

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

THE WRIGHT THRIVES BECAUSE OF YOU.

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# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

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As you know, this year marks the 55th year since The Wright was founded and I must say, this invaluable resource of knowledge and understanding has truly achieved its mission of opening minds and changing lives. At the same time, working with my colleagues to preserve the integrity of this institution, we know there remains much more work to do.

The past year has presented a variety of unique challenges, not only for the museum, but for Metro Detroit, the nation and across the globe. Despite devastating losses of life and dire financial straits compounded throughout the year, we continue to band together in an effort to sustain and grow the impact of The Wright.

As we adjust to meet the needs of the times, one thing remains constant – the museum serves as a sacred space and institution intent on bringing communities together. While some choose to visit in person and others participate online, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is still a place of meaning, of memory and of possibilities.

Nobody knows how long the ripple effect of this pandemic will last, but we are determined to push forward with the excellence that you, as engaged supporters of The Wright, expect. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to our mission as we explore, celebrate and present African American History and Culture together.

Eric Peterson  
Board Chair

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

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As the world awakens to the Black Lives Matter movement and endures an election which as of this writing, continues to disenfranchise the votes of its citizens, we arrive at a moment where The Wright and its particular ability to tell the complete stories of African American people could not be more relevant or important.

In the shadow of the holiday where we pause to give thanks for all the blessings that God and our ancestors have bestowed upon us, each of us remain extremely grateful for your support as we maintain the legacy of Dr. Charles H. Wright. We are continuously committed to sharing the incredible history of our journey, both in this region, as well as its lasting effects on people of color throughout the world. In support of these efforts, this past spring, the Wright Community Advocacy and Advisory Council, chaired by Ms. Lauren Hood and the late Abdul-Musawwir Aquil, began meeting. We are excited to work with this council as it works to further align The Wright with the communities we serve.

Through a collaboration with Detroit Public Television, as well as an increase of activity on [thewright.org](http://thewright.org), we began moving archived programs to our virtual platforms while also developing original virtual programming. It was during this time that we would also put the finishing touches on our *Voting Matters* exhibition which opened September 27<sup>th</sup> and recently won a Design Award for our design team.

In October, The Wright was named one of 20 organizations to share a \$153 million *America's Cultural Treasurers* initiative grant, designed to resource America's organizations of color for long-term sustainability. This seven-figure gift will be used to create operating and capital reserves, upgrade our core exhibition - *And Still We Rise* - and begin the multi-year process of seeking AAM accreditation. The fund will also provide operating support to the Wright over the next four years.

Last, but certainly not least, the ongoing and diligent work of our Trustees brought in more than \$600,000 throughout the year, which increased our ability to weather the pandemic. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge our Women's and Friends committees who raised well in excess of \$125,000 to support our operational efforts. Their support has meant everything to us as we soldiered on during one of the most challenging times in our history.

The coming year will see The Wright embrace new technologies, as we strive to move the museum into the digital age both online and through live streaming. We look forward to the future with a great sense of hope and optimism and invite you to join us on what promises to be an exciting journey!

Neil A. Barclay  
President & CEO

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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# FISCAL YEAR 2020 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## JULY 2019

Camp Africa Summer  
Concert of Colors  
Visitor Studies Association  
Conference Concert  
Family Activity Series  
Presents *Family Trivia  
Challenge*  
Freedom School Summer  
Vegetable Gardening Project

## AUGUST

MHC Grant Writing  
Workshop  
Sofrito of Cultures  
Community Performance  
Defending the Movement:  
Reflections of a People's  
Lawyer  
37th Annual African World  
Festival  
Meet the Scientist Saturday

## SEPTEMBER

The New York Times Magazine  
Presents *The 1619 Project*  
The State of the Union  
Movement: 50 Years After the  
LRBW  
Grandparents Day  
Genealogy and Racial Healing  
Project  
Getting PrEPped at The Wright  
The Statewide Uprising Against  
Black School Dismantling  
Blackness, Africans, & African  
Americans

John Coltrane Celebration  
Concert

4th Annual Detroit Women  
of Color International Film  
Festival

Meet the Scientist Saturday

## OCTOBER

The Wright Gala 2019  
Masquerade Ball  
Humanities & Technology  
Lecture

160th Anniversary of the  
Harpers Ferry Raid

Two-Day Celebration of John  
Brown

Harvest Festival at The Wright

Detroit Teachers Professional  
Development Symposium

How To Be An Antiracist  
featuring Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Sustainable Detroit Forum 2019

