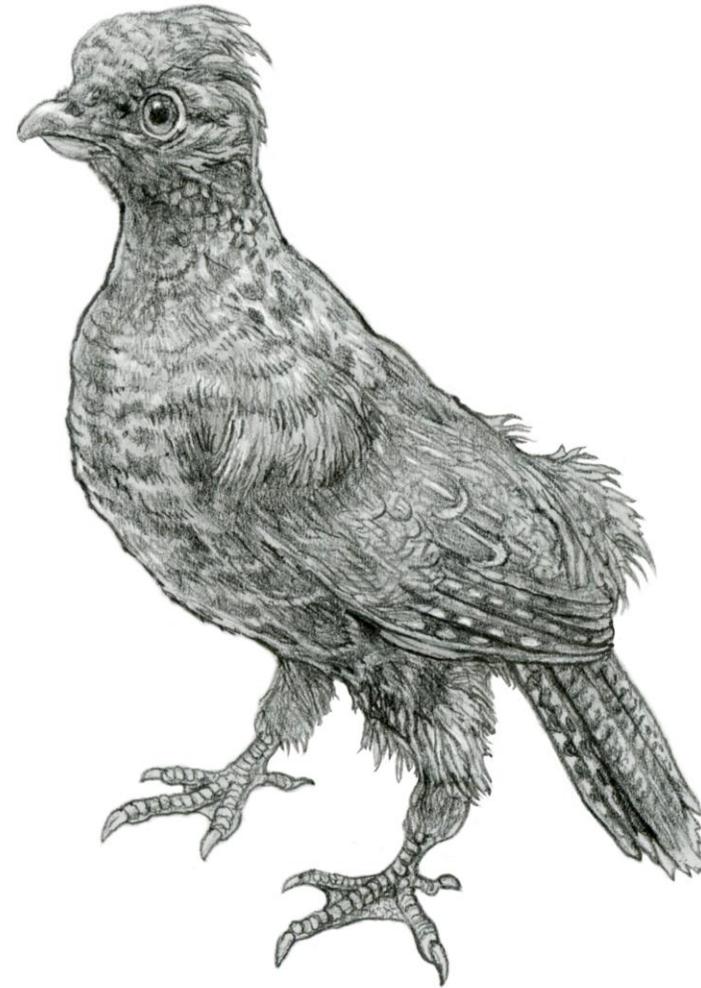




WHATCOM MUSEUM



OUR MISSION

The Whatcom Museum serves as a bridge among diverse people, ideas, and traditions by fostering curiosity and joy about our world. We do this through exhibitions, events, educational programs, and collections reflective of the art, nature, Indigenous cultures, and history of our region and beyond.





OUR VISION

To uplift and inspire an inclusive community
as the anchor of Downtown Bellingham's
Arts District.

WHATCOM MUSEUM CAMPUS

OLD CITY HALL



Built: 1892
Museum building since: 1941
Restored: 1962-1974

OLD FIRE STATION NO. 1

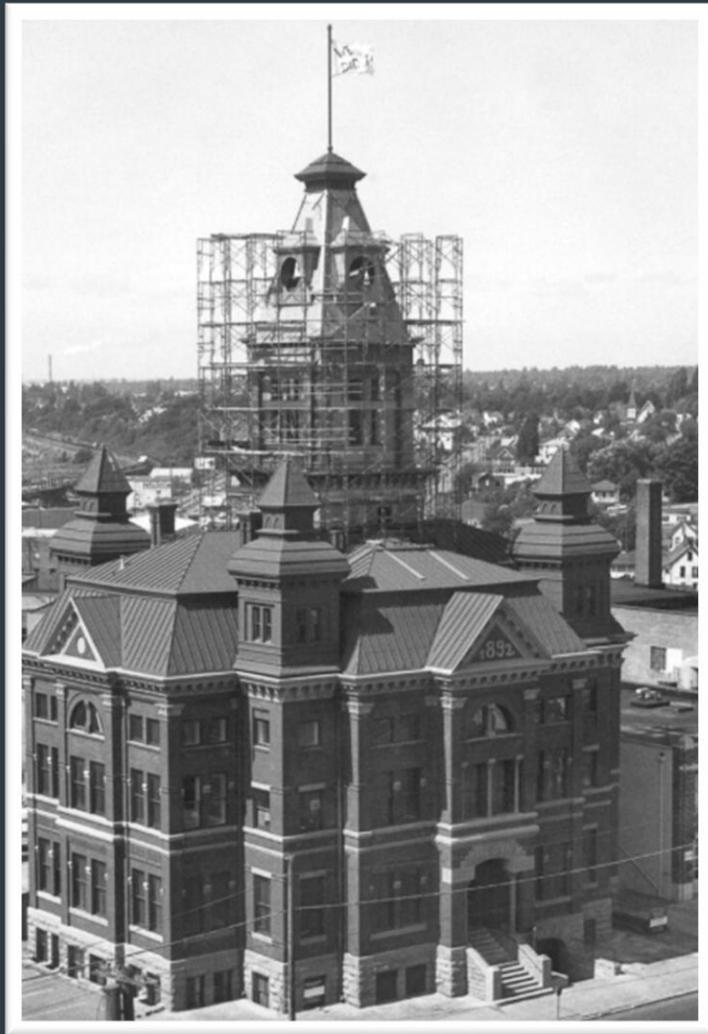


Built: 1926
Museum building since: 1992
Restoration: 2025-2028

THE LIGHTCATCHER



Built: 2009



THE LIGHTCATCHER



Museums are places that contribute to both the physical and social design of many cities. Their renovation or construction can stimulate urban regeneration and bring new life into areas losing their social dynamism and traditional economic base.

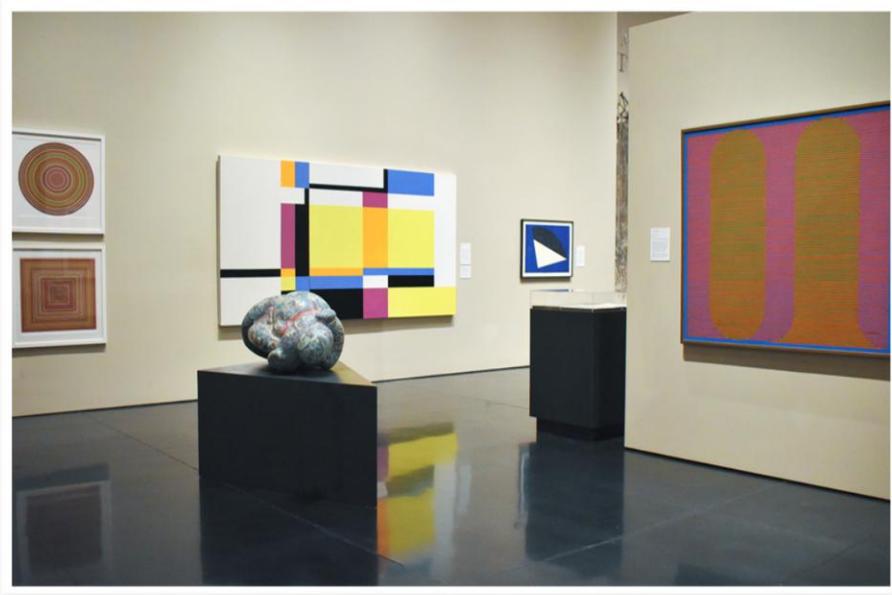
— *Culture and Local Development:
Maximizing the impact* ©OECD/ICOM 2019

