



Established in 1995, The Works Museum is a child-focused, interactive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) museum, and a leader in providing informal elementary engineering education in the Twin Cities metro area.

## Our Mission

to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers, and creative problem solvers.

## Our Vision

to serve as the primary pathway for elementary-age youth into engineering, technology, and manufacturing careers, ensuring a highly skilled future workforce that is representative of our community.



The Works  
museum

Dear Friends,

Fiscal Year 2022 saw The Works Museum return to our full slate of pre-pandemic programming and activities with in-person school programs, camps and family events, and it was a joy to see so many smiling and engaged children and their grown-ups enjoying our experiences.

With demand for our programs also returning to our norm, the staff once again proved their creativity and resilience in working together to rebuild processes and teams and meet the increasing demand.

One endeavour that continued this year is our work to reach underserved communities with our programs. We've continued bringing our workshops and family experiences directly into communities, addressing barriers to participation and grown our Gateway access program for schools and families with financial need. We've also worked with some wonderful partners to co-create a new exhibit and workshop.

As I look toward the future, I am so excited to continue this work and to do even more to inspire every child in our community with the kinds of hands-on engineering experiences that inspire STEM learning and career dreams.

Thank you for joining me on this journey.

Sincerely,



Jill Measells  
CEO, The Works Museum

# OUR GROWING VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Nearly 200 volunteers donated their time and expertise this year facilitating hands-on activities, highlighting their companies' work, and helping us deconstruct our beloved Knex ball machine in preparation for the next iteration in our new space.

One new opportunity in FY22 was to support our She Engineers community partnerships. Volunteers from a variety of STEM fields and backgrounds helped us to deliver Family Engineering Nights for the YWCA Minneapolis' Girls Inc. Eureka program, which is a five-year program for teen girls interested in STEM fields.

*"Each activity the She Engineers [program] provided was interactive and able to tailor one-on-one mentoring, or group collaboration. I was blown away by how engaged and thoughtful the volunteers were with [our participants], and they continue to talk about those activities, months later."*

*- YWCA Girls Inc. Manager, Claire Allen*

## Volunteers in action:



YWCA Girls Inc. event



Taking down the ball machine for the renovation



STEM Day at the Fair with Xeel volunteers

# RENOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION

We temporarily closed the museum gallery this year to begin the renovations for a multi-year endeavor for the organization, that includes investing in our programs, creating new and re-envisioned exhibits, and expanding community-based programs.

Why the change? Through conversations with our education and community partners, we've learned about the challenges and needs faced by many underserved audiences. This galvanized our understanding of the critical need to support STEM learning and equity in elementary education. We want to do even more for Minnesota's children, families, and educators.

Our future vision is to maintain intentionally-designed experience at our museum in Bloomington with new exhibits that support STEM learning while engaging children in immersive, fun, open-ended experiences. As we reinvent our onsite footprint, we will simultaneously expand our community presence, bringing our programs directly to students and families, and especially to communities underrepresented in STEM, including low-income households and under-resourced schools, BIPOC communities, English-language learners, and girls.

What will remain throughout our transformation is a focus on the programs you know and love – the amazing, hands-on camps, workshops and field trips, birthday parties, and family events. Stay tuned for updates and to learn about how you can be involved.

## Even museums innovate.

To make our future vision a reality we will:



### Continue:

Leverage our deep expertise in elementary engineering education and programming for schools and families.

### Improve:

New exhibits at our Bloomington home that encourage exploration of engineering concepts and skills, and support K-12 Science Standards

### Grow:

Expand our community-based programs to increase participation and impact, especially within underserved populations.

# CO-CREATING THE DWELLINGS WORKSHOP AND CARRY A LOAD EXHIBIT

We may use different words and materials, but we all share a need to design solutions to everyday problems. This year we had the opportunity to co-create new programming demonstrating these connections with representatives from Minnesota's Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong, Mexican, and Somali communities.

In the first phase of the project, the team developed Dwellings, a new workshop that aligns with the cultural benchmarks recently introduced in the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Science. In this workshop, students learn traditional engineering techniques from each culture, experiment with materials, then design their own mini-dwellings to take home.

