MCADENVER

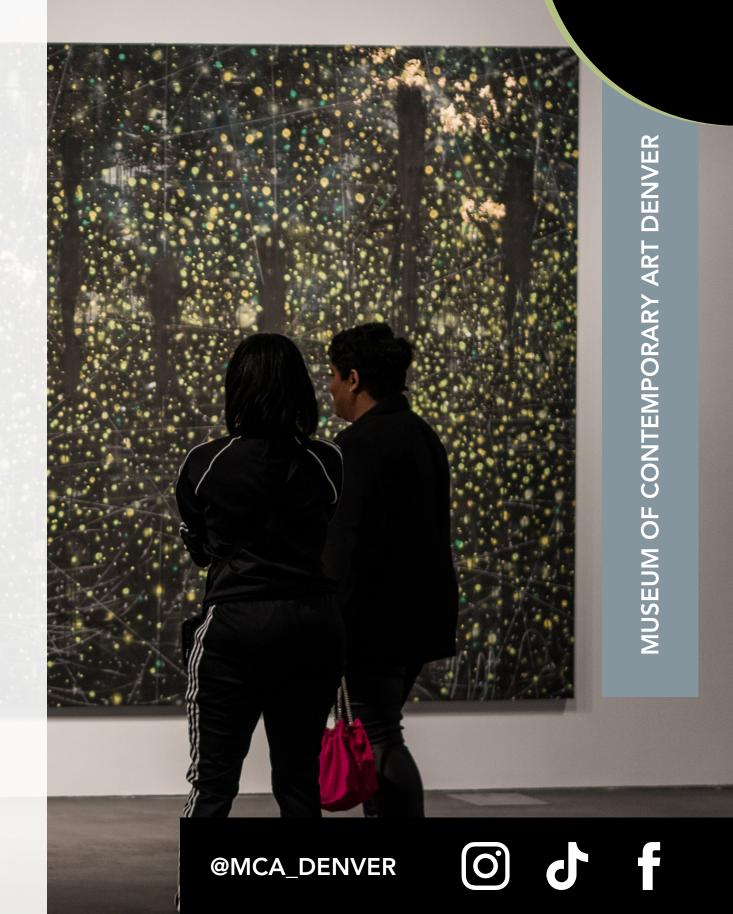
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 2022—JUNE 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for making 2023 another extraordinary year for MCA Denver, our community of friends, fans, artists, creatives, art enthusiasts, and all who are culturally curious: you helped ensure that MCA was at the forefront of innovative and inspiring exhibitions, programs, and civic-minded events that celebrate the most exciting and ambitious creative ideas in contemporary art. We simply could not do what we do, have the impact that we generate, nor provoke the ideas that we introduce, without you.

Over the last year, we continued to redefine and expand our presentation of contemporary art in our Fries building and at the Holiday Theater. Our exhibitions celebrated the most exciting new voices in visual art, presented historical work in a new context, and championed new work by esteemed artists. We welcomed leading names in contemporary art and culture in our spring programming series "Icons," launched a Spanish-language film series, hosted teen events and workshops, and continued to deepen our ties to the Northside community. With renovations of the Holiday Theater almost complete, we can't wait to open our doors even wider as we continue to develop new and exciting ways to engage more visitors around contemporary art.

In collaboration with our incredible Board and staff, we continue to evolve the museum to be an energetic hub of creative life in this city. Over the last year, we welcomed many new partners who helped advance our mission even further. Through these collaborations, we continue to expand and deepen our civic and creative roots, and embed more fully in our city, a key component of our Racial Equity Plan. And through this work, we continue to find new and generative ways to support our team, champion artists, and deepen our connections with audiences.

Since our founding in 1996, MCA Denver has always reimagined what a museum can be and how we can continually evolve how we live in the world. This spirit of breaking conventions and embracing fresh ideas propels us into the next year with vigor and vitality. We so look forward to partnering with you on this journey.

To you, our most devoted friends and supporters, thank you for your unwavering belief in the purpose of all we do and the spirit of invention that animates it all. We couldn't feel more grateful for your support.

