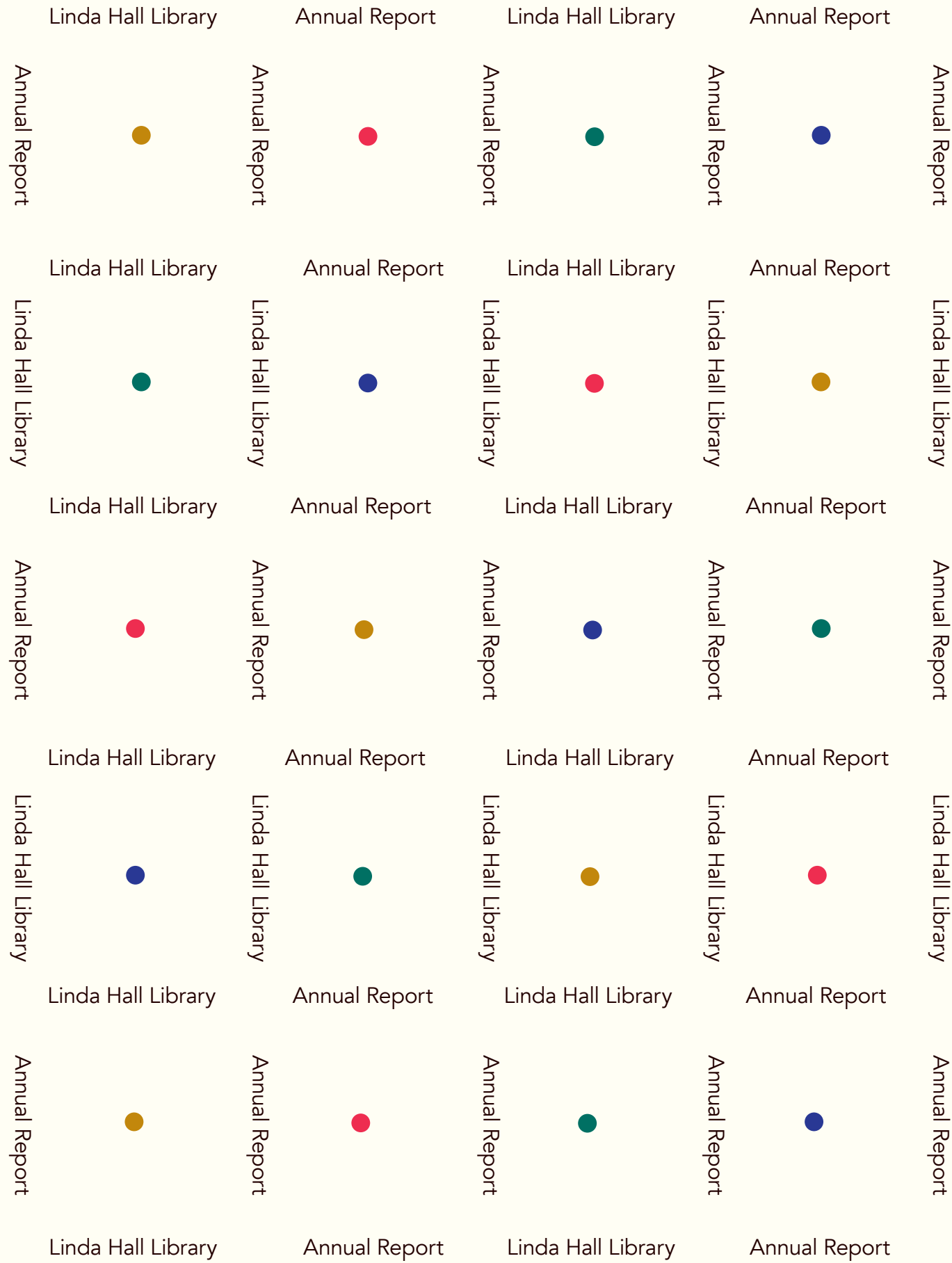


2024 - LINDA HALL LIBRARY

# Annual Report

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY





2024 - LINDA HALL LIBRARY

# Annual Report

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Thank you for being part of the Linda Hall Library community. Your support makes it possible for us to preserve and share knowledge, spark discovery, and expand public access to the history of science, engineering, and technology. We're proud to share this year's milestones with you, which are made possible by your continued belief in our mission.

