



THE CHARLES H. WRIGHT  
MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024 FISCAL YEAR







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Front Cover: Images from the Ruth Carter Exhibit  
Back Cover: From the CCH Pounder-Koné Collection [Hidden in the Leaves, 2022 Sesse Ngeseli-Elangwe]







# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

NEIL A. BARCLAY



On behalf of the leadership, staff, and board of trustees of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, I am happy to share our 2023-2024 fiscal year annual report.

This last year was a pivotal one for our institution. Like others, we still felt the ripple effects of the global pandemic and racial reckoning. While it has been a longer timeline for relief and recovery, this year also ignited a need for creativity and innovation.

For The Wright Museum, this represented a renewed commitment to re-imagining the pivotal role that we play in the cultural vitality of our city, region, and indeed the nation. As you'll see in this report, we made some incredible strides in many areas and had a year where we stretched and grounded ourselves in the living, breathing impact of history on our present and our future.

We continue to be a proud leader in the use of technology in our efforts to provide environmental sustainability and resilience within our programs and physical plant. This is reflected in the incredible capital improvements made in recent years and throughout our program offerings. This has also helped us continue to infuse technology in every area of the institution.

We also reconstituted our Wright Community Advisory and Advocacy Council and continued to make efforts to secure a millage for the institution that would provide a more stable source of income for our programs and services. Whether this work is front-facing or behind the scenes, the team is working diligently to continue to build the capacity, infrastructure, and activities that will provide dynamic and world-class programming for our visitors and members for years to come.

Finally, we want to highlight the work of key stakeholders as a cornerstone to The Wright's success. Thank you to those auxiliary committee members, donors, and funders who have been the lifeline for the institution. In particular, I want to acknowledge the late Dr. William Pickard, who passed away this year. Dr. Pickard was a steadfast supporter of the institution, and the The William F. Pickard Family Foundation generously funded our newest update to our And Still We Rise exhibition dedicated to Judge Damon Keith. I also want to acknowledge the late Patrina Chatman, who dedicated 34 years of service to our museum. Her legacy will be forever remembered, especially for those who had the opportunity to be inspired by her work and dedication.

We don't achieve our mission and vision alone, and we want to thank all of you for serving as the foundation for the institution's impact. We cannot do this work without you.

**“A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IS ONE KEY TO RECOGNIZING THE SHARED DESTINY OF ALL PEOPLE.”**







# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**MARSEILLE ALLEN**

The Fairfield Group

**RUMIA AMBROSE-BURBANK,  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

VMS365

**CAROLYNN ANDREWS**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan  
(Retired)

**JASMIN BARNETT**

Ladies In Training

**RIAN ENGLISH-BARNHILL**

Olympia Development of Michigan

**SCOTT BENSON**

Detroit City Council

**MARGARET L. BETTS, M.D.**

Betts Medical Group

**YVETTE BING**

H.T. and Associates, Inc.

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MEMBER EMERITUS**

Philanthropist & Community Activist



**LARRY BRYANT, TREASURER**

Comerica Bank

**TAMIRA T. CHAPMAN**

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**JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM,  
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**JONI M. THROWER DAVIS,  
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Ford Motor Company Fund

**WALTER E. DOUGLAS,  
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Fiore Ventures

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Fifth Third Bank

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DTE Energy (Retired)

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Jackson Lewis, P.C.

**KELLY GREEN, PARLIAMENTARIAN**

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Morgan Stanley

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DTE Energy

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Hamilton Consulting International

**LAUREN HOOD**

Institute for AfroUrbanism

**MARION JACKSON**

Wayne State University

**JOHN JAMES, MEMBER  
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James Group International

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Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences/  
Morton Law Group, PLLC

**ANIKA ODEGBO**

Jackson Asset Management

**VIVIAN R. PICKARD**

The Pickard Group

**ROCHELLE RILEY**

City of Detroit

**BRIAN SMITH, PH.D.**

Tuskegee Airmen  
National Museum

**DR. RICHARD SMITH**

Henry Ford Health System (Retired)

**LYNN WEAVER, VICE CHAIR**

Yazaki North America (Retired)

**STEFEN J. WELCH**

Detroit Pistons







ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

# DR. CHARLES H. WRIGHT



**“WE WANT TO PRESENT THE FACTS OF EVENTS AND STOP THE REPETITION OF MISINFORMATION.”**

**D**r. Charles H. Wright was a prominent African American physician with a medical practice that served the community for over 35 years. His travel influenced and sparked a vision that African Americans needed a place to preserve their legacies and contributions.

On March 10th, 1965, Dr. Wright founded the International Afro-American Museum. Post a historic time in Selma, Alabama, he formalized his lifelong commitment passion for preserving and sharing African American history.

