



National Inventors Hall of Fame®

2024 Annual Report





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As I reflect on 2024, I am inspired by the transformative power of invention — a force that fuels growth and reshapes our world. This spirit of innovation is exemplified by our National Inventors Hall of Fame® Inductees, Collegiate Inventors Competition® Finalists, and the students of Camp Invention®, Club Invention® and Invention Project®. We take immense pride in our organization's role in advancing the innovation ecosystem, ensuring that the next generation of inventors is equipped to lead and create.

In recent years, we have reinvented our processes, products and services to better serve our sponsors, students, parents, educators and school districts nationwide. By transforming our distribution systems, product development cycles and customer-enabling software, we now deliver customized learning solutions with unprecedented speed and precision.

The results speak for themselves. In 2024, we inspired over 406,000 students and educators through programs including Camp Invention and Invention Project. These experiences are now more interactive and engaging than ever, equipping students with the creativity, problem-solving skills and confidence to tackle challenges head-on. Independent research consistently affirms the impact of our programs, showing that participants:

- **Develop a greater interest in STEM.**
- **Experience reduced science and math anxiety.**
- **Demonstrate improved academic performance and attendance.**

By many measures, the National Inventors Hall of Fame is stronger and more impactful than ever. However, we recognize that innovation is not driven by necessity alone — it is a mindset. As we emphasize in all our PreK-12 programs, this mindset has the power to continuously reinvent, improve lives and propel the world forward.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), our sponsors, and the families, educators, community partners, organizations and school districts who support and believe in our mission. Your unwavering dedication enables us to recognize inventors, promote creativity, and advance the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Together, we are ensuring that the future of innovation is as limitless as the imaginations of those who dare to create it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Oister".