THE LIGHTCATCHER IS: A COLLECTION REPOSITORY



COLLECTION STATS

HISTORY, ART, INDIGENOUS CULTURES, NATURAL HISTORY



Art Objects: >3,200

Photo Archives: >225,000

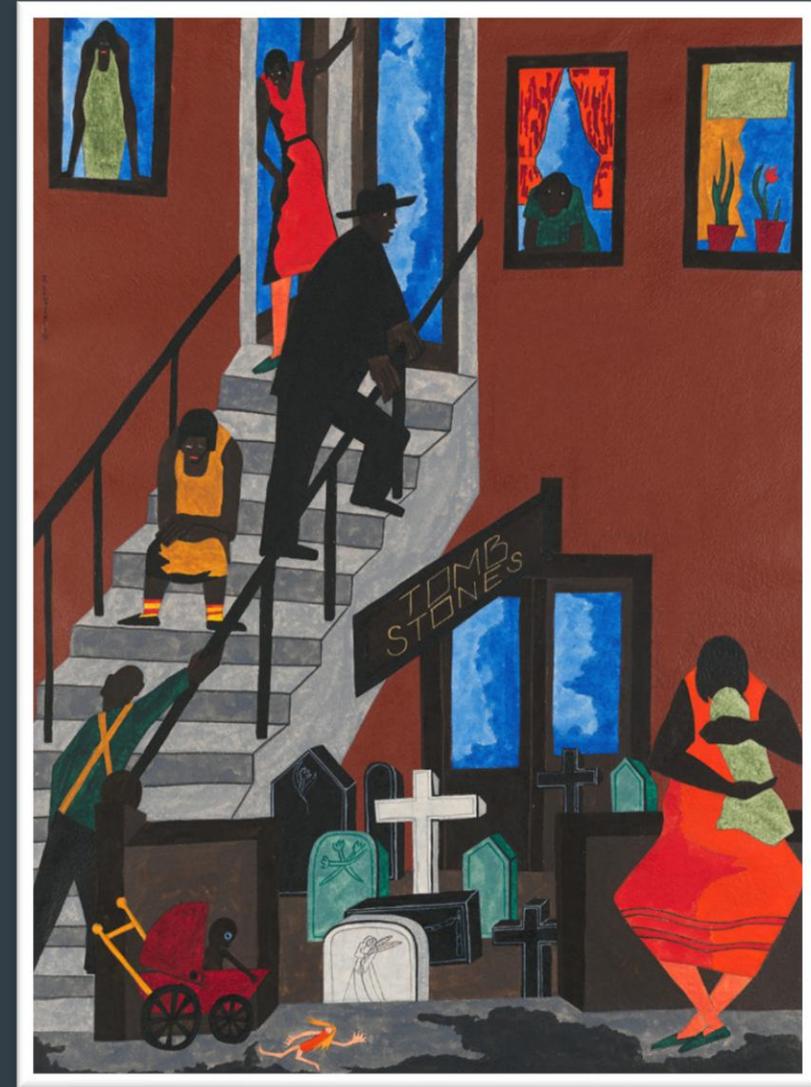
History Objects: >26,000

WHATCOM MUSEUM COLLECTION



Jacob Lawrence
Builders, 1980

THE WHITNEY, NEW YORK CITY



Jacob Lawrence
Tombstones, 1942

WHATCOM MUSEUM COLLECTION



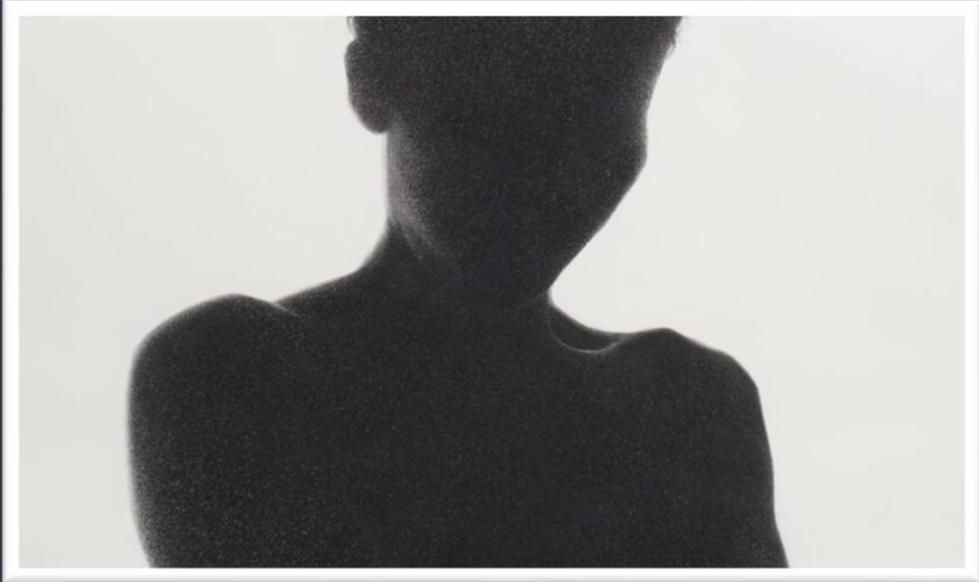
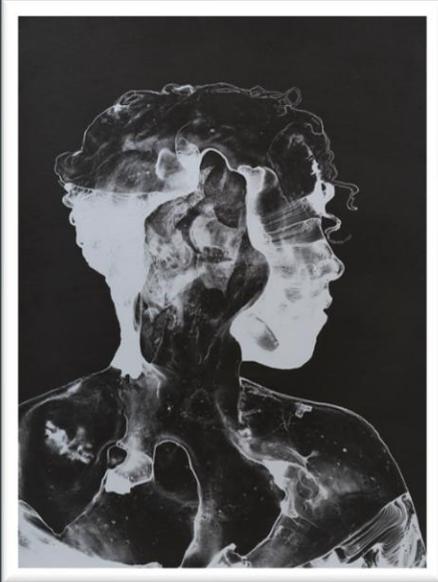
Ernest Ralph Norling
The Timber Bucker, 1934

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM



Ernest Ralph Norling
The Timber Bucker, 1934

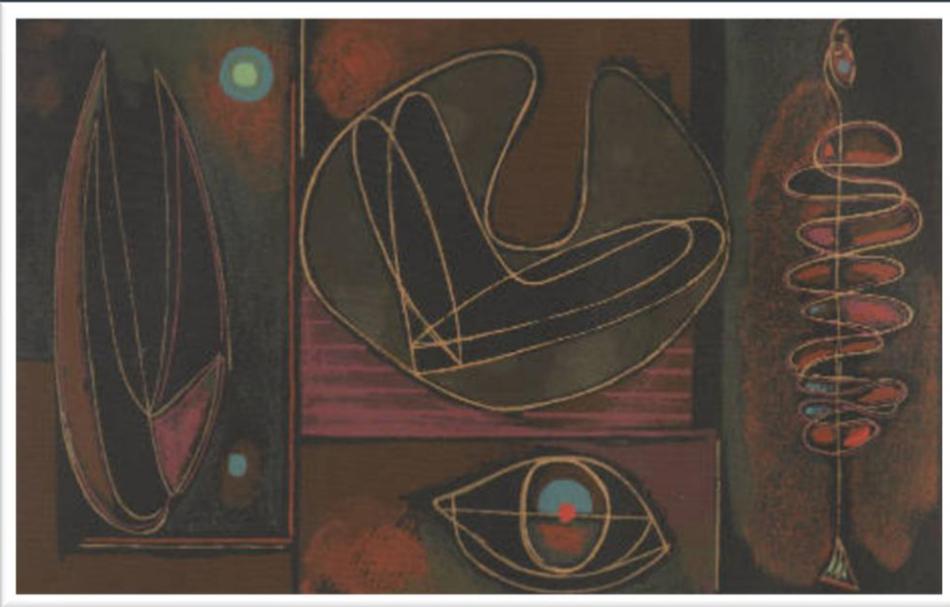
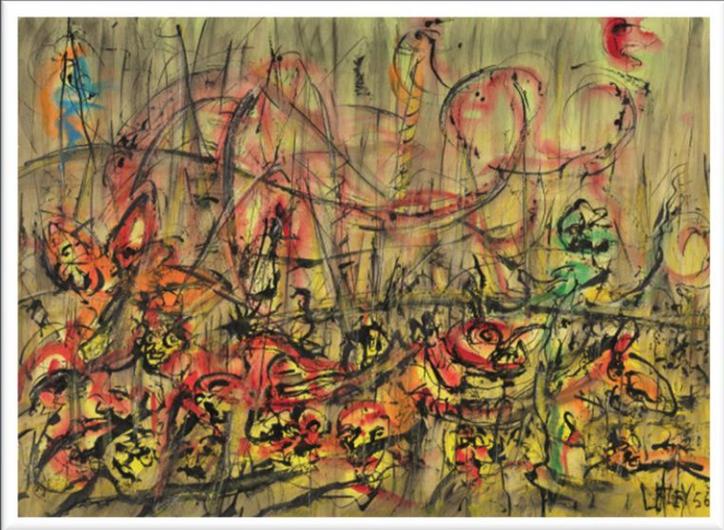
SAMANTHA WALL: WHATCOM MUSEUM / PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

