



July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

lexington  
children's  
museum

440 W. Short St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

# from our board president

As I reach the end of my tenure as Board President, it is my pleasure to report on the progress and impact that Lexington Children's Museum made in FY 2024. In addition to increasing the number of visitors, memberships, outreach events, and programs, we made great strides toward securing a bright future for LCM. These steps included a re-branding that reflects all the ways we are breathing new life into the museum. We also completed a Master Plan for how LCM will help make the City of Lexington a premier destination for children and families.

LCM joined the Museums for All initiative, a nationwide effort to ensure equitable access to museums. We increased the frequency of our Sensory Hours, allowing children with sensory sensitivities to visit the museum in a low-stimulus environment. And we continued expanding the reach of our educational resources. I am thrilled that these efforts have already benefitted thousands of visitors!

None of these accomplishments would be possible without generous support from donors, sponsors, volunteers, members, and patrons. Thank you for your partnership! I sincerely hope that you will continue supporting the Lexington Children's Museum in the exciting years ahead.



Shelby Fink,  
Board President



# from our executive director

Lexington Children's Museum is proud to have welcomed close to 50,000 visitors to our museum this fiscal year—an 11% increase from FY23 and an over 25% increase from 2019! With increased support, we expanded our resources for schools and educators, doubled our programming experiences, increased our outreach efforts, and provided over \$100,000 worth of benefits to otherwise underserved community members.

All of these updates demonstrate the renewed commitment to immersive learning experiences that we promised with our re-brand in April 2024. As we forge ahead into FY 2025, we are working hard (and methodically) to maintain the same momentum and optimism. The Master Plan we completed in FY 2024 lit a creative spark in all of us, which has given us a clear path forward.

We couldn't be more grateful for the support we continue to receive as we build spaces and programming that nurture discovery and lifelong learning. The people of Lexington and the surrounding region have made their values clear—nurturing children through play and learning are crucial to our shared success.



J. Colby Ernest,  
Executive Director





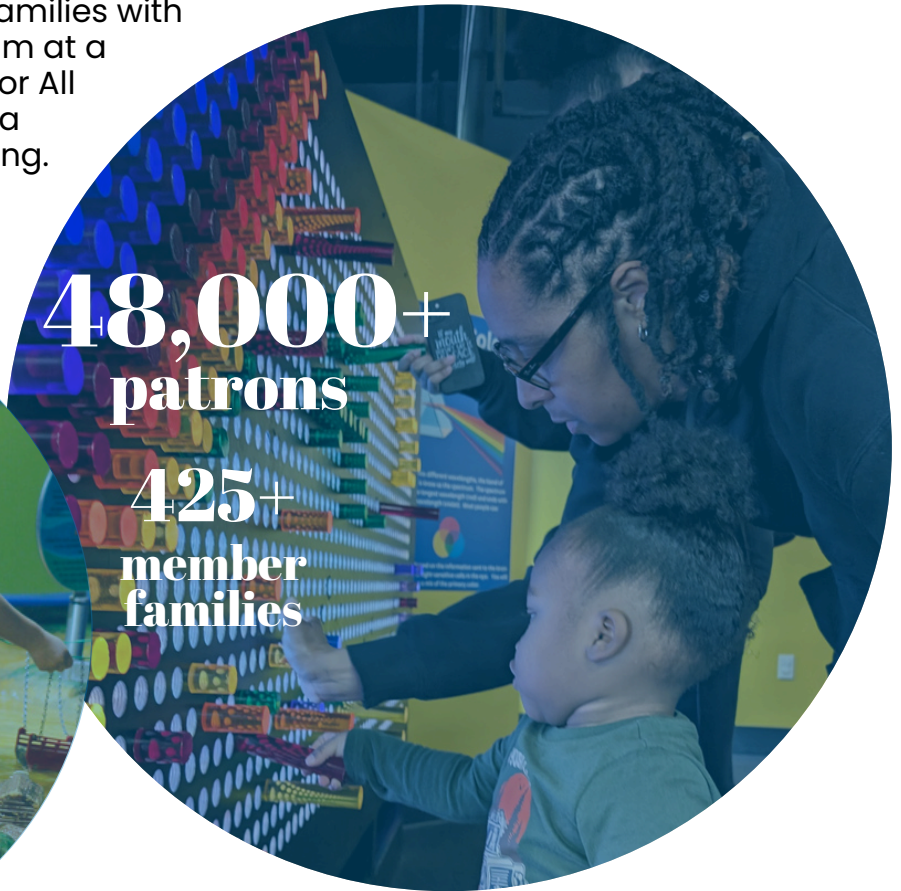
## One of our most impactful yet...

