

THIS HAS BEEN AN AMAZING YEAR OF GROWTH FOR THE MUSEUM.

Thanks to our community of supporters, our members, volunteers, and board leadership — it's been the best year on record! We have been to more schools and welcomed more visitors than ever before.

While it's been a strong year for our Museum, it has been challenging one for some of our friends and neighbors. That is why the Museum raised additional funding for access programs, created a scholarship fund for field trips and outreach, and why we have partnered with more community partners.

In June, the Museum opened its first ever playground! This playground was carefully designed to be welcoming to children and their grownups of all abilities. The sensory garden was designed to be enjoyed through visual and tactile exploration (taste exploration not recommended).

This coming year the Museum will host a traveling exhibition from January-July. A new exhibition is being planned for the big kid's steam room and the final touches have been added to the train station exhibition to include a miniature train suspended from the ceiling. I look forward to our 36th year of inspiring children and their grownups to create and explore.

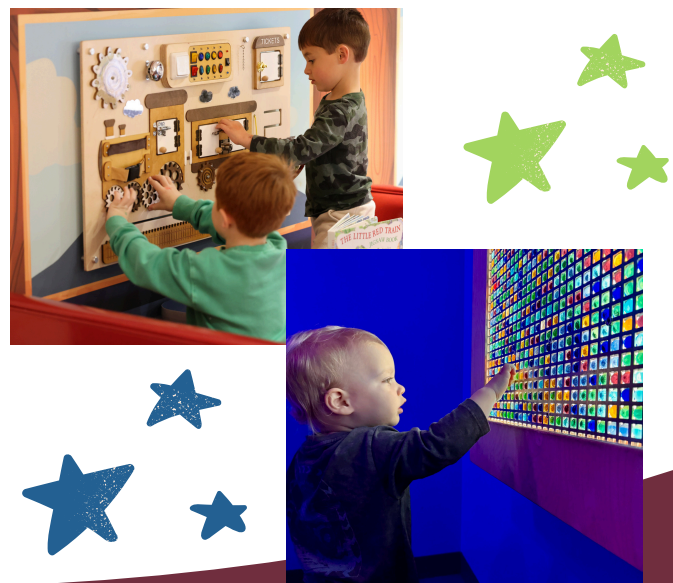


Sarah Smith
Executive Director

35 YEARS OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

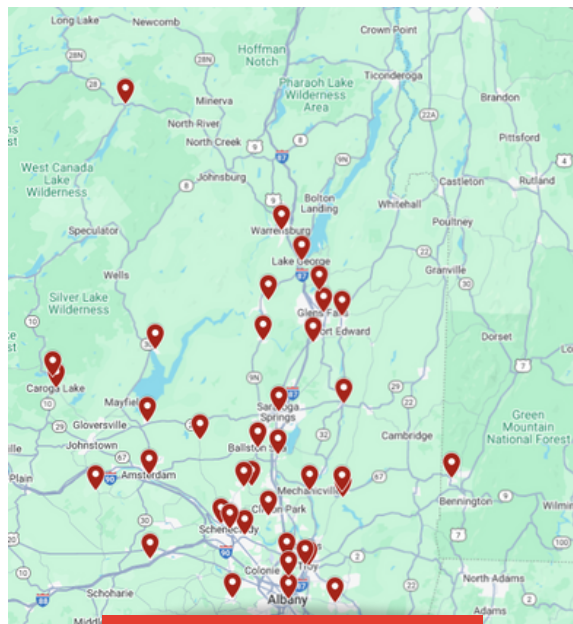


In 2025, the Museum proudly celebrated 35 years of inspiring curiosity, creativity, and connection. Over the decades, the Museum has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors, partnered with local schools, and grown into a regional leader in hands-on learning. Light it Up Media, led by Jon Dorflinger, beautifully captured our story — one built on imagination, community, and a shared belief in the power of play. As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to the next 35 years of creating opportunities for every child to learn, explore, and thrive.

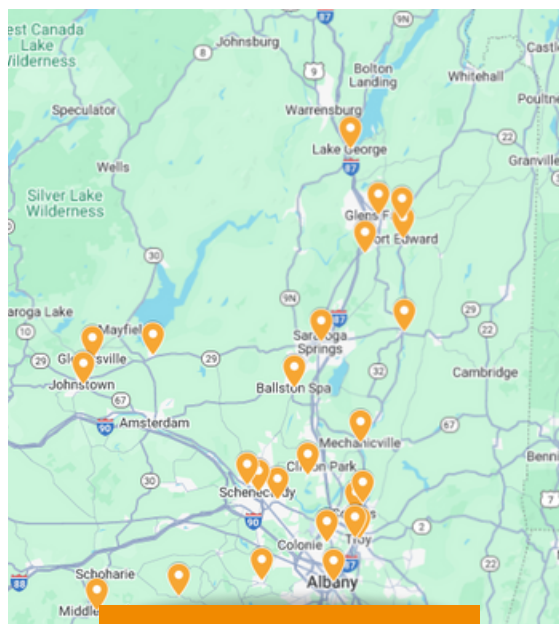


COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Museum's mission reaches far beyond our physical space. In 2025, the Museum's education team brought the magic of learning to classrooms, libraries, and community centers across the region, making science, art, and discovery available to all. Through **265 outreach programs**, we connected with **over 13,000 children and caregivers** in six counties, while **105 field trips** brought **4,811 students** to experience the Museum firsthand. By meeting families where they are, it ensures that curiosity knows no limits and that every child has the opportunity to play and learn.



**SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED
THROUGH FIELD TRIPS**



**SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED
THROUGH OUTREACH**

WHERE LEARNING MEETS PLAY: THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY REACH



79,196

people were served
by the Museum



1,414

families were members of
the Museum



5,222

Museum visitors qualified for
free or reduced fee
admission and programs



319

volunteers helped at the
Museum



1,929

participants in summer
meal activities

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EDUCATION, OUTREACH,
AND FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS?**



CLICK [**HERE**](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE!

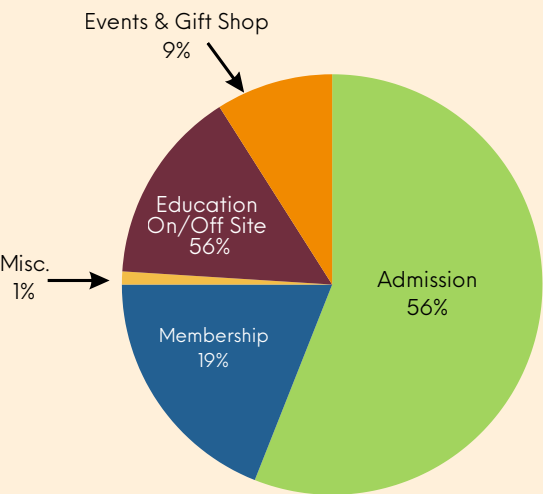


SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

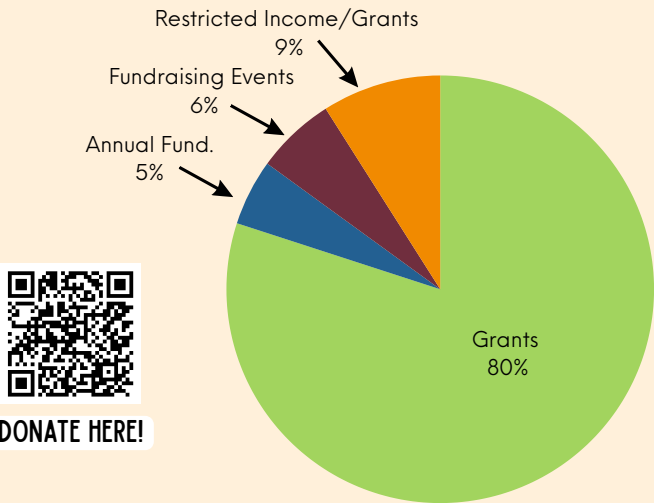
MUSEUM FUNDING: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

As a nonprofit organization, the Museum relies on two primary revenue streams: contributed income (below right) and earned income (below left). Contributed income consists of grants, donations, and proceeds from fundraising efforts. Earned income is generated through admissions, memberships, educational programs for children, as well as revenue from birthday parties and gift shop sales.

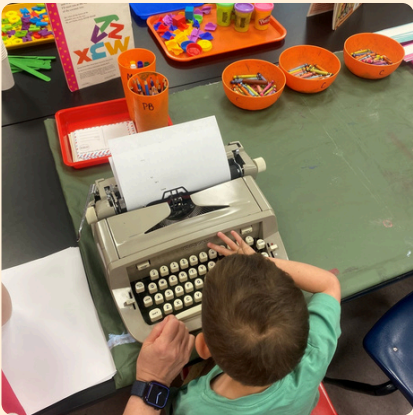
EARNED INCOME



CONTRIBUTED INCOME



DONATE HERE!

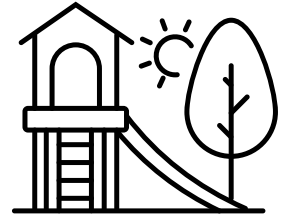


A RECAP OF 2025



PLAYGROUND OPENING

In July 2025, the Museum opened a new outdoor learning and play space in its enclosed courtyard! Exceeding ADA standards, the fairytale-themed playground includes accessible features ensuring that every child has the opportunity to play and learn outside.



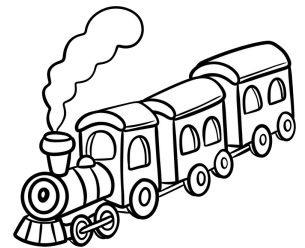
ART AT THE MUSEUM

Museum educators brought new life to the Museum's first-floor hallway with a vibrant, large-scale mural. This permanent installation now joins the 200+ carved wooden fish created by the late artist Ed Koch. With support from a prestigious grant awarded by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), the Museum expanded its arts education initiatives, welcoming visiting artists and offering hands-on creative experiences year-round.



TRAIN STATION EXHIBIT

In October 2025, the Museum celebrated the grand opening of its Train Station Exhibit, located in the lobby. This exhibit includes a dynamic, interactive experience for visitors as they begin their journey through the Museum with vintage-style railcar seating, and a hands-on conductor's station. The exhibit celebrates the history of rail travel in Saratoga Springs.



EXCITING THINGS ARE COMING: LOOKING AHEAD...

While 2025 was an exciting year, we are looking forward to 2026! Here's a look at what the future holds at the Children's Museum:

Storyland Exhibit

In early 2026, we are welcoming the Museum's first ever travelling exhibit, Storyland! Featured stories are "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter, "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats, and "Where's Spot?" by Eric Hill. This 500 sq. ft. exhibit features a 3D play space where children interact with the stories and their characters.