Nora Burnett Abrams
Mark G. Falcone Director



LETTER FROM STEVE COHEN, CHAIR, MCA DENVER

As we start a new year at MCA Denver, I am honored to look back at FY23 and recognize how much we have to celebrate. MCA continues to be a forum for groundbreaking innovation and creativity here in Denver, and it has been a privilege to deepen my own engagement with this organization by beginning my term as Chair of the Board of the Trustees in 2023.

Core to MCA Denver's mission is its commitment to programmatic excellence and an unceasing focus on cultural and civic relevance. These objectives have guided the museum since its founding and they have ensured that the museum thrives despite a rapidly changing social and economic environment that challenges all arts organizations across the country.

Every year, MCA Denver produces exhibitions and programs that alternately speak to narratives of our nation's cultural history (as with) and celebrate Denver's incubation of emerging local artists (as with). It is this ability that encapsulates what makes this organization so special: MCA Denver nurtures an engagement with contemporary art and culture that transcends the individual and brings us together– locally, regionally, nationally, and beyond– to be inspired.

Now is the moment when we can look back at the art, ideas, and experiences that have made us laugh, wonder, and think over the last year. It is also a moment when we look forward. Our plans for the next year include bringing groundbreaking voices in contemporary art to Denver; deepening our outreach to teens and emerging adults; activating our presence at the Holiday Theater; and continuing to upgrade the communications and digital outreach that we conduct with our audiences. I am so proud to be a part of an organization that brings such vibrancy to Denver's civic life and community.

I speak for the entirety of the MCA Denver Board to say how grateful we are for the staff, artists, visitors, members, and donors who join us each day to bring MCA Denver to life. The stories shared in this year's annual report represent just a fraction of the artists, programs, and initiatives that you have told us moved you and made you think differently. Together, we continue to make MCA Denver a place of innovation, delight, and creativity.

Thank you for everything you do to support MCA Denver.

Steve Cohen Chair | MCA Denver Board of Trustees



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MCA YEAR IN REVIEW

THIS YEAR WAS A VERY BIG YEAR FOR MCA DENVER!

This year, we welcomed over 59,000 visitors to MCA Denver to connect with world-class exhibitions and programs and to experience powerful voices and perspectives from some of the leading artists of our time. Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, we opened four new exhibitions, showcasing the work of 81 artists and inspiring our audiences to look deeply and think broadly. We also expanded our operations at the Holiday Theater, undertaking a major series of interior renovations and launching a number of new programmatic series designed to honor the theater's legacy and impact in Denver's Northside. We continued to refine our digital engagement efforts, hosting multiple seasons of our beloved How Art is Born podcast and sparking conversation with our audiences over social media, and we expanded our community engagement efforts, deepening our connections with other cultural organizations across Denver. We hosted our very first cohort of Creators Studio, an entrepreneurial training program for emerging adult creatives, and we celebrated the amazing accomplishments of our teens through their teen exhibitions and Issues 14-19 of teen-created 'zine, Moxie Mag. See what else you helped us accomplish this year...

59,535

VISITORS JOINED US AT MCA
DENVER AND THE HOLIDAY
THEATER IN FY23 BOTH
VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON.







MCA DENVER HOSTED FOUR EXHIBITIONS IN FY23.

Our year featured a blockbuster touring show, a deep dive into the Denver arts community, and a wealth of newly commissioned artworks by some of the most relevant artists practicing in the U.S. today.

Fall 2022 kicked off with THE DIRTY SOUTH, CONTEMPORARY ART, MATERIAL CULTURE, AND THE SONIC IMPULSE, a landmark exhibition organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and exploring the aesthetic legacies and traditions of Black Culture in the African American South as seen through the lens of contemporary Black musical expression. Lauded by critics from The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times, this exhibition of over 90 artworks argued for the importance of the American South and Black culture as critical to our understanding of America's past, present, and future.

In spring 2023, we returned to the riches of Colorado with BREAKTHROUGHS: A CELEBRATION OF REDLINE AT 15. Juried by artist Jaime Carrejo, MCA Senior Curator Miranda Lash, MCA Associate Curator, Leilani Lynch, MCA Director of Programming Sarah Kate Baie, and Louise Martorano, Executive Director of RedLine Contemporary Art Center, BREAKTHROUGHS featured the work of 18 RedLine alumni artists and reflected the current creative practice of artists based in Colorado.

