



**GREAT RIVER
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

Building Community

2022 Annual Report

WE'RE IN THE

On December 13, 2021, it was hammer time.

Sledge hammers, jack hammers, and other tools of the trade were in full force as demolition kicked off at the future home of Great River Children's Museum. Our donor-partner BCI Construction began the first phase transforming our more than 30,000-square-foot facility from a former bank to an exhilarating space where the community will gather and explore together.

Throughout 2022, this was our reality: working in a demolition zone. The opportunity to host traveling exhibits in our building like we did in 2021 simply wasn't there.

The good news is that all of us who have been raising funds to move from demolition to construction know that Great River Children's Museum truly is about so much more than a building.

Our mission is to shine a bright light on the power of play to spark children's learning, strengthen families, and build community connections. When construction is finished, the museum's dynamic, interactive environments and experiences will serve as a gateway to the world each year for more than 150,000 kiddos and their caregivers from 12 counties and 64 school districts across our region.

To be honest, though, we simply didn't want to push pause on our museum experiences, and we certainly didn't want to wait to meet everyone. So during demolition in 2022, our commitment was to get out and about in the communities we will serve with a variety of pop-up exhibits and activities to explore together. Thanks to an invaluable partnership with Great River Regional Library, we made good on that! We also have to give a big thank you to our donors for an incredible 2022. It was truly a great year full of outreach and milestones made possible by their support.

As you'll see in these pages, our incredible team of staff and volunteers zoned in on this commitment and more, and their enthusiasm for Great River Children's Museum was contagious.

We were able to connect with more than 3,500 community members, continue to grow our social media followers and e-newsletter subscriber list, and build even more excitement for the future of Great River Children's Museum. It's coming soon (I promise!)

Cassie Miles
Executive Director



Photo credit: St. Cloud Shines

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OUR MISSION

To shine a bright light on the **power of play** **to spark** children's learning, **strengthen** families, and **build** community connections.

Its dynamic, interactive environments and experiences are a **gateway to the world** and its people for children and families of all backgrounds.

CAMP BEYOND!

Imaginative adventures came to life at Great River Children's Museum's 2nd Annual Camp Beyond. Campers created their own characters, complete with costumes and storyboards. They even got to 3D print a rendering of their characters to keep.



BUILDING COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS



16
WEEKS
12
SITES

7 Pop-up exhibits at Great River Regional Library branches in Annandale, Becker, Big Lake, Clearwater, Cokato, Grey Eagle, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sauk Centre, Staples, and Swanville.

3,538 INTERACTIONS



How do you connect with so many people? Get out and about to libraries, farmers markets, local festivals, camps, and more!

THUMBS WAY UP!

GRCM surpassed 2000 followers on Facebook, 500 on Instagram, and 1,200 on our e-newsletter subscriber list. Want to stay “in the know”? This is the way to go!



Clockwise: icons created by Ted Grajeda, Hyuk Jun Kwon,, Adrien Coquet, and Megan Chown for The Noun Project.

312
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Dumpsters and dumpsters and dumpsters of debris from demolition



THIS IS “OUR” MUSEUM

Glen Palm Chair of the Board

We achieved significant progress towards our goals in 2022. The first goal was to “Conduct a multi-million dollar Capital Campaign to open our doors by January 2025”. Our Capital Campaign Committee raised \$6 million dollars toward the goal in 2022.



A second priority for GRM was to “Engage and build trusted partnerships across the community”. As demolition work and planning on the building has moved at a fast pace, so has the work of the Program and Outreach Committee. GRM expanded community outreach efforts like Play, Explore, Learn Labs, Roundtables, camps, and activities at many community events in 2022. Kylie Conover, our Program and Outreach manager, has done an amazing job collaborating with the Great River Regional Library system to bring GRM pop-up exhibits into regional branch libraries in 14 different Central Minnesota communities from Big Lake to Staples. We plan to continue this work over the next 2 years with all 32 branches. This initiative is supported by a 3-year McCarthy Dressen grant and a local United Way grant. Marketing Coordinator Jessica Krull and the Marketing Committee did a brilliant job documenting this outreach and engagement on social media.

Our other committees have been hard at work on museum development too. The Exhibits Committee has put in many hours with the exhibit design team to help create unique engaging exhibits that reflect our region. The Facilities Committee has worked with Evan and Mark from GLTA to create a building environment that is colorful, comfortable, and welcoming to all. I have been impressed by the level of communication and collaboration that has been displayed with the exhibit design group, the architects, and the construction manager with GRM Executive Director Cassie Miles and our committees. Finally, an Arts Task Group was established to bring in local artists to create art pieces for the museum.

I am grateful to the staff, student workers, board members, volunteers, and community members who have engaged with us the last year to share insights and ideas to shape GRM into a museum for our region. I am especially grateful to our donors for their generous gifts in 2022 to provide resources needed to bring GRM to life. The vision of GRM has continued to evolve and sharpen with input. I know when we open our doors and people walk into GRM they will feel “This is our museum”.