In the second phase, our community partners selected engineered cultural objects based on a common thread that arose in our gatherings; that every culture engineers ways to carry things. A local design firm helped us create the *Carry a Load* exhibit which features these cultural artifacts and challenges visitors to design and build their own carriers.



Gema Beltran



Thai Chang



Dorene Day



Nancy Smith



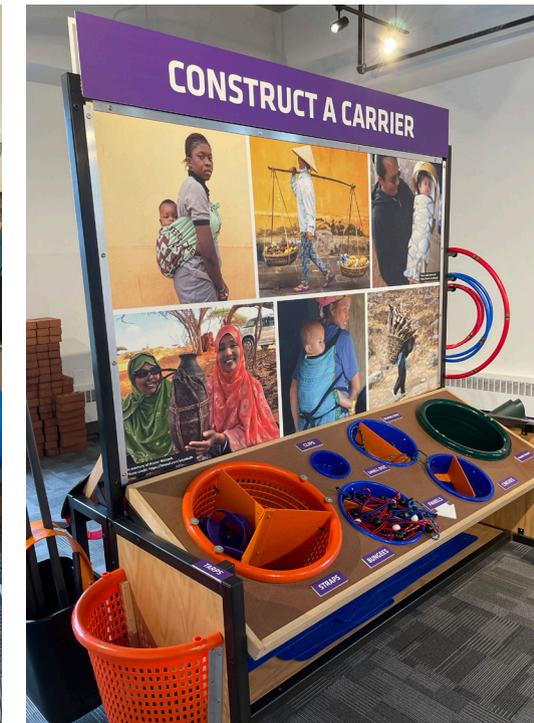
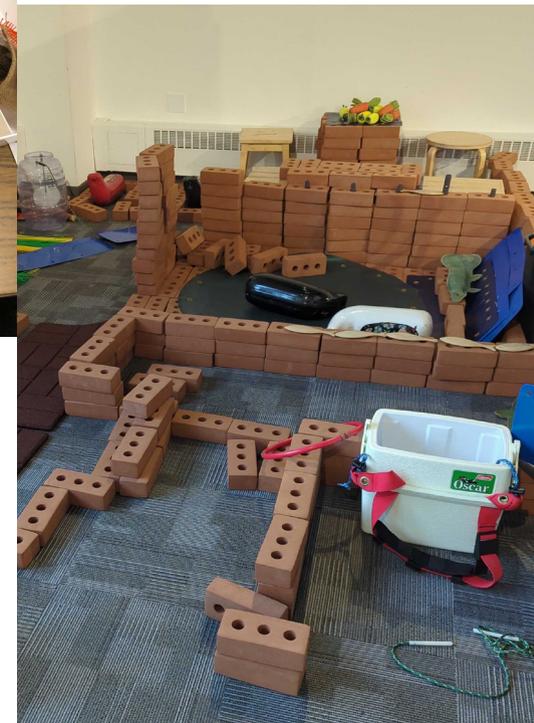
Fadumo Yusuf & Idil Farah

The project concluded with a community gathering with our cultural partners and their guests. Thanks to the hard work of this incredible team, Dwellings and Carry a Load will be available for the upcoming school year.

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

“Teachers frequently ask for resources for the standards and benchmarks related to cultural contributions. There is concern by teachers that they approach culture with sensitivity.”

– John Olson, K-12 Science Academic Standards Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education



# INCREASING EQUITY IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Central to our work is the goal of increasing equity in elementary engineering education, and in fiscal year 2022, we saw dramatic increases in two key equity areas – our Gateway access program and programming brought directly into communities.

Gateway, our initiative providing subsidized programs for schools and families with economic need, reached more than 10,000 students this year, representing an unprecedented 27% of our total audience.

We also saw increased demand for programs brought directly into school classrooms and community organizations. This year a full 58% of our education programs took place directly in the communities we serve, up from a historical norm of approximately 30%. These increases mark important progress in our efforts to reduce the financial and transportation barriers to participation that often exist for communities underrepresented in STEM.

And this is important. Educators have shared that our programs meet a critical need for their students and families, allowing children to experience enriching, hands-on learning that supplements their curriculum and brings STEM concepts to life.

