

LAKE
CHAMPLAIN
MARITIME
MUSEUM

2025 Annual Report

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



OUR PURPOSE

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—repairing 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 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.



WITH GRATITUDE

Land Acknowledgment

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is in the homeland of the Abenaki people.

The Abenaki have been here since time immemorial and continue to be a thriving Indigenous culture in this region. The Museum acknowledges with gratitude their generations of stewardship, past, present, and future.

As an organization committed to sharing the history, culture, and ecology of the Lake Champlain basin, it is essential to recognize that there were Abenaki people on this land first, regardless of who is here now.

FROM THE
DIRECTOR

Thank You



Dear Maritime Museum Community,

Everything in these pages happened because of you. Every student who built a boat, every kid who snorkeled or hiked in the watershed, every visitor who walked through our doors for free—they all came because a community of donors decided this work matters.

In this annual report we share what your generosity made possible in 2025. None of these “highlights” happen without you.

Thank you for believing in this Museum, for investing in our mission, and for sharing Lake Champlain with everyone.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris R. Sabick".

Christopher R. Sabick
Executive Director

2025 Program Highlights

Because of *you*.

Your generosity turned into a remarkable year on and off the water. Here is what you made possible at the Museum in 2025—every hour, mile, and milestone powered by supporters like you.



New Exhibit Takes Shape

Generous early funding for the new Revolutionary War exhibit paid for our design and research teams to do their work, and paid for a brand new floor.



Juniper Arts Mural Project

Grants funded an art-making day with Juniper Creative Arts. Artists worked with young boat builders from our Champlain Longboats program to create pieces for the final "Untold Architects of American Independence" mural.



25th Boat Launched

Celebrating the launch of the *Ruth M. Kennedy* was the third year in a row a generous benefactor paid for the building of the longboat, and got to name the student-built boat.



On-Water Programming Expands

Thanks to an anonymous donor the Museum's sailing offerings expanded to include introduction to sailing for all ages and a teen sailing expedition. 69 people sailed Lake Champlain.



Project HOPE for TomorROW

The Museum collaborated for the fourth year with Project HOePpnEr to increase awareness around the catastrophe that is teen suicide, co-sponsoring a fun rowing race across the lake.



Kids Blossom At Summer Camps

Kids learned to fish, snorkel, and test water. They became budding archaeologists and metal artists, and had a blast at summer camps. 103 kids attended summer camps and 73 came on free or reduced tuition.



Talking Archaeology Premieres

Part of our free admission initiative is offering new programs. We established a free evening talk series with eight talks, and welcomed 170 guests to learn history from our archaeologists.



Where Are You In The Watershed?

Our Giant Map program connected young people to the Lake Champlain Watershed in fun and unique ways. The Map travelled to schools during the school year and was on Museum grounds during the summer. 1,775 students learned on the Giant Map.

1,357
— HOURS

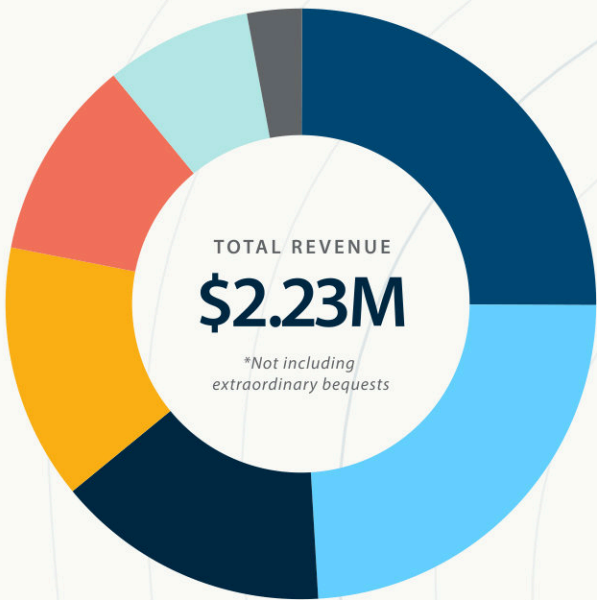
BECAUSE OF YOU

given by 26 volunteers

Your volunteer hours guaranteed success in our Boat Shop, Collections, exhibit interpretation, summer camps, adult rowing clubs, and beyond.

