This expansive thinking has resulted in exhibitions that have drawn more visitors to explore the Museum and its offerings.

In 2023, the Museum for Art in Wood organized and presented the following original exhibitions:

The Mashrabiya Project

March – July

The Mashrabiya Project was a bilingual community-focused, shared experience that links the heritage of the mashrabiya, a screening element with ancient origins, to responses in art and design that reflect considerations of space and seeing in contemporary life. The exhibition introduced this traditional wood-turned architectural element to US audiences and translated its historical significance through the commissioned works of 6 artists from across the Islamic world--Anila Quayyum Agha, Nidaa Badwan, Susan Hefuna, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Majida Khattari, and Hoda Tawakol--along with historical, cultural, and scholarly components that deepened visitors' understanding and appreciation for craft heritage and relevance across the SWANA region,
(Arabic and English catalogue)

The
Pew Center
for Arts
& Heritage

The Mashrabiya Project was made possible by a program grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.



The Mashrabiya Project

Community programming and partnerships

March – July

- Artist talks and lectures by architects, thinkers, writers, artisans, calligraphers, musicians, and Middle Eastern dance historians
- Live integrative performance of Usiloquy Dance Designs original work Nazariā: The Dancer's Gaze
- Live music performances by JAFFNA and Mid East Ensemble
- Craft workshops for all ages
- Demonstrations and workshop practice by woodturners from DelVal Turners, Bucks Turners, and Keystone Turners
- Mapping Philadelphia in cooperation with Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary newspaper
- The Mashrabiya: Heritage and Future in Architecture, a two-day symposium held at the Center for Design + Architecture featuring architects, academics, and historians from Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and other nations in West Asia and North Africa.
- Community partners, Philadelphia:
CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations, Philadelphia Chapter), Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture
- Community partners, Cairo, Egypt:
Mostafa Hassan Ali Arabesque and ARCHINOS Architecture



PLACING: The Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood 2023

August – October

The Museum hosted 7 WARP Wood fellows from around the world in its renowned Philadelphia-based arts residency, now in its 26th year. At the close of the residency, the Museum presented PLACING, a multi-disciplinary exhibition featuring the work created by the WARP Wood fellows resident fellows during their two months on the program.

2023 WARP Wood:

Artists:

Emma Chorostecki
Terry Holzgreen
Adam John Manley
Maiko Sugano
Laura Zelaya

Student Artist:

Teresa Audet

Scholar:

Deirdre Visser



PLACING

The Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood 2023
August 4 – October 15

The Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood (long known as the Windgate ITE, or International Turning Exchange), is an essential destination for artists and researchers from all over the world who are seeking a deeper connection with the material of wood in a collaborative setting. Now in its twenty-sixth year, the residency is renowned for fostering excellence, innovation, and scholarship devoted to art in wood.

Selected from a competitive and international pool of applicants, this year's cohort of WARP Wood Fellows is made up of professional artists, a student artist, and a scholar. Arriving in Philadelphia in early June, the resident fellows spend two months focusing on studio work, developing relationships with their peers, and hosting an Open Studio Day that welcomes the public to witness their investigations in-process. They also venture out of the workshop to visit collectors, curators, artists, and cultural sites in the region.

This year's theme, PLACING, describes the experience of uprooting oneself from everyday surroundings and rituals to live and work in a context where everything—sounds, conversations, and rhythms—is new. In the words of the 2023 WARP Wood Fellows:

We are place-making, we are world building, we are learning how to do the thing that we already love to do in a new way, in a new place, in a new time.

Teresa Audet	Adam John Manley	Deirdre Visser
Emma Chorostecki	Maiko Sugano	Laura Zelaya
Terry Holzgreen		

Placing represents us, as individuals and a collective, locating ourselves within all of this: within the new city, the new era, the new friends and colleagues, the new home.