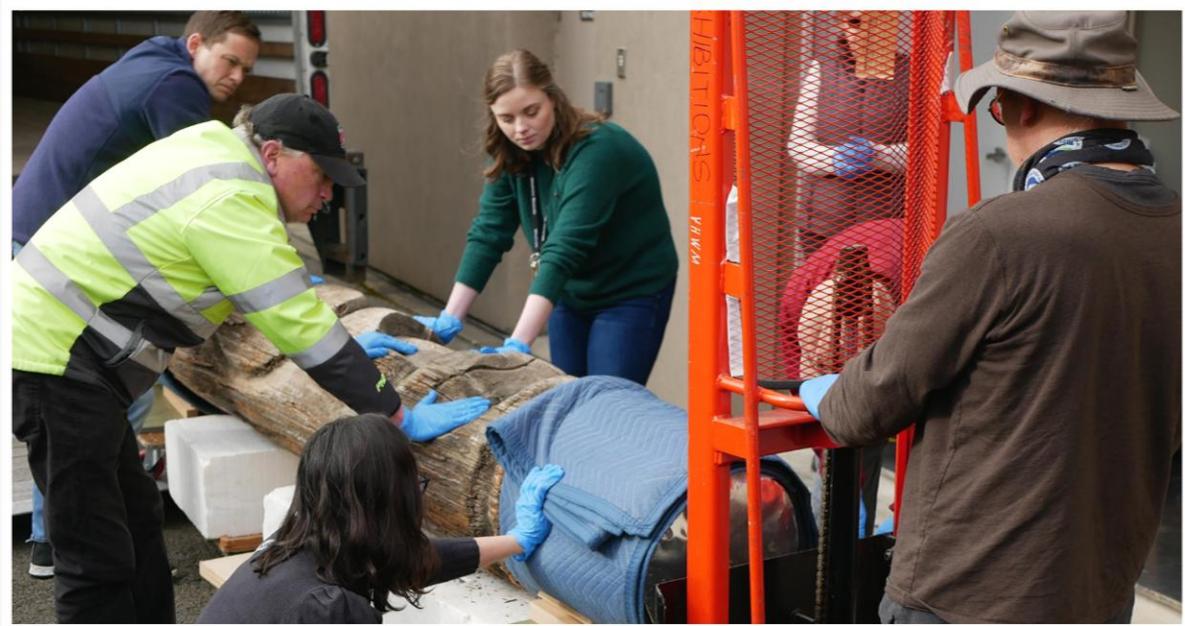


LOUIS BUNCE: WHATCOM MUSEUM / METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK CITY



WINDSOR UTLEY: WHATCOM MUSEUM / VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS





THE LIGHTCATCHER IS: A WORLD-CLASS EXHIBITION SPACE



LIGHTCATCHER GALLERIES



MAIN GALLERY

Square feet: 5,985

Linear feet: 489, including seven freestanding, movable walls



POCKET GALLERY

Square feet: 330

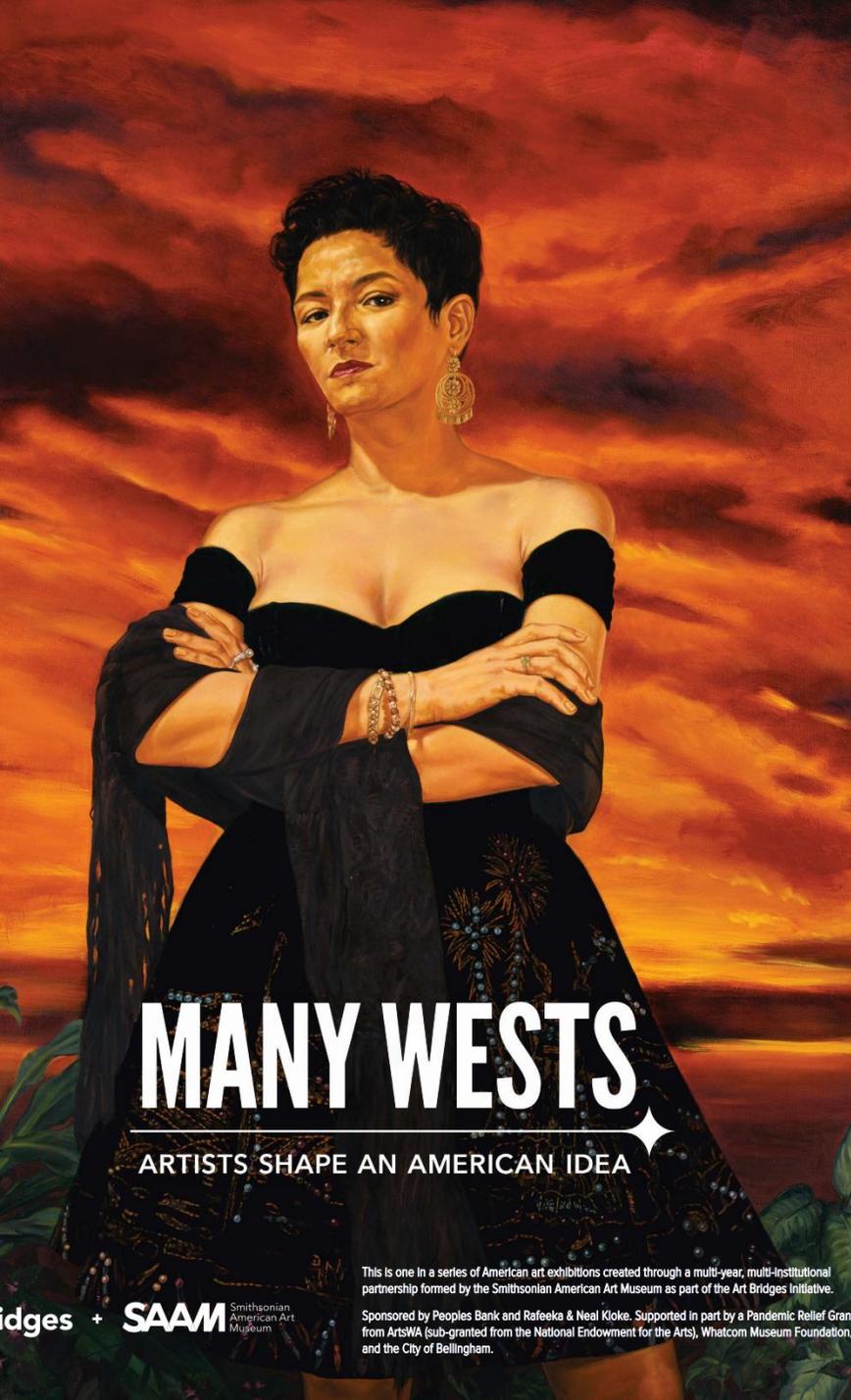
Linear feet: 70



PEOPLE OF THE SEA AND CEDAR

Square feet: 2,316

Linear feet: 200



MANY WESTS

ARTISTS SHAPE AN AMERICAN IDEA

Art Bridges + SAAM

Smithsonian
American Art
Museum

This is one in a series of American art exhibitions created through a multi-year, multi-institutional partnership formed by the Smithsonian American Art Museum as part of the Art Bridges Initiative.

Sponsored by Peoples Bank and Rafeeka & Neal Kloke. Supported in part by a Pandemic Relief Grant from ArtsWA (sub-granted from the National Endowment for the Arts), Whatcom Museum Foundation, and the City of Bellingham.





