



Ohio Valley
Museum of Discovery

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

www.ovmod.org



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About OVMoD

The Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery was founded with a mission: *to inspire confidence in people of all ages to explore and discover the world.*

Serving seven counties in southeast Ohio, OVMoD engages people of all ages, backgrounds, and life experiences with hands-on, interactive, STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts, & mathematics).

We invite you to join us on this journey of discovery!





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

2023 has been a particularly exciting time for OVMoD. Our staff and board have been working so hard to meet our goal of opening up our new building, and as of December 16, we can finally celebrate that achievement!

This past year has been one of preparation and development, designing policies, curricula, and programming (p. 5) to implement in 2024. We have reached a new height in our Capital Campaign (p. 7) and successfully connected with new community partners as well as 'old' friends.

To all of the volunteers, board members, and staff who have generously given of their time and expertise over the years...to the supporters, donors, funders, and businesses who have believed in us...to the families and friends who have been our biggest cheerleaders and never gave up on us...and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all. It makes me overjoyed that I can finally say:

“See you at the museum!”

JEN PARSONS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Programs: Meeting our Mission



Even as we spent much of 2023 working towards opening the doors of our permanent home to the public and making plans for the future, we continued to inspire curiosity in people of all ages to discover our world! From the youngest learners engaging in all sorts of messy science, to elementary plant and art enthusiasts, tween coders, teen engineers, and people of all ages at public libraries, OVMoD continues to make community connections.

Throughout the year, we served over 2800 people of all ages and backgrounds, every single one of them engaged in exploration to make connections and experience a sense of understanding and belonging as part of our amazing world.



Just a few of the amazing collaborators, volunteers, COMCorps Service Members, and OVMoD staff who make everything we do possible.



Programs: Meeting our Mission



2800+

people of all ages
benefitted from
OVMoD's programs

26

schools, community
fests, & educational
organizations visited by
OVMoD

GROWING THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we reflect on the past year, we are thrilled to share the remarkable progress of our Growing the Future Capital Campaign. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we have successfully raised \$1.7 million, a testament to the shared belief in our mission and vision.



This significant milestone has enabled us to make substantial strides in our campaign objectives. We're excited to report that the initial renovation phase is completed, transforming our space into a welcoming facility that will enhance visitor experiences for years to come. Brand new, interactive exhibits have been installed, each designed to inspire curiosity and foster learning across all ages.

In recognition of the generosity of our donors, we are in the final stages of designing and preparing signage and dedications throughout the facility. These acknowledgments are not just a token of our gratitude but a lasting reminder of the community's role in shaping the future of our institution.

As we approach the completion of this key phase, our focus shifts to a celebration of the renovated building and our new exhibits.

This year marks an achievement for the Growing the Future Capital Campaign that will serve as a launchpad



for the next chapter in our journey of education and engagement.

We remain committed to keeping our supporters informed and involved as we continue to grow. Your belief in our mission is the cornerstone of our success, and we look forward to sharing even more with you in years to come.

Together, we are not just growing a campaign; we are growing a community, a generation of learners, and a brighter future for all.



OPENING OUR DOORS

AT 67 COLUMBUS ROAD IN ATHENS, OHIO

In December 2023, we were delighted to welcome over 500 museum supporters into our new building for a sneak peek, where we met our goals of increased engagement and interactive learning.