# Thank

# You

Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to share with you this Annual Report, my second as President of the Linda Hall Library, marking a year of firsts in a rising arc of growth and momentum. In 2024, we introduced only the second Strategic Plan in our history, along with an ambitious Annual Plan for 2025 that now guides our work with greater clarity and intent. We welcomed new colleagues, including our first Vice President of Visitor Experience, and restructured departments to better support design, exhibitions, publishing, and guest services.

Our public programs reached new heights. *Chained to the Sky: The Science of Birds Past and Future* drew wide acclaim, while *New Acquisitions* launched a new tradition, spotlighting treasures entering the collection each year. With our partners at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, we co-curated *Mapping the Heavens*, a luminous exhibition exploring Islamic and European scientific exchange. We also reimagined our President's Circle magazine, *The Hedgehog*, with a bold new look and a fresh narrative voice.

Youth engagement flourished, with participation in the Kansas City Invention Convention more than doubling, and our finalists traveling to the national competition in Michigan. Our prestigious, nine-month NEH Research Fellow, Dr. Allison Marsh, brought new depth to our scholarly profile with research in the history of women's contributions in electrical engineering.

Inside the Library, we transformed the Trustees and Spencer Rooms into an intimate cabinet of curiosities, inviting visitors to encounter early scientific thought in a wholly new way. These milestones, and many others you'll find in the pages ahead, signal a bold reimagining of what Linda Hall can be: a place where ideas take root, where imagination meets inquiry, and where science is celebrated as a cultural force.

To the Board of Trustees, led first by Marilyn Hebenstreit and now by Anne Dema, thank you for your vision and support. To our members, visitors, and friends: you inspire our work. And to our extraordinary staff who brought these achievements to life, it is an honor to lead this exceptional team.

With appreciation,



Eric Dorfman, PhD  
President and CEO

# Who We Are



In 2024, staff worked collaboratively to develop our **Three-Year Strategic Plan** that will guide our work. This framework will guide our programs, investments, and outreach as we chart our path forward with our community.

## DEAI STATEMENT:

The Library is committed to fostering a culture of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion that reflects the rich tapestry of the global community we serve.

## OUR VALUES:

Impactful

Relevant

Welcoming

Engaging

Collaborative

## PURPOSE:

To deepen humanity's understanding and appreciation of science and its integral role in shaping our world.

## MISSION:

To use our collections and other resources to inspire curiosity, innovation, and cultural engagement with science through collecting, education, and interpretation.

## VISION:

A world in which science is celebrated as a vital part of our histories, lives, and futures.



# Our Strategic Priorities

## ASSETS:



Growing, understanding, and leveraging our physical, digital, and living collections to support research, education, and exploration.

## SUSTAINABILITY:



Investing in a sustainable future through strategic investing in long-term financial, environmental, and organizational resilience practices.

## INFLUENCE:



Expanding our reach and relevance locally and globally through partnerships, exhibitions, and thought leadership.

## INSTITUTION:



Strengthening our institutional health by investing in staff development, diversifying revenue streams, and streamlining operations.