Summer 2023 showcased two significant solo exhibitions: TOMASHI JACKSON: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, curated by Miranda Lash, and ANNA TSOUHLARAKIS: INDIGENOUS ABSURDITIES, curated by Leilani Lynch. A mid-career survey of Tomashi Jackson's practice, ACROSS THE UNIVERSE presented works in a variety of media and provided the first overview of the different threads in Jackson's practice. Accompanied by a major publication co-published by Rizzoli, the exhibition will tour to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (spring 2024), Tufts University Art Galleries (fall 2024), and the Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco (early 2025). INDIGENOUS ABSURDITIES meanwhile featured new works by Anna Tsouhlarakis that are foregrounded in "Indian humor," an Indigenous, colloquial phrase for Native American jokes. From meme-like text works that playfully examine Indigenous rights and histories in the United States to sculptures using reconfigured Ikea furniture remnants to address decolonization efforts, Tsouhlarakis imbues her own sense of humor into her works while reflecting on the complexities of the contemporary Native experience.

PROGRAMS

At MCA Denver, we believe in the power of art to inspire joy and celebration. Throughout the year, MCA Denver's Programs and Education Department hosts live programming that connects audiences with artists through music, lectures, conversations, comedy, trivia, film, and dance performances, all of which celebrate the depth of artistic expression. In FY23, MCA Denver hosted 72 programs and events that reached 7,500 visitors.

Notably, MCA Denver's programs happen in two unique locations – the first being the Fries Building, MCA Denver's Delgany Street home, and the second at the Holiday Theater in Denver's Northside. This historic vaudeville-era movie house is MCA's dedicated home for music, performance, and events, and it now sparkles after extensive interior renovations in FY23 to enhance visitor experience, such as repainting, replacement of seats, construction of a new ADA-accessible platform, upgrades to the audiovisual equipment, and more.

In July 2022, summer programming kicked off at the Holiday with the return of the popular MIXED TASTE, a lecture series that brings together disparate subjects such as Dream Technology & Boreal Toads and Roswell & Georgian Polyphonic Singing. We also launched two new programming series in the winter and spring of 2023: ICONS, a series of talks by notable artists and thinkers, including artists Swoon and Tara Donovan, designer Maria Cornejo, and podcast pioneer Jad Abumrad; and CINEMA AZTECA, a Spanish-language film series that pays homage to the Holiday Theater's history as the first Spanish language movie house in Denver. In addition, the theater hosted original performances by composer Nathan Hall, dancer L.A. Samuelson, and the artist duo Princess.

At the Fries Building, the rooftop came alive with B-SIDE MUSIC FRIDAYS, an eclectic weekly music series that introduces audiences to some of Denver's newest musical talent. We also hosted three sold-out exhibition openings, occasions that brim with excitement as audiences get the first glimpse of the world-class exhibitions presented by the museum. Comedy also took center stage with the popular craft + comedy series LAUGH YOUR CRAFT OFF, hosted in the MCA Denver Cafe. BLACK SHEEP FRIDAYS, another MCA Cafe offering, brought trivia, comedy and playfulness to the scenic Denver rooftop.

72
PUBLIC PROGRAMS
THAT REACHED 7,500
VISITORS







TEENS & INTERNS

MCA Denver is proud to welcome teen audiences to the museum throughout the year for leadership opportunities, workshops, events, film festivals, and music. By connecting young people to art and artists, MCA Denver creates a safe place for teenagers to take creative risks, provides a place where young people can have meaningful art experiences that connect them to their world and each other, and builds lifelong relationships to art and culture.

In FY23, MCA Denver welcomed 3,500 teens to the museum. Teen visitors experience the museum in multiple ways, including free access to museum exhibitions; in-depth leadership opportunities via FAILURE LAB, MOXIE MAG, and OFFHAND; workshops with partner organizations; teen-led events; and programs, school tours, and outreach visits with high schools throughout the city.