Meet The Scientist Saturday

Pamela Wise Ensemble  
Presents "A New Message  
From the Tribe"

## NOVEMBER

Detroit Independent Freedom  
School: Fall Semester

Water Story Youth Workshop

Family Activity Series

Green Museum Town Hall

Nu Omega Chapter of Omega  
Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Presents  
*African-American Males in the  
Community: What We Can Do  
to Serve*

A Sonic Decolonization of Mind  
From Native Son to Native  
Song: A Conversation

## DECEMBER

Detroit Independent Freedom  
School: Fall Semester

Annual Meeting of Members

Noel Night

50th Anniversary of the  
Assassination of Fred Hampton

Inaugural Celebration of Dr.  
Carter G. Woodson's Birthday

Kwanzaa

## JANUARY 2020

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10

20th Annual Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day Breakfast & Celebration

QUEEN Voices Lecture Series

## FEBRUARY

Celebrating Dr. Carter G.  
Woodson

Visions of Detroit Exhibition  
Reception

Family Activity Series

*Gone to the Village*  
Documentary Screening

Adinkra Linocut Print Workshop

Griots of the Cloth Sewing  
Collaborative

Detroit Association of Black  
Storytellers Fest

The Vincent Chandler  
Experience Jazz Concert

The Potential Power in the Conscious Black Vote

Liberation Film Series

Dance Theater of Harlem at 50: Past, Present, & Future of Equality

Meet the Scientist Saturday

The QUEEN Exhibition: A Conversation with CCH Pounder

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10

QUEEN Voices Lecture Series

## MARCH

The Osiris Papers

Adinkra Linocut Print Workshop

We Found Hip Hop Presents *Women In Hip Hop Showcase*

Cuban Literature in the Age of Black Insurrection - Canceled due to COVID-19

Women's History Month: Honoring Honorable Women - Canceled due to COVID-19

*We Want Our Bodies Back* Book Tour & Celebration - Canceled due to COVID-19

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10 - Canceled due to COVID-19

QUEEN Voices Lecture Series - Canceled due to COVID-19

Griots of the Cloth Sewing Collaborative - Canceled due to COVID-19

## APRIL

Family Activity Series - Canceled due to COVID-19

Logotherapy: Finding the Meaning of Life - Canceled due to COVID-19

MSU SciCon 2020 - Canceled due to COVID-19

Repeal the Third Grade Reading Statute - Canceled due to COVID-19

Who's Afraid of the Black Indian? - Canceled due to COVID-19

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10 - Canceled due to COVID-19

## MAY

Wright Now - Virtual

Malcolm X Day: Honoring Malcolm's Enduring Legacy & Relevance - Canceled due to COVID-19

Get Free or Die Trying: Food, Clothing, & Shelter - Canceled due to COVID-19

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10 - Canceled due to COVID-19

## JUNE 2020

Wright Now - Virtual

Oceans: The Phyllis Wheatley Suite Concert - Canceled due to COVID-19

A Tribute to Donald Byrd - Canceled due to COVID-19

Sounds of Freedom: The Art & Music of Charlie Parker - Virtual

A Critique of "Who Killed Malcolm X?" - Canceled due to COVID-19

30 Days to Lose It! Season 10 - Canceled due to COVID-19

Remembering Charlie Parker at the Griot Lounge

CHWM collaboration on Juneteenth Rally and event sponsored by City of Detroit

CHWM National Juneteenth Event with other African American Museums



# EDUCATION



The Wright Museum's Education Department has proven to be a dynamic learning environment that supports the Museum's mission."



## IN 2019

The Wright Education team reached outside of museum walls to provide community groups with pop-up exhibitions focused on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Underground Railroad. Speaking opportunities for educators grew during Black History and Women's History month, including a stop at Homeland Security and Border Protection. The QUEEN VOICES series featured author Bridget M. Davis and engineer and entrepreneur Camilla Rice. When school tours were halted in the Spring, the Department made the transition to virtual learning, developing relationships with schools such as Muskegon Heights Academy School District to provide professional development and African American centered curriculum.

## IN 2020

In partnership with Professor Stacey Deering of Wayne State University, The Wright's Education Team hosted a BLACK VOTERS MATTER event on ZOOM to discuss issues such as gerrymandering and the electoral college. For those seeking a virtual tour of the museum, our team is actively researching and producing audio, video and podcast segments focused on key themes within our thought-provoking AND STILL WE RISE exhibition.