## OUR PRINCIPLES:

Scientific Literacy

Collections

Inspiring All Generations

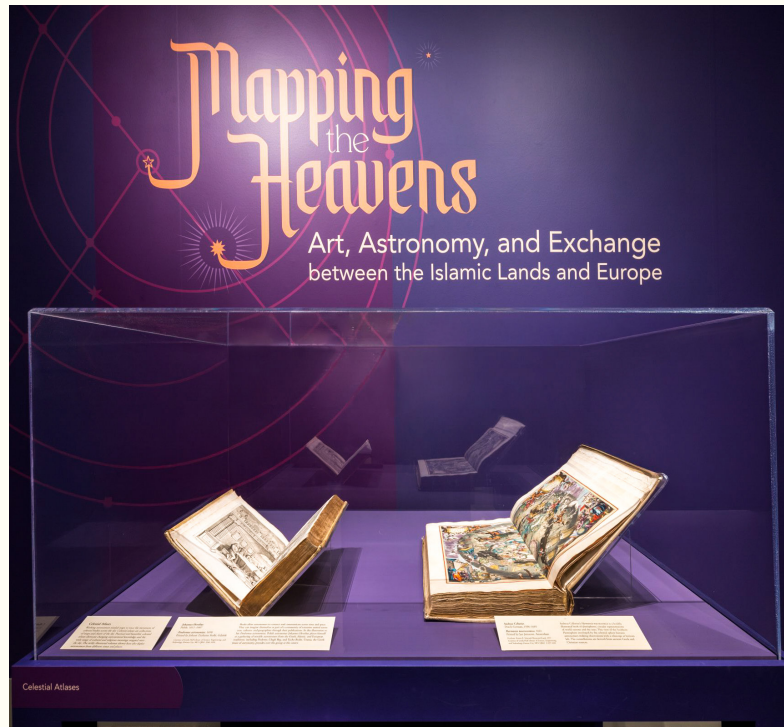
Environmental Sustainability

# Assets

Our strategy focuses on identifying and enhancing the intrinsic and acquired assets of our institution. Through detailed analysis and creative approaches, we will maximize the utility and impact of these resources. By effectively leveraging our assets, we ensure they contribute meaningfully to our mission and expand our reach and capabilities in the community.

# Collections & Digital Initiatives Unit

The heart of our library is our physical collection. We collect materials related to science, technology, and engineering.



## MAPPING THE HEAVENS EXHIBITION

We collaborated with The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to trace the roots of astronomy. This exhibition was hosted at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art where visitors could explore how astronomy was a shared, multicultural, and multifaith dialogue.



Added **1,280** new books to the collection

Acquired **10,000** donated items

Migrated **9** digital exhibitions online

Created a new **Casual Reading Area**

Developed the **Innovation & Invention Collections** to support KCIC

# Additions

Finch Collins, Assistant Curator of Rare Books, helps care for the Library's unique and historic print collections. He reminds us that physical texts matter—not only for their content, but for what they reveal about the people, tools, and ideas that shaped the history of science and technology.

“Our print collections are the platform from which we tell the story of science, engineering, and technology. Every part, from journal holdings that researchers can find nowhere else to modern books that inform casual readers about the world around them, coheres into a world-leading library of science.”

Finch Collins  
Assistant Curator of Rare Books

## GENERAL COLLECTION

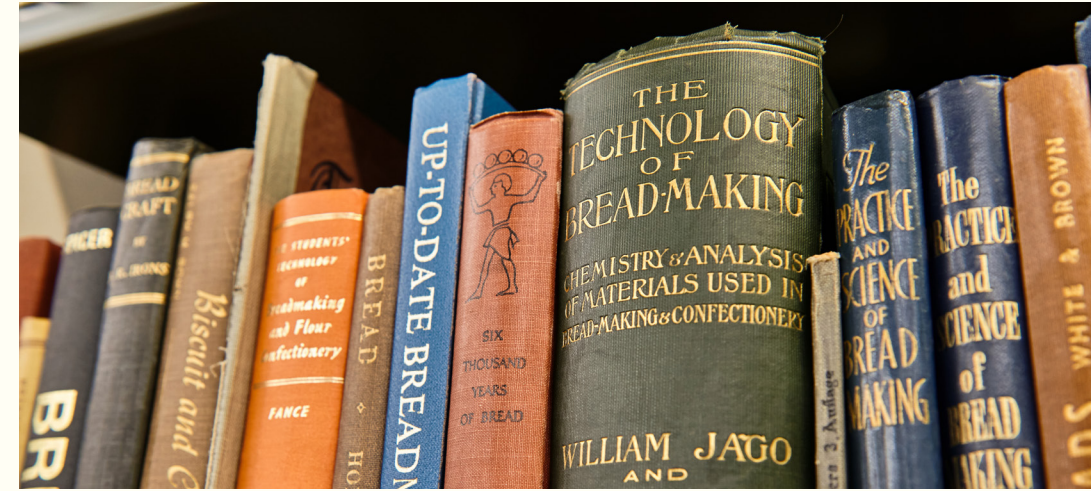
This year, we added more than 1,280 newly purchased monographs (books) to our general collection and received over 10,000 materials through generous gifts-in-kind. These additions help us maintain our collecting strengths while responding to the evolving needs of current and future researchers.