FAILURE LAB, our year-long leadership program, offers an opportunity to a cohort of 16 high school students from throughout the city to spend a year in residence at MCA Denver, working with visiting artists to create exhibitions in the Fox Family Idea Box–the museum's dedicated teen space on the third floor of the Fries Building. In the fall of 2022, FAILURE LAB students worked with stained glass artist Maria Sheets to create the exhibition SHATTERED. In the spring, they solicited submissions from teen artists throughout the city to create the exhibition, OU(TE)R SPACE.

MOXIE MAG is MCA Denver's semester-long zine-making workshop focused on creating a lo-fi magazine that showcases teen work in design, writing, graphic arts, and more. Each semester, a new cohort of teens are visionaries and makers of the online publication, weaving together art, music, design, and storytelling.

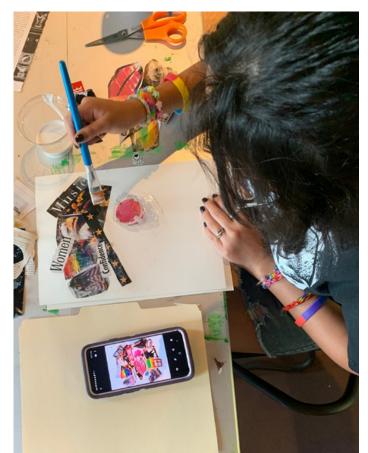
Throughout the year, the leadership group OFFHAND, composed of FAILURE LAB and MOXIE MAG alumni, organizes peer-to-peer teen events, including a performance in MCA's summertime B-SIDE MUSIC FRIDAYS, and the ANTI-HERO FILM FESTIVAL, a juried film festival of short films created by teens that showcase the untold stories of women, BIPOC, and LQBTQIA+ communities.

58

NEW TEENS JOINED US FOR
BOTH FAILURE LAB AND
MOXIEMAG, WHERE THEY
WERE MENTORED BY
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

I'm a visual artist and learner exploring the t self-discovery, self-expansions.





MCA DENVER AT THE HOLIDAY THEATER

MCA Denver continues to grow our commitment to community engagement, particularly through the Holiday Theater and our partnership with numerous organizations with whom we work to develop programs that spark community-based discussion and nurture social creativity.

We deepened our work in Denver's Northside through our collaboration with the Holiday Advisory Cabinet, an advisory group composed of neighborhood residents and community stakeholders. In FY23, members of the Holiday Advisory Cabinet included Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval, Michelle Marco, Roberto Venegas, Flo Hernandez-Ramos, Cris Sandoval, and Cipriano Ortega.

Through the Cabinet's counsel, we worked on producing a number of quarterly events and community workshops that were free to the public and that celebrated the creative ingenuity and cultural history of the Northside. Programs ranged from local organizations guiding community conversations on the oral history of the Northside to an open house for local vendors and a film screening of #IAMDENVER'S ¡QUÉ VIVA LA RAZA!

Through the development of long-term relationships with neighborhood partners, community-led organizations dedicated to elevating arts and culture, and other institutions, MCA Denver continues to forge accessible, inclusive, and artist-led routes to contemporary art, advancing our mission to be a platform for artistic expression and ensuring a broader creative future for Denver.



Our exhibitions continued to receive significant coverage and readership across different channels. Here were a few exhibitions the media couldn't get enough of:

TANIA CANDIANI: FOR THE ANIMALS

GUADALUPE MARAVILLA: PURRING MONSTERS WITH MIRRORS ON THEIR BACKS

CLARISSA TOSSIN: FALLING FROM EARTH

THE DIRTY SOUTH: CONTEMPORARY ART, MATERIAL **CULTURE, AND THE SONIC IMPULSE**

BREAKTHROUGHS: A CELEBRATION OF REDLINE AT 15

Our consistent and strong programming with our efforts to highlight local artists increased local media coverage. One notable local headline read, "Colorado Artists Shine in "Breakthroughs", a Massive **Exhibition at the Museum of** Contemporary Art Denver."

5.48M

ONLINE **READERSHIP**

Combined total number of people that visited websites featuring MCA Denver.

220

PIECES OF **COVERAGE**

Total number of online, offline, and social clips. 2.04M

ESTIMATED ONLINE VIEWS

Prediction of lifetime views of online coverage based on audience reach and number of shares on social.

7.6K

SOCIAL **SHARES**

Number of times online articles were shared on social media.

