



Annual Report FY 23-24

A Thank You From Tabitha

Our dedication to education, empowerment, and inspiration positions this rural museum as a nudge towards collective healing. It's time for us to remember. It's time for us to learn. It's time for us to grow.

In 2024, our Board Members completed hundreds of guided tours, introducing new audiences to our mission and exhibits.

Additionally, we hosted college-level field trips, fostering connections between academia and the arts.

We partnered with Illinois Art Station to curate an interactive art exhibit. This partnership enhances and enriches the visitor experience through deep engagement with artistry.

In 2025, we will break ground on elevator installation, thereby advancing towards a fully-accessible space.

The hiring of a full-time Curator facilitates the completion of "Voting Rights throughout History" and "The Voting Landscape of Today," inching us ever closer to our goal of three full exhibits.

The accomplishments of the past year have laid a strong foundation for Project XV Museum's future.

Our partnerships, community engagement efforts, and commitment to accessibility all gather the diversity of El Paso, Illinois into one unified memorial. We are working class. We are middle class. We are black, white, and brown. We are formally educated, and we are self-taught.

We are grateful for your support.
Thank you.



Best Regards,
Tabitha Nowark,
Founder & Co-Chair



Project XV Museum was founded with community engagement in mind. As such, 2024 saw us continuing our efforts to reach across Central Illinois in a variety of context to meet folks where they are.

For example, we participated in Illinois State University's Civic Engagement Work Day and their Internship Fair.

In El Paso, IL, and with special support from the EPG Show Choir, we were able to hold our annual Block Party celebrating Mr. Strother's birthday. This event remains close to our hearts as it uplifts Mr. Strother and brings our rural community together.



Community Engagement

2024 Engagement by the Numbers

Even though we have not officially opened the doors to our museum, our Board Members and Volunteers have already contributed to the Central Illinois community.

A few highlights:

- In April, WGLT featured Project XV Museum in a written and radio short.
- The following month, Mark Welp & Peoria-based PBS station WTVP featured Project XV Museum.
- We partnered with the Bloomington Public Library, staffing a booth at their Juneteenth event.
- In a collaborative venture with Illinois Art Station and Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, we established "The Art of Voting Creation Station" on our premises.
- Students from Dr. Chiharu Ishida's Marketing Analytics course presented an analysis of our museum's current website and offered advice for SEO improvements.

8 Internships

**15 Community
Presentations &
Conferences**

**45 New Voters
Registered**

+50 Volunteers

**+10 Progress
Tours**





The Annual Gala continues to be our most productive fundraising event.

Each year, guests enjoy informal tours of the museum space and hors d'oeuvres to celebrate democracy in Mr. Strother's barbershop.

A silent auction featuring donated goods from local businesses helps uplift our museum and the El Paso community.

In 2025, we will be cutting the ribbon on our museum. That is, this year, the Gala will be our opening event. Tickets will be made available via our website, so stay tuned.

**Our
Annual Gala,
held on the
anniversary
of Mr. Strother's
historic vote,
raised more
than 63,000\$
in 2024.**



Fundraising

Project XV Museum received a second grant for four thousand dollars from Landmarks Illinois's Preservation Heritage Fund. These monies enable us to compensate the folks completing the necessary building repairs to ensure our historic space remains intact and safe for occupants.

Our Giving Tuesday 2024 Campaign saw the investment of more than one thousand dollars into our efforts for rural civics education. Board Members united to drive this campaign via email and social media posts, and we are all proud with the successes we have had. For 2025, we plan to continue developing our outreach methods and improving metric tracking for better analysis.

For 2025, our Board will continue to pursue grant funding to secure the opening of our doors, develop our exhibits, and invite fresh research into our displays. While it varies between individual grants, an estimated 10%-30% of grant applications are

successful. As such, we continue to pursue other revenue streams beyond relying solely upon grant monies to preserve rural history and further rural civics education.