— 2023 WARP Wood Fellows



FLOE: A Climate of Risk The Fictional Archaeology of Stephen Talasnik

November 2023 – February 2024

This exhibition of site-specific installation and sculpture by Stephen Talasnik presented the artist's imaginative fictional account of a forgotten Philadelphia civilization uncovered by natural and manmade phenomena resulting from climate change and warming temperatures. It was the first exhibition of Talasnik's sculptural work in Philadelphia, who is a native to the city.



Permanent Collection

The Museum's permanent collection of artworks celebrates contemporary and historic approaches and encompasses a variety of themes, processes, and materials. The open storage gallery collection offers the opportunity to study and enjoy each object, which can be explored in digital platforms or in our compendium catalogues.

In 2023, the Museum approved the accession of 46 works, representing 19 gifts from 11 donors. By the end of the year, the number of art works in the Museum's permanent collection totaled 1,366.

Pictured are two 2023 accessions. Left: Majida Khattari, *L'Orientalisme Revisit     Philadelphia, 2022 23*; right: Emma Chorostecki, *Chair, 2023*
Photos by John Carlano.



Residencies

The Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood (formerly known as the Windgate International Turning Exchange) has welcomed over 175 artists and researchers. In 2023 the Museum hosted 7 resident fellows who created new work through research, exploration, and collaboration, while building lasting relationships with colleagues and peers from around the world.

2023 WARP Wood Fellows:

Artists:

Emma Chorostecki of Toronto, Ontario, Terry Holzgreen of Los Angeles, CA, Adam John Manley of San Diego, CA; Maiko Sugano of Ibaraki, Japan / Tainan, Taiwan; Laura Zelaya of Colón, Entre Rios, Argentina

Student Artist: Teresa Audet of Madison, WI

Scholar: Deidre Visser of San Francisco, CA

2023 Winter Residency:

Each year, the Museum and membership-based super-makerspace NextFab award one fellowship to a regional artist who aims to emphasize sustainability in their woodworking and research. This program was launched in 2021 and designed to accommodate COVID-19 safeguards. It has run annually since, building in recognition and scope with 2023 Winter Residency Fellow Michael Ferrin.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a hand plane to smooth a piece of wood. The person is wearing a dark shirt with a 'STATE' logo. The image is partially obscured by a yellow graphic element on the right side.

In 2023, the Museum hosted 148 programs and tours; 31 were regularly occurring programs held on-site or in hybrid events presented in-person and on Zoom. The Museum's regularly occurring events take place monthly or biannually.

- **Object Lesson** is a monthly First Friday salon talk that features invited members of the public to present up-close and personal takes on the many treasures in the Museum's Permanent Collection.
- **How it Started and How It's Going** is a virtual series in which collectors share their stories. We discuss what makes someone a collector of art, how to build an own art collection, how to live with art, and how to become more knowledgeable about the auction world.
- **Free Range Carving Meet-Up** is a casual in-person gathering of woodcarvers of all ages for an evening of whittling and conversation.
- **Young Artist Speaker Series** takes place virtually and features a young artist who shares their vocational trajectory: from academia or training to the establishment and maintenance of the professional practice, including steps and *miss*-steps along the way.
- **Queering Wood Craft Roundtable** is a virtual series of conversations between queer woodworkers and wood-focused artists who share the ways their lived experience impacts their craft, process, and aesthetic, while building an inclusive theory of craft.



