



CONCORD
MUSEUM

Annual Report 2024

A Message from Museum Leadership

Dear Members of the Concord Museum Community,

We are delighted to share the fiscal year 2024 annual report with you, recapping the fruitful months between October 2023 and September 2024.

This year was distinguished by some truly remarkable achievements. Throughout 2024, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Paul Revere's Ride Fund, a program that subsidizes school programs for students to gain hands-on learning experiences that bring history to life. The Museum received reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, an achievement reached by only 3% of museums nationwide. And in the spring of 2024, the Museum secured a \$5,000,000 gift from an anonymous donor – the largest in the organization's history.

For the Museum team, this past year was also an intensive period of planning and early execution as we looked toward the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolutionary War that would be commemorated in April of 2025. Our 250th activities kicked off in August of 2024, as we hosted the 250 Days to the 250th Community Gathering, attracting over 600 attendees, and in September we hosted celebrated historian Mary Beth Norton to launch our series of Forums for the 250th anniversary.

Alongside 250th planning, the Museum continued to engage broad audiences with thought-provoking Forums on a range of topics, fun family activities, vital school programs, and unique special exhibitions. From Indigenous Peoples' Day and Family Trees, to *Interwoven* and *What Makes History*, to Forums with Harvard University President Emerita Drew Gilpin Faust and leading Constitutional scholar Cass Sunstein, we served as a dynamic place of community gathering, reflection, and dialogue.

Through all of these facets of our work, we made significant progress on the central goals of our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan that prioritized commemorating the 250th, enhancing visitor experiences, deepening our cultural engagement, furthering our financial sustainability, and stewarding and sharing our collection. It has been an exciting time to witness the Museum's growing role in the community, setting the stage for a vibrant future.

These achievements would not be possible without the ongoing support of our incredible community. We are deeply grateful for your leadership, generosity, and vision.

With gratitude,



James R. Burke
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Lisa Krassner
EDWARD W. KANE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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By the Numbers

14,000+
students served



\$5,000,000
gift from an anonymous donor –
the largest in the Museum’s history.

10-year
anniversary of
the Paul Revere’s
Ride Fund

1,300
members



53
public programs



4
special
exhibitions



83
acquisitions



45,000+
museum attendees

Education Programs



In FY2024, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Paul Revere's Ride Fund – the Museum's signature education initiative. To ensure students across the Commonwealth have access to the Museum's hands-on learning resources, the Paul Revere's Ride Fund significantly subsidizes the costs of programs for all students. For classes in under-resourced communities like Lowell, Lynn, Lawrence, Everett, and Boston, the Fund covers the full cost of admission and transportation.

Through this program, the Museum serves over 14,000 students each year, inspiring the next generation of engaged citizens. Students learn about a broad range of historical topics, including Indigenous history, the American Revolution, and colonial life. These programs complement state curriculum standards and support dedicated teachers across the Commonwealth as they strive to give their students the very best social studies education.

The Paul Revere's Ride Fund would not be possible without the continued generosity and support of the Museum Community. Thank you for doing your part to make sure every child in the region has the opportunity to learn about our shared past in ways that will inspire a brighter future.

Special Exhibitions



Interwoven: Women's Lives Written in Thread

Featuring 30 samplers sewn in the early 1700s to mid- 1800s, *Interwoven* explored how young women in New England created records of their own lives and experiences, written in thread. The exhibition highlighted newly conserved pieces from the collection.

Detail of *Maria* sampler by Lydia Hosmer, Mrs. Rowson's Academy, Medford, Ma, 1806. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Cummings E. Davis; T1101.

 THE COBY FOUNDATION, LTD.



What Makes History? New Stories from the Collection

This unique exhibition explored how we make history through object collecting, preservation, and storytelling. Highlights included fans from around the world, beautifully painted fireplace bellows produced by free Black workers in the 19th century, as well as chairs, textiles, card cases, and timepieces.

Bellow Tops, Davis Bellows Factory, mid-1840s, Acton, Ma. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Lawrence Sorli; 2022.1.



Nummehquantamūmun

In collaboration with nia holley, Nipmuc, this installation reintroduced corn in the Museum's interior courtyard and reawakened the stone mortar – one of many held by the Museum that have been used by Indigenous communities for processing food, medicines, and pigments.



Portrait Mode

This exhibition offered an intimate look at over 40 historical portraits from the Museum's collection – including photographs, tintype albums, silhouettes, oil paintings, and sculpture – to highlight poignant stories of representation and absence, inviting us to consider whose faces become a part of history.

A PLACE OF CONVENING

Public Programs

Concord Museum Forums

FY2024 marked the fifth anniversary of the Museum's signature public program and now one of the region's premier speaker series. Since its inception, the Forums have grown into a dynamic platform for dialogue, attracting world-class speakers and consistently drawing full-house audiences. This year, featured thought leaders included: Drew Gilpin Faust, President Emerita of Harvard University; Tiya Miles, National Book Award-winning author and historian; Mary Beth Norton, preeminent scholar of Colonial America, who helped launch our 250th American Revolution anniversary programming; and Cass Sunstein, one of today's leading political thinkers. These conversations inspired reflection and fostered deeper public understanding of history and its relevance today.



Community and Family Engagement

The Museum also expanded its commitment to community and family engagement. In January, we launched our first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, in partnership with Open Table, assembling and decorating over 100 bags of food for local children. Our family programs continued to grow, welcoming enthusiastic crowds for Juneteenth, Indigenous Peoples' Day, and Presidents' Day, each offering interactive activities and meaningful storytelling. On Patriots' Day, nearly 1,000 visitors came to the Museum for a Community Day celebration, and in August, over 650 people gathered to mark 250 Days to the 250th Anniversary of April 19, 1775.