2023-2024 Board Members

Tabitha Nowark, Founder & Co-Chair (she/her)

Nikita Richards, Vice President (she/her)

Michael Melick, Co-Chair (he/him)

Linda Foster, Board Member (she/her)

Liyah Williams, Board Member (she/her)

Casey Sepich, AuD, Board Member (she/her)

Barb Lancaster, Board Member (she/her)

Kanisha Mapa, Board Member (he/him)

Adam Hunter, Board Member (he/him)

Krista Roberts, PhD, Board Member (she/her)

Brandi Montalbano, Project Manager (she/her)

Ryan Johnson, Board Consultant (they/them)

Jeffrey Pegram, PhD, Retired Board Member (he/him)

Renee Thompson, Retired Board Member (she/her)

Jim Miller, Retired Board Member (he/him)

Futures

Concept Renderings

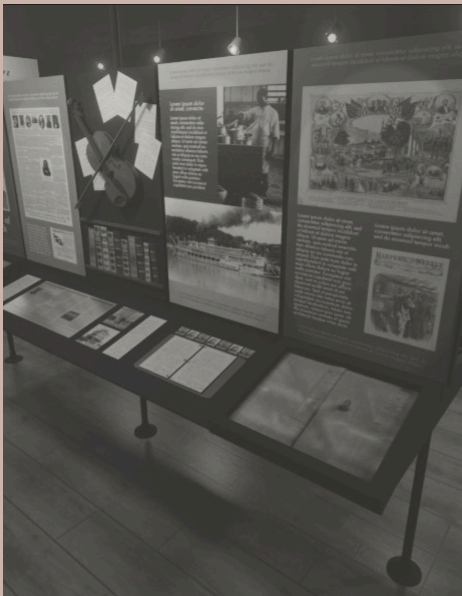
Brian Ulrich's digital concepts for the David Strother Timeline Room and History of Black Barbering Room help us imagine an elevated yet engaging space for our future visitors.

Previously, Ulrich designed props and sets for major television programs, such as *The Amazing Race*. He developed our virtual reality exhibit and remains committed to helping fully develop our museum experience.

Elevator

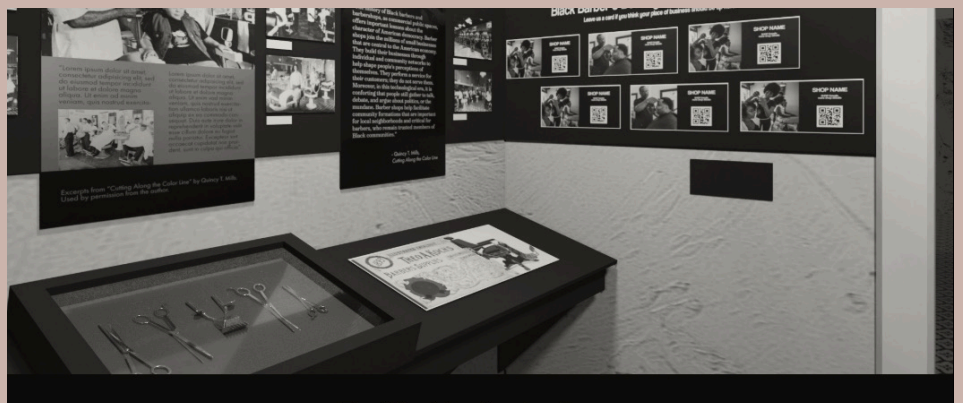
In a major move towards becoming fully ADA compliant, Project XV Museum received an exceptionally generous donation from a private donor. They have agreed to fund 75% of the costs for an elevator and hope to see it in motion for our Annual Gala in 2025.

We remain beyond grateful for all of our donors, as it is the spirit of generosity and value of rural civics education that brings us all together. A sincere thank you to all!



