

**BAKKEN**

MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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# 2021

AT A GLANCE

**1,100+**  
artifact  
accessions



**300+**  
museum  
members

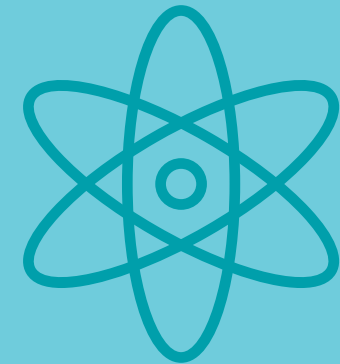
**14,921**  
education  
program  
participants



**100+**  
school and  
community  
partners



**15,500+**  
museum visitors



**130,000**  
website visitors

**46**  
Minnesota  
counties  
reached

**12,757**  
student  
hours in the  
Makerspace

**3,250+**  
outdoor event  
attendees



**1,945**  
take-home  
experiment kits  
distributed



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

2021 highlighted the strength of our staff, leadership of our Board, and depth of our relationships across the Twin Cities. Still reeling from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we turned to a concept that we teach to students: the goal is not to avoid failure but to try new ways of thinking, making, and doing. We partnered with local theaters and musicians to provide a safe outdoor space to perform and introduced their audiences to our museum. We continuously developed new safety protocols to deliver on and off-site STEM education programs. We launched a new, more accessible website. We served as a hub for scientific thinking and a meaningful place to connect with people of importance in your life.

In the past year, we have worked with experts to comprehensively evaluate our financials, programs, and operations, focusing on equity and sustainability. A strategic plan with clear initiatives and steps to achieve them resulted, to be unveiled in 2022. We are using this plan to ensure every decision we make as an institution aligns with our fundamental values: creativity, curiosity, uniqueness, adaptability, collaboration, and the pursuit of equity.

We are thankful for our donors, sponsors, members, and volunteers who helped The Bakken Museum adapt throughout the pandemic and plan for a successful future. This annual report is filled with ways our team changed and improved our offerings to best serve the needs of our community. We hope you will find it as inspiring as we do.

Happy reading,



**Heather Walch**  
Interim President  
The Bakken Museum



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS WETLAND CART

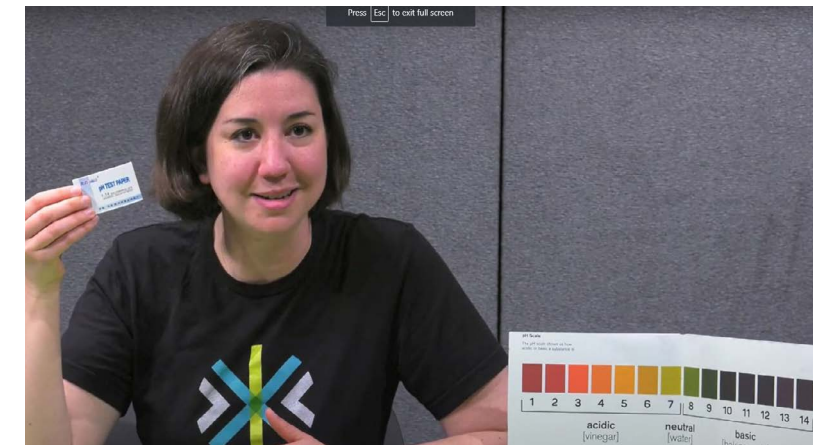
In summer 2021, The Bakken brought our public programs outdoors. A new activity cart, sponsored by the West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council, invited members of the public to explore activities and demonstrations centered around the science and ecology of the Bakken Wetlands on our grounds. The cart was positioned in our new courtyard, and invited visitors to enjoy a little taste of The Bakken Museum without having to pay admission. The activities were a success and we plan to expand on them in future summers. This new free public programming will be enhanced by the addition of interpretive panels highlighting both connections to Dakota traditions and the science of our native wetlands.



A Bakken Museum educator shares an experiment with visitors at the Wetland Science Cart.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS COLOR ME CURIOUS WORKSHOP

Art inspires science, in turn re-inspiring art in our brand-new Color Me Curious Workshop. In this hands-on experience, students got a chance to explore how artists and designers cultivate the colors we see in nature. We then use chemistry to change the colors before our eyes, building a personal rainbow palette of paints to use in an art project. Piloted as a kit-based virtual activity in 2020, Bakken educators built this program into a full-length workshop in 2021. It's now an instant hit with our audiences!



A Bakken educator shows students a PH chart as part of the Color Me Curious workshop.