## RARE BOOKS

We continued to expand and deepen our rare book holdings in key subject areas. A highlight of the year was the acquisition of *Sidereus Nuncius* (1610) by Galileo Galilei, featuring his own handwritten annotations. This rare edition completes our holdings of the three versions printed in the first year of publication, establishing the Library as a leading resource for scholars of early modern astronomy.

## DIGITAL EXHIBITIONS

To further our commitment to accessibility, we migrated a significant number of our digital exhibitions to a newly designed online portal. This move offers a more streamlined and engaging experience for global audiences and invites deeper exploration of our collections. Visit the exhibitions at [lindahall.org/experience/digital-exhibitions](https://lindahall.org/experience/digital-exhibitions).



# Influence



We are dedicated to broadening our influence locally and globally through initiatives that highlight our contributions to cultural engagement and scientific understanding. Efforts like the Kansas City Invention Convention and our exhibition program elevate our profile and visibility. Strategic partnerships with academic institutions, industry leaders, and community organizations further amplify our impact, enabling us to share knowledge, foster innovation, and deliver meaningful experiences to a diverse public.

# Fellowships

Each year, our fellowship program brings scholars from around the world to explore our collections and bring new perspectives to science, culture, and history.

In 2024, we supported **22 research fellows**.



**Allison Marsh (National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow)**  
*150 Years of Women in the IEEE, IRE, and AIEE*



**Carlisle Yingst (Presidential Fellow in Bibliography)**  
*Transitions by the Book: Print and the Remaking of Gender in Britain, 1745–1900*



**Ramya Swayamprakash (Research Fellow)**  
*Knowledge for Empire, Imperial Rivers: Legacies of Hydraulic Engineering Education in the U.S., Britain, India, and Canada (1850–1940)*



**John Kuhn (Research Fellow)**  
*Canoes and Canals: Indigenous and Settler River-Power Infrastructure in North America (1600–1900)*



**Kathryn Bruce (Research Fellow)**  
*Fruitgrowers' Associations and Fireblight in North America*

Learn More



# Public Programs

In 2024, our programs welcomed **5,691 visitors**. With **2,457 new attendees**. Our public programs bring science to life and connect historical and contemporary issues with our community.

## SIGNATURE - EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

- **Elizabeth Kolbert** – “Welcome to the Anthropocene”
- **Beth Shapiro** – “How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-Extinction”
- **David Sibley** – “Birds, Birding, and the Biodiversity Crisis”

## KEY PROGRAMS

- **22nd Annual Paul D. Bartlett, Sr. Lecture with Sigrid Adriaenssens**  
“Building the Future for People and Planet Anthropocene”
- **Cynthia Frelund and Panel**  
“Technology & Tradition: Inside the NFL’s Analytics Revolution”
- **Jackie Beucher and David H. Levy**  
“Totality! The 2024 Solar Eclipse”

## PARTNER PROGRAMS

- **Ed Larson**  
“Science in the Race to the South Pole” (WWI Museum)
- **Rachel Bale and Panel**  
“Science Meets Diplomacy: Illegal Wildlife Trade” (International Relations Council)
- **Erik Timpson and Panel**  
“How Do I Become an Engineer?” (University of Missouri – Kansas City)



# Education



## KANSAS CITY INVENTION CONVENTION (KCIC)

**KCIC marked its fourth year and continues to empower local students to become inventors, innovators, and problem-solvers.** The year-long program connects students grades 5-12, educators, community partners, and STEM professionals from across the metro. The program provides access to resources, workshops, professional development opportunities, and mentors who help students develop ideas from concept to prototype. Students who compete in the program have the opportunity to win awards and compete at the national and global competitions.