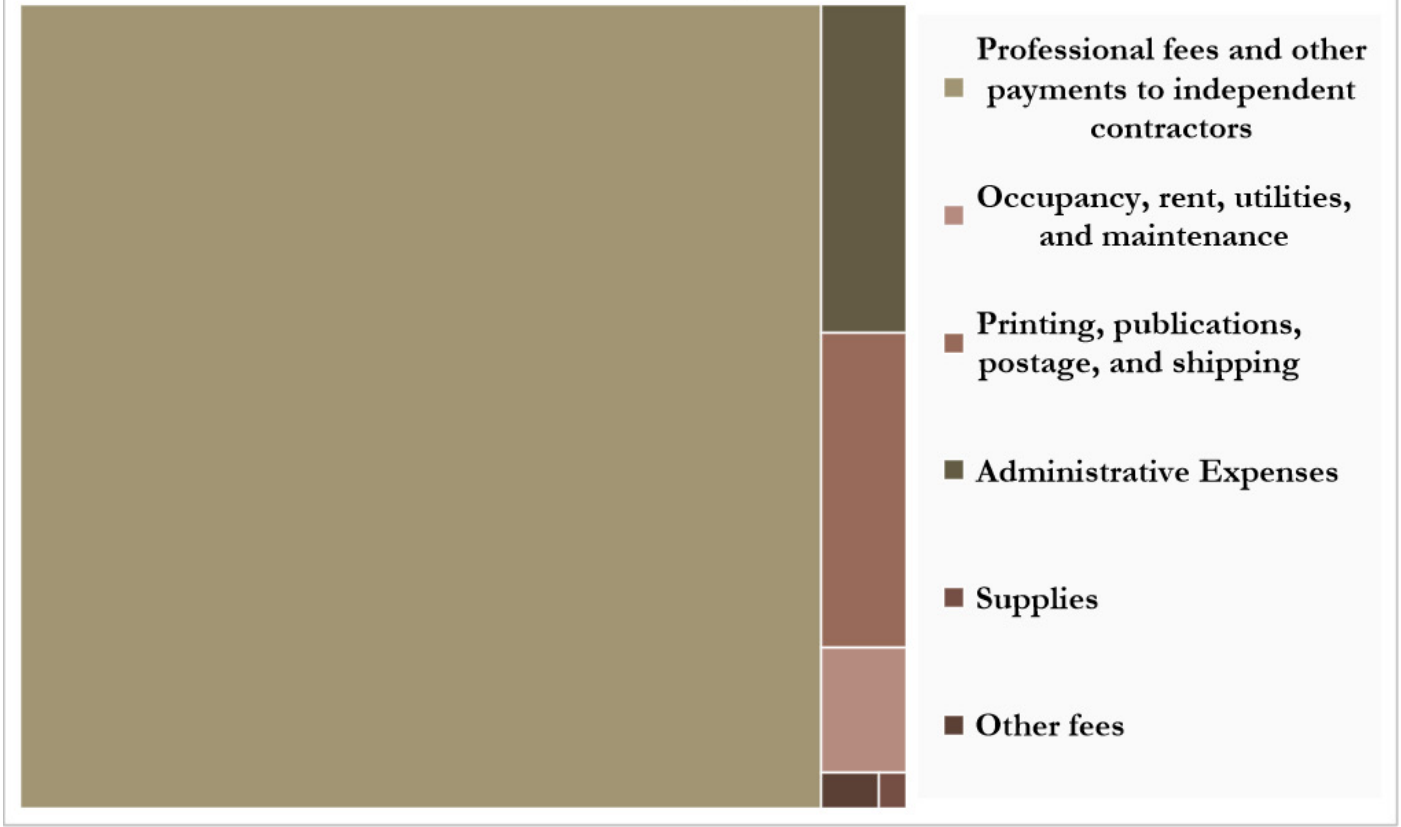
Timeline Room

Featured here is the center Research Exhibit



Financials

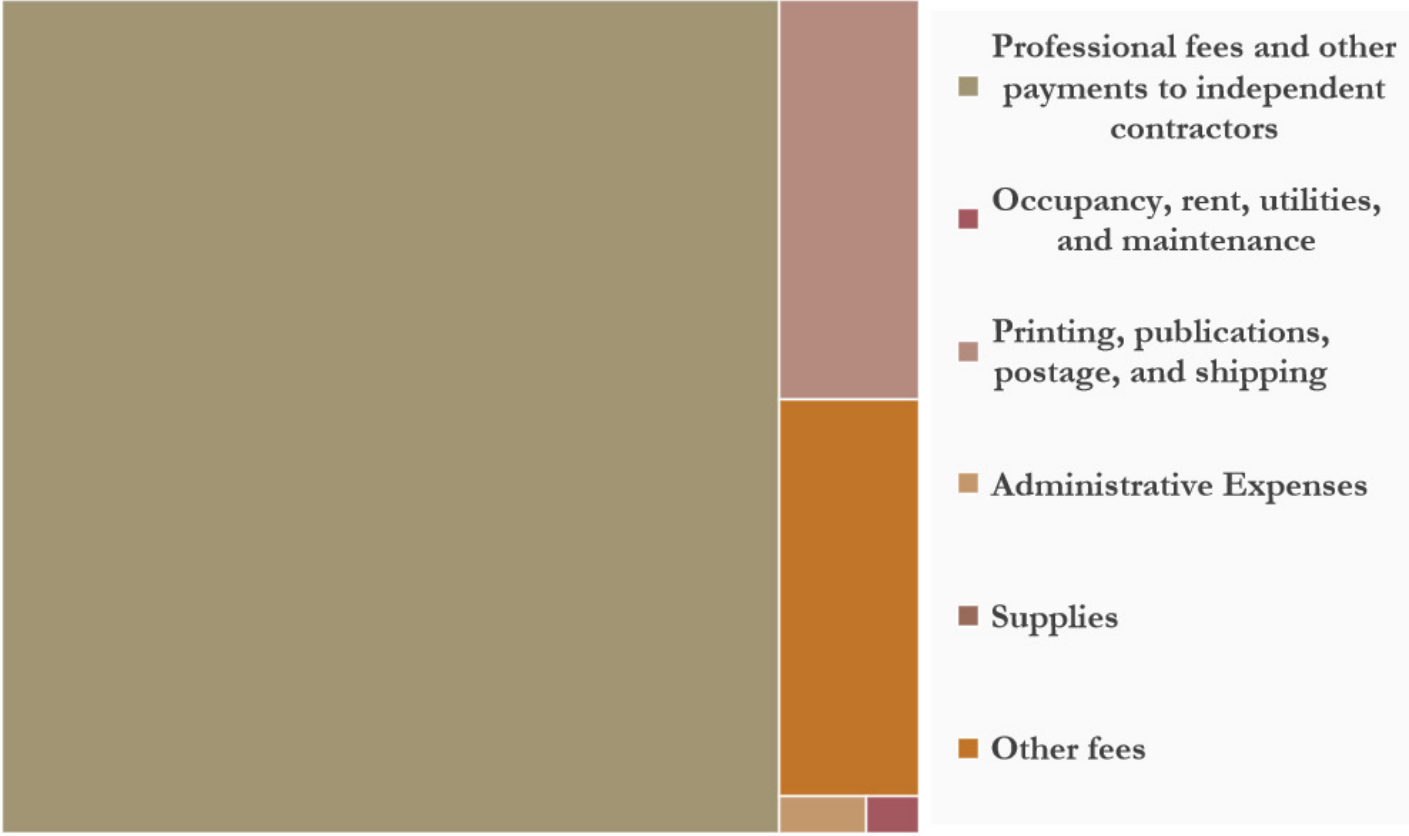
FY 23 Expenses



FY 2023 Expenses

| | |
|---|--------|
| Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors | 36,217 |
| Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance | 593 |
| Printing, publications, postage, and shipping | 1,504 |
| Administrative Expenses | 1,563 |
| Supplies | 54 |
| Other fees | 115 |