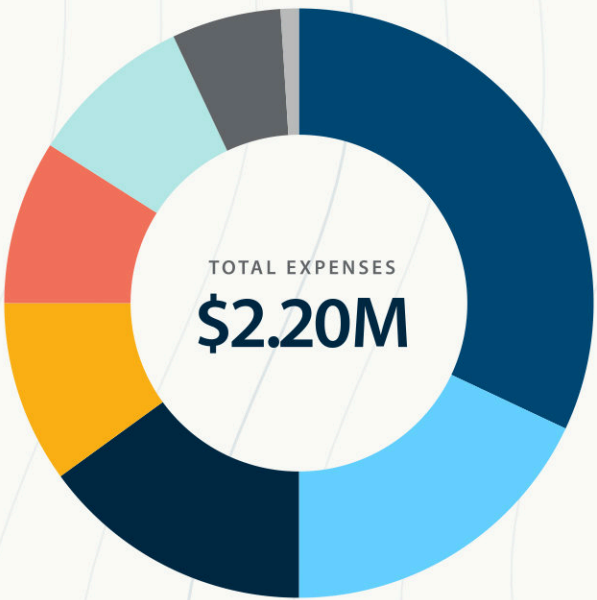
Financials

REVENUE



Government Grants	25%
Endowment Earnings	24%
Corporate, Planned & Other	15%
Individual Giving	14%
Private Foundations	11%
Earned Income	8%
Contracts	3%

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM & SERVICES



Visitor Experience & Learning	32%
Research, Archaeology & Collections	18%
Administration	15%
Champlain Longboats	10%
Facilities	9%
External Relations	9%
Summer Camps & Teen Expeditions	6%
Museum Store Inventory	1%

BECAUSE OF YOU

What Your Support
Made Possible In 2025

05

10,500
visitors welcomed
for free

792
students (grades 4 and up) came on
field trips during the school year

Every gift, carefully stewarded—and put to work for the lake, and for our community.

Statement Of Financial Position - 12/31/25

ASSETS

Investment Portfolio	8,813,366
Property & Fixed Assets	1,207,927
Bequest Receivable	1,051,374
Accounts Receivable	387,578
Cash & Cash Equivalents	292,828
Other Current Assets	229,736
Promises to Give	202,700
Total Assets	\$12,185,509

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	28,643
Other Current Liabilities	160,366
Loans Payable	144,834
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	7,304,458
Restricted	4,547,207
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$12,185,509

Statement Of Operations - 12/31/25

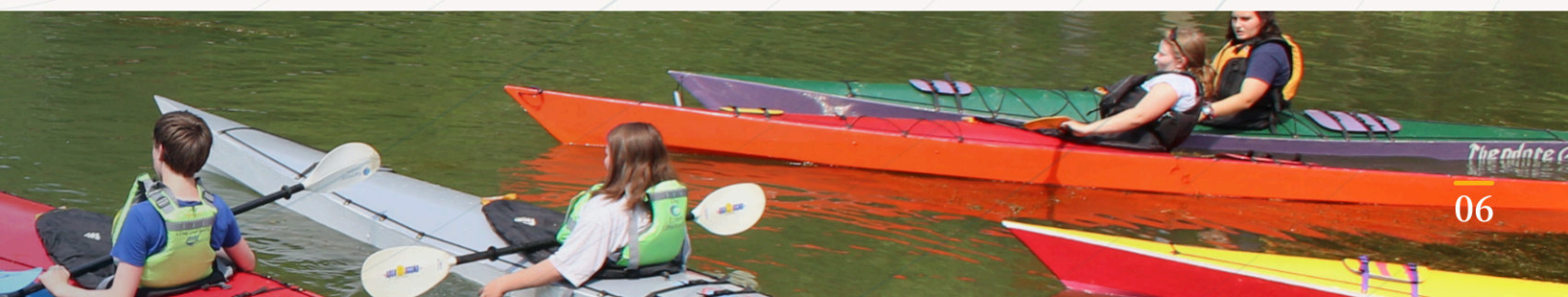
REVENUE

Corporate, Planned & Other Gifts	325,297
Government Grants	562,882
Private Foundations	243,875
Individual Giving	306,854
Contracts	72,314
Earned Income	182,669
Endowment Earnings	535,043
Total Revenue	\$2,228,934