As we look toward our future, continuing to invest and grow our access and community-based programs is key to addressing our long-term goal to increase equity in education.



# CAMPS AND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP



Summer 2022 saw more campers than any year in recent history as the demand for summer camps returned to, then surpassed, pre-pandemic levels. It was so exciting seeing familiar faces and welcoming many new campers.

We also extended our partnership with Minnesota Children's Museum, this time offering summer camps at their location in downtown St. Paul, allowing us to extend our geographic reach further than ever before. A full 90% of those surveyed said this was the first time their child had attended a camp with The Works Museum. And 100% said camp was fun!

Also new this year - Identibeads! Every child has the ability to engineer, and we want to make sure they know that. At the end of each day, our educators asked campers to reflect on their day and select beads representing elements of their STEM identities. Parents and caregivers were encouraged to ask their children about the beads they selected, and we heard many stories of kids and parents having conversations about perseverance, creativity, and problem solving.



Campers wearing thier Identibeads

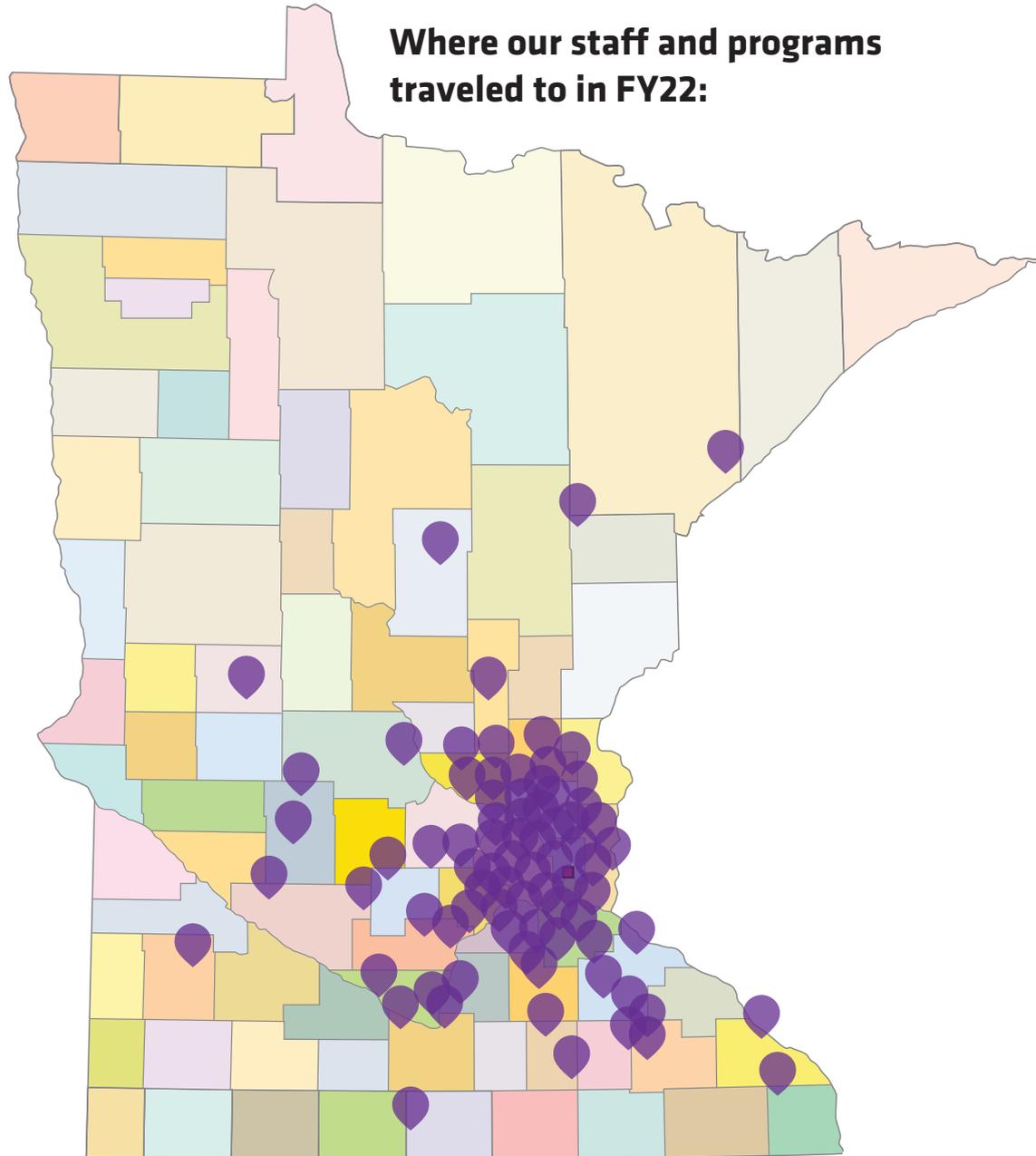
*"I liked the focus on the process vs. the goal. The focus and education on the 'external importants' such as perseverance, creativity, helpfulness, follow through, team work, etc... This will be the reason we choose The Works in the future."*

