

Mission, Vision, & Values

MISSION

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum connects all people to Lake Champlain, inspiring them to learn from the past, build together in the present, and create a sustainable future.

VISION

Inspired, empowered, and equitable communities that realize social and environmental justice through their connection to Lake Champlain.



VALUES

We believe in the power of history.

We research, document, preserve, and share an inclusive maritime history and archaeology of the Lake Champlain region. Our work is to repair the harm caused by history being told from a singular, dominant perspective.

We believe in the power of connection.

We bring people together to learn from the lake and build skills of collaboration, communication, and critical thinking through equitable experiences that connect people to the world around them and to each other.

We believe that all people are history makers.

We inspire people to see new possibilities and to build a future that realizes justice for individuals, our communities, and the environment.

A Letter from the Director

Dear Maritime Museum Community,

Reflecting on this past year gave me the opportunity to see how amazing you are. The quantity and quality of programming achieved by our Museum community is inspiring. Our outreach, public interpretation, community rowing programs, courses and workshops on lake ecology, and ongoing historical and archaeological research have an enormous impact on the communities we serve.

This annual report brings all of those remarkable accomplishments together into one small snapshot. We share information on the programming, how it's funded, and hear about the impact on the diverse mix of people who make up our community. In this report you will learn about the many ways the Museum staff works to reduce any barriers to access. This includes physical access improvements,

expanded online content, pay-what-you-can pricing policies, and offering interpretive materials in different languages. Finally, we shine a light on the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers.

As we enter into a time of greater uncertainty I find it rewarding to look back on the accomplishments of last year and know that with support from our communities, donors, and supporters we will continue to provide the deeply impactful programming and interpretation for which we have become so well known. It is only with the continued support of donors and members like you that we can achieve these amazing things.

So as you absorb the content of this annual report I encourage you to take pride in what we, working together in community, have achieved. And I invite you to imagine the possibilities of what we continue to strive toward in the future.

With gratitude,

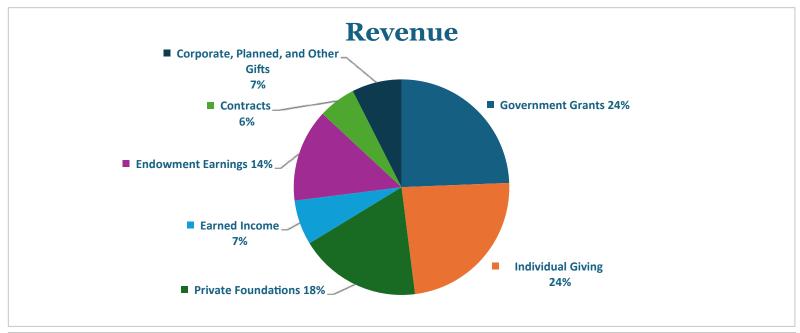
Christopher R. Sabick

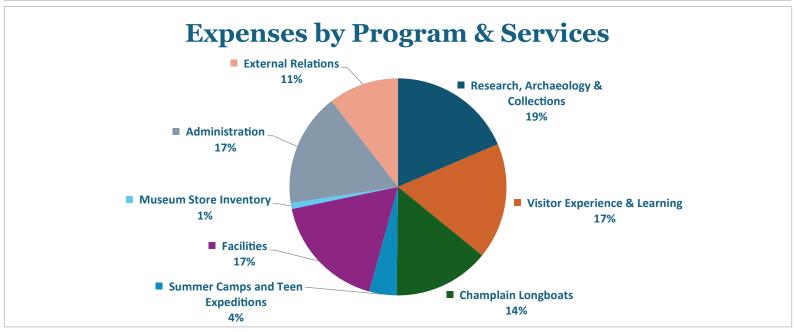
Chuf l. Sil

Executive Director



Museum Operations - Financial Overview 2024





Statement of Financial Position for the year ending December 31, 2024

Assets

110500	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	474,386
Investment Portfolio	3,379,491
Accounts Receivable	279,077
Other Current Assets	228,112
Property & Fixed Assets	1,145,897
Promises to Give	456,975
	5,963,938
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	34,839
Other Current Liabilities	99,976
Loans Payable	156,372
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,173,479
Restricted	3,819,674
Temporarily Restricted	679,598
	5,963,938

Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2024

Revenue

Net Surplus, Temporarily Restricted	679,598
	1,809,759
Interest & Depreciation	166,466
Capitalization of Fixed Assets	(301,571)
Museum Inventory	17,237
Facilities	338,953
Administration	328,607
External Relations	204,041
Visitor Experience & Learning	336,672
Research, Archaeology & Collections	361,156
Champlain Longboats	278,659
Summer Camps & Teen Expeditions	79,541
Expenses	
	2,489,357
Release of prior year restricted funds	(41,110)
Endowment Earnings	352,207
Earned Income	169,930
Contracts	141,869
Individual Giving	597,907
Private Foundations	462,945
Government Grants	616,646
Corporate, Planned & Other Gifts	188,964

Removing Barriers to Access

At Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, we want all people to see Lake Champlain as their lake, and we are committed to removing barriers that prevent people from accessing its rich history, ecology, and archaeology. This is vital work and it is never-ending. Here are some examples of how we removed barriers to access to improve the experience of the Museum and Lake Champlain for all:



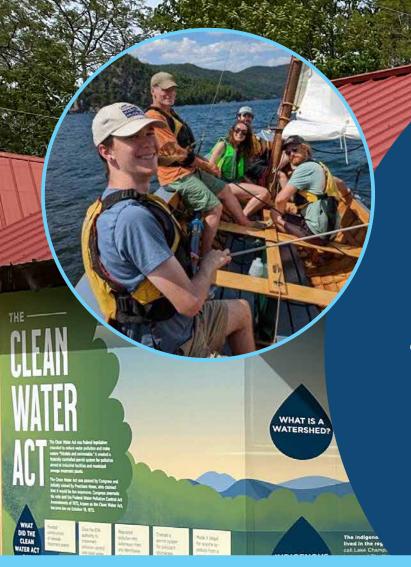
FREE ADMISSION

Before we made admission free, admission to the Museum ranged from \$10-\$15 per person. For many local families with children, this former one-day cost of \$50 was a huge barrier. That economic barrier is gone.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Museum has offered summer day camps for younger children and teen overnight expedition programs for decades. Since 2021, our "pay-what-you-can" model made it easier for any child to participate. Every year we have welcomed a more diverse young cohort, coming from families with more varied socioeconomic statuses and ethnicities. Since the model's inception we have welcomed 11 New Americans in camps and expeditions. Over 70% of our registrants have opted for free or reduced tuition, so the need is clear.





MEET NOAH JOHNSON: A SUMMER JOB TURNS INTO A CAREER

In 2022, Noah Johnson joined the team as a Museum Educator for the summer season. In this role, Noah offered tours, talks, and interpretation for museum visitors all season.

That season, Noah piloted many programs that are now mainstays of the Museum's seasonal calendar including shipwreck tours, hands-on demonstrations connected to our Clean Water Act exhibit, collections out of storage, and tours of the replica Revolutionary War gunboat, Philadelphia II. Noah also wrote articles about cyanobacteria and invasive species in Lake Champlain for the Museum's blog that have become popular online resources for local audiences.

Now Noah is an educator in Chicago.

"Working at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum as the Museum Educator was, fundamentally, a life-changing experience for me. I knew going in that I was interested in pursuing a career in education but I wasn't quite sure what that would look like for me. The Museum gave me direction, experience, and confidence. The staff created an environment for me to learn and grow as I developed educational programs. This experience inspired me to get a Master of Arts in Teaching and step into the classroom."

mate change and global warming continue to threaten our waterways a ecosystem, requiring the government be flexible and nimble to changes.

Nonpoint source pollution, such as snowmelt and rainfall leading to runoff, remains one of the leading causes of water quality issues

NEW ISSUES

Legislators continue to respond to new data about threats to water by passing laws like the Microbead-Free Waters Ac

ATE CHANGE

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

ATIONS

relies on concerned citizens to report

permit violations and issues of water

mited resources at all levels, the Act is driven by complaints, and often



In 2010, 14-year-old Carley Stein came to the Museum to participate in Champlain Discovery, our teen kayak building and overnight expedition program. Over the course of three weeks, Carley came to the Museum every day to build a kayak, learning wood working and boat building skills alongside five other teens. Once their kayaks were complete, Carley and the group set off on a two-week expedition, paddling the entire length of Lake Champlain.