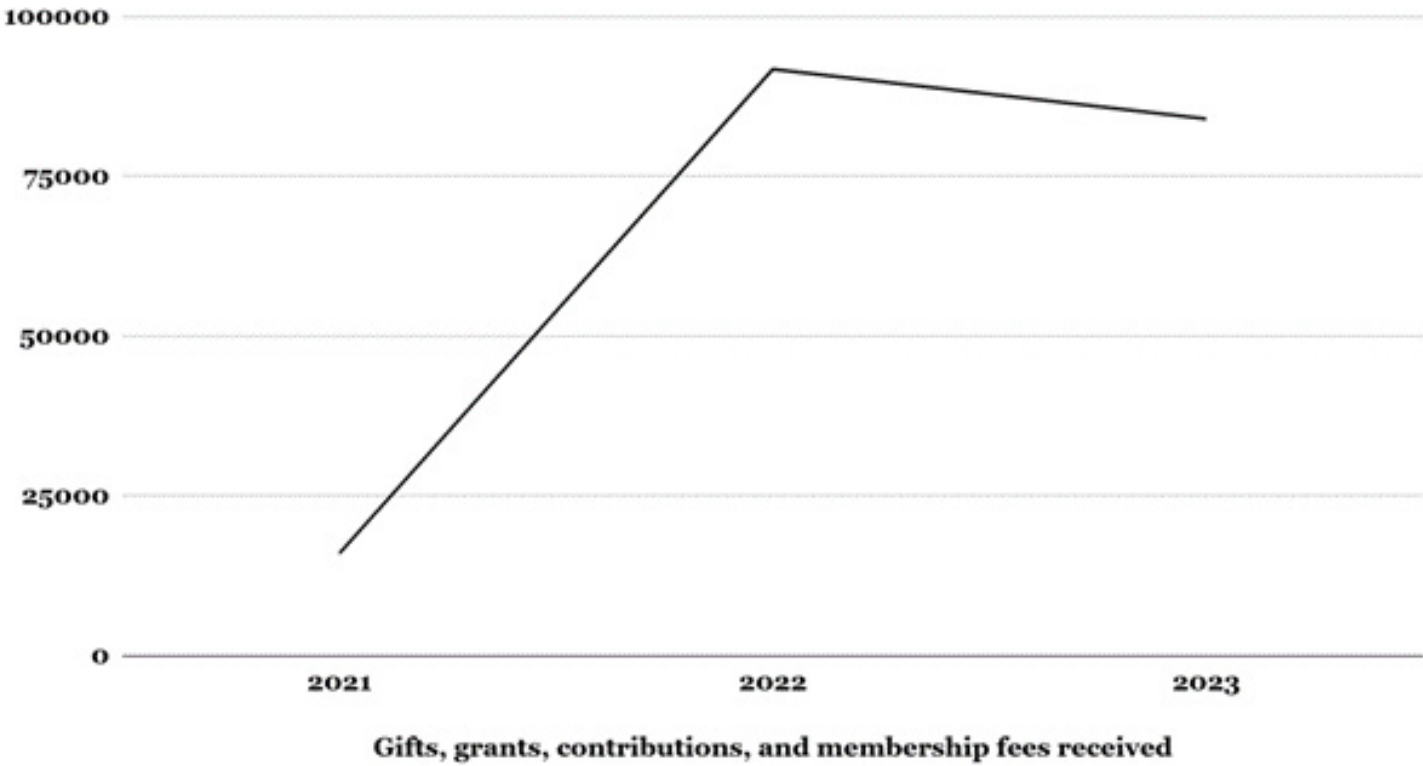
FY 22 Expenses



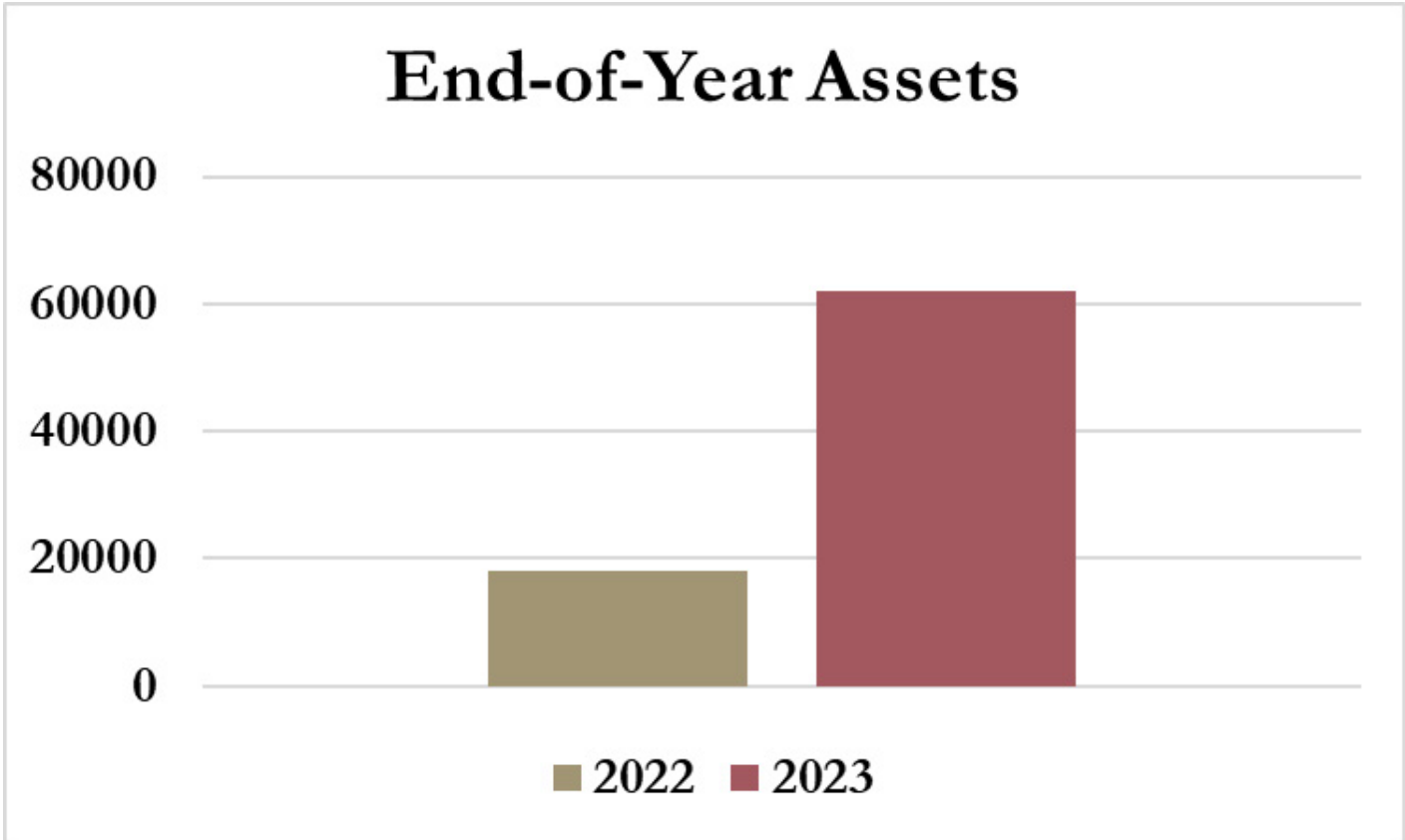
FY 2022 Expenses

| | |
|---|--------|
| Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors | 75,282 |
| Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance | 228 |
| Printing, publications, postage, and shipping | 6,453 |
| Administrative Expenses | 380 |
| Supplies | 0 |
| Other fees | 6,417 |