*- Summer camp parent*

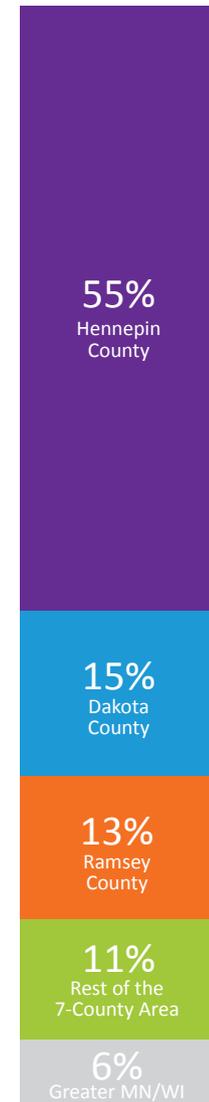
# OUR GEOGRAPHIC REACH

Year over year our geographic reach is expanding, moving us closer to our goal of increasing access to STEM programming throughout Minnesota.

**Where our staff and programs traveled to in FY22:**



**Our service reach:**

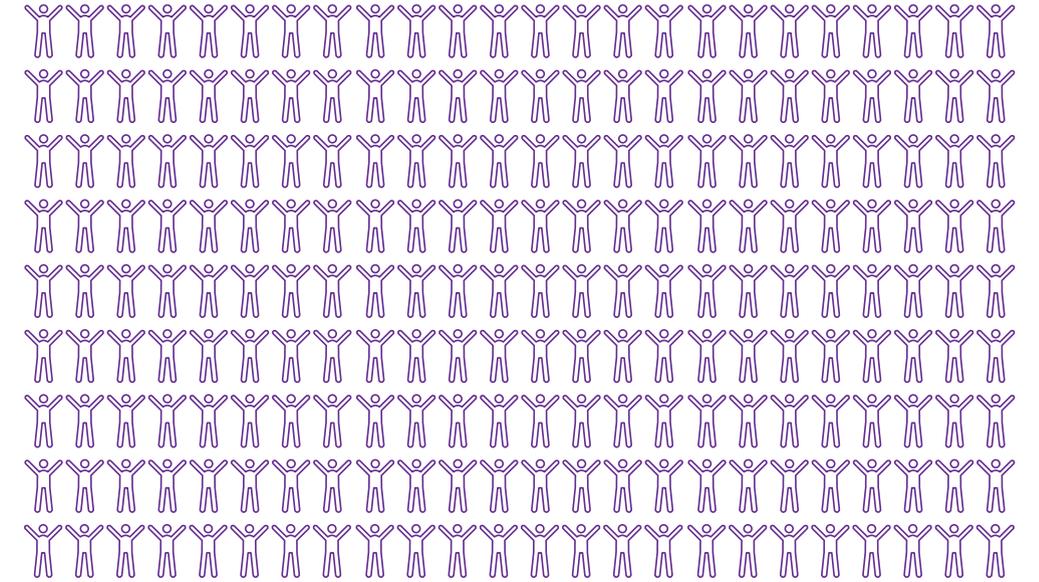


# PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Works provides children across our region with high quality hands-on engineering learning experiences that build subject matter knowledge and encourage collaboration, problem-solving skills, and persistence.