Michael J. Oister
Chief Executive Officer,
National Inventors Hall of Fame

NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PROVIDED 1 MILLION DAYS OF INVENTION EDUCATION IN 2024

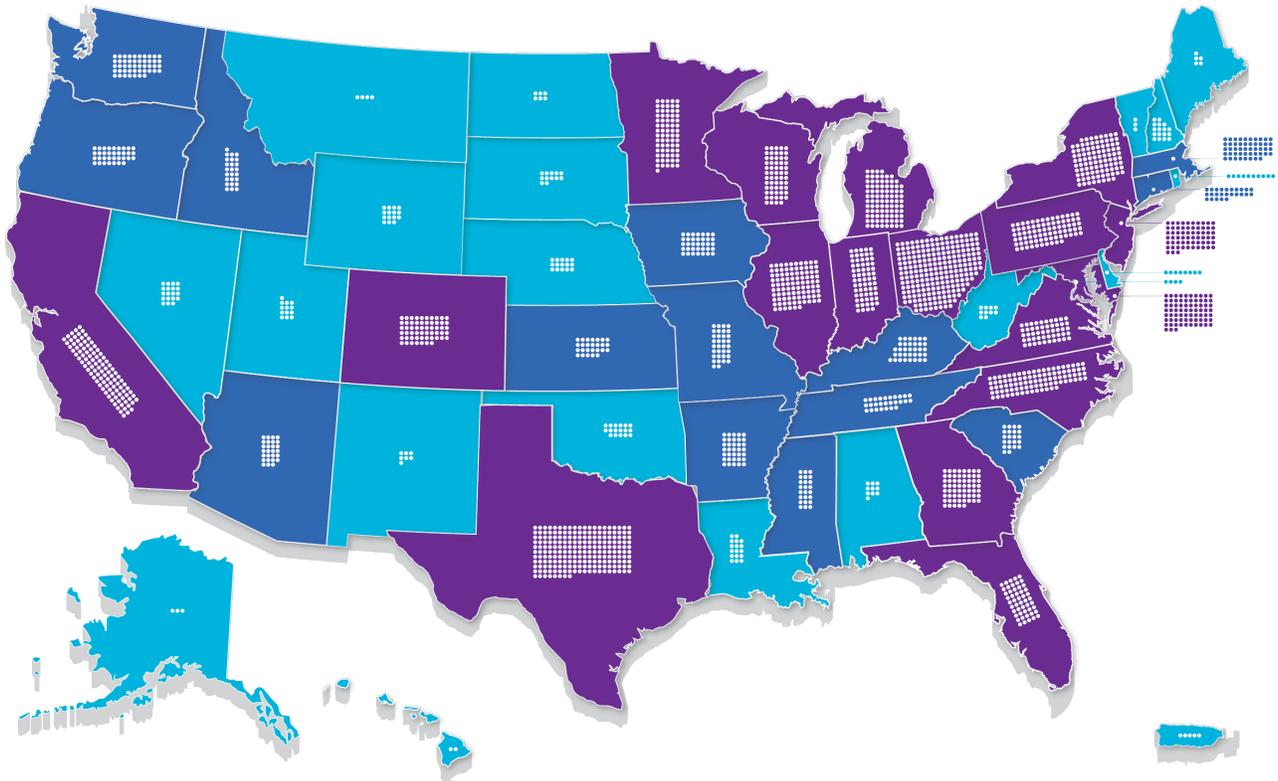
2024 BY THE NUMBERS

35 YEARS
LEADERS
IN STEM EDUCATION

3.7 MILLION

CHILDREN, EDUCATORS, COLLEGE STUDENTS & INVENTORS IMPACTED

639 WORLD-
CHANGING
INDUSTEES



PROGRAMS IN EACH STATE

50 & UP

20-49

UP TO 19

1,280
SCHOOLS &
1,329
DISTRICTS

19,000+
EDUCATORS

PRESENCE IN ALL
50 STATES
PUERTO RICO, DC & OVERSEAS

19,420
COLLEGIATE INVENTORS
COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

375,000+
PRE K-8 STUDENTS &
11,000+
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Because of you, American innovation continues to thrive.

In 2024, you made a difference for innovators of all ages, backgrounds and fields. In communities across the country, your support provided meaningful experiences for inventors, educators and children.

THIS YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWED THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME TO:

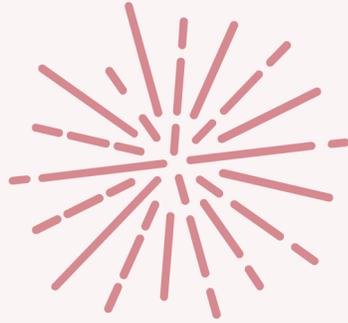
- Welcome over 2.1 million unique visitors to invent.org.
- Make 8.5 billion impressions through news stories.
- Display social media content over 17,991,600 times.

Because of you, children realized their potential.

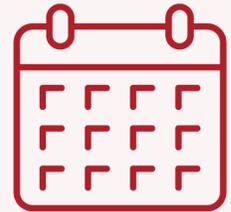
Equipping children for a future in which critical thinking, creative problem solving and resilience will be increasingly essential, your support provided access to hands-on invention education programs.



YOU HELPED CHILDREN BUILD THE INNOVATIVE MINDSET AND SKILLS THEY NEED TO NAVIGATE LIFE, AND GAVE EDUCATORS THE CHANCE TO GROW THEIR SKILLS AND SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR LEARNING.



With your support, the all-new 2024 Camp Invention Illuminate program reached 105,021 children in grades K-6 and brought mentorship opportunities to 5,595 Leaders-in-Training in grades 7-9.



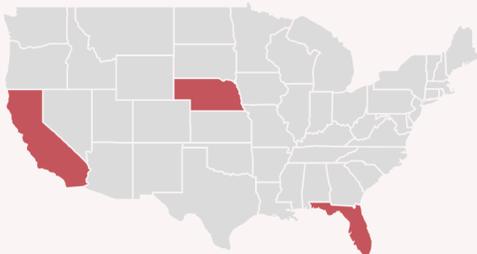
You provided National Inventors Hall of Fame program scholarships to over 280,000 children, giving transformative learning opportunities to children who would otherwise not have access.



More than 2,600 schools and districts

You helped provide **1 MILLION** days of invention education to more than **386,000** children.