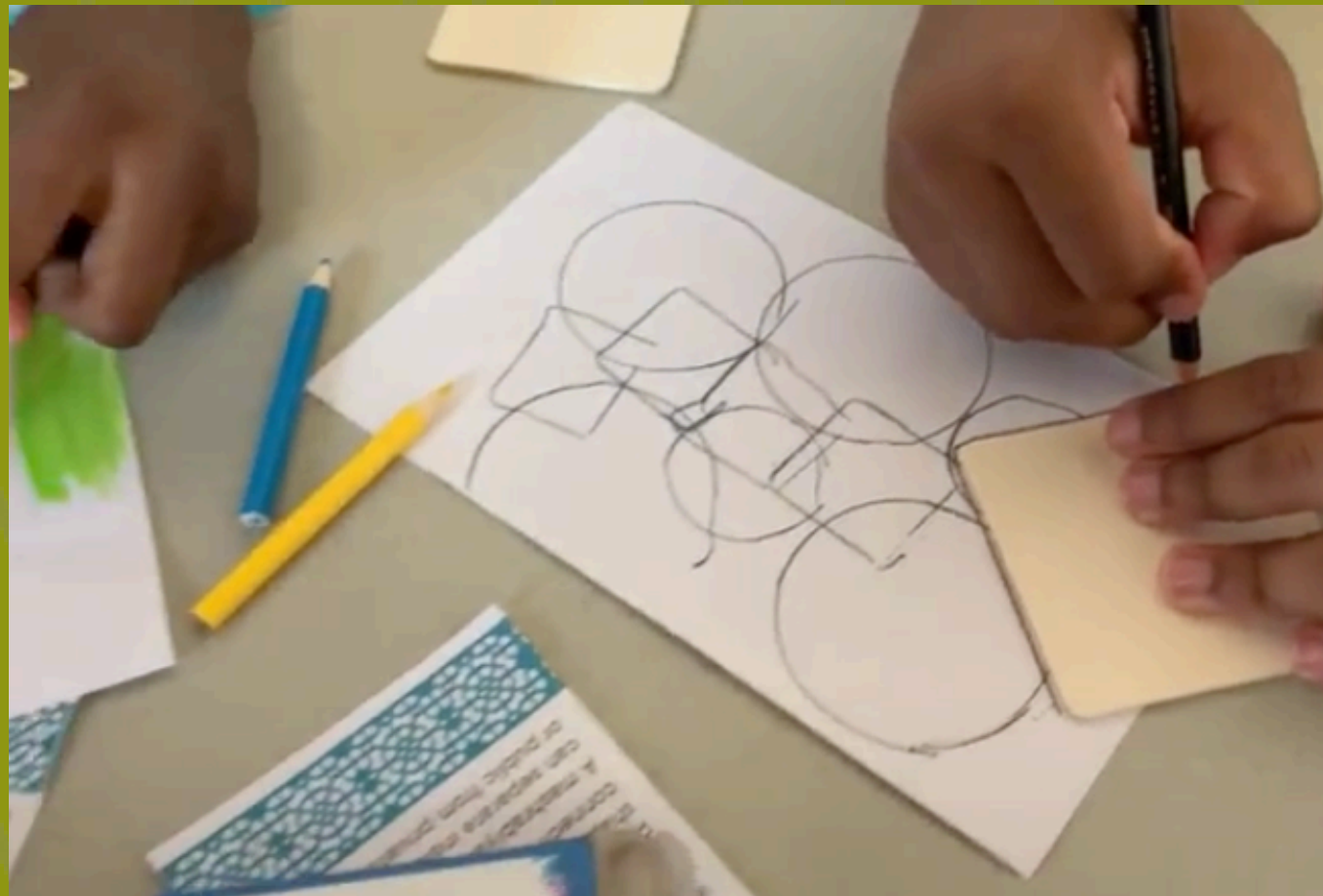
Notable Programs

- January 30 - The Center for Art in Wood reveals its new identity as Museum for Art in Wood
- February - A Discussion on Humaira Abid's Sacred Games II with Founder of USILOQUY Dance Designs Shaily Dadiala
- March - The Mashrabiya Project opens
- April - The Islamic Sacred Art of Calligraphy: Collaborations and Friendships
- May - Mashrabiya or Mashrafiya: Language, Art, and Architecture
- June - Oud: Arabic Culture, Music and History
- July - The Mashrabiya: Heritage and Future in Architecture Symposium
- August - Opening for Placing: Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood
- October - Sculptural Weaving with Reed: A Workshop with Teresa Audet
- November - What is a Museum?