**Not including extraordinary bequests*

EXPENSES

Summer Camps & Teen Expeditions	136,550
Champlain Longboats	230,608
Visitor Experience & Learning	693,383
Research, Archaeology & Collections	402,456
External Relations	192,452
Administration	323,402
Museum Store Inventory Costs	18,062
Facilities	204,945
Total Expenses	\$2,201,858



Legacy Giving

GIFTS THAT ENDURE

In 2025, the Museum received a very generous and transformational bequest from one of our long-time donors, Hilarie Gade. To honor Hilarie, we named our new planned giving society the **Hilarie Jane Forst Gade Legacy Society**. Her gift is an example of how estate planning can lead to a contribution that is often larger than what is possible during your lifetime.

Hilarie would have been the first to say that not every planned gift has to be large. The thought and intention in each gift makes it extraordinary.

To find out more about how to include the Museum in your legacy planning, please visit our new webpage:

lcm.org/support/planned-giving



Hilarie Jane Forst Gade

New Haven, Vermont

Hilarie believed deeply in the Museum's mission and gave generously every year along with her life partner, John Peters, to support our work. She recognized that the opportunities the Museum offers people—to build community, learn, develop, grow, and connect to Lake Champlain and our history—are critical ways to make the world a better place.

Hilarie cared profoundly about doing that. Hilarie spent a lot of time on Lake Champlain where she had a summer camp and loved the serenity the lake gave her. She wanted that experience to be available to everyone.

Her bequest to the Museum in 2025 was an extraordinary affirmation that she believed in the Museum's mission and wanted the Museum to prosper for future generations. Hilarie helped pave the way for the Museum to sustain its free access to programs and free admission for years to come.



Frances Brawley Foster

Charlotte, Vermont

Frances has been a generous donor to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for over two decades. She served on the Board at the Museum, as well as at other local nonprofits, including Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the Charlotte Land Trust.

"I chose to include the Maritime Museum in my estate plans to honor my late husband, Will Foster, and his parents who grew up on the lake and loved it. I also give because the lake's history matters and must continue to be told in fresh, engaging ways—both to introduce new audiences to compelling stories of lake history and to re-engage returning visitors.

"To me, understanding the lake's history can inspire a deeper commitment to caring for this special body of water for generations to come. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is a priority in my estate planning because it is a small organization that both needs and deserves the support of all who love the lake and its history."



Susan & Geoff Nelson

West Addison, Vermont

Susan and Geoff Nelson have been generous supporters of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum since 2008. They give back to their community in countless ways, including as volunteer EMTs, board members at The Vergennes Opera House, and involvement with Addison Town Historical Society and the Addison Volunteer Fire Department.