French paintings on loan from National Gallery of Art visit Bellingham



By KIRO 7 News Staff

February 18, 2025 at 3:25 pm PST

The Art Insider

Home News Art World Art Market Museums & Heritage Artists Music Celebrities

Home > News > National Gallery Of Art To Loan Artworks Across America

NEWS ART WORLD

National Gallery Of Art To Loan Artworks Across America

By David Gallo Pimentel On Apr 11, 2025

OBSERVER

ARTS • MUSEUMS

From Storage to Spotlight: How D.C.'s National Gallery Is Redefining Access to Art

A new lending initiative is making major masterpieces and foundational examples of American artwork accessible to more U.S. institutions.

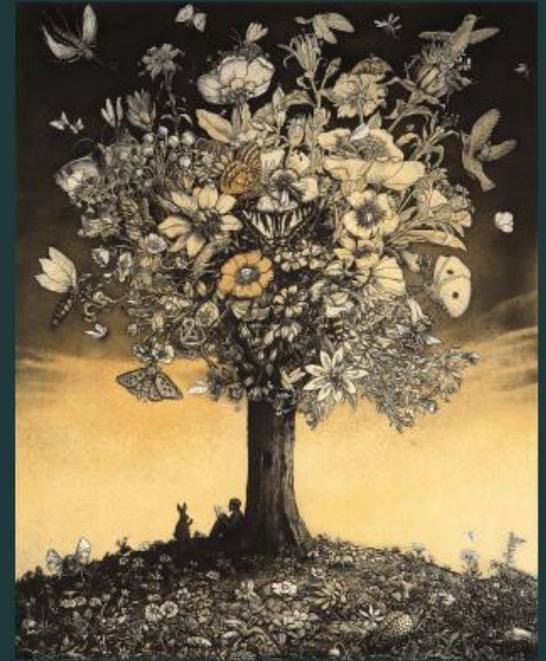
By Daniel Grant • 05/10/25 8:00am



UNDER THE INSPIRATION TREE

Celebrating the Work of

THOMAS WOOD



Sept
28
2024

Mar
2
2025

WANTED: ED BERREAL

FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE

A Retrospective



SEPARATE BUT EQUAL, 1998-99

Whatcom Museum Collection

THE LIGHTCATCHER IS: AN EDUCATION HUB





PAID PROGRAMMING

Field Trips (Family Interactive Gallery, K-12, college)

Dinner & Curator Tours

Workshops

Sunset History Cruise

Summer Camp

FREE PROGRAMMING

Access for All Free First Friday (free admission)

Low Sensory Sunday hours (free admission)

Family Interactive Gallery Storytime

Family Interactive Gallery Think & Tinker Thursdays

Partner Programs

Docent Tours

Total people served in 2025: 21,213



THE LIGHTCATCHER IS: AN EVENTS CENTER



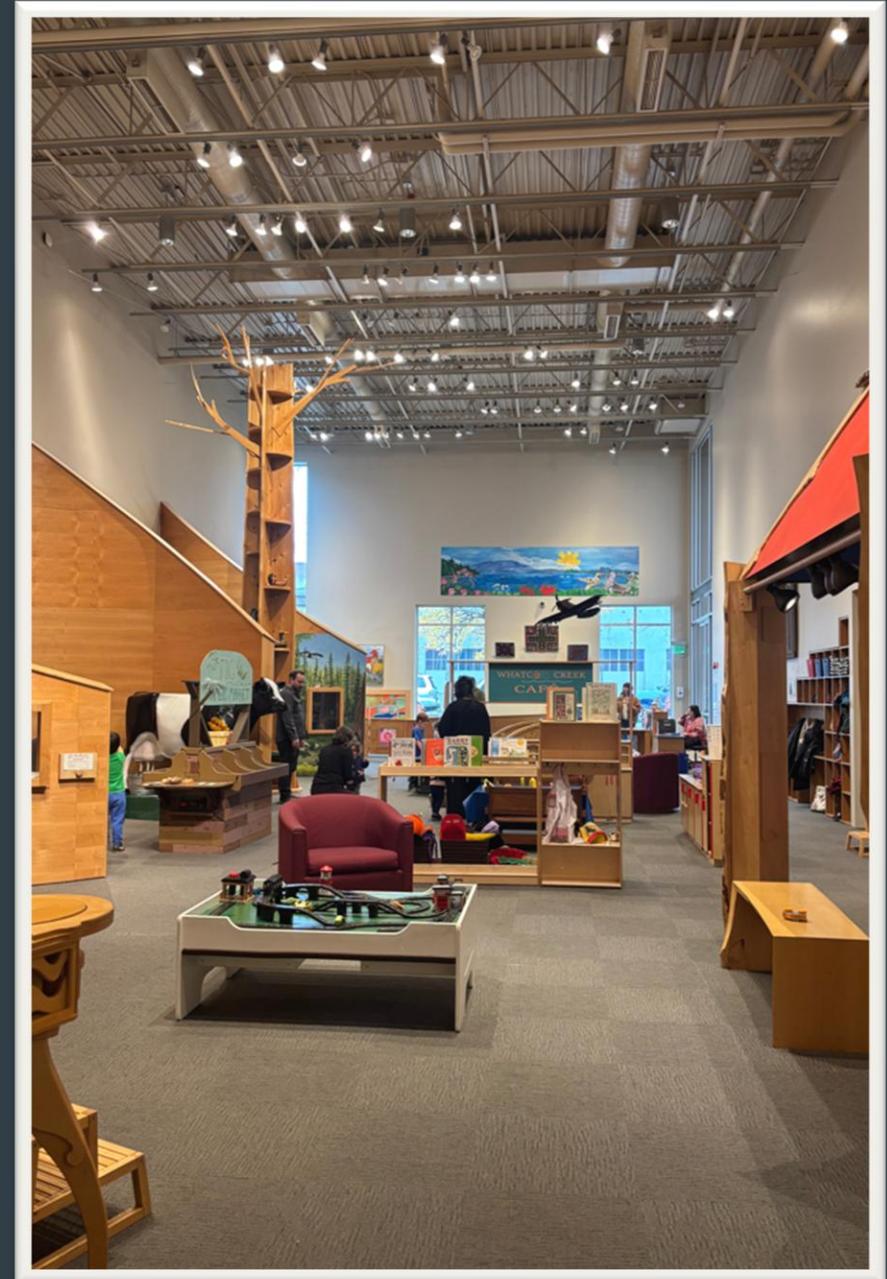
THE LIGHTCATCHER IS: A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