Carley's group cooked together every day (trying new things like sriracha for the first time), and encouraged each other through challenges. Carley learned how determined and capable her group was when they suddenly got stuck in a thunderstorm. Using teamwork, radio communication, and their new chart reading skills they were able to safely navigate to the next campsite.

Today, Carley works as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service.

She tells us that Champlain Discovery fueled new professional dreams in outdoor education.

"This experience inspired me to take outdoor education seriously and consider it as a possible career. I got my Wilderness First Responder Certification through NOLS while still in high school, majored in Environmental Studies in college, and now I get to share outdoor skills and knowledge with the public every day."

Event Highlights



Boat Launch Day - May 2024

Each school year, high school students join us in the boat shop to build a new wooden rowing gig. It's an incredible journey and experience for students, including a trip to the forest to learn how to select a tree that will be used to build a boat and literally building the boat from tree to finished vessel alongside our expert boat builders. As the culmination of their work, each year in May the students present their finished boat to an audience of family, teachers, Museum staff, and friends. The students share what they learned from their boat building experience and then parade down to the harbor where they launch their boat for the first time.

The HOPE for TomorROW - June 2024

This annual rowathon held in partnership with Project HOePpnEr is an all-inclusive rowing and community event committed to raising awareness about teen suicide. It is an opportunity for us to come together in memory, hope, and support. Funds raised at this event go directly towards providing opportunities for teens to connect honestly and authentically with their loved ones and each other.





Museum After Hours Summer Party – July 2024

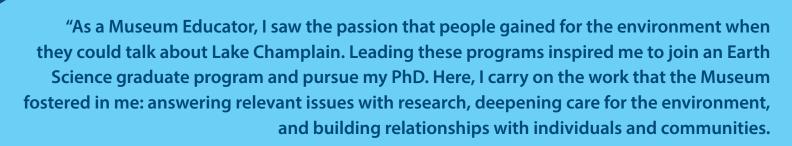
Our annual after hours summer party, this most recent summer gathering was one to remember as we opened a new exhibit, *Underwater Archaeology: Diving Into Stories of People and Canal Boats on Lake Champlain*. The Summer Party is a unique annual event for the Museum staff and board to gather with our community, celebrate the Museum's programs and accomplishments, and connect over good food, music, and exhibits.

MEET UMA ASHRANI: MUSEUM EDUCATOR TO PhD STUDIES

In 2023, in the summer between her sophomore and junior year at Boston University, Uma Ashrani came to the Museum to work as a Museum Educator. Uma developed programs to facilitate conversations about Lake Champlain, the environment, and history for visitors.

While at the Museum, Uma developed programs on environmental justice, ecology, and indigenous history, as well as serving as an educator on Shipwreck Tours and during open hours on our replica boats.

Uma returned to school invigorated.



I hope my future career will promote hands-on learning about science and specifically hydrology, so community members, students and scientists are inspired to protect and improve these important bodies of water."





MEET OUR CAMPERS: REELING IN FISH AND NEW SKILLS

Each summer, the Museum offers two sessions of Fish Camp, a week-long day camp for kids ages 6-9 to learn all about the fish of Lake Champlain. Campers get hands-on experience with different fishing skills, tools, and fish identification.

In Fish Camp, everyone learns how to cast rod, reel, and fly-fishing poles; make their own flies and spoon lures; and identify what they catch. Campers spend a bunch of time on the water practicing their new skills, go on field trips to sites around the Champlain Valley, and meet experts from Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

As one parent tells us, "We have no experience in our family, so when my son suddenly wanted to learn to fish, I didn't know how to get him started! I loved that camp gave my son a chance to learn and experience fishing."

And a camper says, "I learned about cool history of Lake Champlain. There was a cannon that cracked itself. I learned about how much algae there is and that zebra mussels can cut you without you noticing. It was memorable because it was a lot of fun and I met a lot of new friends."

Beyond the Museum Grounds

The Giant Lake Champlain Map

In 2024, our Giant Map brought Lake Champlain on the road! Geared with the map and some active lesson plans, Museum educators traveled to Pittsburgh for the NAAEE Conference, and to students in Barstow, Burlington, Manchester, Richmond, and Wells, VT; and Plattsburgh, NY.