Gifts, Grants, Contributions, and Membership Fees Received



End-of-Year Assets



Total Revenue

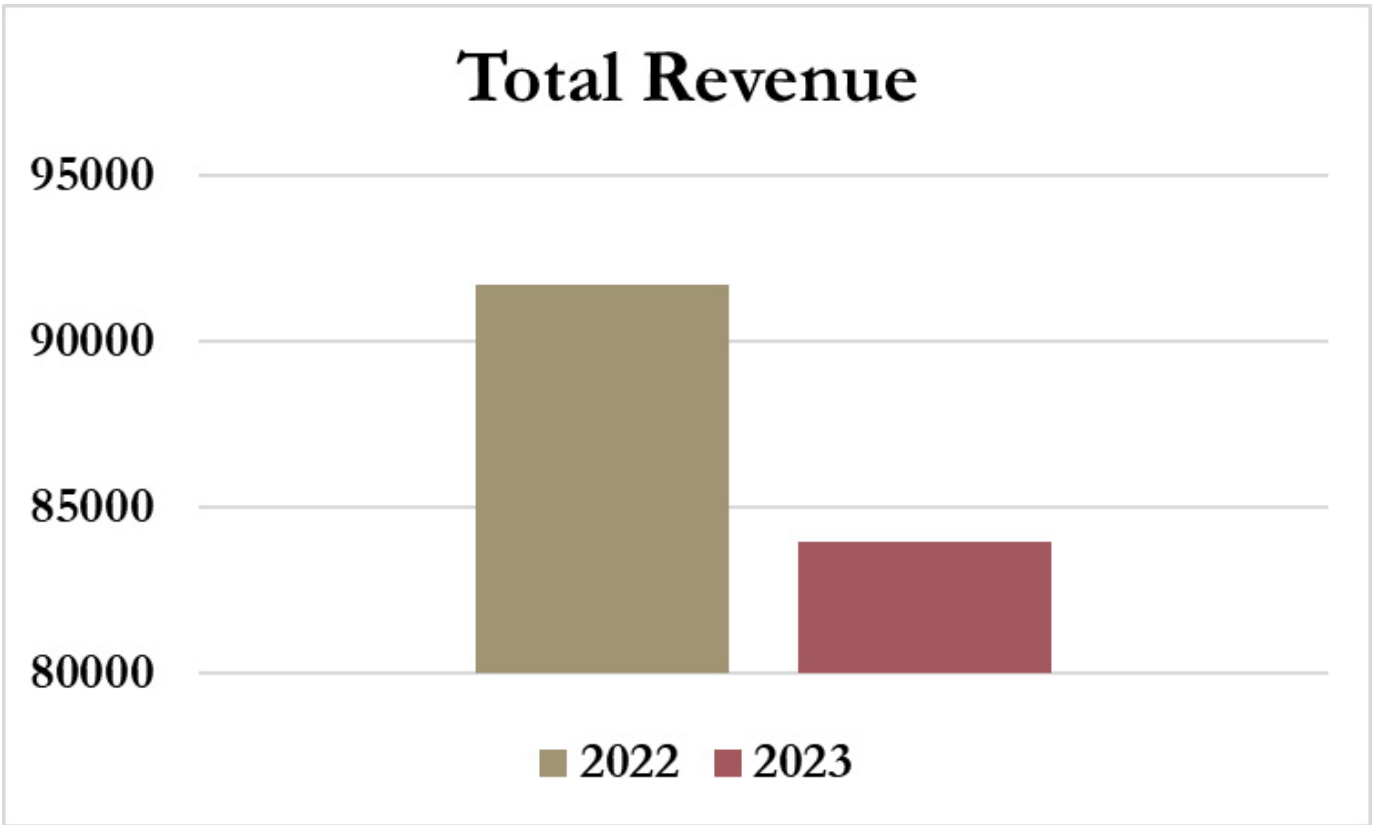
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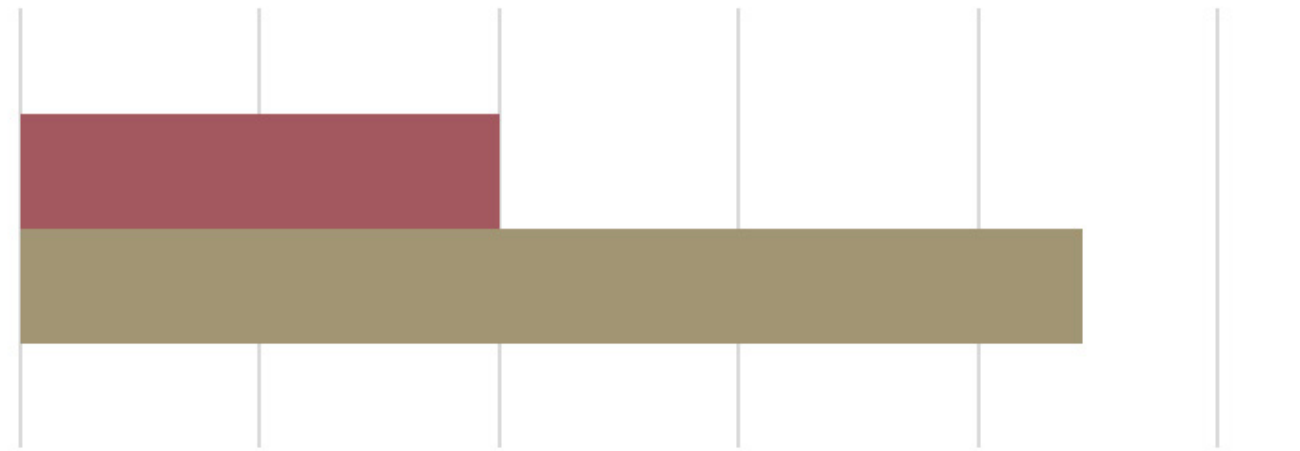
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■ 2022 ■ 2023