**\$40,000** scholarships and awards given

**290** students participated

**143** inventions were submitted

**39** educators took part

**6** students advanced to national competitions

**80** STEM professionals volunteered

### TO OUR SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS:

**Thank you to all our sponsors!** We would especially like to extend our greatest appreciation to our title sponsor, **Kansas City National Security Campus managed by Honeywell FM&T**, for their generous support since the creation of KCIC. Their support has been instrumental in making this program a success.

Thank you to all the judges who dedicated their time, mentorship, and provided valuable feedback to all the students in KCIC. **Your generosity continues to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and creators.**



Learn More



# Exhibitions

We welcomed Scott Perich as our first Vice President of Visitor Experience, a role that leads the Library’s exhibitions, publishing and design, and public services initiatives. Scott shares a few thoughts about exhibitions:

“Exhibitions at the Linda Hall Library are more than displays of rare books. They are immersive experiences that spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and foster connections. By weaving together science, history, objects, and human stories, each exhibition offers unexpected moments of wonder, discovery, and relevance—experiences that stay with our visitors long after they leave.”

Scott Perich  
Vice President, Visitor Experience

## CHAINED TO THE SKY: THE SCIENCE OF BIRDS, PAST & FUTURE

*Chained to the Sky* focused on our relationships with birds—from reverence to exploitation to extinction. The exhibition closed with a powerful reminder of the urgent threats birds face today, and the meaningful steps we can take to help protect them.



## NEW ACQUISITIONS 2024

*New Acquisitions* presented a curated selection of rare books recently added to our History of Science collection. Spanning seven centuries of scientific thought and innovation, these exceptional works demonstrated how new additions continue to shape our understanding of science and its evolving narrative.



## LIFE BEYOND EARTH?

*Life Beyond Earth?* explored our fascination with the possibility of life elsewhere. Drawing on the Library’s extraordinary, rare book collection of celestial atlases, innovative research, and speculative twentieth-century works, the exhibition traced the evolution of scientific and cultural thinking about extraterrestrial life.



# Community Engagement

We believe that science should be accessible to everyone. That guiding principle anchors our commitment to offer free, high-quality programs, interactive learning experiences, and collaborate in meaningful ways with local partners.



## BUSINESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & STELLA NOVA SOCIETY

The Library's **Business Leadership Council (BLC)** and **Stella Nova Society (SNS)** connect corporations, institutions, and community organizations committed to building strong STEAM pathways. These groups collaborate with staff and educational programs to create real-world learning opportunities for students.

## STEM FUTURES SHOWCASE

This year BLC and SNS designed and delivered our inaugural STEM Futures Showcase, which offered high school students a unique, hands-on look into STEM careers and connect them with STEM professionals in the area. We welcomed **20 students** from across the metro for activities led by the **Kansas City National Security Council managed by Honeywell FM&T**; site visits at **Ronawk Bio Block, Lamar Johnson Collaborative**, and **Nabholz Construction**.

## WOMEN IN STEM

Our **Women in STEM** YouTube series brings together Kansas City leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Each conversation highlights the lived experience of these professionals and explores topics like STEM education,

- **Kristin Edie**  
Vice President of Enterprise Sustainability at Hallmark
- **Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard**  
National Program Leader at United States Department of Agriculture
- **Siva Sankari**  
Assistant Investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research

# Our Partners

Collaborating with community partners is central to our mission. By working with partners in **education, science, and the arts**, we're able to expand access, amplify diverse voices, and deliver programs that bring science to life.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COLLABORATIONS

We were honored to welcome students and faculty from Chile's Universidad Católica de Temuco, visiting in partnership with UMKC, for a program exploring environmentalism and science through art and literature. The visit included a curated rare books presentation led by Rebeca Escamilla, Assistant Curator of Rare Books, highlighting historical materials related to Chile and environmental science. It was a memorable exchange that sparked cross-cultural dialogue and celebrated the power of collections to connect people across disciplines and borders.