Students explore in the new Spark exhibit.

## FEATURED PROGRAM

### A FRESH TAKE ON FIELD TRIPS

Fall 2021 saw our first opportunity to provide field trip tours to school groups in our new exhibit spaces. Guided tours have students in groups moving through the exhibits with a combination of free exploration time and activities facilitated by their tour guide. The process is highly choreographed to move large groups of students through our exhibits and grounds smoothly.

The updated exhibit tour features time in the Spark exhibit and a guided activity in the Makerspace, in addition to stops at classic favorites including Frankenstein's Laboratory and the Benjamin Franklin's Electricity Party Room. Setting the timing, flow, and facilitation of these new elements required experimenting by our educators, and the students and teachers have greatly enjoyed the improved experience.

## FEATURED PARTNERSHIP

### MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### KINDERGARTEN MATH

It's the partnership that keeps on growing! The Bakken Museum and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) have worked together in many capacities over the years and in 2021 this relationship grew in new way—teaching math. Throughout summer 2021, Bakken Museum educators worked with MPS teachers and staff to retool our Bee's Code Program to specifically address benchmark learning standards for kindergarten math. Our educators were able to focus on math content in an innovative way, and the strong groundwork of our coding program proved to be well-built for the adaptation.

Over the course of the school year, this program was delivered by museum educators to every kindergarten classroom in the MPS district. In addition, each elementary school in MPS received multiple classroom sets of physical Bee Bots and corresponding curriculum to keep the learning going after our visit. Once again collaborating with district math specialists, museum staff designed a series of ten follow-up lessons, using Bee Bots to practice math and coding skills. All kindergarten teachers received virtual training from Bakken Museum educators at the beginning of the school year.

This model, combining a classroom visit, teacher professional development, and leave-behind curriculum had a great reception and is poised to expand into other grade levels for future Minneapolis students.

“ This was super engaging and great introduction—a really great motivation to get me started on our own lessons!

- Minneapolis Kindergarten Educator

“ Student really loved the BeeBots—they made this content seem more special and more fun.

- Minneapolis Kindergarten Educator

“ My students LOVED this program and the BeeBot activities!

- Minneapolis Kindergarten Educator





## FEATURED PARTNERSHIP

### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: A KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY



**Thunder House**  
*Maker: Unknown, France*  
*Year Made: 1752-1850*



**Students in the Benjamin Franklin's Electricity Party Room at The Bakken Museum.**

In April 2021, The Bakken Museum took part in filming the PBS documentary, Benjamin Franklin. Museum curators and educators provided expertise about static electricity experiments performed by Franklin and his contemporaries. Released in April 2022, museum exhibit pieces and artifacts can be seen in the two-part documentary about the prolific innovator's life.

In addition to the film, PBS LearningMedia conducted extensive research to better understand how educators teach Benjamin Franklin and the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, how those lessons impact learning, and how popular texts shape existing narratives about complicated historical figures and hard truths about the era. The research informed the contents, structure, and implementation of a scalable series of professional learning workshops intended to support educators so they can more accurately teach authentic, whole histories and deepen student knowledge and engagement. The Bakken Museum is proud to be included in a collection of classroom resources for students in grades 5-12 available on the Ken Burns in the Classroom website at [tpt.pbslearningmedia.org](https://tpt.pbslearningmedia.org).

## FEATURED SUPPORTER

### MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In October 2018, Earl Bakken passed away at the age of 94 having lived a long life as an inventor, innovator, and source of inspiration for many in his home of Minnesota and around the world.

As part of this legacy, Earl left a large collection of materials to The Bakken Museum. With the creation of the Earl Bakken Legacy Collection in 2021, visitors and researchers now have a fuller look into Earl's life and impact. With support from the Minnesota Historical Society, The Bakken Museum has finished processing over 1,100 objects and papers, which are now available to the public.

This eclectic collection places honorary degrees next to homemade certificates from Earl's children and Frankenstein toys next to rare medical devices. Pictures of Earl with important doctors, decision-makers, and world-changers are filed with images of him meeting children helped by medical devices he designed. As a whole, the pieces give insight into the life of an individual with humble beginnings who improved the world.

*This project was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Any views, findings, opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee.*



**Earl Bakken's doctor bag**  
*Maker: Medtronic and Various Others*  
*Year Made: 1950s-2010s*

**About this item:** Earl Bakken was often asked to speak about what inspired his life of innovating. For many of these talks he brought along this leather bag filled with the things he thought were most important to share.





Drag Queen Anastasia C Principle performs during Lip Service Revue.