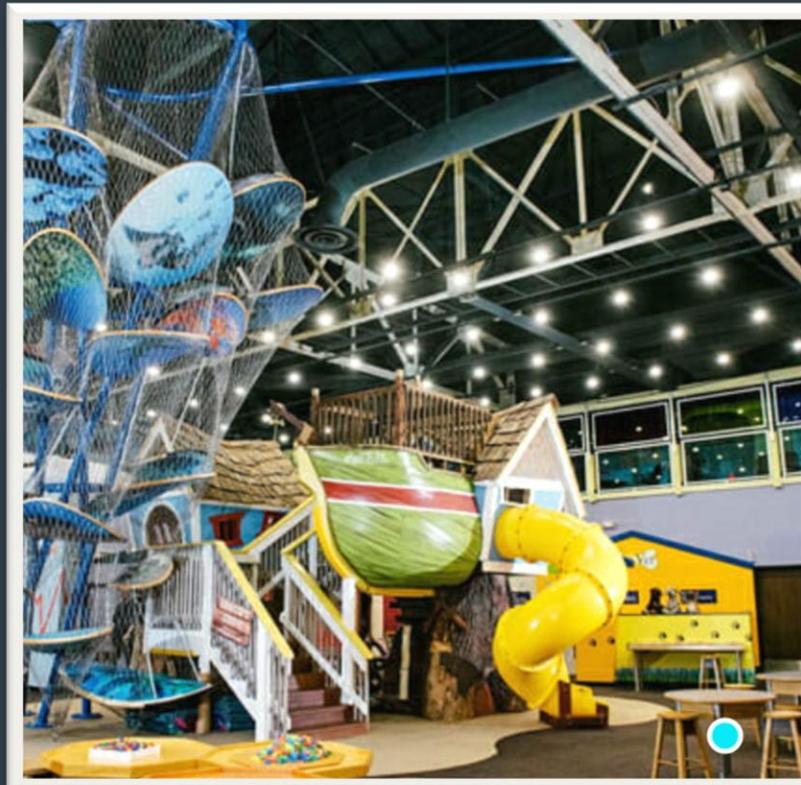
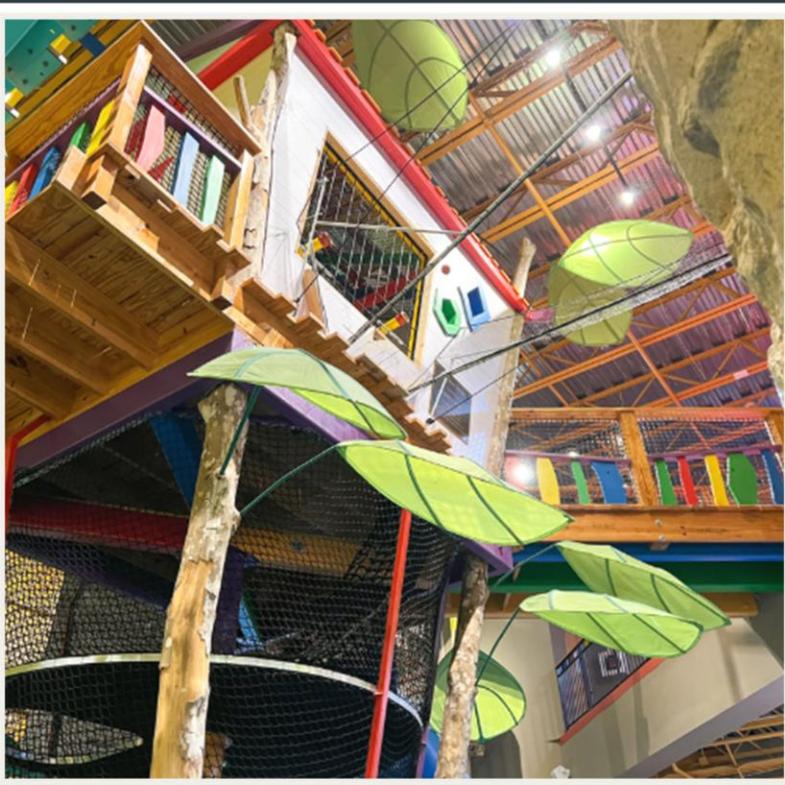


FAMILY INTERACTIVE GALLERY

2025 visitation: 33,798

48% of total museum
visitors





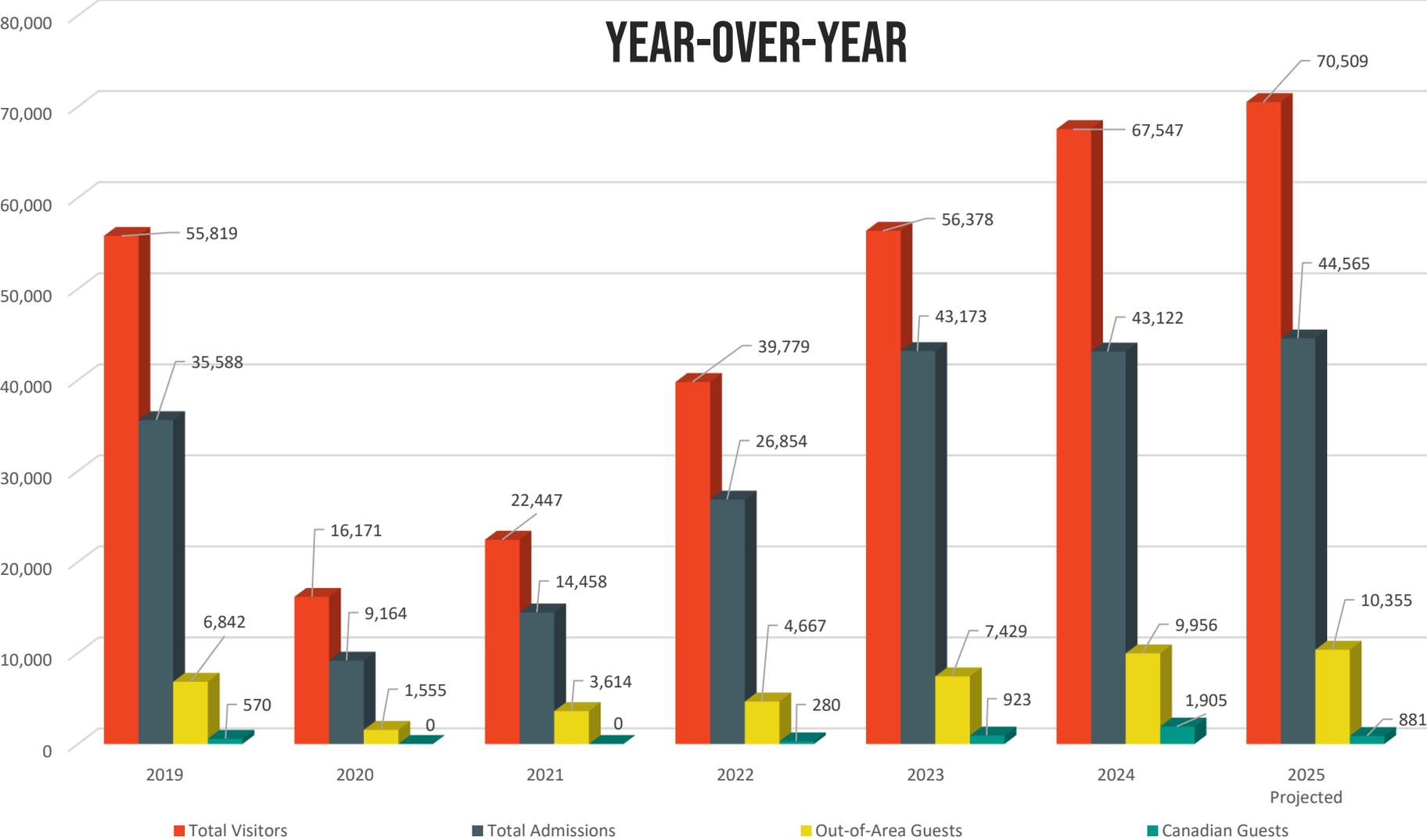
THE FAMILY INTERACTIVE GALLERY NEEDS:
An efficient use of vertical space