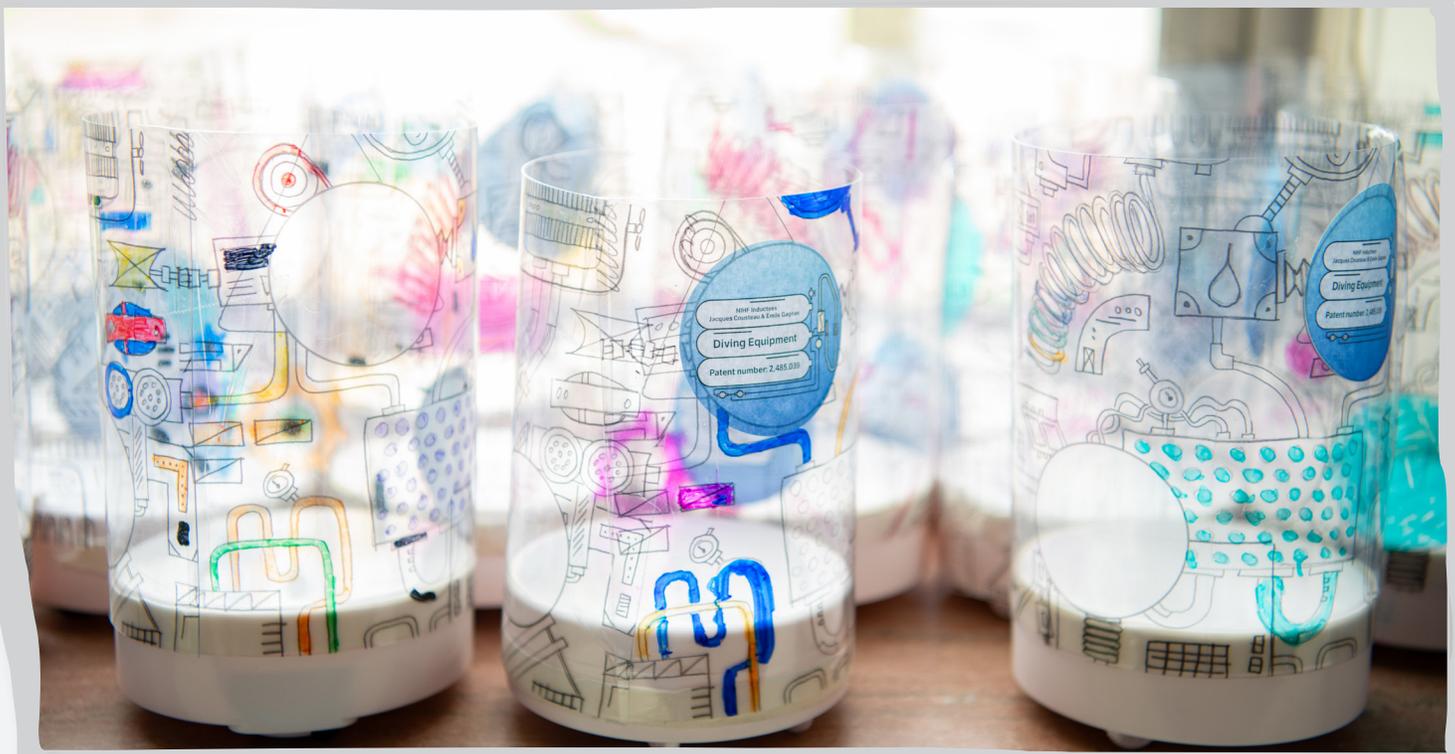
across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico partnered with the Hall of Fame to provide PreK-12 invention education programs including Camp Invention, Club Invention and Invention Project.



Educators partnered with the National Inventors Hall of Fame to bring customized learning solutions to students in districts like California's Fresno Unified School District, Nebraska's Omaha Public Schools, Florida's Pinellas County Schools and more.



Camp Invention achieved a new milestone and reached farther than ever before with one program held on a military base in Wiesbaden, Germany.