In addition to founding the museum, Dr. Wright was an activist and member of various professional and community organizations. His vast legacy continues to grow, and his impact will never be forgotten.



# MISSION

**OPEN MINDS. CHANGE LIVES.**



**The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History opens minds and changes lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history and culture.**

# STRATEGIC GOALS

The Wright is grounded in five institutional goals that will guide us over the coming years. We work daily on many moving parts and activities, but keep these priorities centered on our path toward progress and improvement.

**01.**

## CENTER DETROIT

Place Detroit at the forefront of a national (and international) dialogue regarding the profound influence of African American history and culture.

**02.**

## BE A LEADER IN THE FIELD

Lead in the creation, distribution, and exhibition of world-class programs characterized by aesthetic excellence, technological innovation, and relevancy to current events.

**03.**

## MENTOR MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS

Train and mentor people of color for careers in the curation, administration, and financial management of first voice institutions around the world.

**04.**

## PRESERVE INSTITUTIONAL VITALITY

Ensure the long-term financial sustainability of The Wright.

**05.**

## EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Embrace environmentally sustainable systems and practices in all aspects of The Wright's institutional programs and culture.

**WE CONTINUE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD THESE GOALS THIS FISCAL YEAR.**



Explore the rest of our Annual Report to see for yourself.





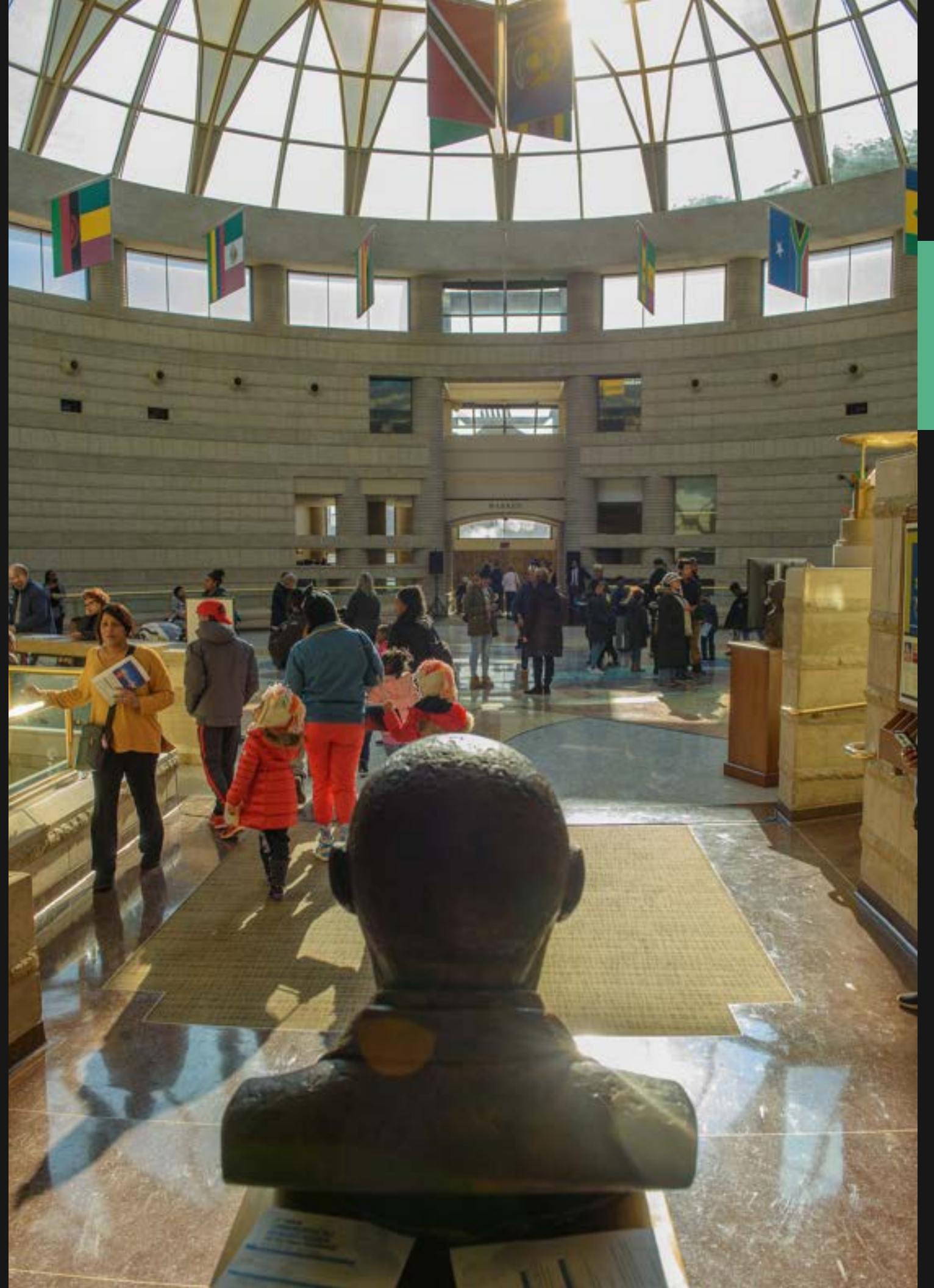


# VISION

## OUR HISTORY INSPIRES.



Our vision is of a world in which the adversity and achievement of African American history inspire everyone toward greater understanding, acceptance, and unity.