## ROOFTOP EVENT SERIES

The opening of our rooftop green space allowed us to invite our community to join us in a new way and enliven the grounds through a mixture of both 21+ parties and events for the entire family. Through the activation of our outdoor space, The Bakken Museum welcomed partner groups and enabled us to reconnect with one another while bringing new visitors to the museum.

### Open Eye Theatre Presents Log Jam: A Paul Bunyan Musical Spectacular

Through 14 performances reaching nearly 1,400 people, this production explored the complex legacy of Paul Bunyan through a quest to bring the legend out of retirement.

### Black & Funny and the Minnesota Improv Festivals

In nine unique performances, the Twin Cities Improv Festival and the Black and Funny Improv Festival combined to create live performances from some of the best improvisers in the Twin Cities.

### The OK Factor

The self-described new-classical crossover duo, The OK Factor, brought cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan to perform their unique yet familiar original compositions.

### Mixtape: I Forgot How to Do This

Produced by Wayward Theatre and told by the folks who lived through them, the Mixtape event shared five true stories accompanied by live painting and music.

### jeremy messersmith

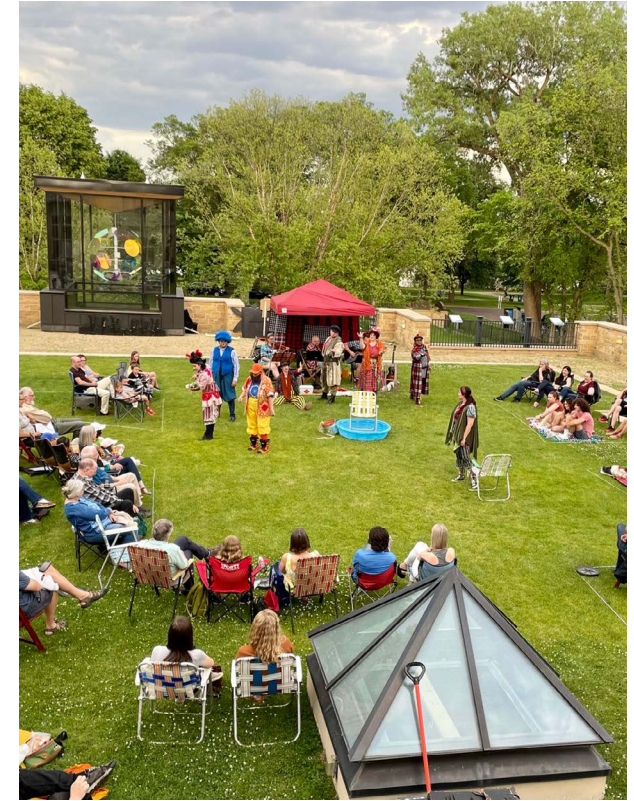
One of Minnesota's most recognized and celebrated artists, jeremy messersmith brought his indie pop singer-songwriter music to rooftop for an acoustic, one-night only concert.

### Lip Service Revue: A Drag Show

A drag show that featured some of the metro area's most well-known queens brought a dose of high energy to the rooftop that engaged attendees of all ages.

### Minnesota Fringe Festival: The Scribbler

A comedy inspired by and surely insulting to the legacy of Herman Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener." Presented as a part of the Minnesota's popular Fringe Festival.



Actors from Open Eye Theatre perform Log Jam on the museum's green roof.

### Open Eye Theatre Presents: Night Shade

The celebrated puppet collective, Night Shade from Portland, OR and Mr. Bonetangles from Austin, TX joined us for a special Halloween puppetry extravaganza.

### Phil Thompson

Acclaimed pianist, vocalist and Kawai-endorsed touring artist Phil Thompson performed a tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John in this sold-out concert.

### Glow Up

Our Glow Up event featured performances and activities that highlighted how innovators 'glow up' their ideas to make incredible things.