CONTEMPORARY,

OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

MCA Denver's commitment to Racial Equity is unwavering and will be a continuous journey where we learn, evolve, and improve – because it is only with this commitment that our mission can be furthered. After developing a Racial Equity Plan in FY22, we used FY23 to begin implementing new strategies that focus on the following priorities, with the intent to institutionalize new systems, policies, practices, and procedures that make the organization a more equitable organization overall.

People, Policy, and Practice

We have continued to improve the quality of the recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and retention experience of BIPOC staff and board members at MCA Denver. Several meaningful improvements have included: a full-time, on staff Human Resources Generalist, re-evaluating where we post jobs, taking candidates through thoughtful interview phases, enhancing our new staff member orientation, and creating a job architecture process to improve the trajectory of staff members.

Community Building

Through intentional relationship building with community members, creatives, organizations, and businesses, MCA Denver has shown up as a more collaborative and thoughtful partner. We have created opportunities to highlight our work in the community, continued our engagement with the Holiday Advisory Cabinet, built relationships with local BIPOC-, LGBTQIA-, and womenowned businesses for visibility in our MCA shop and cafe, and co-developed programs and events that support Denver's diverse communities.

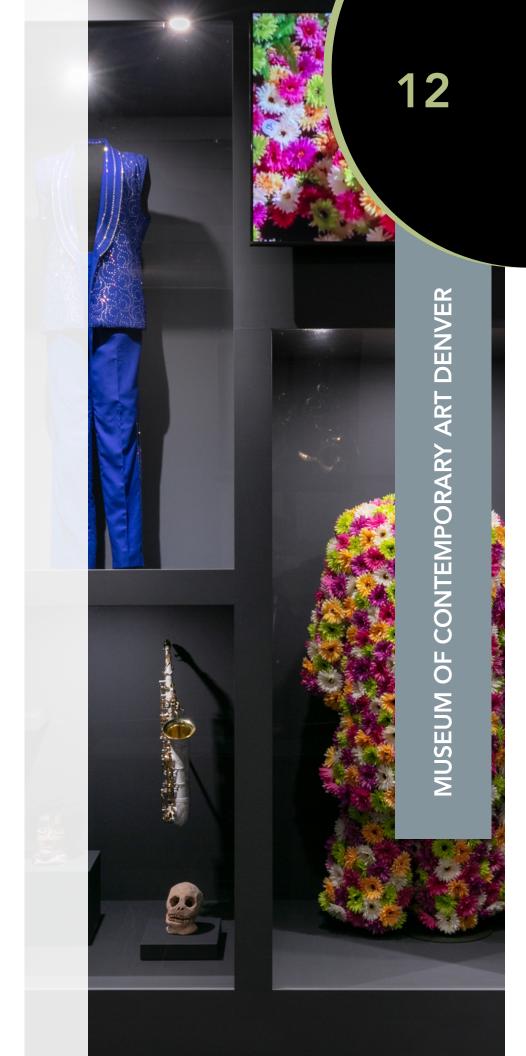
Our alliance with and commitment to elevating BIPOC artists and voices shone in FY23 through every exhibition we produced, ranging from ANNA TSOUHLARAKIS: INDIGENOUS ABSURDITIES, which probed what it means to be a contemporary Indigenous artist working in the US today, to THE

Art, Exhibitions, and Programming

Indigenous artist working in the US today, to THE DIRTY SOUTH, which argued for the importance of the American South and Black culture as critical to understanding America's past, present, and future. In addition to investing in bringing these exhibitions to MCA Denver, we ensured equitable compensation for all participating artists.

As we continue to work through the priorities listed above and those listed in our original Racial Equity Plan, we welcome the opportunity to add new priorities and initiatives as they arise.





MCA Denver is grateful for the contributions of granting agencies, donors, sponsors, and members who so generously supported the museum over the past year.

In FY23, critical funding for the museum and our mission was supplied by over 625 key supporters. More than \$2.8 million was raised for the museum's annual fund, which, in addition to supporting the museum's operations, supported the museum's slate of exhibitions, publications, adult and teen programs, and digital initiatives. The museum especially acknowledges the exceptional support of our Board Members and other patrons, whose pledges of multi-year support for the museum's annual fund, endowment, and other initiatives allowed MCA Denver to grow its mission in new and exciting directions while also ensuring the ongoing stability of our staff, facilities, and regular operations.