## KANSAS STATE PARTNERSHIP

Since 2023, the Library has partnered with K-State's School of Interior Architecture & Industrial Design to create a hands-on course project for freshman and sophomore students during the spring semester. As part of the project, students visit the Library and engage with staff, acting as their "clients," to explore ways to enhance accessibility and strengthen connections with the surrounding community. Previous student projects have included alternative designs for the Main Reading Room's stairways and entryways, as well as initiatives to expand the patron experience in the History of Science Department and reading areas.

## SCIENCE 2 ART

For the past five years, the Linda Hall Library has proudly partnered with BioNexus KC and its **Science2Art (S2A)** program to strengthen the connection between scientists and the broader community. **S2A** provides a platform for regional scientists to transform complex scientific concepts into visually compelling narratives, each reflecting a personal research story. Submitted by scientists from Columbia, Missouri, to Manhattan, Kansas, these images showcase groundbreaking work across the region. Each year, the Library hosts the annual **S2A** art exhibition in its East Gallery.

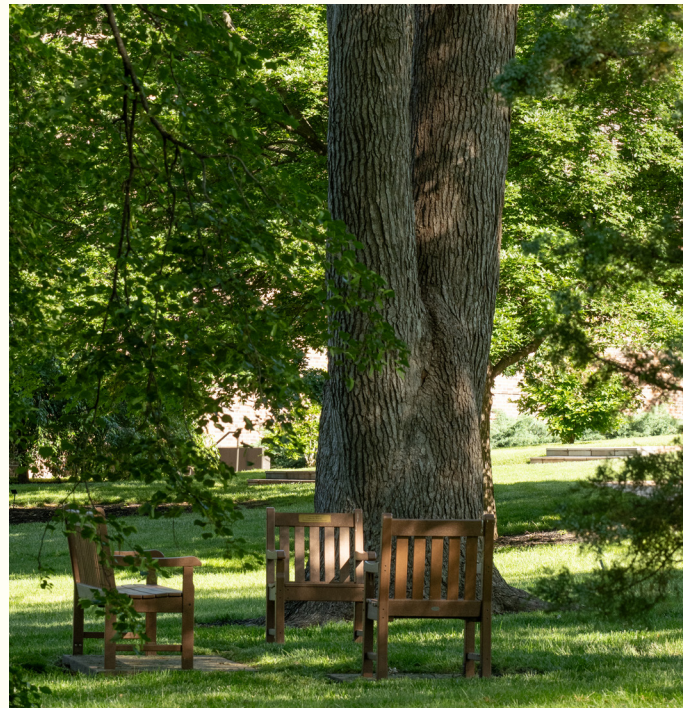
# Sustainability

A woman with long brown hair in a braid, wearing glasses, a light green short-sleeved shirt, and blue overalls, is working in a greenhouse. She is wearing white gardening gloves with red polka dots and is focused on a task involving a large black tray filled with soil and small plants. The greenhouse is filled with various potted plants, including several bare-root trees in large brown pots and other green foliage. The lighting is bright and natural, coming from the large windows of the greenhouse.

We are committing to a sustainable future through strategic investments in operations, educational endeavors, and initiatives for action. By implementing eco-conscious practices, engaging our community, and championing environmental stewardship, we aim to build a healthier planet and a more resilient society. Through this comprehensive approach, we seek to drive positive change and leave a legacy of environmental responsibility for future generations.

# The Arboretum

Surrounding the Library, the Arboretum serves as our living collection. The Arboretum is home to **300 trees, 48 genera, 130 species, 16 champion trees,** and the renowned **tree peonies.**



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES CLIMATE SMART AWARD

The Linda Hall Library and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art were awarded one of five national grants to examine the impact of climate change on cultural organizations and explore strategies for long-term resilience. This project will lay the groundwork to pilot a Cultural Eco-District, which is focused on advancing sustainability and resilience in Kansas City's cultural corridor.



## KESSLER LEGACY AWARD

We are proud to be a recipient of the **Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (PGASLA)'s Kessler Legacy Award.** The PGASLA honors outstanding contributions to the practices of landscape architecture.