# AUXILIARY & AFFILIATE GROUPS

*At The Wright, our member-led groups are vital champions of Dr. Wright’s vision, passionately supporting our mission while enhancing our community presence. These committed volunteers foster important relationships and drive initiatives that amplify our impact and help ensure a sustainable future for the museum.*

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE

The Friends Committee honors Dr. Wright’s legacy by supporting the museum through membership and donor initiatives. Their efforts include celebrating Dr. Wright’s birthday, organizing membership drives, and more.

## WOMEN’S COMMITTEE

Established in 2000, the Women’s Committee promotes the museum through volunteer work, fundraising, and community engagement. Their mission is to enhance visibility and financial support while expanding outreach and growing membership. They also work to highlight the legacy and impact of Dr. Roberta Hughes Wright to the museum and community.



# MEMBERS

Wright members play a crucial role in bringing the museum’s mission to life. With member support, we’re able to expand our programs, strengthen ties to our community, and elevate our overall impact, helping us honor and preserve African American history for future generations.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS & THE BLACK CARD PROGRAM

In partnership with BUILD, The Wright Museum launched our Black Card Program in February of 2024. Tailored exclusively for members, the program has the dual impact of increasing the value of membership and supporting local businesses. This supports our strategic priority of Centering Detroit, and helps strengthen our ties with the community.





# EXHIBITIONS

Each year, The Wright presents a diverse array of traveling exhibitions, ranging from group art shows to in-depth explorations of key historical and cultural subjects. In addition to its traveling exhibitions, the museum features impactful permanent exhibitions and displays that help tell the full story of African American contributions to American history.

## PERMANENT EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHT

# AND STILL WE RISE

Featuring powerful stories and riveting, lifelike installations, And Still We Rise — The Wright’s core museum experience — is a 22,000-square-foot interactive exhibition offering a comprehensive look at the history of African American resilience, from the tragedy of the Middle Passage to the heroism of the Civil Rights Movement and beyond.

**Exhibition Info Spotlight:** The Charles H. Wright Museum was proud to debut a new gallery in And Still We Rise that honors the life and legacy of the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith. It is a timeline of the journey of Judge Keith’s life, through an interactive experience that features innovative technology.

# RUTH E. CARTER: AFROFUTURISM IN COSTUME DESIGN

This dynamic exhibition explored the work of legendary costume designer Ruth E. Carter, the first Black woman to win two Academy Awards and a core legendary costume designer for iconic films like *Black Panther*, *Malcolm X*, *Do the Right Thing*, and many more.

## VISITOR VOICES

For visitors and members, the Ruth Carter exhibit created feelings of nostalgia and awe. Whether they were touched by fond memories of some of their favorite films, or reminisced on some of the historical topics featured, the exhibition was a hit with visitors.



“EXPERIENCING THIS EXHIBIT HAS MADE ME SEE THAT RUTH E. CARTER HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO US THROUGH DESIGN AND FASHION FOR DECADES. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THAT. I’M ALSO EXCITED ABOUT WHAT ELSE SHE HAS TO ADD TO OUR CINEMATIC EXPERIENCES.”

“Absolutely wonderful! Her attention to detail is amazing and should be revered! She is an incredible artist, and I’m so glad that she is getting the attention she deserves. I’m also proud that The Charles H. Wright Museum hosted this fantastic event.”

“Incredible! We loved all of the detail and the accompanying stories. What a talent. Thank you for your contribution to Black culture and history.”

## DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

We were excited to make some digital connections through this exhibition. For those who had the opportunity to experience the exhibition guide, a QR code led them to learn more about Malcolm X through papers we held in our collection. You’ll see more of these kind of connections in our future exhibitions.







## EXHIBITIONS

# ADREINNE WAHEED: THE AUDACITY TO THRIVE

The Audacity to Thrive, an inspiring exhibition by lens-based artist Adreinne Waheed, captured the bold resilience of African-descended peoples who thrive despite adversity. It was the artist's first major museum show in her 40-year career.