Meet an Educator Partner

Kelly Werner, a seventh-grade math teacher at Farnsworth Middle School in New York, has gained valuable perspectives on Camp Invention through the years. Not only was she a camper, but she later became an Instructor and is now a Director. She has led her local camp program since the summer of 2021. Encouraging fellow educators to get involved in their own local programs, Werner emphasizes that Camp Invention inspires teachers while providing lasting benefits for students.

“Camp Invention cultivates and maintains a culture of curiosity. It helps students achieve those higher skills of problem solving, collaboration and communication. That is something you can use in any facet of life, and I think that is the biggest impact camp has on these kids.”

— *Kelly Werner, Camp Invention Director*





Meet a Leadership Intern

Zoe McDowell built her confidence and leadership skills as a Leadership Intern at Camp Invention. The 17-year-old with a lifelong interest in STEM first stepped into the role the summer following her junior year of high school. She exceeded expectations as she made connections with campers by sharing many of her own personal experiences. As she looks toward her future, Zoe plans to attend college and hopes to conduct undergraduate research.

“Camp Invention taught me self-sufficiency. The experience challenged me to see a need and make it happen, being less timid, asserting myself, putting myself out there and making a difference.”

— *Zoe McDowell, Leadership Intern*



Meet a District Partner

Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) is the third-largest school district in California, serving more than 74,000 students each year. When FUSD designed a summer experience to provide aspiring educators and recent teacher pipeline graduates with an opportunity to apply teaching practices, the district chose Invention Project’s NGSS-aligned PreK-8 curriculum. FUSD teachers felt confident in the hands-on STEAM experiences they led each day, while their students were empowered to follow their curiosity and express their creativity.

“Invention Project has the curriculum laid out and it’s really easy to follow. Right off the bat, it is really engaging for students, and classroom management is a lot easier to handle when you have a high level of student engagement.”

— *Claire Steinbronn, FUSD STEM coach*

Because of you, emerging inventors gained valuable opportunities.

At the 34th annual Collegiate Inventors Competition (CIC), college students from across the country competed for cash prizes and patent acceleration by presenting their work to leaders in innovation and intellectual property.



Your support connected promising inventors with expert insights.

- On Oct. 17, 10 CIC Finalist teams consisting of 19 students representing nine colleges and universities gathered at the USPTO headquarters.
- 10 National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees and four USPTO patent examiners served as Judges, providing Finalists with their unique feedback and advice.
- 19,420 votes were cast by the public for the People's Choice Award.

Thanks to our sponsors, cash prizes were awarded to the 2024 CIC Winners:



Graduate Winner and People's Choice Award Winner: Linzixuan (Rhoda) Zhang invented Nutrient-Stabilizing Materials to address the micronutrient deficiencies experienced by 2 billion people worldwide. Based on metal-organic frameworks, it can be incorporated into foods or taken orally as supplements. Using only food-derived molecules, it is safe and natural, as well as time-efficient, energy-efficient and cost-effective.



Graduate Runners-Up Zhuoran Han and Jaekwon Lee invented Photoconductive Semiconductor Switch (PCSS) to address challenges faced by the aging U.S. power grid and transform it into a more reliable, resilient grid. PCSS allows for faster outage recovery, improves grid stability with rapid switching, high-voltage capabilities and exceptional reliability, and reduces reliance on fossil fuels.



Undergraduate Winners Molly Paras, Zach Spears and Lauren Fitzsimmons invented The Nerve Ninja. This invention enhances safety and efficiency in delicate procedures such as carpal tunnel release surgeries. Combining the precision of a scalpel blade with the utility of surgical scissors, The Nerve Ninja allows surgeons to safely and easily dissect and cut tissue.



Undergraduate Runners-Up Gloria Kalnitskaya, Eric McAlexander, Selena Shirkin and Ayeeshi Poosarla (Not Pictured) invented the FetalCare Port System to help surgeons correct life-threatening fetal abnormalities in the womb. This invention is tailored to the uterine environment and supports safer, more efficient fetal surgeries by reducing risks of membrane punctures and pre-term births.