## THE ARBORETUM'S TOP FIVE SPECIES & THEIR QUANTITIES:

**Austrian Pine** 27

**Scarlet Fire Dogwood** 9

**White Pine** 9

**Black Walnut** 8

**Sweetbay Magnolia** 8

# Institution

We are focusing on nurturing a skilled and motivated workforce, ensuring a sustainable and diverse revenue stream, and streamlining operations for maximum efficiency. By integrating these elements, we build a resilient foundation that supports strategic objectives and enables adaptive responses to opportunities and challenges. This holistic approach empowers our people, strengthens our finances, and optimizes processes, driving our mission forward with confidence and stability.

# Financials

Thanks to the generous support from donors, the Library has been able to advance our mission to use our collections and other resources to inspire curiosity, innovation, and cultural engagement with science through collecting, education, and interpretation.

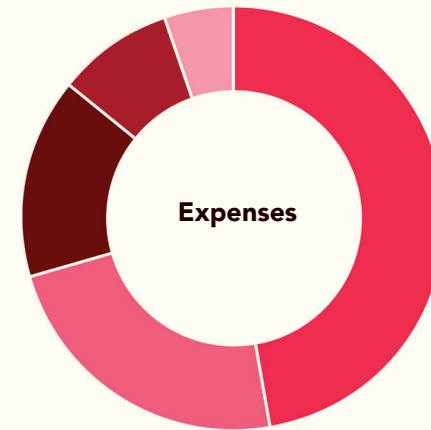
“Debbie and I were proud to serve as the co-chairs of the Linda Hall Library President’s Circle. Both of us grew up in Kansas City and we have great memories of visiting the beautiful grounds and the library, and participating in the educational programs. We want to promote and financially support this wonderful, unique resource.”

Lon McCroskey  
President Circle Chair



## PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE

The President’s Circle is a prestigious philanthropic group dedicated to preserving the past, examining the present, and imagining the future in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. **We thank our President Circle members for their support.**



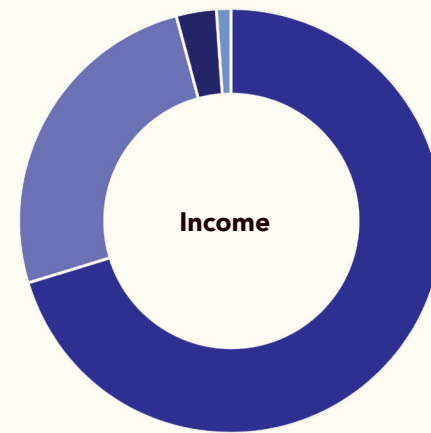
47% for Programming & Education

23% for Collections & Scholarship

15% for Fundraising

9% for Management & Operations

5% for Marketing & Outreach



71% of Individual Funding

26% of Government & Foundation Giving

3% of Corporate Giving

.29% of Earned Income

For a copy of Linda Hall Library Foundation’s 2024 audited financial statements or IRS form 990, visit <https://www.lindahall.org/about/annual-report/>