Total Expenses



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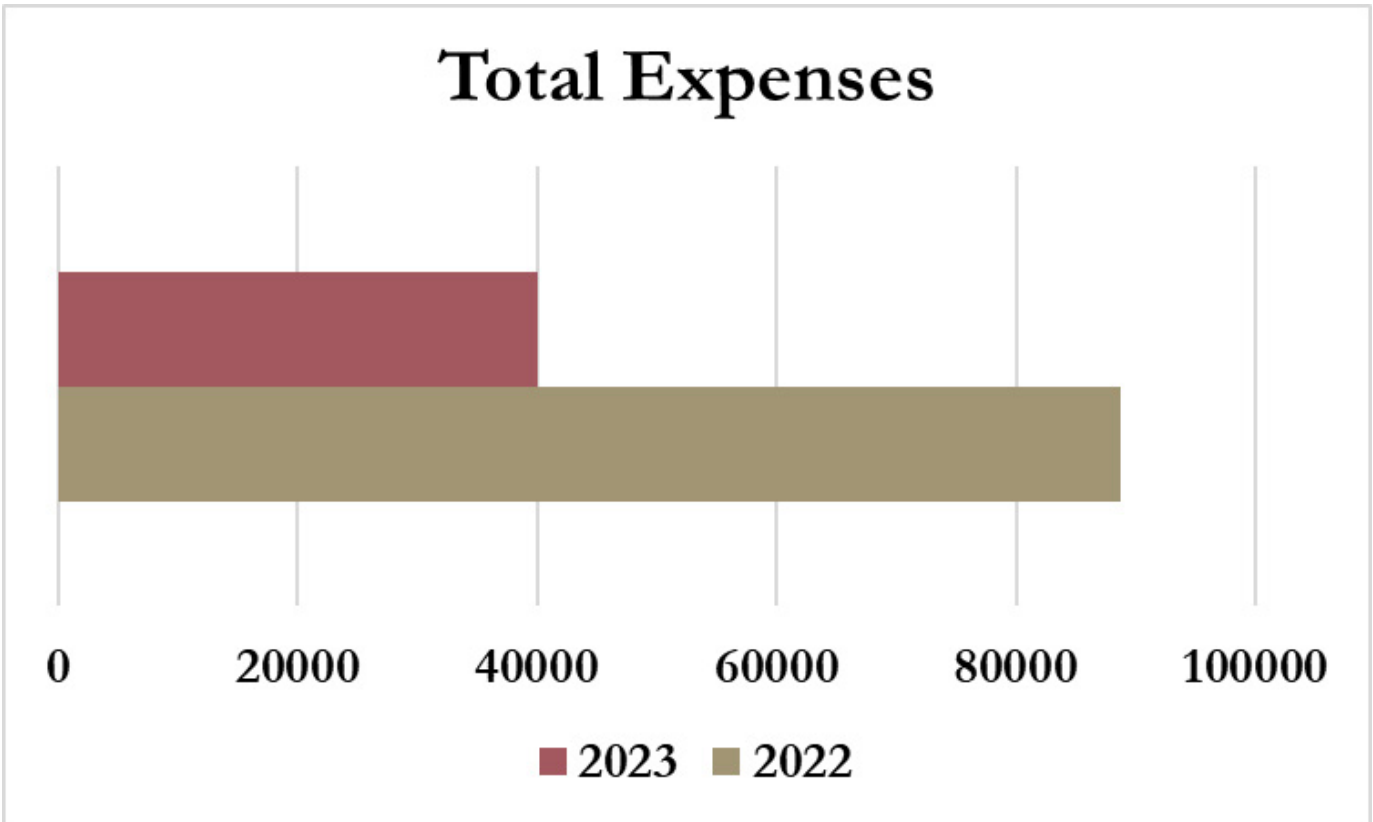
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■ 2023 ■ 2022



PRJECT XV
MUSEUM

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projectxvmuseum.com