CraftNOW Summer Camps

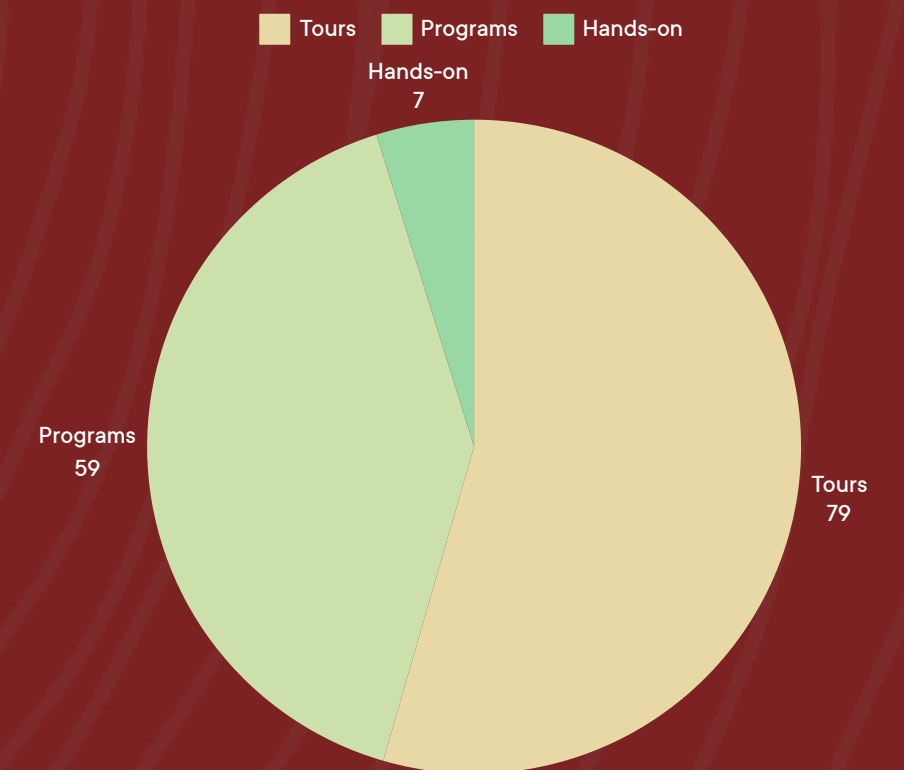
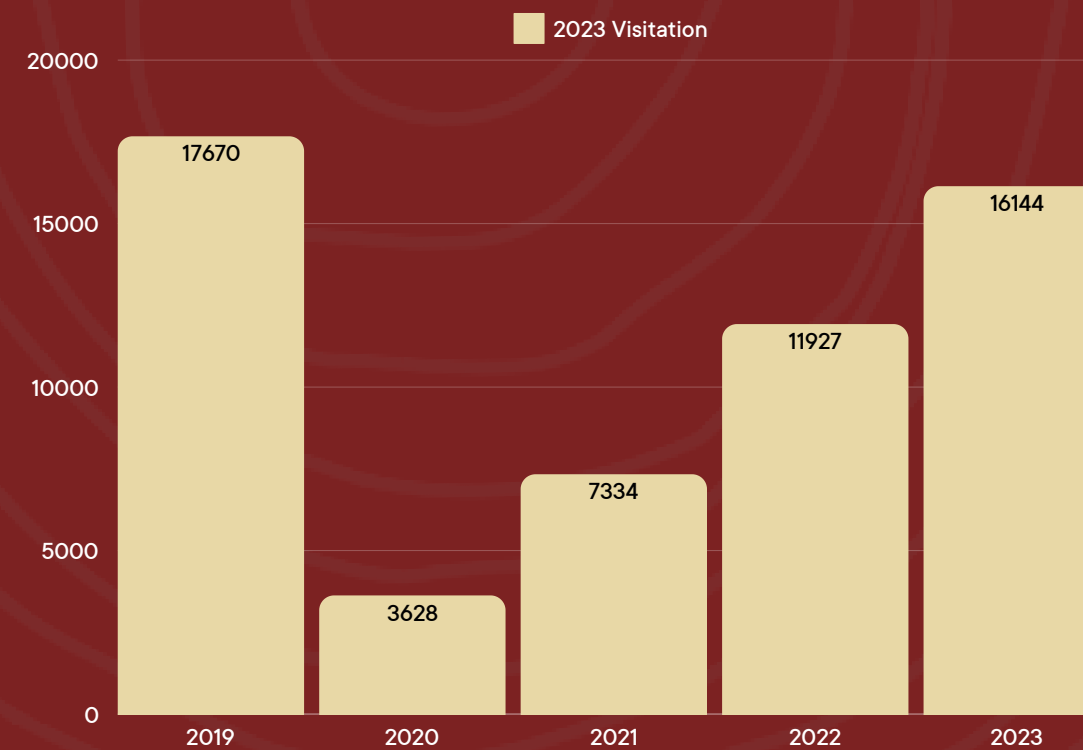
The Museum for Art in Wood partners with CraftNOW and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation for six weeks over the summer to bring creative thinking, illustration, and poetry in a hands-on activity. The Museum provides the campers with project-ready materials that they can take home with them to continue to explore their imagination and creativity. In its 2023 Summer Camp session, the Museum visited 9 Recreation Centers in 6 districts across the city of Philadelphia and brought hands-on activities to over 300 youth.