**Exhibition Info Spotlight:** The Audacity to Thrive is the first major museum show by Waheed.



# JOHN E. DOWELL: PATHS TO FREEDOM

In this immersive installation, Philadelphia-based multidisciplinary artist John E. Dowell combined video, photographs, and other media, imagining the agricultural landscapes his enslaved ancestors encountered during their pursuit of freedom.

**Exhibition Info Spotlight:** Dowell's 2017 encounter with an "auditory apparition" in a cotton field inspired this show.



# DOUBLE ID

Double ID, featuring works from acclaimed actor CCH Pounder-Koné's collection, showcased art by artists from across the African Diaspora. This exhibition captured powerful images of Black men, exploring themes of identity and the inner self.

**Exhibition Info Spotlight:** CCH Pounder-Koné's extensive collection of African Diasporic art is world renowned.



# D.TREE STUDIO: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF DETROIT TREES



Featuring three trees and twelve makers, this collaboration between The Wright and the College for Creative Studies offered a fresh perspective on Detroit's trees, exploring the importance of respecting the natural world.



**Exhibition Info Spotlight:** Watch a five-minute video about D.Tree Studio.





# PROGRAMS



Each year, The Wright hosts diverse programs that bring African American history and culture to life. From engaging talks with leaders in politics, literature, and the arts to lively parties, concerts, and film screenings, these events inspire visitors and deepen their understanding of how history shapes our world today.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

# AFRICAN WORLD FESTIVAL (AWF)

The African World Festival (AWF) is a vibrant 3-day celebration showcasing the beauty and spirit of the African Diaspora. Drawing over 25,000 attendees, the event features headliner acts, live performances across multiple stages, and hundreds of vendors offering food, clothing, health products, visual arts, demonstrations, and community resources — all gathering to honor our rich cultural heritage.



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The 40th Anniversary of African World Festival was an important reflection on the legacy of the festival, and the guiding theme for the curation of entertainment was Afrofuturism. Featuring an eclectic blend of artists and genres, ranging from local vocalists of note to globally acclaimed headline performers, like Sun Ra, George Clinton, and Mumu Fresh.

*“The 40-year legacy of African World Festival is an important reason for us to reflect on both the impact on our Detroit community, and the contributions of the African Diaspora and community to our global culture.”*  
- Neil A. Barclay

## OUR RETROSPECTIVE

Curated by artist James Charles Morris, the AWF retrospective was a dynamic activation that featured an exhibition of each year of African World festival posters. Starting with the very first poster in 1983 through the present, the exhibition added to the nostalgia of the celebration.







PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

# THIRD THURSDAYS



The Wright's Third Thursdays offered a fresh, inviting way for new and returning visitors to connect with the museum. With music, dance, art, and conversation, these evenings provided an engaging way to experience The Wright and its exhibitions in a new light. Themes often tie into current exhibits, bringing them to life through interactive elements that blend culture, community, and fun.



# THE WRIGHT GALA

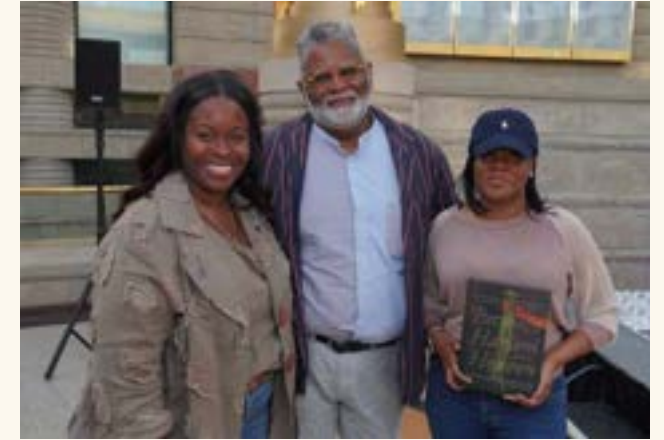


The museum's signature fundraiser, The Wright Gala blends celebration with purpose, offering guests an opportunity to support The Wright and honor the contributions of stakeholders who ensure the mission and vision of The Wright continue, with their support.

# THE WRIGHT CONVERSATIONS



The Wright Conversations series brings together leading voices from literature, law, music, dance, and more for thought-provoking talks. Curated by museum president Neil A. Barclay, these events offer dynamic discussions on critical issues in civic engagement, art, history, and culture. Designed to inspire and inform, this year the series connected the Detroit community with diverse perspectives, fostering deeper engagement with the topics that shape our world.