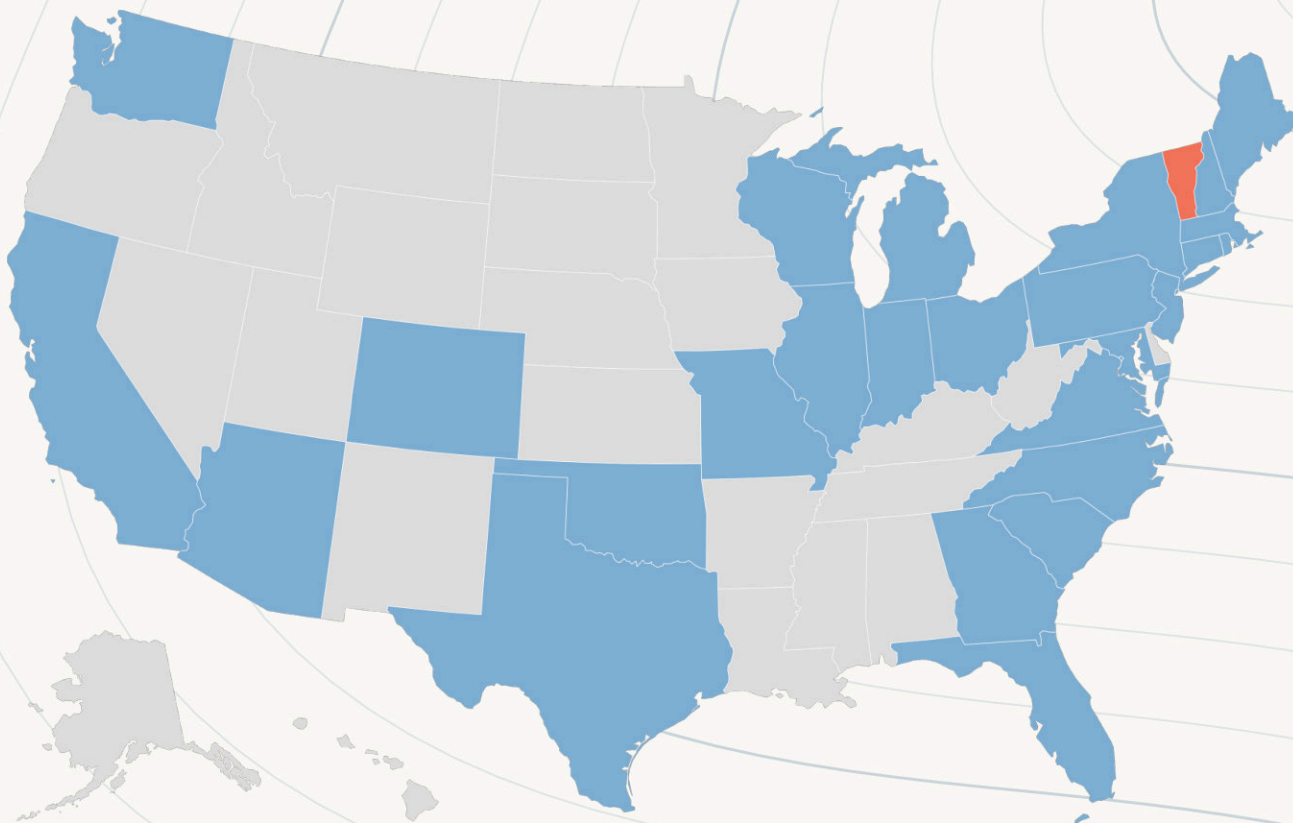
"Our approach to charitable giving emphasizes supporting institutions that make a difference in our community. Annual gifts support the here and now. Planned Giving ensures solid foundations and legacies, such as funding for endowments.

"We chose our charitable giving to support education, community emergency services, cultural institutions like the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and community resources. We feel that Lake Champlain Maritime Museum was important for planned giving due to their support of history, the ongoing health of the lake, as well as youth programs. It is wonderful to have a world class institution like the Museum in our back yard!"

THANKS TO YOU

A Community of *Giving*

Generosity has no single source. You gave in every amount, from every corner of the country, united by a shared belief that Lake Champlain's story belongs to everyone.



28 *states*

You hailed from 28 states, joining us on our mission of sharing the lake with everyone.

850+

TOTAL NUMBER OF
supporters *gave* in 2025—at every level

Direction for the *Future*

As we head into the second half of 2026, we are putting finishing touches on our next five-year strategic plan. We have big dreams for the future of the Museum.

We envision moving the replica gunboat *Philadelphia II* alongside the new American Revolution exhibit, where it can be permanently covered and protected from the elements. This would preserve an important part of our collection for future generations while creating a more cohesive and engaging visitor experience.

We also envision transforming our casting shop into a year-round classroom and learning space. This would allow us to expand our current seasonal programming and offer a wider variety of hands-on educational programs, workshops, and community events.

Together, projects like these will help us preserve our history, make better use of our existing spaces, and create new opportunities for visitors and our community—year-round.

Our commitment is to remain a place of connection, learning, and discovery where students of all ages can build historical understanding, advance critical thinking skills, and embrace complexity.

We believe our community depends on us for this, and are proud to uphold that responsibility.



Christopher R. Sabick
Executive Director



Alex Cary
Chairman of the Board



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4472 BASIN HARBOR ROAD, VERGENNES, VT | WWW.LCMM.ORG | 802.475.2022