**31,640**

students and teachers from **309** schools and organizations participated in hands-on Engineering for All K-6 programs



**1,583**

kids ages 5-13 participated in Summer and School Break Camps

**8,659**

public visitors explored our Museum Experience Gallery between October 1 and May 31

**789**

member households

**194**

volunteers donated their time and expertise

**10,119**

children and families participated in discounted or free programming through our Gateway access program

**41,979**

children and families participated in experiences and programs that build children's passion for STEM learning.

**\$25,000+**

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Visitor Experience Staff

*\* Denotes leadership team members.*

*Our sincere apologies for any omissions or errors in our 2022 donor list. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact a member of our Development Team, email support@theworks.org or call 952.888.4262.*

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## Assets

Cash \$961,491  
Accounts and Contributions  
Receivable, Net \$35,846  
Other Assets \$13,146  
Property and Equipment, Net \$234,470  
Total Assets \$1,244,881

## Liability and Net Assets

Current Liabilities \$116,343  
Long Term Notes Payable \$147,322  
Total Liabilities \$236,665

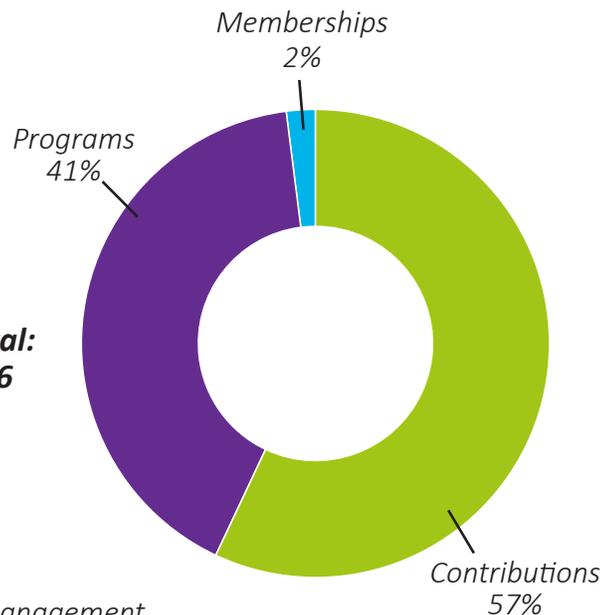
## Net Assets

Unrestricted \$859,716  
Temporarily Restricted \$121,500  
Total Net Assets \$981,216

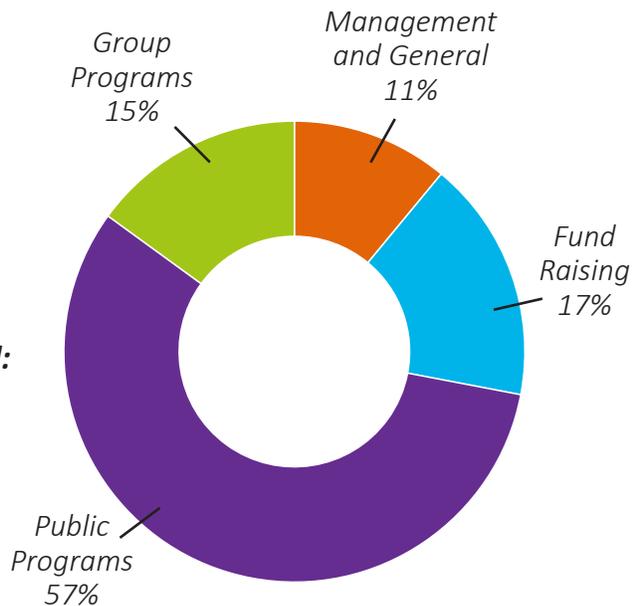
Total Liabilities and Net Assets  
Audited financial reports are available upon request  
[support@theworks.org](mailto:support@theworks.org)

\*For more details regarding the Statement of Financial Position,  
contact [info@theworks.org](mailto:info@theworks.org)

**Revenue Total:  
\$1,318,506**



**Expenses Total:  
\$1,027,077**



the **works**<sup>®</sup>  
museum  
Engineering Fun

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