Alexander Smalls



Benjamin Crump



Nikki Giovanni







# HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW DIVISION & INCREASED IMPACT

We are happy to announce our newest division at The Wright! Our Organizational Development (Org-D) team contributes to The Wright Museum's ability to achieve long-term sustainability and success. The key areas this dynamic team will lead include:

- Guest Services (Front Desk)
- Volunteer & Internship Services
- Human Resources (Compliance, Culture, and Talent Retention)
- Project Management (Improving Process)
- Organization Management (Metrics & Analysis)
- Training Competency & Professional Development

The "Org-D" team assesses, reports, and recommends improvements for organizational effectiveness, and then works with the President and CEO, leadership, staff, and volunteers to execute.



1. Continuous Improvement
2. Increased Communication and Stellar Customer Service
3. Talent Development and Retention
4. Product & Service Innovation
5. Increased Organizational Success



# CAPITAL PROJECTS & SUSTAINABILITY: INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CONNECT

## CAPITAL PROJECTS AT THE WRIGHT:

This year we completed the renovation of our GM Theater (and adjoining green rooms) and transformed it into a new state-of-the-art performance venue for films, performances, concerts, and more. We also continued work on our multi-year project to replace our mechanical systems. This upgrade of heating, air conditioning other functions, improves our facilities and fulfills our sustainability priorities.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS ON DECK FOR 2025:**

- Orientation Theater
- Passenger & Freight Elevator



## REUSABLE BAGS & NO MOW MAY:

In April, The Wright Museum provided free reusable bags to the first 75 visitors daily to honor Earth Month. The Wright Museum also participated in the national movement of "No Mow May". The simple act of allowing grass and landscaping to grow for the month allows grass and gardens to fully bloom and provides food for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. Pollinators are vital to the health of our environment and help give life to new plants that sustain ecosystems. The Wright is committed to being a conscientious steward of our environment, and finding new ways, large and small, to contribute to a vibrant ecosystem.



## AUTODESK PARTNERSHIP:

Our partnership with Autodesk supports our efforts to become a Green Museum and guides our efforts to make our facility eco-friendly. Scan the QR code or visit our website to see a short video of our work together.





# FINANCIAL NARRATIVE



The Charles H. Wright Museum receives funding from a diverse range of sources, including private donations, grants, government appropriations, and earned revenue from admissions, tickets, and retail sales. These combined funding streams support The Wright’s mission by enriching exhibits and educational programming. While our net surplus in Fiscal Year 2024 saw a decline compared to Fiscal Year 2023, we were able to leverage prior years’ revenues to enhance offerings, create new exhibits, expand programming, and make significant improvements to our facilities.

The Wright’s Statement of Financial Position reflects a solid financial foundation. We saw a notable 40% increase in net assets, underscoring continued financial health and stability. Importantly, we have maintained our strong position without relying on long-term debt, positioning us well for future growth and sustainability. This healthy financial outlook supports serving our community and expanding our impact through high-quality, culturally enriching programs and exhibits.

## FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR 2022-2024

### FINANCIAL POSITIONS (IN THOUSANDS)

| ASSETS                | FY 2024       | FY 2023       | FY 2022       |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash Assets           | 6,753         | 8,404         | 11,679        |
| Investments           | 1,203         | 1,189         | 1,125         |
| Receivables & Pledges | 1,161         | 150           | 109           |
| Prepays               | 661           | 603           | 178           |
| Fixed Assets          | 21,646        | 13,207        | 4,893         |
| Inventory             | 236           | 219           | 90            |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>   | <b>31,660</b> | <b>23,772</b> | <b>18,074</b> |



We cannot thank our supporters enough for their continued contribution to the financial stability of The Wright Museum. Additionally, we are grateful for our Board of Trustees, Executive Leadership, and Staff teams for providing the guidance and effort which allows us to provide quality programs and services while remaining a financially viable institution.

The following sections of this report illustrate key highlights of our financial condition.

| LIABILITIES              | FY 2024       | FY 2023       | FY 2022       |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Accounts Payable         | 863           | 1,565         | 1,015         |
| Accrued Expenses         | 329           | 164           | 169           |
| Line of Credit           | 354           | -             | -             |
| Unearned Revenue         | 136           | 108           | 10            |
| Operating Reserves       | 1,000         | 1,000         | 1,000         |
| Building Reserves        | 600           | 600           | 600           |
| Fiduciary Liability      | 8             | 8             | 50            |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | <b>3,290</b>  | <b>3,445</b>  | <b>2,844</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>        | <b>28,370</b> | <b>20,327</b> | <b>16,831</b> |

### FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (IN THOUSANDS)

|                                                | FY 2024    | FY 2023      |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Operating Revenue                              | 12,279     | 11,701       |
| Operating Expenses                             | 11,825     | 9,139        |
| <b>TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b> | <b>454</b> | <b>2,562</b> |