Collections Stewardship

Among the 83 total acquisitions in FY2024, notable additions to the Museum collection included two oil paintings by local Concord Artists: a painting of Boston Common by Alisha Keyes (pictured on report cover), and this Pastoral Landscape by Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts.

In collaboration with Windsor Conservation, the Museum also completed 75% of a major historic clothing conservation assessment project in FY2024 funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This project aimed to understand the needs of the collection of over 3,000 items, not only to preserve the Museum's historic clothing collection for the future, but also to expand access for object-based learning, research, exhibition, and educational programming.



Cover: Park Street, Boston in Winter - A View of Boston Common and the Public Gardens by Alicia Keyes, Boston, MA, possibly 1880s. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Kristen Tahirak, Kevin Bitterman, and Edward G. Tiedemann, Jr.; 2024.71.

Top: Pastoral Landscape, Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, possibly Normandy, France, about 1895. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of the Huyett Family; 2024.8.1.

Bottom: Shoes, 1770. Concord Museum Collection; Cos75.27.

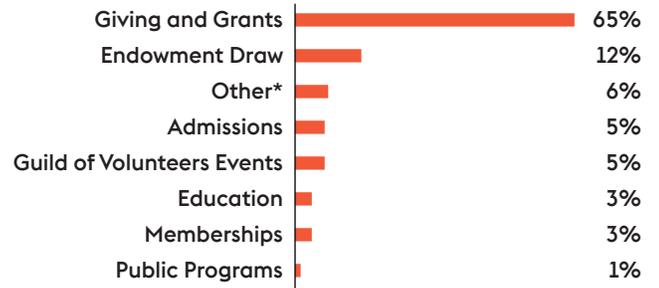
*IMLS grant number: MA-253165-OMS-23



Financial Highlights

In FY2024, the Concord Museum continued to make significant progress toward financial sustainability, a key component of the strategic plan. Most notably, the Museum secured a \$5,000,000 gift from an anonymous donor – the largest gift in the organization’s history. These generous funds established an Endowed Curatorship that honors Curator David Wood’s 40-year tenure at the Museum; a permanent endowment fund to preserve the Museum’s nationally significant collection of extraordinary objects; and funding to upgrade the Museum’s IT infrastructure, including a new Customer Relationship Management System and a new Collections Management System. \$1.5M of this transformative gift was received in FY2024, with the remainder to be delivered in FY2025. Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, we also grew our annual fund and achieved a significant portion of fundraising towards our campaign for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, allowing us to plan for elevated programming in the coming anniversary year. We finished the year with a surplus of \$569,452, bringing us a step closer towards long-term financial sustainability.

Revenues FY2024 \$ 3,444,626



Expenses FY2024 \$ 2,875,174



*Shop, event rentals, house rental, interest



Report of Gifts

October 1, 2023 –
September 30, 2024

April 19th Society

The April 19th Society is a lifetime giving society that honors those who have contributed gifts totaling \$500,000 or more to the Museum. We are grateful to these visionary supporters whose generosity has made a tremendous impact on the Concord Museum.

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Anna Winter Rasmussen and
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Eigenbrod Zak
Mr. and Mrs. Chip A. Ziering

250th American Revolution Campaign

We would like to thank those that supported the Museum's initiatives to mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2025-2026, including three special exhibitions, community programming, a published catalog, teacher workshops and educational resources, public forums, and a native plant garden.

\$200,000

Claire and Joshua Nelson

\$100,000

The Decorative Arts Trust
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Neil Rasmussen

\$50,000-\$99,999

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Annual Fund

The Annual Fund provides critical unrestricted operating support for the Museum, enabling us to fulfill our mission. We are grateful to the many Annual Fund supporters and especially to Lantern Society members. Their support is vital to ensure that the Museum continues to inspire and educate audiences for years to come.

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 David Wood

Paul Revere's Ride Fund

The Paul Revere's Ride Fund supports our vibrant school programs that serve over 14,000 students and their teachers annually, providing meaningful hands-on experiences that fill a growing gap in social studies curricula. We are grateful for every gift made to the Paul Revere's Ride Fund. Together these gifts ensure access for our school partners and their students.

\$5,000 and up

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Up to \$99

The Museum is also grateful to the members and friends who contributed up to \$99 to the Paul Revere's Ride Fund.

Special Giving Opportunities

\$10,000 and above

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Anna Winter Rasmussen and
Neil Rasmussen
Martha J. Wallace and
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Kristen Tahirak-Bitterman and
Kevin Bitterman
Dr. Edward G. Tiedemann, Jr.

\$1,000-\$2,499

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We are most appreciative of grants and contributions received from government

agencies, foundations, and other organizations that support the Museum's exhibitions, programming, and operations.

Anonymous (I)
Decorative Arts Trust
Fan Association of North America
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Heritage Area
Garden Club of Concord
Highland Street Foundation
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We extend our deep gratitude to corporations that generously contribute funds to the Museum's programs, exhibitions, and operations.

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The 1886 Society recognizes donors who have notified the Concord Museum of their intention to leave a legacy gift through their estate and financial plans to keep making history for future generations.

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Up to \$275

The Museum is also grateful to all members who contributed under \$275 to participate in our membership community.

*Concord Museum
Contemporary Leader

†Deceased

Leadership

October 1, 2023 –
September 30, 2024

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Lantern, 1775. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Cummings E. Davis, M400a1

Embroidered Pocket (Detail), Concord, Ma., 18th century. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Susan Rimbey; 2023.28.1.

William Munroe, Sr. Pencil Bundle, Concord, Ma, about 1840. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Mr. Charles P. Munroe and Mr. William M. Munroe; 2007.261.22.

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