## A LOOK AHEAD

The goal for the Education Department is to expand training in Culturally Relevant Instruction and Critical Literacy. Building on the success of our VOTING MATTERS exhibition, a Gallery Guide Mobile App is being designed, which will allow visitors within and outside of the museum to access collections and exhibits on their cell phones!



# EXHIBITIONS



## **The Inside World: Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial Poles**

**Dennis and Debra Scholl**

**JULY 18, 2019 – JANUARY 5, 2020**

The exhibition was drawn from the collection of Dennis and Debra Scholl. The exhibition presented 99 beautifully designed totems created from eucalyptus trees by indigenous Australian Aborigines. The totems were originally used as caskets. When the British took over the continent of Australia, they forbade the use of trees for burials. The paintings on the totems were a way for the Aboriginal to continue their history. Many people that saw the exhibition were surprised to learn that Aborigines are black and identify with African Americans.

## **Personal to Political**

**Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press**

**Bedford Gallery at the Leshar Center for the Arts**

**JANUARY 20, 2020 – APRIL 5, 2020**

The artists of *Personal to Political* capture the many personal narratives and political battles of African American artists across the country, reflecting a collective experience expressed in uniquely individual ways. The exhibition included the likes of Kerry James Marshall, Martin Puryear and the Gee's Bend quilters.



## **QUEEN: From the Collection of CCH Pounder**

**JANUARY 28, 2020 – AUGUST 2, 2020**

QUEEN featured 53 Contemporary works of art by 43 African diaspora artists exploring the theme of beauty, strength, agency and dignity of Black women. This exhibition included a beautiful catalog that is still available online and in the museum store.



## **Voting Matters**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 – APRIL 4, 2021**

Currently on display, Voting Matters is our newest exhibition. It opened September 27<sup>th</sup> and will run until April 2021. Voting Matters implies power and intention. The exhibition provides a 150 year historical survey of African American struggle to gain their right to vote and how we are still struggling against voter suppression.



## **Ibrahim Mahama**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2020 – DECEMBER 4, 2020**

Ibrahim Mahama's exhibition, titled: In Between The World and Dreams, is currently on loan in partnership with the University of Michigan. It is an installation created from jute or burlap bags. The exhibition provides monuments to moments of reckoning, mending and the longevity of African people.



"Voting Matters" is an educational presentation which foregrounds the role of African Americans in securing the right to vote in the United States. It is designed in five parts to illustrate the influential role of African Americans in the process, beginning with Pre-Reconstruction and traveling through to present day.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Charles H. Wright Museum has made great strides toward accomplishing its capital objectives. Below, you will find a list of projects that have been completed over the past two years. But the Museum needs to continue to invest in both large-scale capital projects and routine maintenance to ensure our facilities serve our ongoing needs.

*Jeff Anderson, EVP & COO*

## COMPLETED - 2019

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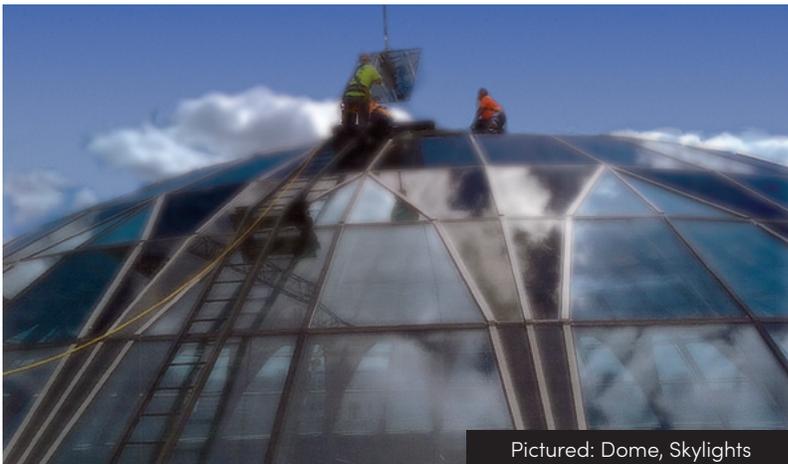
- **United We Stand Sculpture:** Included repairs to address graffiti, rust, scratches, water and concrete damage. Installed new signage.
- **Wright Community Gallery:** Included installing new floor, painting and lights.
- **Bollards Installation:** Included installing six new bollards at the base of the walkway at Farnsworth to eliminate parking on walkway.
- **Warren Circle:** Included redoing the entire entrance to include a blend of concrete but more importantly an artistic design of the Sankofa Permeable Paver into the center of the circle.
- **External Building Name Signage:** Included installation of the museum name on the facade of the E. Warren side of the building. The signage also illuminates.
- **First, Second Tier Flat Roof:** Included removal of the old roof components and installation of new roof with elements that will allow the museum to erect a GREEN roof in the future.