WHATCOM MUSEUM VISITATION

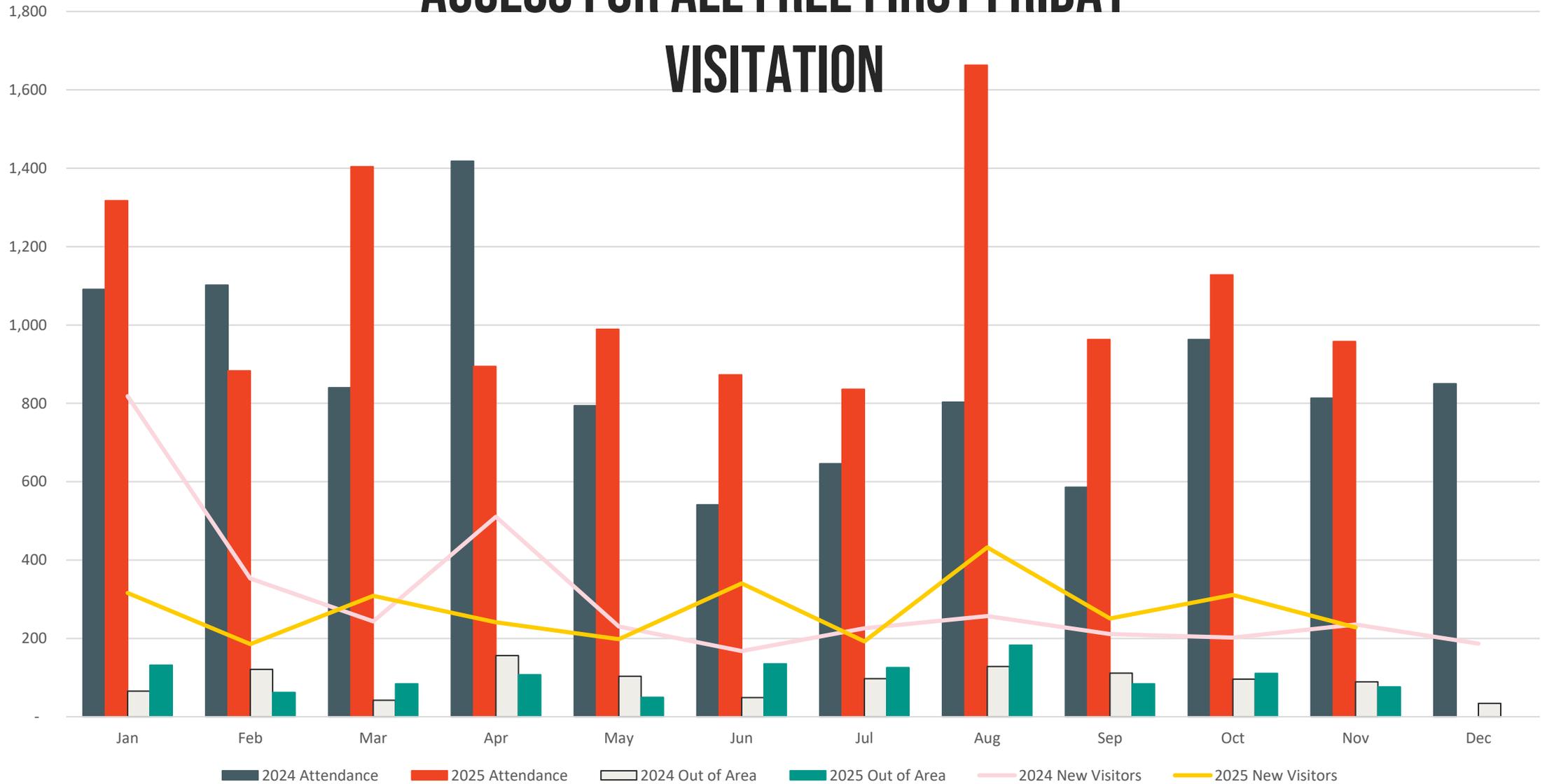


WHATCOM MUSEUM VISITATION

YEAR-OVER-YEAR



ACCESS FOR ALL FREE FIRST FRIDAY VISITATION



WHATCOM MUSEUM ECONOMIC IMPACT



PROJECTED 2025 OUT-OF-AREA VISITATION: 10,572

AVERAGE LOCAL SPEND PER PERSON: \$222.32

Source: State of Washington Tourism and Datafy

2025 CONTRIBUTION TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY: \$2,350,367

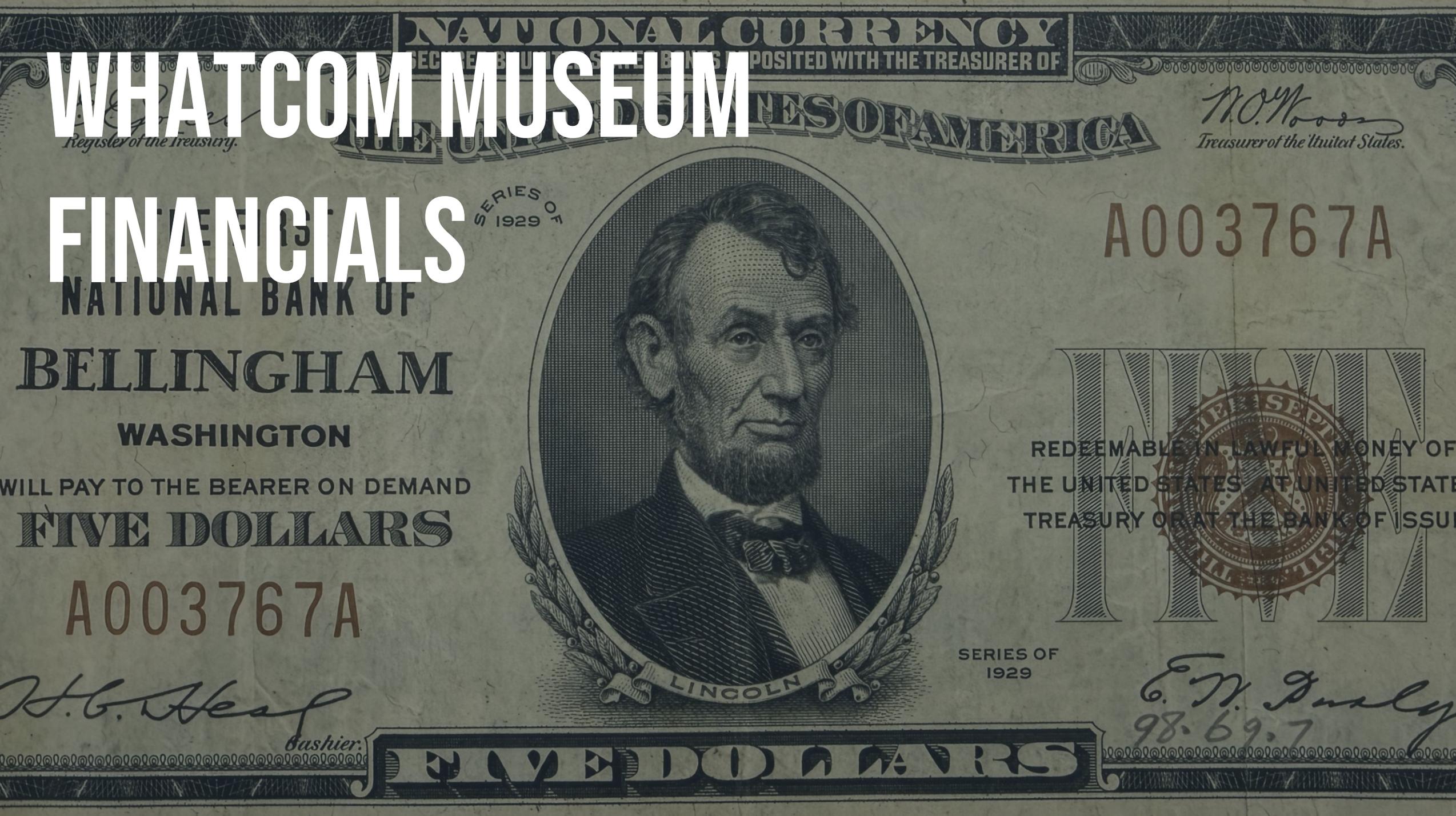
ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY DATA

Estimated economic impact of 2025 expenditures on Bellingham's economy (in 2025 dollars)

Impact	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct	18	\$1,486,554.03	\$1,486,674.03	\$1,980,269.03
Indirect	2.22	\$120,168.56	\$207,971.50	\$409,576.57
Induced	4.92	\$290,556.33	\$642,373.14	\$988,672.52
Total	25.15	\$1,897,278.93	\$2,337,018.67	\$3,378,518.12

WHATCOM MUSEUM

FINANCIALS



NATIONAL CURRENCY

REGISTERED WITH THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Register of the Treasury.