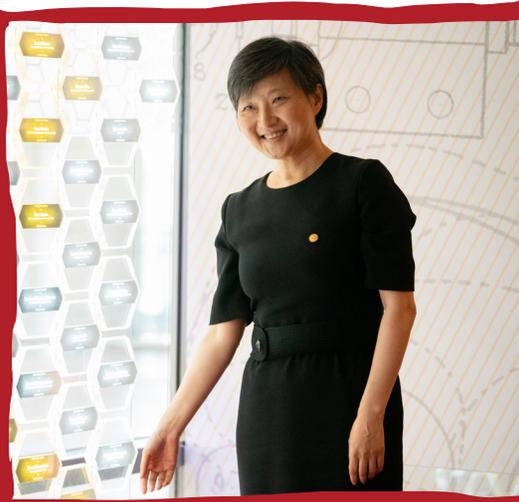
**Because of you, more
world-changing inventors'
stories were honored.**



IN MAY, AN INSPIRING AND INFLUENTIAL NEW CLASS OF INVENTORS JOINED THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME AT THE ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY – THE GREATEST CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INNOVATION®.

Your support illuminated their legacies in meaningful ways.

- On May 8, the 2024 Illumination Ceremony was held at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, located in the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The new Inductees added their names to the museum's Gallery of Icons®.
- The 2024 Induction Ceremony took place May 9 at The Anthem in Washington, D.C.
- The 2024 Inductee Class included 15 visionary inventors representing a variety of fields, backgrounds and accomplishments and holding more than 400 combined patents at the time of their induction.
- Representing the future of American innovation, special guests included educators and Camp Invention Directors Patricia Abernathy, Vicki Moon and Shavaun Hawkins; Camp Invention campers Fiona Sheil, Sebastian Murphy and Edward Tersine; Leader-in-Training Ryan Moon; and Leadership Intern Mackenzi Saavedra.
- With the 2024 class, the National Inventors Hall of Fame has honored a total of 639 Inductees.



The National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum unveiled new exhibits highlighting life-changing innovators.



A new exhibit allowed visitors to see a prototype of HoloTile™ floor technology, co-created by 2024 Inductee Lanny Smoot, The Walt Disney Company's most prolific inventor. The HoloTile floor is the world's first and only multi-person, omni-directional, modular, expandable treadmill floor.



Another new exhibit featured a flight suit made with fire-resistant Nomex® fiber, made possible by 2024 Inductee Alice Stoll.



The Power of Trademarks exhibit, made possible by the USPTO and the International Trademark Association (INTA), was updated to provide visitors with new and engaging content covering familiar brands.

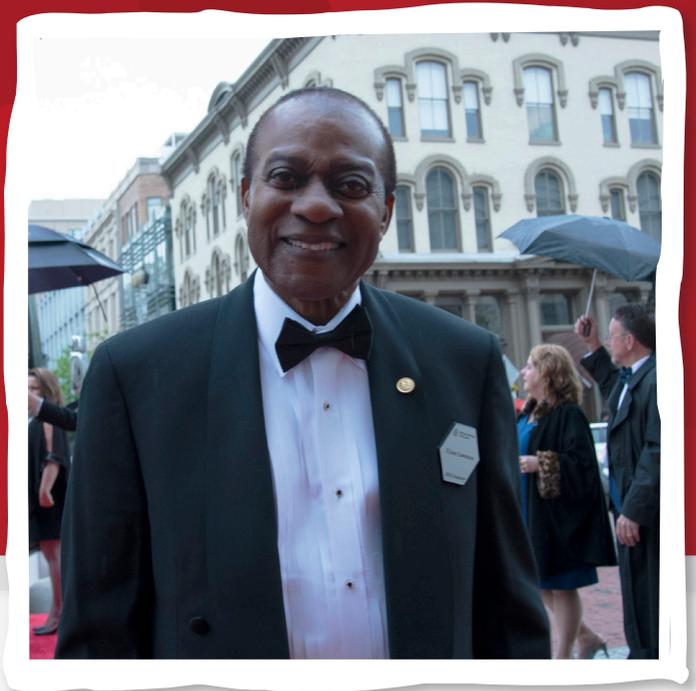


The 2024 Inductee Class exhibit shared the newest Inductees' accomplishments.