Archaeology for All

Everyone loves archaeology! In 2024, Museum researchers and archaeologists gave presentations on the lake's rich underwater to audiences in Oakland, CA; Plattsburgh, NY; St. Catherines, ON; Bristol, VT; and Rutland, VT; as well as at the Museum and in several online conferences.

An Award-Winning Fish Camp

In 2024, our education team was invited to Rhode Island to receive the 2024 Roland Sigurdson Outstanding Aquatic Education Program Award from the Aquatic Resources Education Association for our popular Fish Camp.



The Magic Behind the Scenes: Volunteers Make it Happen!

CORPORATE VOLUNTEER GROUP at the Museum

In October, a group of employees from One Credit Union came to the Museum for a day of volunteering, helping prepare the campus to close for the season. United Way of Addison County helped connect us with the group. There's a lot of work to do around closing time, and there was a group of ten volunteers who were amazing – they raked paths, did lots of gardening work, stained benches, primed walls, repainted pedestals, and more.

Having so many extra hands on deck was a huge help for the Museum, and the volunteers remarked that they really enjoyed getting to spend a beautiful fall day outdoors.



BOAT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

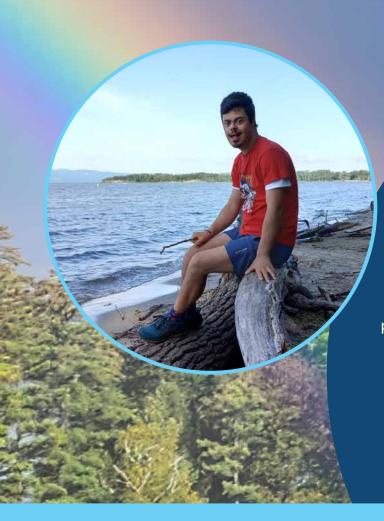
Over the years, boat shop volunteers have donated thousands of hours of their valuable time, both repairing the Museum's fleet of rowing boats and constructing new watercraft.

On any given day, they are installing planks and ribs in our new boats or repairing seasonal wear and tear on the fleet. They often work one on one with our youth boat builders, offering structure, instruction, and empathy to students. In addition to boat shop volunteers we also have multiple adult rowers that guide youth programs on the lake for team building and environmental field trips.





From occasional volunteers, to those who have been coming to the shop weekly for the past decade or more, we are so appreciative of the hard work and positivity they bring to our Museum and youth programs.



MEET COSMO: A FAMILY'S SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ROWING

For over 20 years, Youth Rowing at the Museum has offered middle school and high school students around Vermont the opportunity to join a rowing team each spring and fall. We have an inclusive "You Show, You Row" policy where everyone who wants to can join a team. Each year, over 250 students participate in this program, attending weekly practices and participating in local races and regional trips.

One parent shared with us her own experience in this program with her son:

"My son has been rowing in his BHS high school team for three seasons. My son Cosmo is now 19 years old. He lives with Down Syndrome. When we heard about the rowing opportunity, and knowing that Cosmo loves being in or on the water more than anything, we signed him up. He fell in love with it from the first minute on the boat.

The team, and even more so, the coaches, welcomed him warmly and included him naturally. As he has very little risk awareness and a delayed reaction time, he needs a one-on-one support person. Due to a lack of staff, the school was not able to supply one, so I decided to play this role.

Cosmo just sat in the boat for the first weeks, dipped the oars in the water, and caught many crabs. The team was so patient and accepting, and the coaches were determined to make this a positive experience for everyone, no matter how you could perform.

In the first races, we shared a seat, and Cosmo greatly enjoyed the excitement, enthusiasm, and team spirit. His progress during this first season was impressive. He learned how to get in and out of the boat safely, toss his oar, listen to the coxswain's calls, and remember where the starboard and port side were. The rowing remained a dipping of the oar on his own time.

But every time he got a little better, and this season, the magic happened. The calm and compassionate coaching and team effort over two years suddenly yielded fruit. Cosmo can now row in rhythm and move his body, not just his arms. He may not be able to do this consistently, but his muscle planning, coordination, and strength growth are incredible. His risk awareness in tricky situations and changing water conditions has come a long way.

My son Cosmo has not only grown in confidence and athletic strength, but he has also gained a feeling of belonging and acceptance that he has been missing greatly during his school career.

It has been a life changer and has greatly impacted my son and our whole family in a positive way."