NICE TO MEET YOU! Program and Outreach Manager Kylie Conover logged many miles and many hours with a team of volunteers to be out and about in the community in 2022 while the GRM building underwent demolition.



Jill Amsberry
Board Member



Becky Coborn
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Capital Campaign
Chair
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Facilities Committee



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Board Member
Engagement &
Programming
Committee



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Board Member
Marketing & Fund
Development
Committee Chair



Tom Grones
Board Member
Facilities Committee



Naima Hussein
Board Member



Buddy King
Board Vice Chair
Engagement &
Programming
Committee



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Board Member
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Marketing & Fund
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Chair
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Marketing & Fund
Development
Committees



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Personnel Commit-
tee



Greg Reigstad
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Finance Committee
Chair



**Monica
Sequra-Schwartz**
Secretary
Personnel Commit-
tee Chair
Cultural Inclusion
Chair



Jerry VonKorff
Board Member
Exhibits Committee

2022 GRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



2022 CANDIDS



OUT & ABOUT!

Curious kiddos marched to the beat of their own drum at Great River Children's Museum events throughout the region. Making music. Creative costume upcycling. Building. Biting. Color washing a blank canvas. We explored it all together..



RIGAMAJIGS & DINO

CHECK THEM OUT!



What do dino bone builders, rainbow suncatchers, and coding bug bots have in common? (And what exactly is a Rigamajig, anyway?)

Answers to these questions and more have been checked out through an exciting partnership between Great River Children's Museum and Great River Regional Library

Starting in 2022, the two organizations have been bringing the communities of Central Minnesota glimpses of the future Great River Children's Museum through Pop-up Exhibit Experiences hosted by libraries in the museum's large service area.

"The library has specific goals to try new ideas, innovate, and create partnerships that promote libraries and their services, so this feels like a natural extension of key parts of our goals," said GRRL's Beth Stolpman.

GRRL Librarian Jade Lauber added, "These exhibits give our patrons the chance to experience what the museum has to offer and will be an excellent addition to our programming. We can't wait to see how well the museum's Pop-up Exhibit Experiences compliment our existing library resources and programs, and how our patrons will interact with the exhibits!"

GRCM Program and Outreach Manager Kylie Conover created seven pop-up exhibit kits that tie to the museum's core exhibit experiences. Each kit contains activities that provide a taste of what folks can expect in the larger space when the museum is open.

A LEARNING STAPLE: PLAY!

Kiddos at the Staples branch of Great River Regional Library take their imaginations to new heights as they enjoy the Great Explorations Pop-up Experience. The activity is one of seven pop-experiences Great River Children's Museum is hosting in partnership with the library system.

Great River Children's Museum Pop-up Experiences include a variety of activities:

Climber to the Clouds: Exploration with prisms and light using a dark box to experiment. DIY rainbow suncatchers using prism paper and cardstock.

Community Connections: "Meet Your Neighbor" cards and foods from around the world.

Everyday Engineering: Rigajigs, keva blocks, and bristle blocks.

Great Explorations: Dino bone builders, blue blocks, and busy boards.

Great Big River: Critter scavenger hunt and footprint rubbing. Microscope with slides.

Headwaters: Fishing table and constellation luminaries.

Tinker Workshop: Spirographs, snap circuits, toddler build blocks, and Cardboard City.

"It's been great seeing how the libraries integrate these pop-up experiences into programming," Conover said. "In Melrose, they took the Cardboard City experience and encouraged kids and adults to create city blocks for a city of the future."

Conover also has provided some guided experiences like Code a Bug and creating storm bottles.

In 2022, GRCM hosted pop-up experiences at 12 of the library system's 32 branches. The number of branches served will expand in 2023.

"Until the museum doors are open, it's so rewarding to be able to connect with our communities through partnerships like this," Conover said.



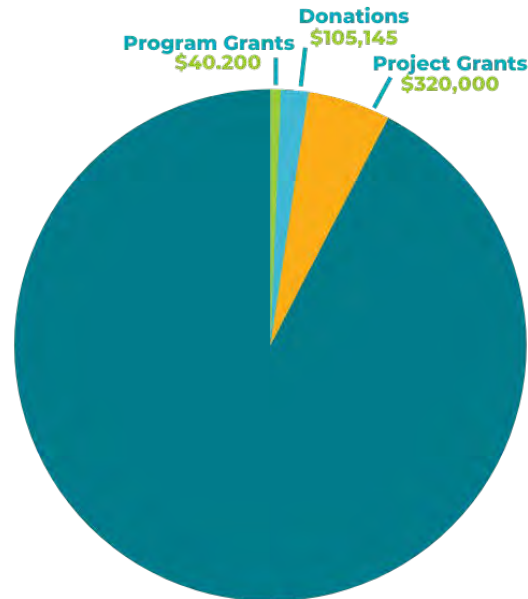
BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