Outcomes

In 2023, the Museum for Art in Wood saw the return to pre-pandemic numbers for in-person visitation. The Museum welcomed 16,144 visitors into its spaces, and 148 programs served more than 5,115 participants. These numbers represent an increase of over 35% from the previous year.



2023

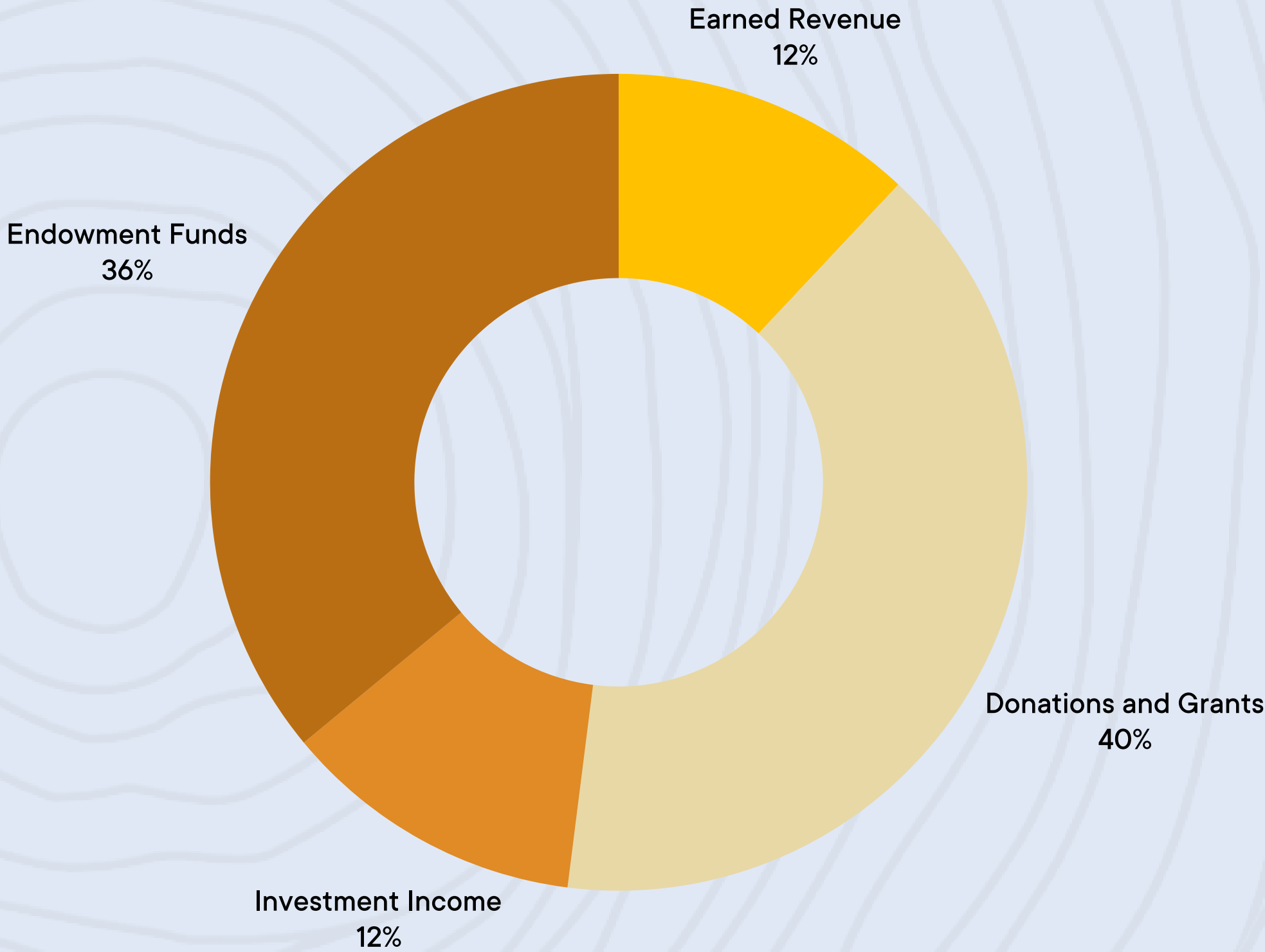
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Earned Revenue