W. O. Woods
Treasurer of the United States.

SERIES OF 1929

A003767A

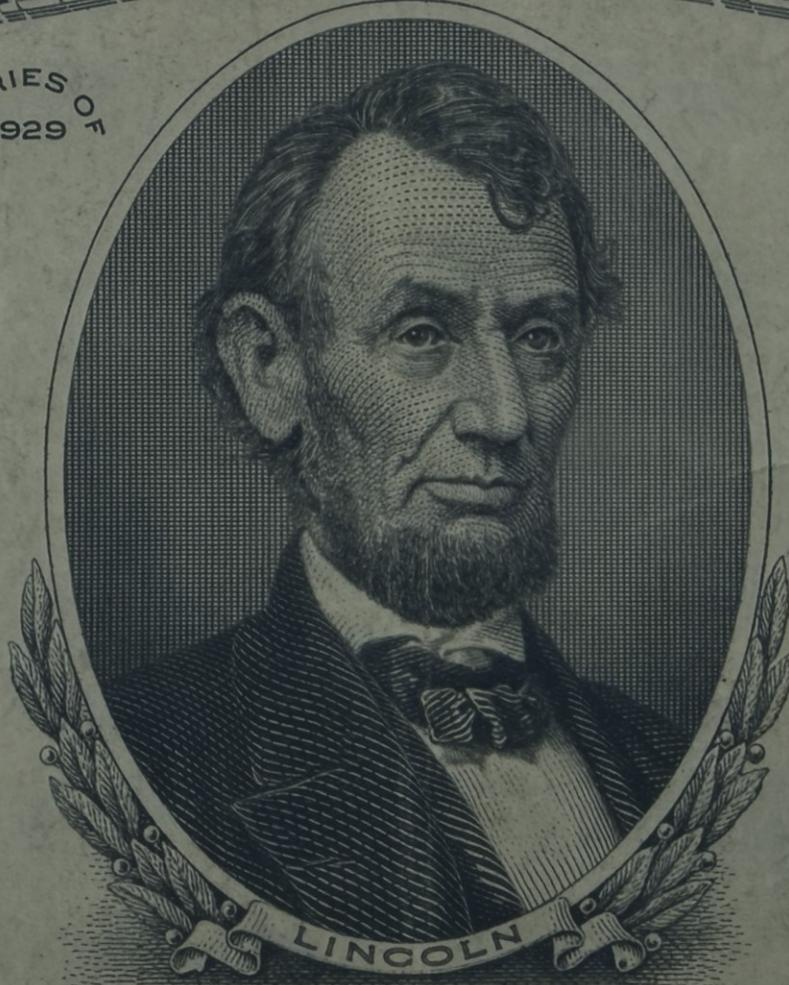
NATIONAL BANK OF

BELLINGHAM

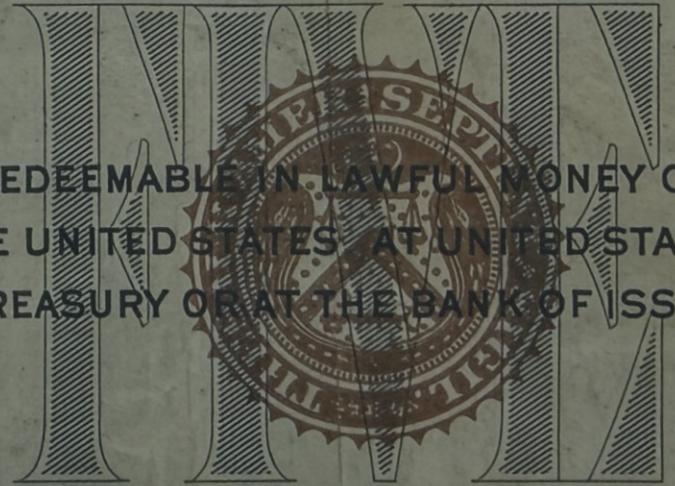
WASHINGTON

WILL PAY TO THE BEARER ON DEMAND

FIVE DOLLARS



REDEEMABLE IN LAWFUL MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES AT UNITED STATES TREASURY OR AT THE BANK OF ISSUE



A003767A

SERIES OF 1929

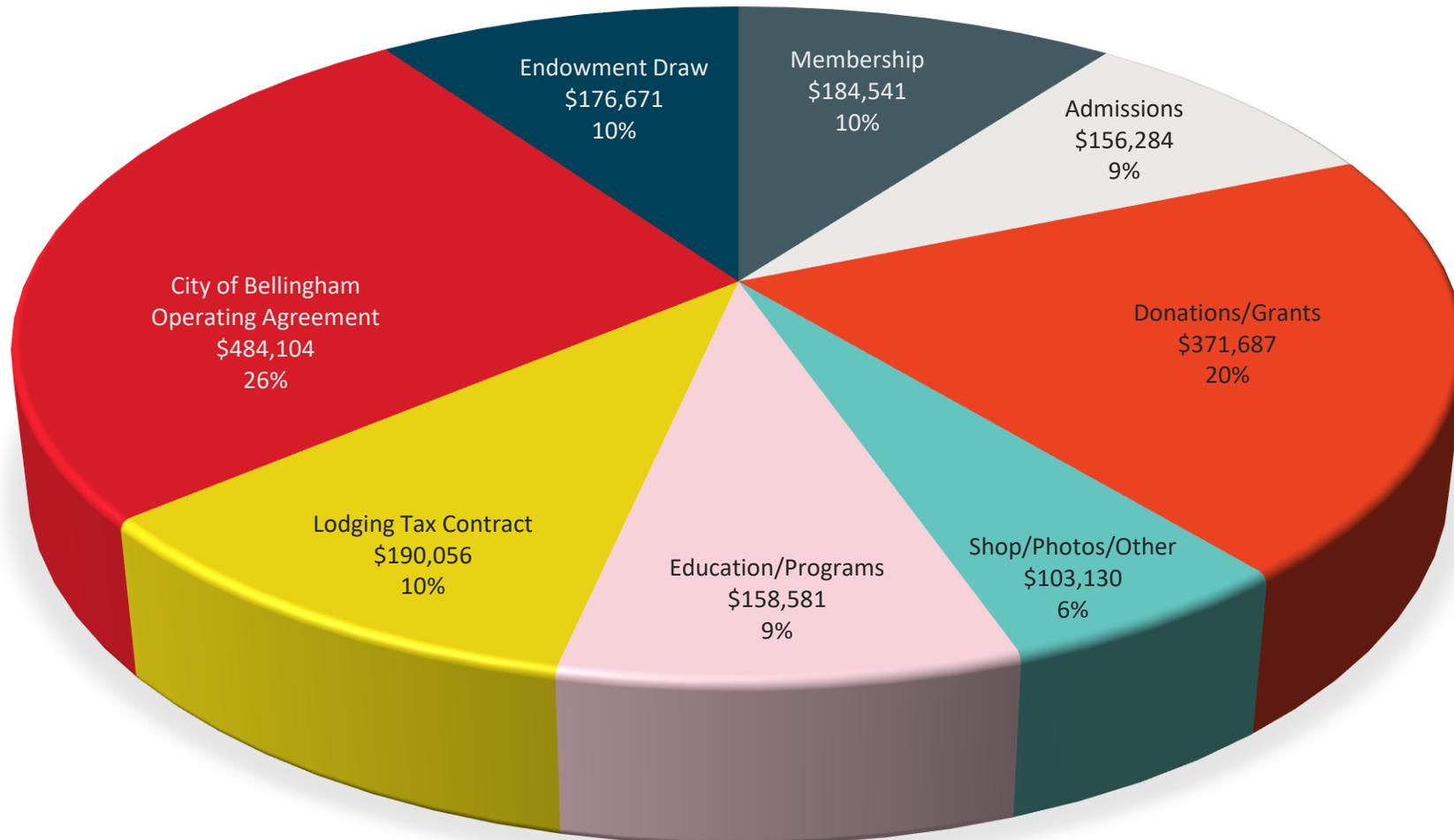
H. B. Heas
Cashier.