### KPIs



**27%**  
Administrative Expense  
Ratio (AER)

**Over  
53,000**  
visitors in 2024

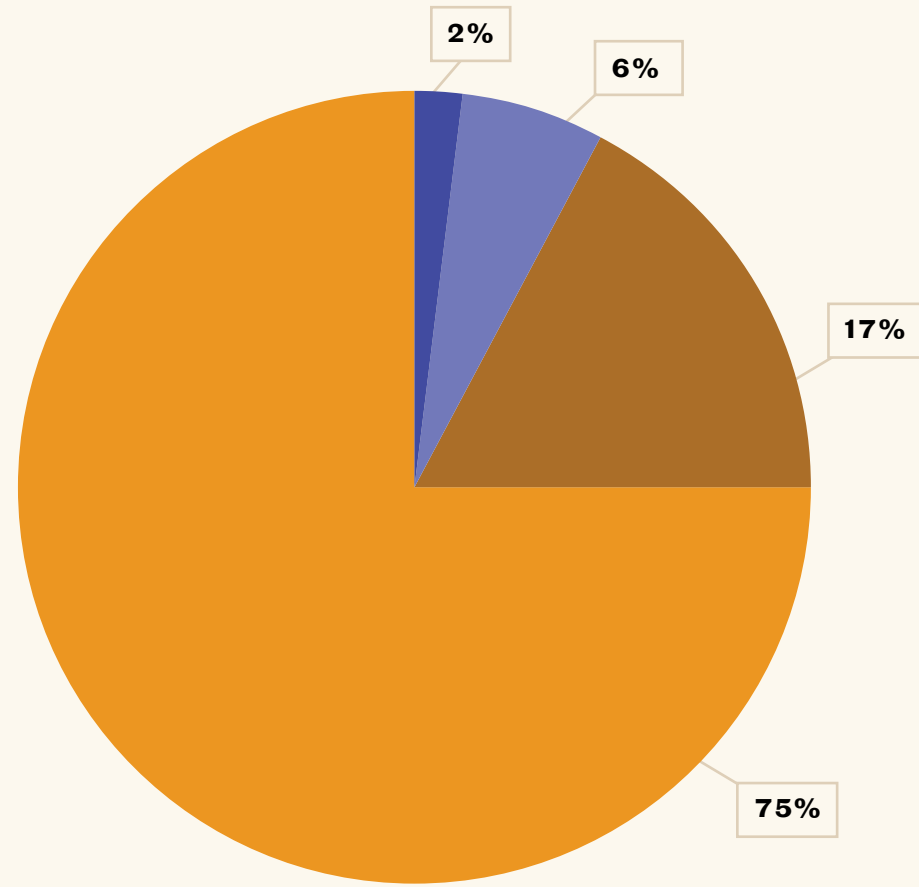
**3.05**  
Current Ratio





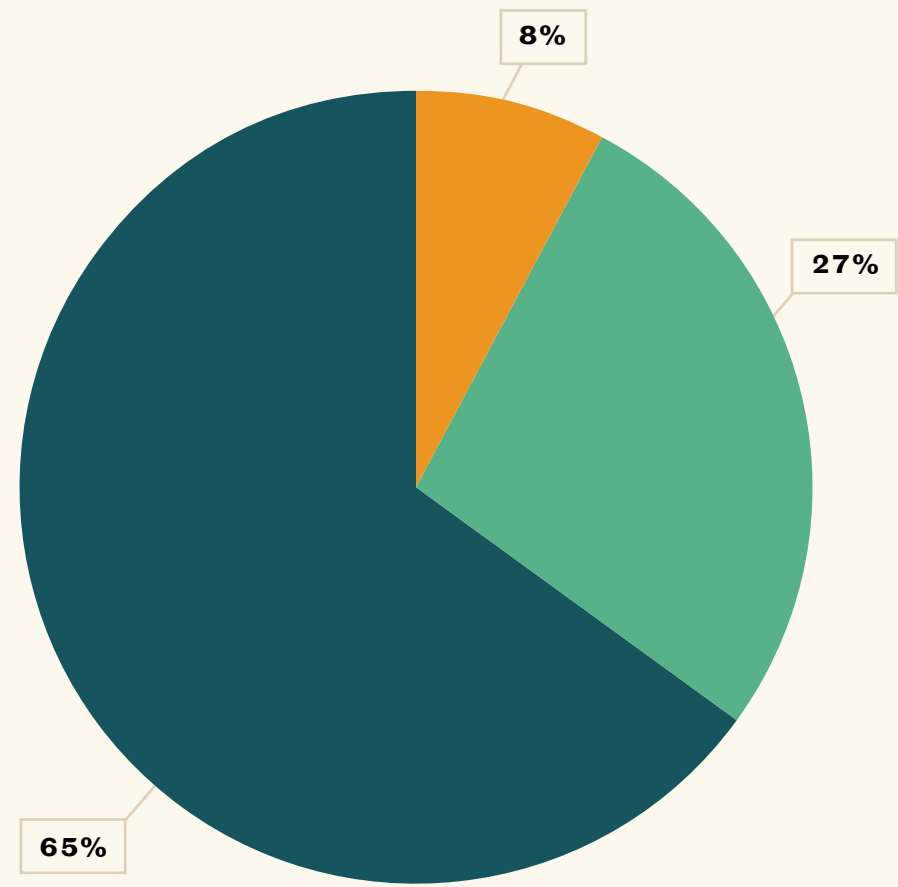


# REVENUES



- Contributions**
- Earned Revenue**
- Other Revenue**
- Fundraising**

# EXPENSES



- Programs**
- General and Admin**
- Fundraising**







# DONORS



We could not preserve the vitality of The Wright without the support of our donors.  
Thank you!

DONORS

## \$3 MILLION AND ABOVE

City of Detroit  
State of Michigan

## \$500,000 AND ABOVE

The Knight Foundation  
The William J. Pickard Family Foundation

## \$200,000 AND ABOVE

Community Foundation of SE Michigan  
Ford Philanthropy  
Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

## \$100,000 AND ABOVE

DTE Foundation  
Fifth Third Foundation  
Gilbert Family Foundation  
Illitch Holdings, Inc.  
Mellon Foundation  
Roy and Maureen Roberts

## \$25,000 AND ABOVE

Diane Allmen  
Brinker  
Citizens  
J.R. Clark  
Walter\* and Retha Douglas (Avis Ford)  
Detroit Lions Foundation  
Erb Family Foundation  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
\*Roderick Gillum  
Kresge Foundation  
Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation  
Hudson Webber Foundation

## \$15,000 AND ABOVE

Wilma King Trust  
MGM Grand Detroit  
New England Foundation  
Salome Walton

## \$10,000 AND ABOVE

AAA  
Tyrone Davenport\* and Linda Forte  
Joyce Hayes Giles\*

Glascoe Mckinney II Trust  
George and Jill Hamilton\*  
Jamjomar Cares Foundation  
\*Joni Thrower Davis  
Kiko Davis and Anthony Snoddy  
Target  
Williams Williams Rattner  