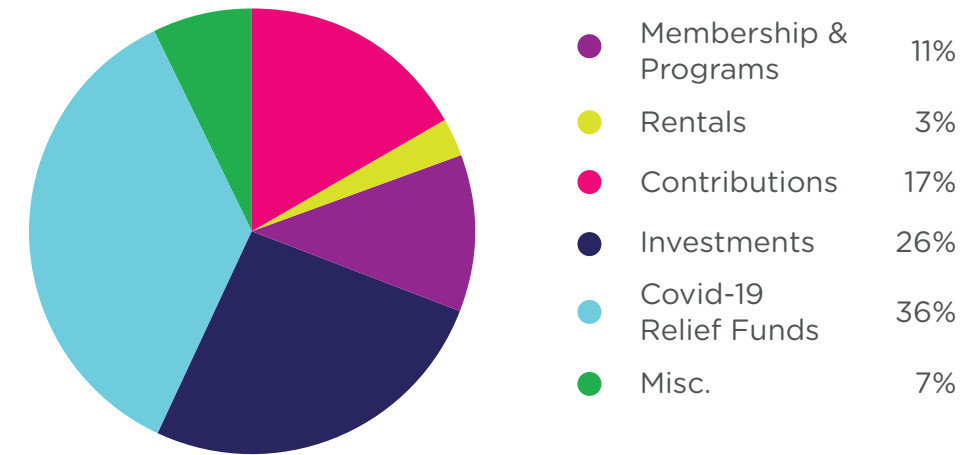
Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash	\$313,391	\$273,413
Current Receivables	\$464,629	\$410,937
Other Current Assets	\$43,233	\$25,660
Long Term Receivables	\$709,912	\$816,338
Property, Equipment and Collections (Net)	\$8,282,975	\$8,780,134
Investments	\$9,137,939	\$8,587,095
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$18,952,079</b>	<b>\$18,893,577</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Accounts and Notes Payable	\$40,554	\$483,293
Other Current Liabilities	\$340,435	\$371,712
Long-Term Liabilities	\$3,512	\$75,815
Total Liabilities	\$384,501	\$930,820
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$17,456,334	\$16,660,660
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$1,111,244	\$1,302,097
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$18,952,079</b>	<b>\$18,893,577</b>

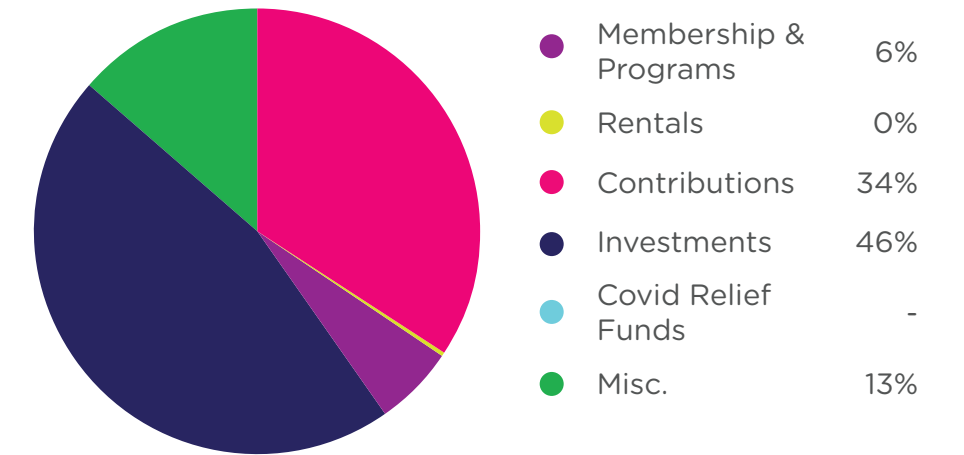
Income Statement

INCOME	2021	2020
Earned Income	\$464,906	\$176,948
Contributed Income	\$555,466	\$983,186
Investment Income	\$850,845	\$1,322,360
Covid Relief Funds	\$1,175,584	
Misc. Income	\$233,676	\$386,747
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,280,477</b>	<b>\$2,869,241</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Exhibits & Collections	\$291,238	\$1,255,399
Education Programs	\$1,211,774	\$1,234,158
Public Programs	\$347,564	\$365,654
Management & General	\$398,424	\$371,067
Fundraising	\$426,656	\$298,248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,675,656</b>	<b>\$3,524,526</b>