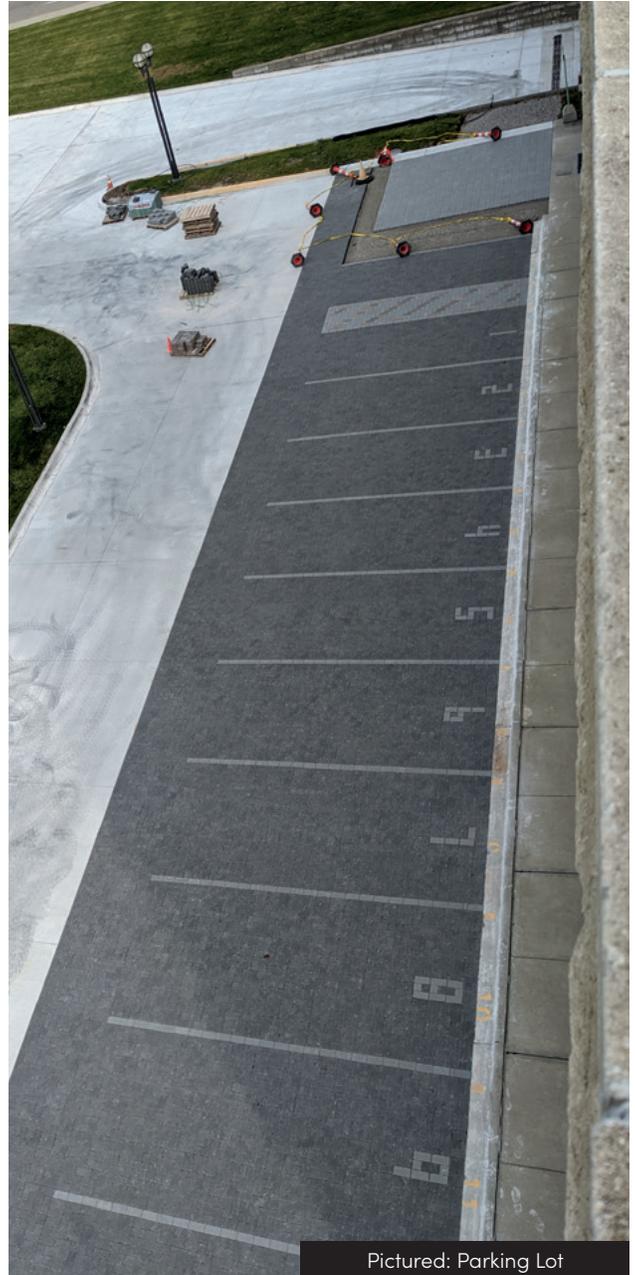
## COMPLETED - 2020

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- **Dome, Skylights:** Included removal of all the old sealants at each panel and replacing with silicone sealant. Replacing six (6) glass panels that were cracked. Concluded the project with a cleaning of the entire dome and skylights.
- **Wheelchair Lift:** Included replacement of the wheelchair lift. Added new lighting to the alcove on the lower level and improved the lighting on the main level. We added new directional signage.
- **Staff Kitchen:** Included new cabinetry, appliances, tile backsplash, tile flooring, automated lighting and ceiling tile.
- **Parking Lot:** Includes complete restoration of combination of concrete and pavers. New electronic gate, bicycle racks and trash units. **(project still underway)**
- **Phones, Computer Overhaul** **(project just underway)**



Pictured: Dome, Skylights



Pictured: Parking Lot

The following capital projects have been proposed for the coming year. Their successful completion will depend on available funding, and the cost of labor and equipment.