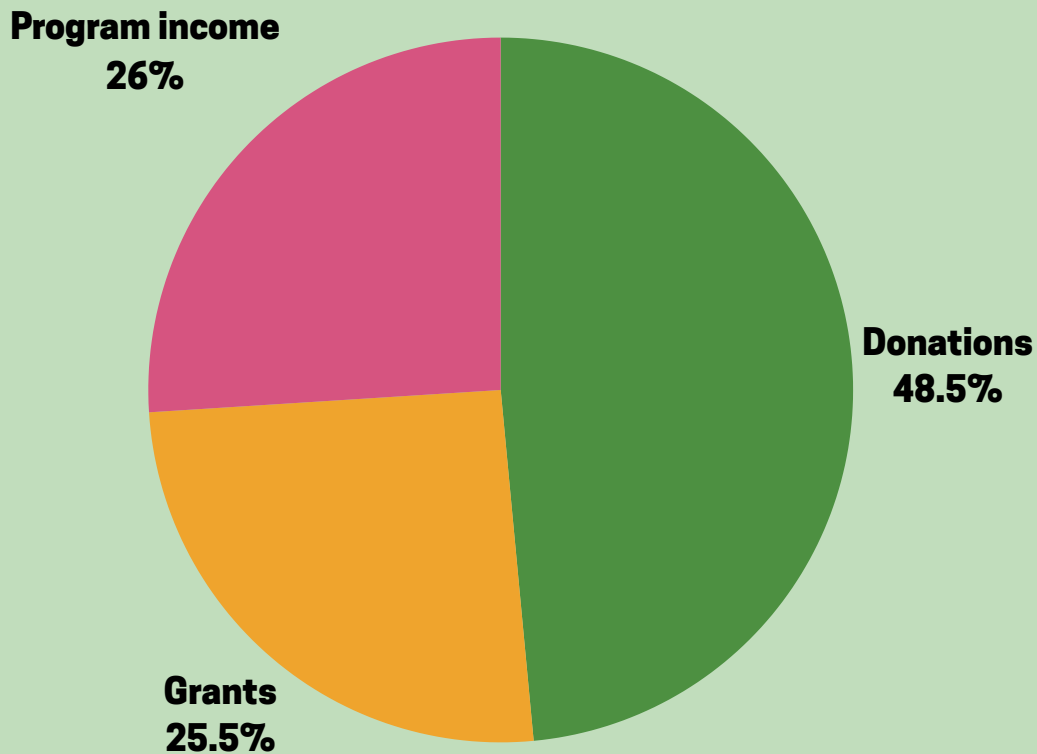
Our visitors were immersed in exhibits like the Wind Tube, a fun way to explore aerodynamics and engineering. Others were captivated by building a giant ball run on our Magnet Wall, practicing their problem-solving and logic skills. Creating brightly lit designs on our Pixel Peg wall was universally fun for all ages.

Some of our friends put on puppet shows at the Theater, and others discovered that the Nada Jean Kerr Literacy Center was the perfect spot to curl up and enjoy a good book.

These events brought our OVMoD community together to see our new exhibits but also showcased our continuing commitment to provide engaging and interesting educational experiences for all ages.

However you like to discover and learn, OVMoD has something for you!

Revenue Sources



GRANTS, FUNDING AND AWARDS SUPPORT

Thank you to our donors supporting OVMoD programs and operations!





BOARD, STAFF, & SERVICE MEMBERS

Sara Hartman, co-President
 Jenny Hines-Bergmeier, co-President
 Mark Lucas, Vice President
 Connie Patterson, Secretary
 Brent Hartman, Treasurer

Grace Essex, Board Member
 Rick Essex, Board Member
 Hannah Gilkey, Board Member
 Christie Truly, Board Member
 Liz Stinaff, Board Member
 Becky Bushey-Miller, Board Member
 Kathy Berry, Board Member



Jen Parsons, Executive Director
 Carolyn Sheehan, Education
 Coordinator
 Billie Kariher, COMCorps Museum
 Program Specialist
 Taylor Burnette, COMCorps Museum
 Outreach Specialist

Museum Memberships

With several different annual memberships to choose from, we strive to make the museum experience accessible for all families and museum visitors. The annual museum membership program launched in 2023, ensuring that our community could visit OVMoD and continue to support our growing programs and educational experiences. To become a museum member, visit www.ovmod.org or email info@ovmod.org.

Family Membership: \$100

Unlimited general admission during regular public open hours for **1-2 named adult caregivers and all named children** in the household, invitations to members-only events and previews, subscription to our e-newsletter and email updates, and 2 one-time-use guest passes.

Family Membership with EBT or WIC card: \$25

With an EBT or WIC card, **all benefits** of the Annual Family Membership.

Duo Membership: \$75

Unlimited general admission during regular public open hours for **one named adult and one named child or two adults**, invitations to members-only events and previews, subscription to our e-newsletter and email updates, and 2 one-time-use guest passes.

Family PLUS Membership: \$150

All of the benefits of the annual family membership **plus 2 additional** one-time-use guest passes, unlimited admission for one additional adult caregiver to accompany children (e.g. sitter, grandparent), **AND** 50% off admission at participating museums of the Association of Children’s Museums Reciprocal Network for up to 6 people (check with the museum before scheduling a visit.)