From re-branding to joining the nationwide Museums for All program, increased community investment allowed us to reach new heights together! We stepped back in time to reclaim our roots as the Lexington Children's Museum. This re-brand signified our renewed commitment to supporting child development through play and learning.

The Museums for All program allows families with low incomes to experience the museum at a significantly reduced cost. Museums for All has refined our approach to equity in a way that is recognizable and welcoming.



**2,136**  
museums  
for all  
patrons



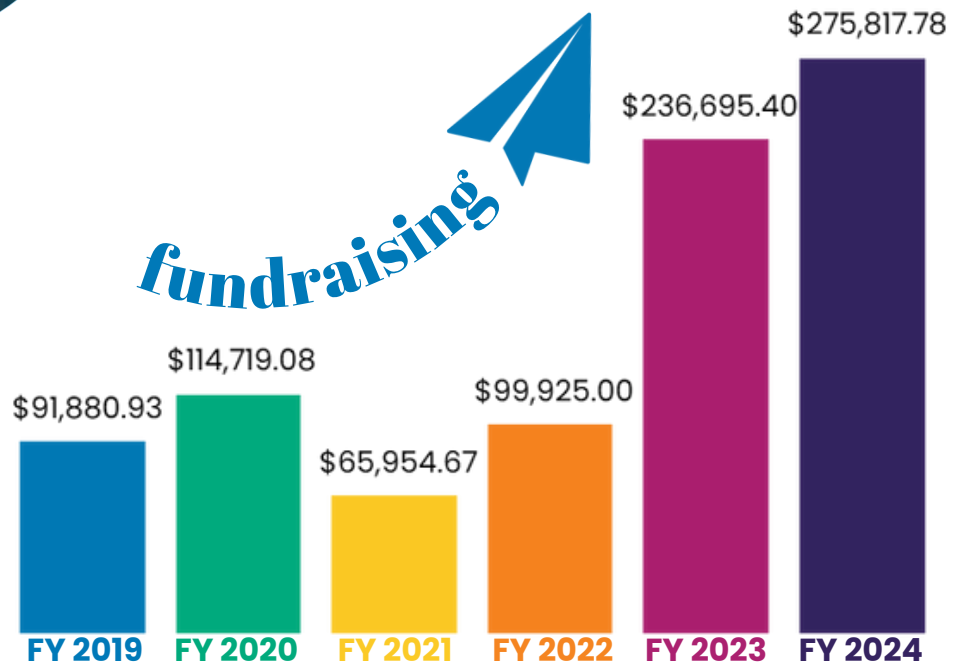
**48,000+**  
patrons

**425+**  
member  
families

## our board

July 2023–June 2024

- President: Shelby Fink
- Vice President: Olivia Davis
- Treasurer: Douglas Reed
- Secretary: Jacinta Porter
- Whitney Baxter
- Allison Donovan
- Mary Beth Griffith
- Chris Henry
- Mike Hilton
- Josh McCurn
- Hunter Porter
- Carrie Rogers
- Kim Skidmore
- Stephanie Spires



The Lexington Children's Museum provides an immersive, play-based learning experience where children are free to explore both at the museum and at community events!

## \$100,000+ experience fund

The LCM Experience Fund has a cross-cutting impact through our services and experiences.

It supports our participation in Museums for All, free Sensory Hours, free community outreach activities, and free or reduced-cost admission to visitors served by our local, non-profit partners.

Thank you to all of those who helped this fund reach over \$100,000 in FY 2024!

## 150+ toddler programs and story times

We revamped our toddler programming and story times, plus doubled the frequency of both!



Free resources and activities at community events, including:

- 19 school events
- KET Super Saturday
- Latino Fest
- Keeneland Kids Club Day
- UK Fusion Volunteer Fair
- UK Parent Resource Fair
- Roots & Heritage Festival
- Lex Public Library & KET Daniel Tiger
- Humane Society Mutt Strut 5K
- Different World Sensory Celebration



# our education programs



LCM provides cross-curricular, educational resources that align with state academic standards to schools, students, and educators throughout the commonwealth!