## PROPOSED: 2021-22

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- Upgrade Buildings Automation System/Freight Elevator Upgrades
- Replacing Buildings Chillers
- Convert Building System From Steam To Boilers

# FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR 2020

With a full year of new leadership in place, The Wright showed some progress toward financial stability, recording a surplus in net position of \$96,331, a 109 percent turnaround from the previous fiscal year of (\$1,018,940). Despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue for the year ended June 30, 2020 only slightly decreased two percent, by \$97,737. Funding from the City of Detroit remained at its historic level of \$1.9 million.

As a result of the pandemic, The Wright was forced to close its doors mid-March 2020. Three and one-half months later on July 10, 2020, The Wright reopened with reduced staffing (approximately two-thirds) and reduced operating hours from being open 6 days a week to 4 days a week. During the closure, administrative operations continued. Staff took the time to develop an online presence programmatically. In addition, The Wright applied for and received during the second round an SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan totaling \$693,000. The loan extended a lifeline to the museum as noted by the turnaround in net position. Full forgiveness is anticipated based on Safe Harbor rules established by the SBA.

Overall, net position increased by approximately five percent, compared to a decrease of approximately thirty five percent a year ago. The Wright's unrestricted net position increased by \$19,178 from the previous year to (\$1,645,080). Total expenses, excluding depreciation, decreased \$1,223,025, or approximately 16 percent, due to the reduction of operating expenses as a result of the forced COVID-19 closure. Facility maintenance and contractual services were reduced in this regard as well. Other savings resulted from a successful 2019 Gala moved in-house and presented by museum staff eliminating large production costs.

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

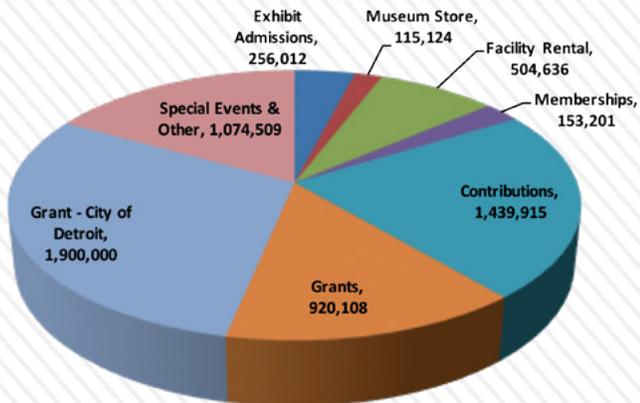
<u>Assets</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	755,191	115,316
Accounts and Pledges Receivables	9,787	151,701
Property and Equipment, net	1,889,711	1,423,906
Investments	1,059,897	1,566,518
Museum Store Inventory	35,698	40,935
Prepaid Assets and Other	68,654	75,318
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,818,938</b>	<b>3,373,694</b>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Accounts Payable	712,278	999,507
Accrued Payroll	143,826	125,902
Short-term loans	975,168	315,000
Deferred Revenue	34,300	76,250
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,865,572</b>	<b>1,516,659</b>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	(1,645,080)	(1,664,258)
Net Investment in Capital Assets	1,889,711	1,423,906
Restricted for Endowment	899,780	1,402,847
Temporarily Restricted	808,955	694,540
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,953,366</b>	<b>1,857,035</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,818,938</b>	<b>\$3,373,694</b>
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<b>\$3,818,938</b>	<b>\$3,373,694</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Exhibit Admissions	256,012	439,110
Museum Store	115,124	212,726
Facility Rental	504,636	614,167
Memberships	153,201	188,732
Contributions	1,439,915	1,556,369
Grants	920,108	741,615
Grant - City of Detroit	1,900,000	1,900,000
Special Events & Other	1,074,509	808,523
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,363,505</b>	<b>6,461,242</b>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Contractual & Professional	1,055,019	1,144,913
Educational Programs & Exhibits	1,378,229	2,158,097
Support Services	2,361,633	2,211,696
Facility Operations & Maintenance	792,280	1,019,286
Other Expenses	461,860	738,054
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,049,021</b>	<b>7,272,046</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) before Depreciation	314,484	(810,804)
Depreciation	218,153	208,136
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	96,331	(1,018,940)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	1,857,035	2,875,975
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<b>\$1,953,366</b>	<b>\$1,857,035</b>