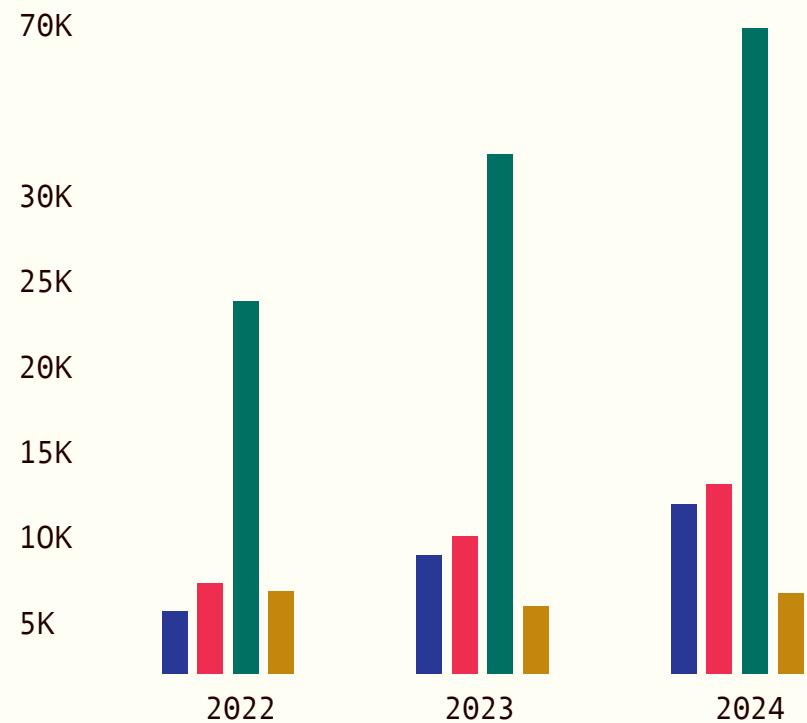
# By the Numbers

## ONSITE VISITATION

2023 Library Attendance	9,733
2024 Library Attendance	17,304
2024 Arbeoretum Attendance (estimated)	70,438

## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

- SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
- YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS
- WEBSITE SESSIONS
- NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS



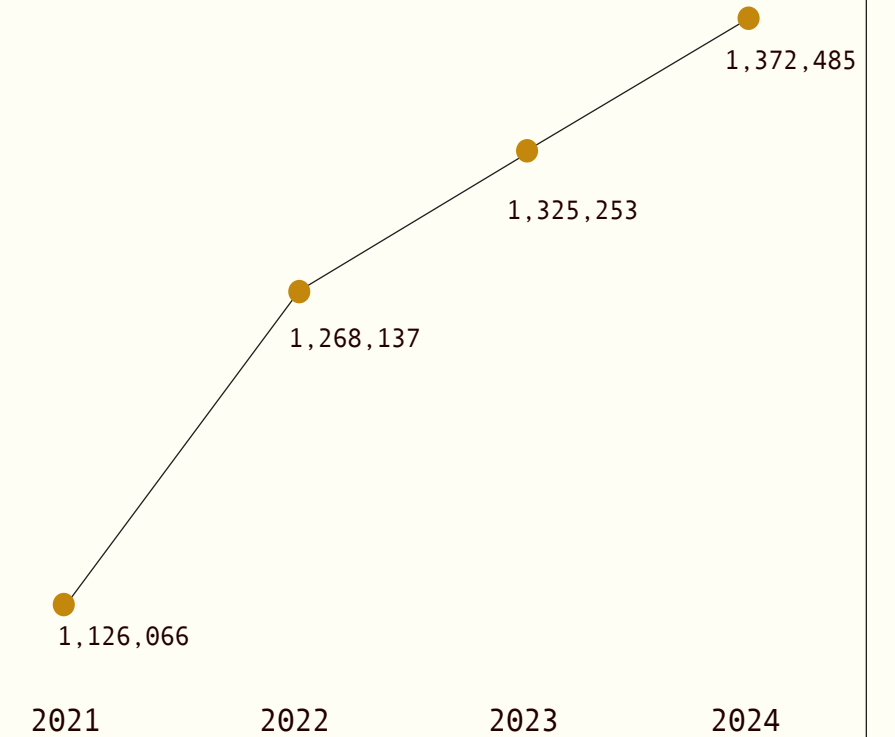
## NUMBER OF EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS (CLASS VISITS, PROGRAMS, ETC.)

86

## GRANT REVENUE INCREASED BY

127%

## NUMBER OF ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION



## KCIC ENGAGEMENT:

439% Increase in Online Impressions

211% Increase in Total Engagements

95% Increase in Website Views

86% Increase in Followers

25% Increase in Student Involvement

# Supporters

We would like to extend a **thank you to all our supporters** who make our work possible and keep all of our programs and services **free and accessible for all.**

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Linda Hall Library	Annual Report	Linda Hall Library	Annual Report	Annual Report
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Linda Hall Library	Annual Report	Linda Hall Library	Annual Report	Linda Hall Library
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