FROM DECEMBER 31, 2022

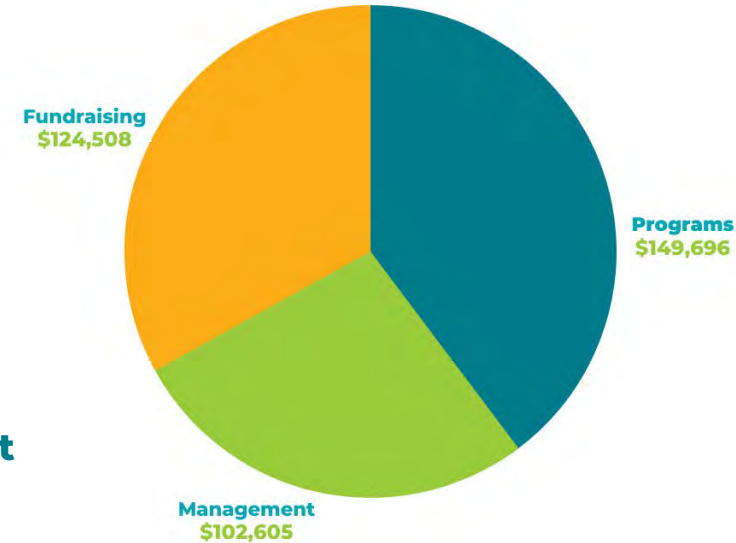
For brevity, the financial information presented here is excerpted and does not include the statement of cash flows and footnotes that provide a detailed picture of Great River Children's Museum's financial position.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Assets | \$10,503,96 |
| Total Current Liabilities Total | \$156,027 |
| Net Assets | \$10,347,954 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$10,503,986 |

Public Support & Revenue



Expenses



HONOR ROLL

The Great River Children's Museum team is grateful for the support of those who share our vision. On the next few pages, this Honor Roll recognizes everyone who has pledged or given from January 1 through December 31, 2022.

Legacy Circle

\$1,000,000+

Barbara & Rollie Anderson
Coborn Family Foundation
Cross Works Foundation
McDowall Company (John & Cherie McDowall)

Leadership Trust

\$500,000 to \$999,999

Anonymous
Mike & Karel Helgeson
Tom & Janet Grones
Tom & Joyce Schlough

Memory Makers

\$100,000 to \$499,999

BCI Construction
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Charlotte Stephens
Country Hearth Breads
Sue Shepard & Don Helgeson
Initiative Foundation
Main Street Economic Recovery Program Grant
Dr. John & Joyce Matsuura
Minnesota Humanities Center
Minnwest Bank
Sysco
Todd Zaun

Adventure Guides

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Bob & Lysa Neitzke
Charles Ehlen
Dick and Mimi Bitzan Family Fund
of Central Minnesota Community
Foundation
Dick & Mimi Bitzan
Glen Palm & Jane Ellison
Microbiologics



This work is funded in part with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Creators Club

\$10,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous
Central Minnesota Community Foundation
Donna Kuhl & John Mahowald
Dorothy Gorecki
Elizabeth Brunsvold
Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Pierz
Granite Charitable Great River Children's
Museum Fund
Greg & Janet Reigstad
Jeff & Melinda Gau
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John Wertz
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McCarthy Dressman Education
Foundation
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St. Cloud Scheels
SCR (Saint Cloud Refrigeration)
St. Cloud Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) Clinic
Theodore & Andrea Truitt
United Way of Central Minnesota
US Bank

Great River Supporters

\$1,000 to \$9,999

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Up to \$999

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Erin Bitzan & Eamon Walsh
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Gearbox Functional Creative
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for you!

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Kelli Mrozek
Kelly Gully

Kendra Norton Dando &
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Kristine Smith
Kyle & Natasha Chapman
Kylie & Clay Conover
Laraway Financial Advisors, Inc.
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Laurie Tritabaugh
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Marge Bates
Mark Johnson
Mark & Susan Larson
Marsha Mort
Martha Ewing
Martha Hoodecheck
Mary Davis
Mary Beth Megarry
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Mary Ness
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Network for Good
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Roxanne Boelter
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Saint Cloud Symphony Orchestra
Saint Mary's Cathedral
Sally Hanson & Sara Hanson
Sam Calvert
Sandra Hansen

Sandra Williams
Sara & Darren McKeever
Sara Mohs
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Scott & Lynn Holmwig
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Shane Zabinski
Shannon Vadnie
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Susan Severt
Tara Brown
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Thomas Hartmann
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Tiffany Stang
Tommy Vongkhamdy
Tony Jarousek: Allstate
Insurance
Tracie Linden
Walmart
Wanita & Jack Parker
Warren & Jacquelyn Bradbury
Wendy Wiehoff
Josh & Whitney Orn

* Denotes in-kind contribution



GREAT RIVER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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