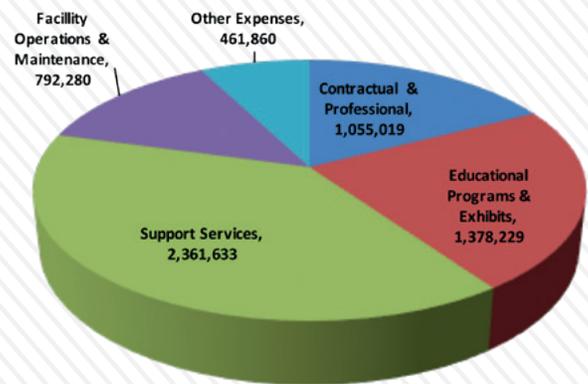
## REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$6,363,505

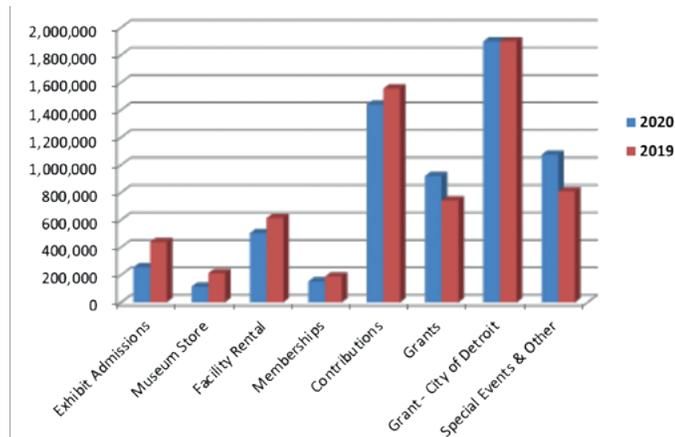


## EXPENSES

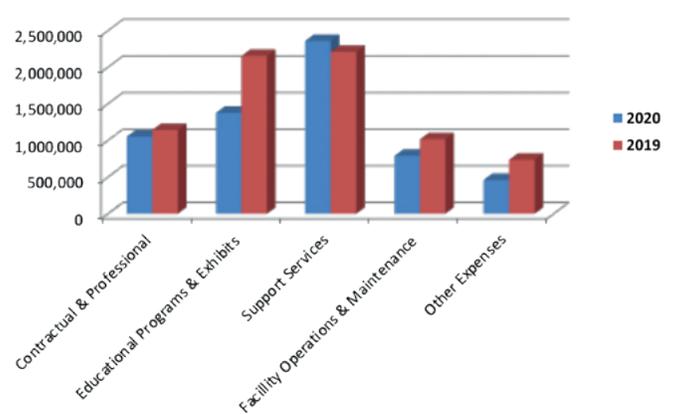
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,272,046



## REVENUE COMPARISON



## EXPENSE COMPARISON



# DONOR RECOGNITION

JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE, 30, 2020 MUSEUM DONORS

The Museum would like to extend its sincere appreciation to those donors who have made gifts to support our exhibitions, programming and special events. Listed here are the names of contributors who made gifts of \$250 or more. Every attempt has been made to list donors accurately. If there are errors or omissions, please call (313) 494-5853 so we may correct them. Thank you!

## **\$1,000,000 +**

City of Detroit

## **\$300,000 +**

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
Kresge Foundation

## **\$200,000 +**

The Ford Foundation

## **\$100,000 +**

Ms. Joyce V. Hayes Giles, DTE Energy Foundation\*

## **\$75,000 +**

Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation  
Women's Committee of The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

## **\$50,000 +**

Ms. Pamela Alexander, Ford Motor Company Fund\*  
Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan  
Friend's Committee of The Charles sH. Wright Museum of African American History  
Hudson Webber Foundation  
Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs  
Penn National Gaming Foundation  
Mr. Eric and Mrs. Sandy Peterson (deceased), General Motors Company\*  
Dr. Brian R. Smith, Tuskegee Airmen National Museum\*

## **\$30,000 +**

Erb Family Foundation  
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## **\$20,000 +**

The Bella and Don Barden Foundation, Inc.  
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Mrs. Retha and Mr. Walter Douglas\*  
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IMLS - Institute of Museum and Library Sciences  
Michigan Humanities Council

## **\$15,000 +**

Detroit Memorial Park Association, Inc.  
Detroit Strategic Framework Inc.  
Midtown Detroit, Inc  
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Mrs. Judith Sims

## **\$10,000 +**

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## **\$5,000 +**

AARP Michigan  
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Michigan Morehouse Scholarship Foundation  
Smokey G's Smokehouse

## **\$1,500 +**

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### **\$1,000 +**

Ascension / St. John  
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