in external educational programming

**200% increase**  
over FY23



in number of field trip students

**42% increase**  
over FY23r



in camp participation across 25 camps

**250% increase**  
over FY23

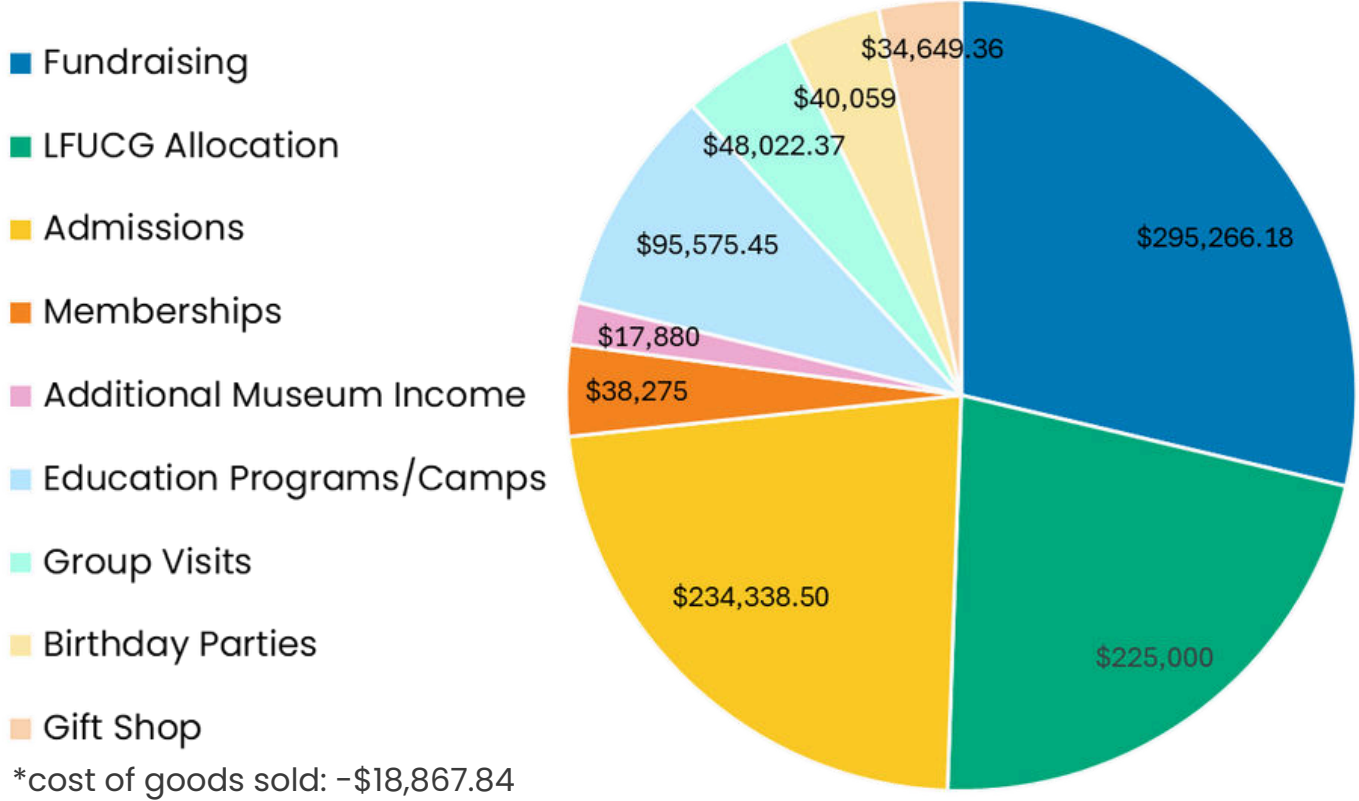


received reduced-cost field trips

**3,250 title I students**  
in 1 year

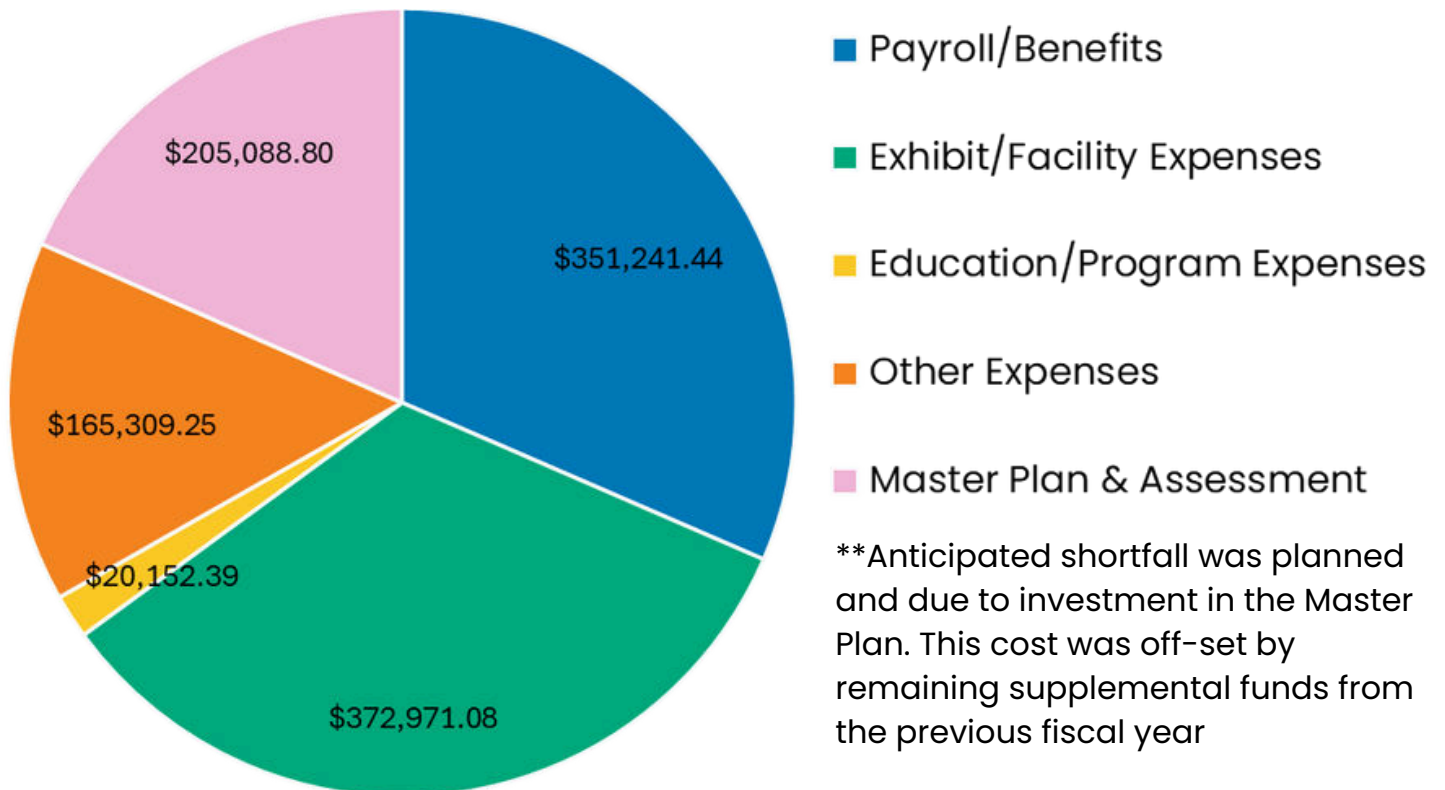
This information reflects the profit-loss statement on a cash basis FYTD – excluding unrealized gain/loss – and will be updated after FY24 audited financials are complete.

## income: \$1,010,198



\*cost of goods sold: -\$18,867.84

## expenses: \$1,068,954



\*\*Anticipated shortfall was planned and due to investment in the Master Plan. This cost was off-set by remaining supplemental funds from the previous fiscal year

# corporate and foundation donors



Al Torstrick Insurance Agency  
American Water Charitable Foundation  
Ameriprise Financial Triple Crown Advisors  
Anderson Real Estate  
APS Communications  
Association of Children's Museums  
Baird: The McIntosh Group  
BC Wood Properties  
Blue Grass Airport  
Blue Grass Charity Foundation  
The Bluegrass Ketamine Center  
Bluegrass Elderlaw  
Central Bank and Trust  
CHI Saint Joseph Health  
Dean Dorton Technology  
Fayette County Bar Foundation  
Field and Main Bank  
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels  
Impressions Marketing  
Keeneland Foundation  
Kentucky Arts Council  
Kismet Marketing  
Kroger Community Rewards  
KY Agriculture & Environment in the Classroom  
City of Lexington  
Lexington Medical Society  
LG&E - KU Foundation  
Lockheed Martin  
Marksbury Family Foundation  
Murry Foundation  
NiSource Charitable Foundation/  
Columbia Gas  
Payroll Solutions  
PetVet 365  
PNC Bank  
Skolnick Architecture and Design  
South Central Bank  
SparkBase Consulting  
Stoll Keenon Ogden

Toyota  
Traditional Bank  
Trifecta Wildlife Services  
University of Kentucky  
Valvoline Global  
VisitLEX  
Walter Gross III Family Foundation  
The Wildcat Group  
Wildcat Moving  
Young and Wadlington



**Thank you!**