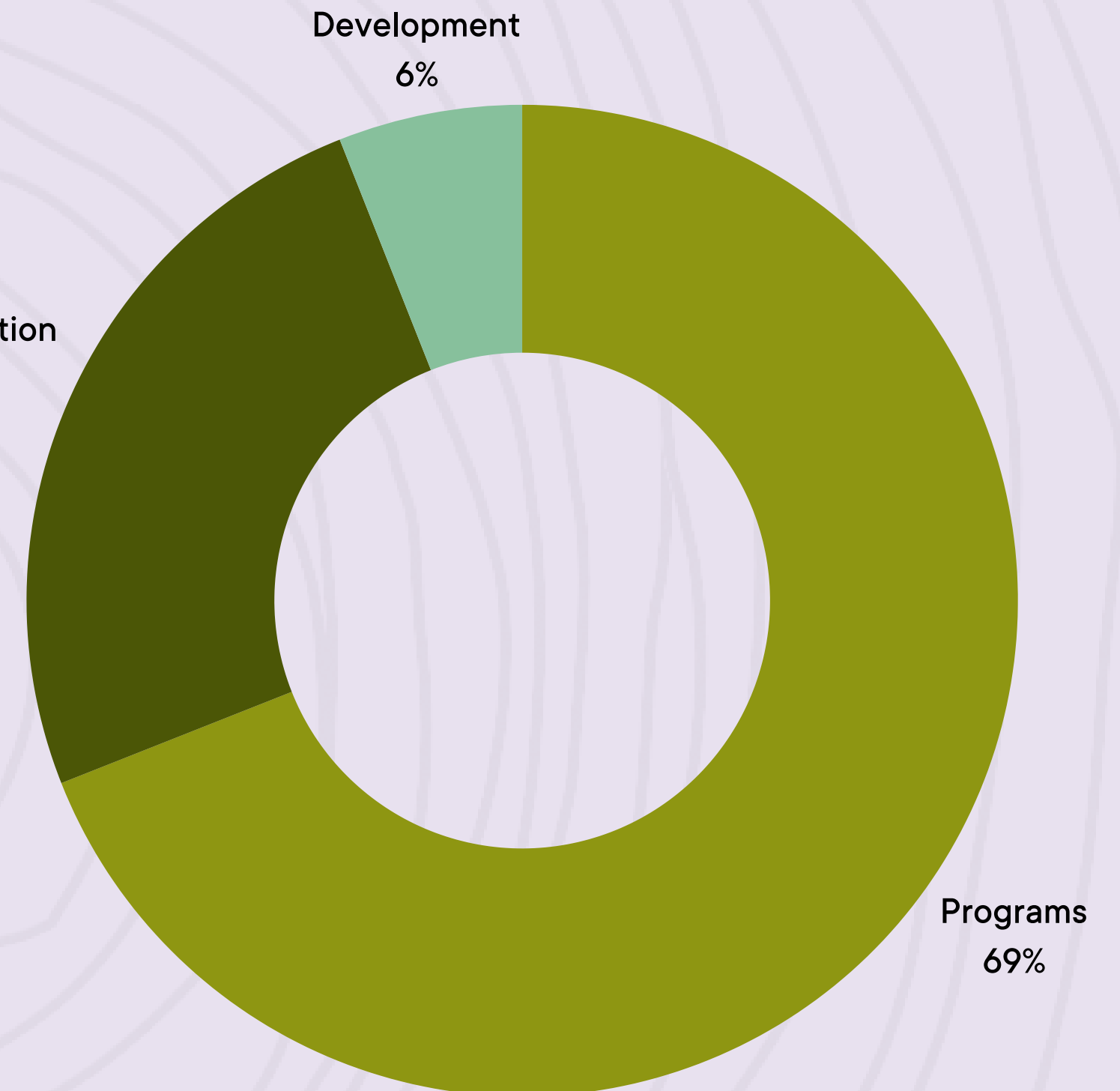
The Museum for Art in Wood supports its operations and programming through earned and contributed revenue.

The majority of our revenue comes from foundation grants and from contributions from donors just like you. Thank you for your support!



Revenue Allocation for Expenses

The Museum for Art in Wood is dedicated to providing culturally rich, free, and unique public programming for participants of all ages. By doing this, we also support the artists who help facilitate these diverse programs.



2023

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People



Museum for Art in Wood Staff

Jennifer-Navva Milliken, Executive Director and Chief Curator

Fred Kaplan-Mayer, Director of Operations

Katie Sorenson, Director of Outreach and Communication

Laura Walsh, Registrar

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Amrut Mishra, Manager of Exhibitions

Marylynn Mack, Manager of Retail and Visitor Services

Elisabeth Shaw, Lead Visitor Services Associate (2021–23)

Sam Davis, Visitor Service Associate and Social Media Specialist (2019–23)

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An asterisk * denotes a member of the Museum Board of Trustees.

2023

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What's Next





See you in 2024...

2023 was such an active year at the Museum for Art in Wood!

There is so much more to come in 2024. Check out these upcoming exhibitions!

Upcoming Exhibitions:

- **Experiencing Form:**
Phil Brown and the Museum's Residency Artist Alumni
February 9 - September 15, 2024
- **Gina Siepel: To Understand a Tree**
March 1 - July 21, 2024
- **Fruition: Windgate Arts Residency Program in Wood 2024**
August 2 - October 20, 2024
- **Strange Woodcraft:**
Weird + Eerie Sculpture from the Museum's Permanent Collection
October 4, 2024 - April 20, 2025
- **Mark Sfirri: La Famiglia**
November 1, 2024 - February 16, 2025

2023

THANK YOU

141 N 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

215.923.8000 | museumforartinwood.org

Wednesday - Saturday, 12:00 - 5:00 pm

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