With your support, National Inventors Hall of Fame education programs introduced children to exceptional role models — the Inductees who inspired and influenced this year’s curricula.

- 80 Inductees were featured in Camp Invention’s 2024 Illuminate program.
- More than 1,900 children attending Camp Invention benefited from in-person visits with National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees who provided mentorship and encouraged their curiosity and creativity.

Meet an Inductee



Victor Lawrence was inducted in 2016 for advancing signal processing in communications. His work has improved internet transmission and made high-speed connections more widely available. Sharing his belief in the power of mentorship and the importance of the National Inventors Hall of Fame mission, Lawrence has served as a CIC Judge and visited children participating in Camp Invention, personally advising and encouraging young innovators to collaborate, explore and invent their own ways to change the world.

“If you want to see far, you have to stand on somebody’s shoulder. It’s very important that I can have a strong shoulder for others to stand on and be able to encourage them to do even greater things than I have achieved.”

— *Victor Lawrence, National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee*

Because of you, this year brought new ways to honor, inspire and challenge.

Your partnership made it possible to launch new projects and initiatives in 2024, from telling more Inductees' stories to supporting more young innovators' STEM dreams.

THESE NEW ENDEAVORS HELPED THE HALL OF FAME MISSION REACH EVEN FURTHER.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame began filming more Inductees and producing documentary-style videos. This initiative invites Inductees to tell their stories in their own words and provides the public with an exclusive look into their extraordinary lives.



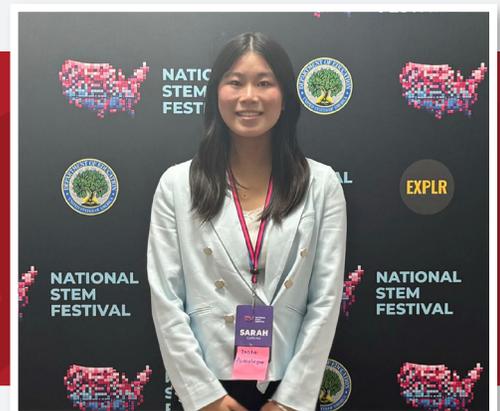
The National Inventors Hall of Fame sponsored several innovative high school students as they presented their accomplishments at the National STEM Challenge in Washington, D.C. These STEM Challenge Champions – who are also Camp Invention alumni – included:



Tushar Mehta, a sophomore from Pennsylvania who invented Recyclebot: a machine learning-based automated waste detection and classification system.



Isabel Garcia, a sophomore from North Carolina who developed a topical solution for wounds that is more effective at preventing infections than the leading triple antibiotic ointment.



Sarah Gao, a junior from California who created an accessible, affordable way to use seeds for water purification.

Because of you, the Hall of Fame mission continues.

In 2024, your contributions carried forward the mission to recognize inventors, promote creativity, and advance the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. You inspired confidence in the future through your commitment to connecting generations of innovators and sparking new possibilities.

Meet a Sponsor



The **ABB Foundation** has supported National Inventors Hall of Fame education programs since 2015. By funding scholarships for children to attend Camp Invention, the foundation provides more students with access to STEM-based, hands-on learning opportunities. Steadily increasing its support for Camp Invention through the years, the ABB Foundation also expanded its support to more regions in 2024.

“Exposing children to invention education, building their confidence, and building aptitude in using technology and tools is very important. Sparking their interest in STEM now is an investment in the future workforce, preparing students today for career opportunities tomorrow.”