Plunkett\* James and Eva Cunningham

## \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Bedrock  
Rumia Burbank Ambrose\*  
Comcast  
Comerica Bank \*Larry Bryant  
Commercial Real Estate Ventures  
EEI Global  
Fifth Third Bank \*Kala Gibson  
Jennifer Fiore\*  
Meghan Hanley  
Hollywood Casino  
Marion Jackson \*  
Joanne Mondowney  
Midtown Detroit Inc.  
Morton Law Group \*Maurice and April Morton  
Quattro  
Judith P. Sims  
SYM Financial Services  
The Right Productions  
Artie and Mark Vann

Lynn Weaver\*  
Rhonda Welburn

## \$2,500 AND ABOVE

Bank of America  
Margaret Betts\*  
Henry Ford Health  
Deamous Underwood

## \$1,000 AND ABOVE

Ruth Alabi  
Carolynn\* and John Andrews  
Jack Martin and Bettye Arrington-Martin  
Richard L. Baird  
Duane Brown  
Shirley Burke  
Henry Colby  
Katora Cole  
Shaun and Elizabeth Cooper  
Willie and Lynette Cooper  
James and Eva Cunningham  
Sasha Darissaw and Dr. Bob Pettapiece  
Jamaine Dickens  
Kenneth Donaldson  
Brenda Gatlin  
Sylvia Gray  
Edward and Alma Greer  
Allo Greer

Stephanie Wright-Griggs and Bill Griggs  
Nigelle Hatch  
Rejji Hayes and Friends  
Kurt Hill and Yvonne Hill  
Annie Holt  
Celeste Watkins-Hayes  
Elora Richards-Jones  
Harold Lasenby  
Lindiwe and Sondai Lester  
Phillip Lett  
George and Carmen N’Namdi  
Izegbe N’Namdi  
Sharon Madison  
William O’Connor  
Frieda Parnell  
Rebecca Preston  
Leroy C. Richie  
Pamela Rodgers  
Linda and David Whitaker  
Anthony Smith  
Gayle Watson-Smith  
Lorraine Tyler  
Deamous Underwood  
Craig Vanderburg  
Jacquelyn Vaughn

## \$500 AND ABOVE

Andrea Benson  
Denise Brooks-Williams  
Liz Brisley  
Avis Broussard  
Gabriella Burman

