

Ann Arbor
HONDS-ON
Museum
ANNUAL
REPORT
2005



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WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN



Thanks to you, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is thriving. The vital components of community involvement and ownership are evident everywhere in the Museum. This year our overall attendance hit an all-time record of 207,711 people. Membership, a strong indicator of organizational health, remained strong with over 3,500 member families. School group visitation increased by double-digits during several months this year. Our year has indeed been outstanding.

This exceptional year is a dividend of your investment in the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Our conservative budget funds a lean, efficient and effective group of dynamic professionals. On a per person basis, our team provides countless moments of inspiration and experiential learning. Our exhibits are exceptional, our educational programs are content-rich and our people are committed to nothing less than excellence.

Speaking of people, there are countless others that support our creative team of intelligent can-do professionals. Our Board members, present and past, provide insight, governance, and invaluable experience throughout our operations. Our volunteers, whether on a committee, working with guests, or crafting exhibits, catapult us to another level of operational success. Most of all, we thank you, our community, near and far, for believing in the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. We have been the regional cornerstone of informal education for 23 years and once again, thanks to you, our friends and neighbors in the community, there is a bright future ahead. Hold on tight—we are just getting started!



Michael Rein, *Chair*



Mel J. Drumm, *Director*



CIRCLE OF HANDS

Becoming a member of the Circle of Hands is a thoughtful way to support the mission of the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Currently, 23 special friends of the Museum have made an annual gift of \$1,000 or more and a pledge for the next three to five years.

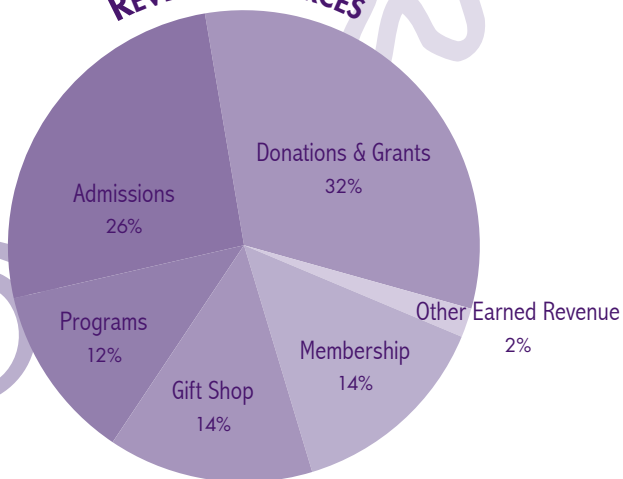
A gift to the Circle of Hands helps the Museum with funds for general operating support and is a commitment to our future. When considering a gift of support to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, help us by becoming a “helping hand” in the Museum’s Circle of Hands. Every gift is important to the long-term mission and viability of your Museum.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

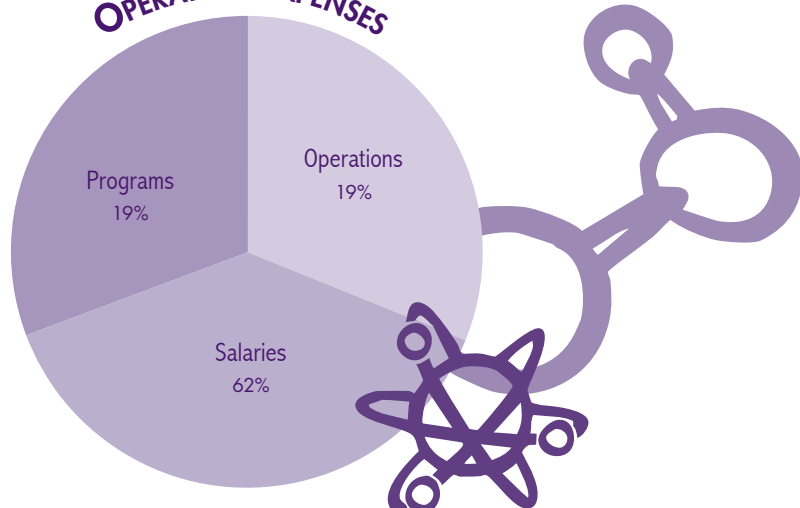
This fiscal year, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum’s operating budget was \$1.8 million.

207,711 people visited the Museum and/or participated in programs.

REVENUE SOURCES



OPERATING EXPENSES



GROWING AT THE SPEED OF SCIENCE — PROGRESS REPORT

It’s a tall ladder, but step by step, rung by rung, we are climbing to the top to reach the \$1.5 million goal. To date, a committee of loyal Museum volunteers has diligently worked to secure gifts in support of the capital needs totaling \$875,000—58% of the goal.

Progress is being made with the funded improvements. The exterior bricks of the firehouse have been repaired and re-pointed. The roof repairs have begun and we are looking forward to a draft-free, drip-free winter.

In mid-November the DTE Energy Foundation Light & Optic Gallery will open with updated favorite exhibits and unique new exhibits. The gallery will include a tabletop shadow lab, a high tech way of experimenting with colors and lighted special effects. The campaign has also funded the *Lyons’ Country Store* exhibit and the *Building in a Building* exhibit, both visitor favorites.

But we have many rungs left on the ladder. If you would you like to consider leaving a family legacy, the Preschool Gallery and Math Gallery exhibits still need to be funded. The Preschool Gallery is so popular we need to expand it and the need for increasing preschool programming and exhibits is exponential. Since math and science are an integral part of our everyday lives we want to expand our math exhibit offerings into every gallery—a perfect opportunity to “multiply” your impact on the Museum.

It’s not too late to join the list of donors for the Growing at the Speed of Science project. Every gift is important as we climb higher.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dick & Norma Sarns, Honorary Chairs; Hans Maier and Cynthia Wilbanks, Co-Chairs; Martha Darling, Larry Hastie, Larry McPherson, Roy Muir and Dennis Norton.

FUN FACTS

- It is our 23rd birthday this year!
- More than 5,000 people annually visit the Museum with our Birthday Party program.
- More than 1,800 campers sleep at the Museum during organized Camp-Ins each year.
- Outreach vans travel over 4,500 miles each year!
- The most popular Hands-On Store item is glass marbles—over 17,000 sold in nine months!
- The busiest month for group visits is May, for general public—August.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- New attendance record—207,711 guests!
- 40,000 students visited with school groups
- *Building in a Building* exhibit opened
- 26,000 students participated in Outreach education programs and Science Alliance Camp
- Best Museum—The Detroit Free Press
- National recognition by the NSF, IMLS and ASTC
- Best Kids' Activity in Current's "Best of Ann Arbor"

CHALLENGES

The Museum has been very successful this year but each new year brings new challenges—gas prices, school budget cuts and the fluctuating economy all impact our ability to deliver new programs, new technology and new exhibits. Our donors and members make the difference everyday with their support. Thank you for your continued support of informal science education in our community!



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734.995.5439 www.aahom.org

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