Every year, essential financial underwriting for MCA Denver arrives from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) and the residents of the Denver metropolitan region. In addition to this generous public support, we are especially grateful to have received support from 40 foundations and corporate entities, whose gifts allow the museum to better serve our audiences through myriad services and activities, including the provision of free or reduced admission fees, community-led programming and workshops, stipends and scholarship support for students, artist commissions, and more.

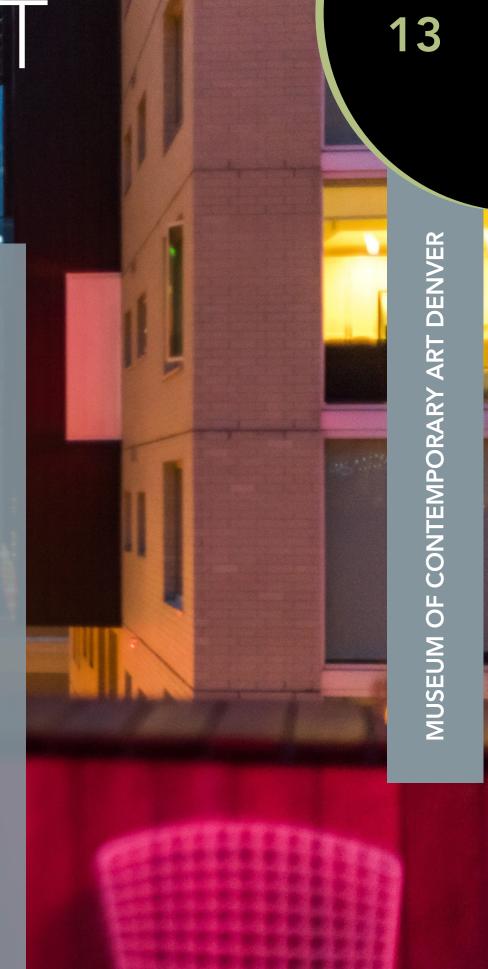
The museum's major fall fundraising event, the Luminocity Gala (held in November 2022) broke its previous record, generating nearly \$925,000 in revenue. We are immensely grateful for the generous support and leadership of the ten Luminocity Gala Co-Chairs– Katina Banks, Ellen Bruss, Katherine Gold, Rep. Leslie Herod, Luisa Law, Reena Majmudar, Amanda Precourt, Amanda Shifrin, Gloria Schoch, and Tricia Youssi.

In the spring, the museum's second-annual MCA Max Mix Runway Show & Benefit raised nearly \$200,000 for the museum's teen and emerging adult programs. Our thanks to MCA Max Mix partner Max Martinez, his staff at Max Clothing, and designer Maria Cornejo of fashion brand Zero + Maria Cornejo is immense.

MCA Denver welcomed a number of new members to Contemporary Circles, the museum's philanthropic membership program which gathers together friends of the Museum to discuss contemporary art and participate in unique experiences designed to expand access to, understanding of, and support for the art of our time. We also revised the program's benefits, opening the "Friend" (\$1,000) level to a wider audience and ensuring that a larger portion of the membership fee is tax-deductible. In its third year, almost \$75,000 was raised via the support of Contemporary Circles members.

FY23 marked the second year of MCA Denver's For the Love Campaign, a multifaceted campaign designed to honor the museum's dynamic past and prepare for a vibrant future. With a goal of \$11 million, the primary purpose of the campaign is to enable the museum to further our mission to be an innovative forum for contemporary art that inspires and challenges, creating an understanding and dialogue about the art of our time. In FY23, the museum met the \$4 million goal of the campaign's annual fund component and surpassed the two-thirds mark for the campaign overall.

Thanks to the generous contributions of sponsors like you, MCA Denver is well positioned to continue its progress on the For the Love campaign in FY24 and beyond, with particular attention on growth of the museum's endowment and the securing of new funds to support the museum's operations at the Holiday Theater and Fries Building.