Dacia Crum  
Kevin Davidson  
Gail Foster Dorsey  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Natalie A. Glass  
Cheryl Gibson-Moore  
Louisa Griggs  
John and Lisa Hanrahan  
Carla J. Hardy  
Betty Henson  
Clinee Hedspeth  
Christ House  
Amy Davis Jackson  
Arthur Jefferson and Yvonne Johnson  
Elora Richards-Jones and James Jones  
Jewel Jones  
Deneen Law  
Vera Magee  
Ron & Anne McCants  
Palencia Mobley  
Georgella Miller  
Annette and Robert McGruder  
Maria Manautou  
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Olivette Pearson  
L. Kimberly Peoples  
Harold and Renay Pope  
Tracy Reese  
Carla Rivers Johnson  
Kira Carter-Robertson  
Lee Robinson  
Barbara K. Smith  
Matthew Daniel and Barbara Wynder

## \$250 AND ABOVE

Kimberly Brown  
Stephen Black  
Buck Baker  
Joe Brown  
David and Sylvelin Bouwman  
Rosemary Burgess  
Charlotte T. Buck and Christopher Buck  
Andrea Carethers  
Rodney Cole  
Detroit HU Alumni  
Detroit Unity Association  
Donna Tartaglinofahey  
Keith Frambro  
Stephen Black and Yvonne Friday  
Brenda Gatlin and Friends  
Ronald Goldsberry  
Marilyn Green  
Deborah Griffin  
Monica Gay  
Gloria Hopkins  
Charles and Karlann Hudson  
Denise King  
Henry Langberg and Elaine Jones-Langberg  
Anissa Mattison  
Thomas Miree  
Amy Novak  
Cassandra and Yewande Odetoyinbo and Friends  
Thomas Lee Sherrer  
Charles and Belinda Small

Vernon Tounsel  
Adrienne Watts  
Sharon Wilson  
Raymond and Sheila Womack  
Allen Salyer  
Marilyn Nash Yazbeck

## ADDITIONAL OR IN-KIND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Timothy M. Ballard  
Bright Funds Foundation  
Brinker  
Cyberwoven  
Friends Committee Members  
Joyce Hartfield  
Willie and Shannon Johnson  
Bennie Latimer  
Angela Sims  
Infinite Technologies  
Naomi Taylor  
Womens Committee Members  
Carla Wright  
Wright Museum Board of Trustees

\* INDICATES CHARLES H. WRIGHT BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

PLEASE NOTE:  
The following list includes donations received in fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

DONORS

FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





# STAFF

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

**NEIL A. BARCLAY**  
President and CEO

**JEFFREY ANDERSON**  
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

**MARCUS MILLER**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MICHON LARTIGUE**  
Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement

**JOY DEFRANCE**  
Vice President of Organizational Development

**LANCE WHEELER**  
Vice President of Learning & Engagement

**YOLANDA HOLDER**  
Chief of Staff

## STAFF

**WHITNEY BAYLOR**  
Security Officer

**RICARDA BROOKS**  
Special Events Sales Manager

**KORZELL COE**  
Manager Exhibition Design

**STEPHEN COLLINS**  
Security Officer

**KEVIN DAVIDSON**  
Director of Design & Fabrication

**MIA ELZY**  
Sales & Retail Associate

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STAFF



FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**CELEBRATE  
OUR PAST**

1965 **60** 2025

**THE WRIGHT**

**CREATE OUR  
FUTURE**



## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, The Charles H. Wright Museum will commemorate its 60th Anniversary in a year long celebration.

Dedicated to highlighting and celebrating Dr. Wright's vision, the celebration will include a community day in March, various digital and in-person highlights throughout the year, and a closing celebration in October at The Wright Gala 2025. The Wright Gala 2025 pays homage to our past, embraces our present, and boldly shapes our future. This event honors the museum as a community and national treasure and recognizes the "gems"—the people and institutions that have shaped our legacy.

The gala is a reunion, rekindling the spirit of community that defines Detroit and this museum. Guests are welcomed with a grand entrance adorned in rich jewel tones, setting the stage for a sophisticated evening. The event begins with a VIP experience and offers exclusive entertainment and a champagne toast to the museum's legacy.

Guests will explore a visual historical timeline, celebrating 60 years of milestones, and enjoy performances by renowned and emerging artists, including Detroit-bred talents. A heartfelt tribute will honor the institution, its founder, and dedicated stakeholders. Throughout the evening, strolling entertainers and a sumptuous dinner will create memorable moments.

As the night concludes, guests dressed in their finest jewel-toned gala attire receive commemorative keepsakes, leaving with a sense of pride and connection, celebrating our legacy and investing in the vibrant future of the Wright Museum. The Wright 2025 Gala is a testament to our shared heritage's enduring spirit and resilience.







THE CHARLES H. WRIGHT  
MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY



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