— Iana Lowder, U.S. community relations lead at ABB

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EDUCATION PROGRAMS

\$250,000+

Army Educational Outreach Program
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Overdeck Family Foundation
The Red Backpack Foundation
by Sara Blakely
U.S. Department of Defense
(DoD) STEM Education
Consortium (DSEC)

\$100,000 – \$249,999

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Camp Invention Parent Donations
Google
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Wayne State College
Lori Wenzelman
Brooke Wright

2024 Financials

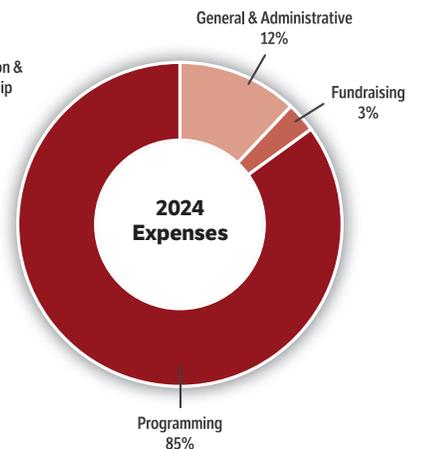
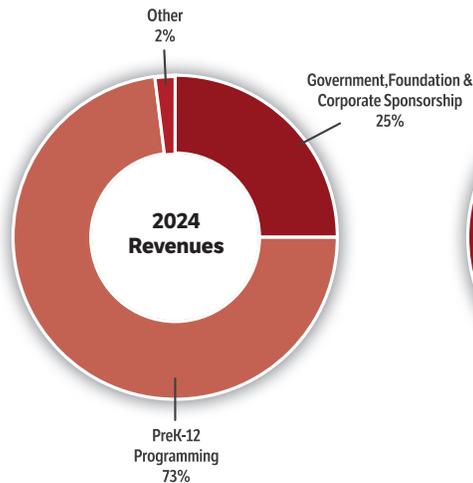
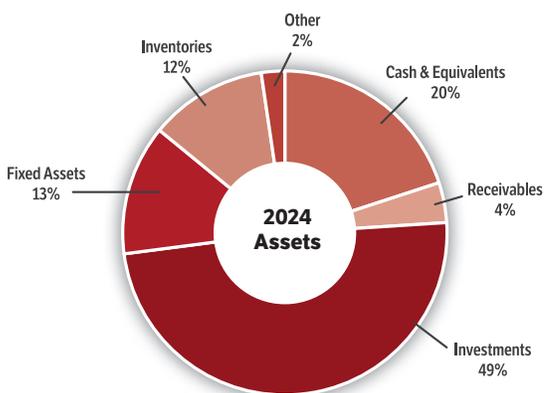
(IN THOUSANDS)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$14,944	\$11,347
Accounts Receivable	\$123	\$299
Grants Receivable	\$2,535	\$1,141
PreK-12 Education Program Supplies	\$8,587	\$8,575
Investments - Market Value		
Endowment	\$9,073	\$8,051
Other	\$24,336	\$21,564
Other - Trust	\$2,443	\$1,780
Other Assets	\$1,709	\$771
Buildings, Exhibits, Collections, & Equipment - Net	\$9,359	\$8,206
Total Assets	\$73,109	\$61,734
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$3,764	\$3,966
Deferred Revenue	\$3,622	\$3,239
Other Liabilities	\$2,766	\$2,062
Total Liabilities	\$10,152	\$9,267
Net Assets	\$62,957	\$52,467
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$73,109	\$61,734

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
Revenue		
PreK-12 Programming	\$36,564	\$38,187
Government, Foundation & Corporate Sponsorships	\$12,685	\$10,637
Store	\$130	\$84
Interest Income	\$750	\$636
Other Revenue	\$78	\$129
Total Revenue	\$50,207	\$49,673
Expenses		
Programs:		
Education	\$34,123	\$33,627
Recognition	\$2,943	\$2,462
Museum & Exhibits	\$1,106	\$1,244
Supporting Activities:		
Management & General	\$5,640	\$5,076
Fundraising	\$1,308	\$1,215
Total Expenses Related to Program & Supporting Activities	\$45,120	\$43,624
Net from Operations	\$5,087	\$6,049
Realized & Unrealized Investment Income (loss)	\$3,542	\$3,169
Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$1,861	(517)
Change in Net Assets	\$10,490	\$8,701
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$52,467	\$43,766
Net Assets, End of Year	\$62,957	\$52,467





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