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Lynelle & Matt Wagner

Aimee & Gary Wagner

Ashley & Scott Walker

Xcel Energy, Colorado

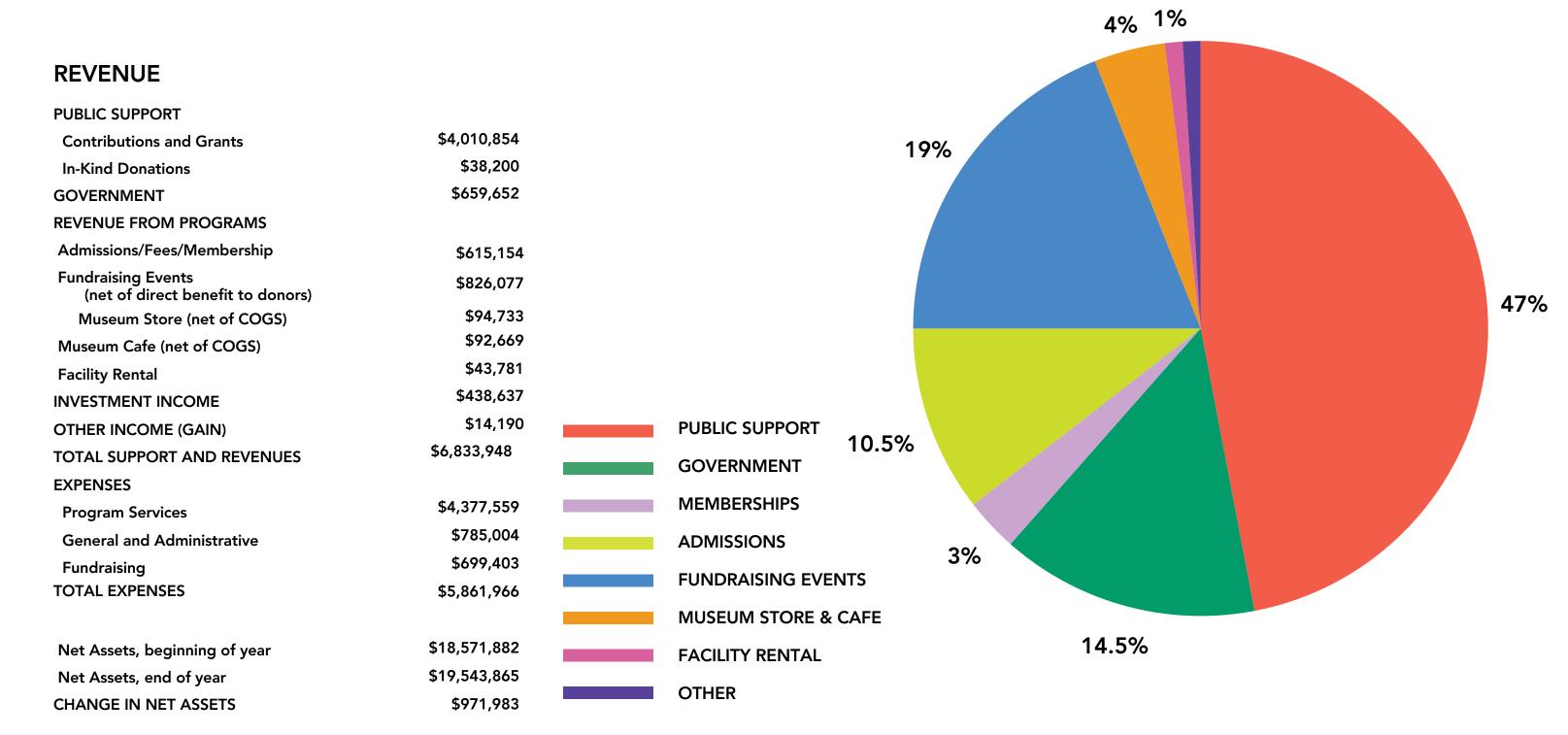
Tricia Youssi/Sarah Bracken

Andra Zeppelin & Lulu Zeppelin



SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2023





THANKS FOR ALL THE LOVE!

Notice a mistake? Please accept our apologies. If you send us an email at development@mcadenver.org, we will get it updated ASAP.

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