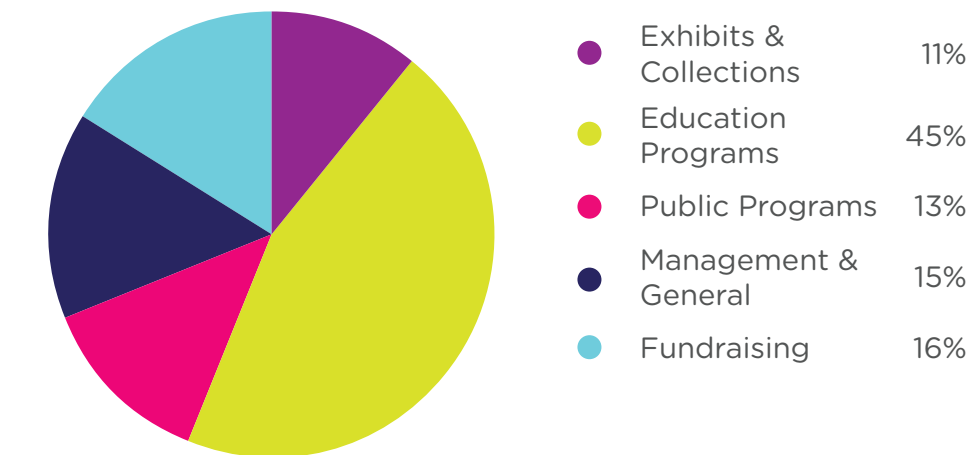
2021 Income Breakdown



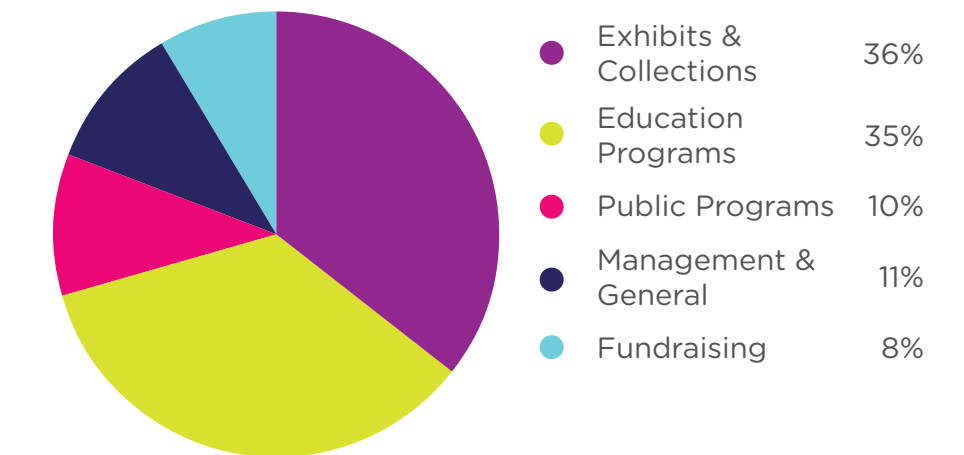
2020 Income Breakdown



2021 Expense Breakdown



2020 Expense Breakdown





# SUPPORTERS

We thank all of our supporters, giving generously of their time, expertise, and assets.

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Carl Stamp, Independent

Barb Stinnett, Timmaron Group

John Uribe, Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota

Mark van Osnabrugge, Medtronic

Heather Walch, Independent

We are thankful to Cat Jennings and Pat Keran for their years of service on our board of directors as they rotate off the board at the end of 2021. Their contributions have been invaluable and we look forward to their continued engagement.

# CURRENT LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

## LEADERSHIP

**Heather Walch** - Interim President

**Joe Imholte** - Executive Vice President

**Sara Kietzmann** - Vice President of Finance & Administration

**Anika Taylor** - Vice President of Education Programs & Research

## STAFF

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### Development

Alex Askew - Director of Development

Hannah Coleman-Zaitzeff - Institutional Giving Manager

Amy Lindqvist - Administrative Coordinator

### Education

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Bekki Hansen - Field Trips Programs Manager

Siri Hellerman - Outreach Programs Manager

André Phillips - Youth & Family Programs Manager

Felicia Cooper - Outreach Programs Coordinator

Will Elsas - Community Engagement Coordinator

Andrew Hilger - Family Programs Coordinator

Eileen King - Youth Programs Coordinator

Jayne Becker - Educator

Alex Hagen - Educator

Caitlin Hammel - Educator

Mike Leivad - Educator

Michael Rogers - Educator

Adelaide Rohrsen - Educator

Jen Scott - Educator

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Jenna Rempfert - Assistant Curator

Bruce Challgren - Media Specialist

### Facilities

Chris Lundeen - Director of Facilities & Rental Events

Joe Esseff - Facilities III

Alex Patterson - Facilities II

Jon Rodine - Facilities I

### Marketing

Laura Whittet - Director of Marketing & Comm.

Hattie Peach - Marketing Associate

### Public Operations

Maggie Peck - Museum Operations Manager

Jim Degner - Membership Coordinator

Bonnie Esposito - Visitor Services Representative

Ava Griswold - Museum Facilitator

In March 2022, we bid a fond farewell to Michael Sanders, our CEO & President since 2016. We are grateful for Michael's leadership, support, and strategic vision during his time with us.









**BAKKEN**  
MUSEUM

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021

### CONTACT US

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