E. W. Dunsley
98.69.7

FIVE DOLLARS

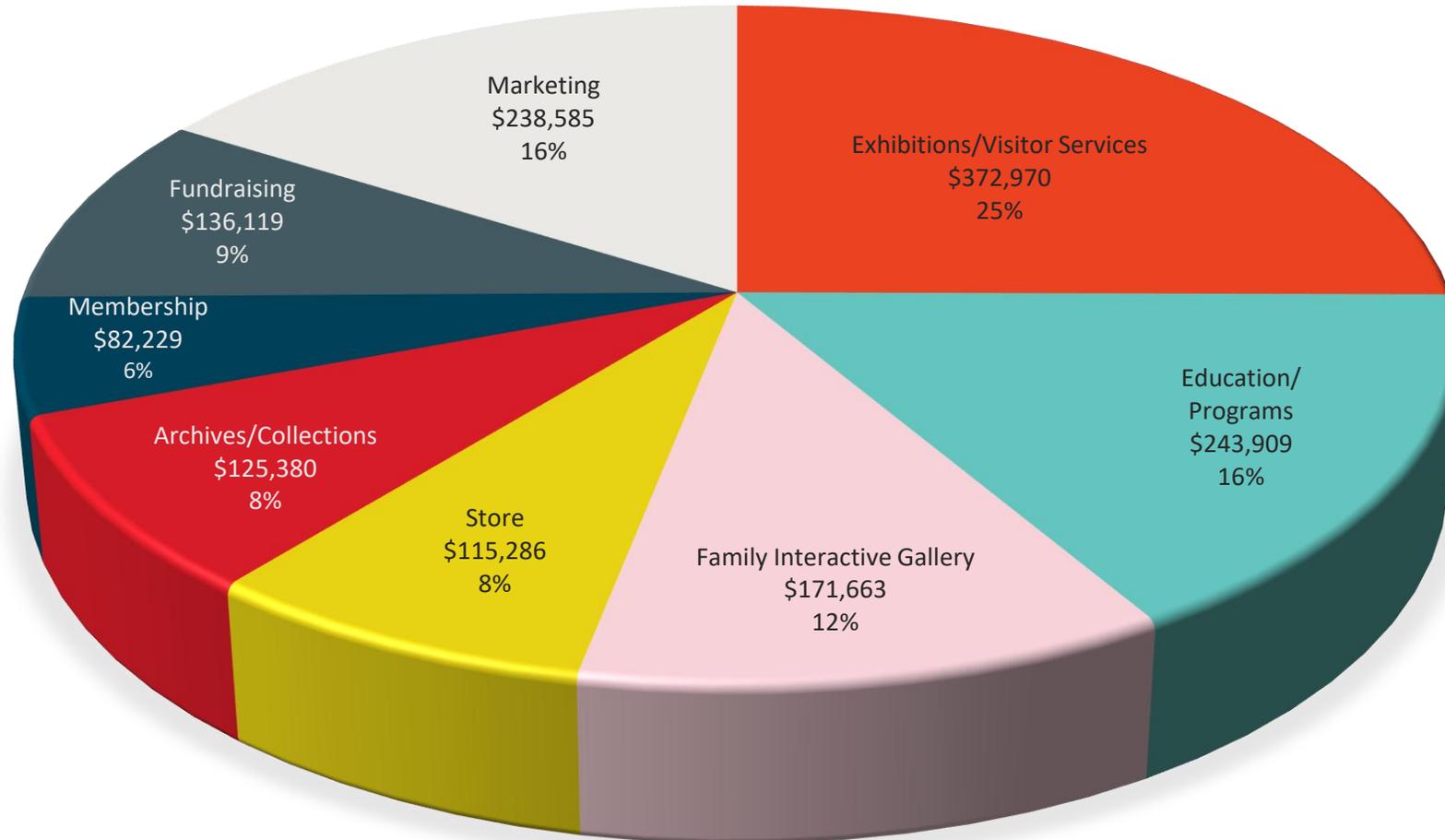
2025 FOUNDATION OPERATING REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,825,054



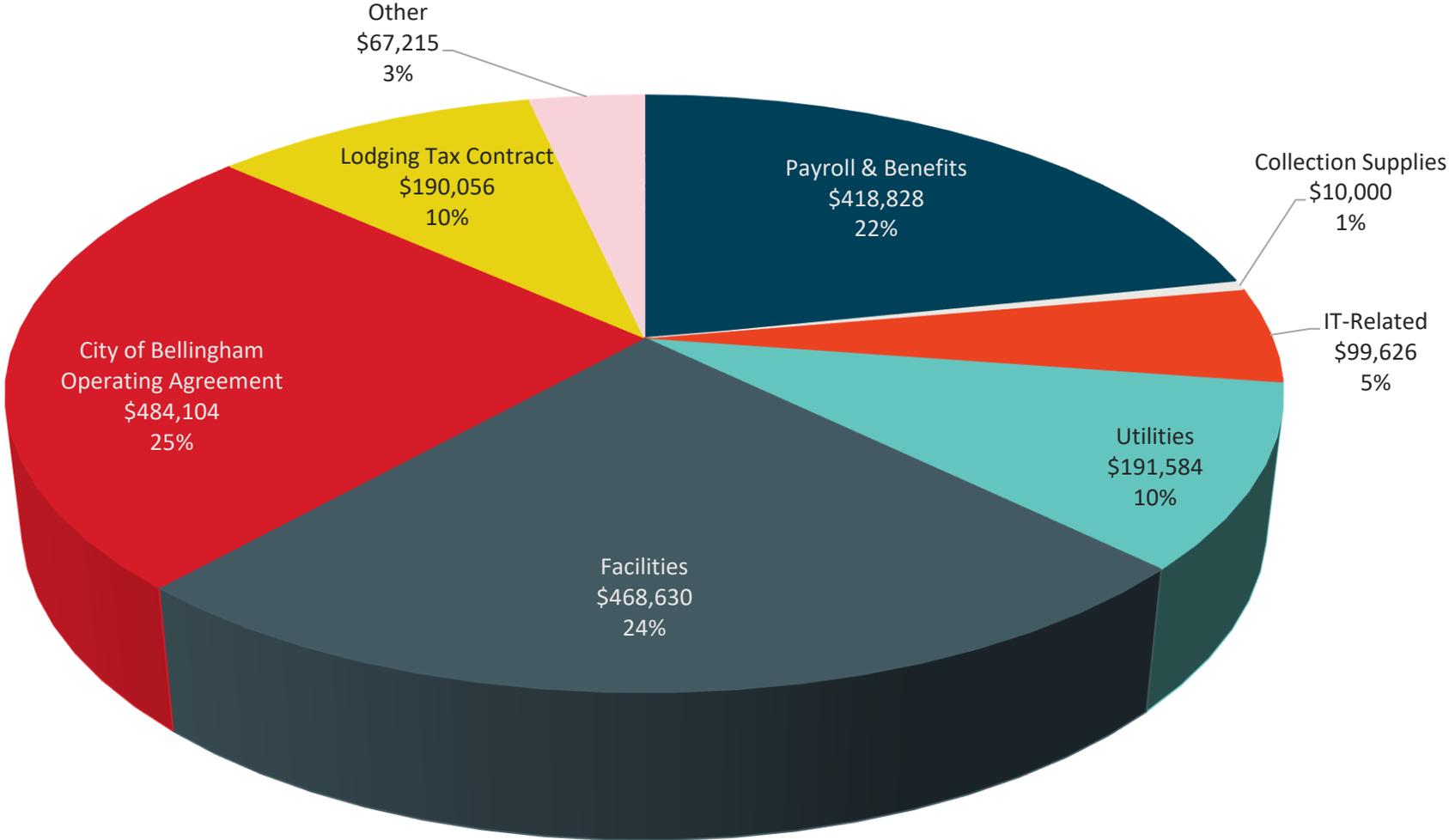
2025 FOUNDATION OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,825,054



2025 CITY OF BELLINGHAM EXPENSES

FORECASTED: \$1,930,044



OPERATING, FUNDING, AND LEASE AGREEMENTS

Lightcatcher Lease Agreement, 2009

- BWPFD (landlord)
- Foundation & City (tenants): operations & maintenance

Management Services Agreement, Annual

City of Bellingham pays Whatcom Museum Foundation ~\$200,000 per year (lodging tax) to manage PFD/City-owned, Tourism-related facilities

Management Operating Agreement, 2009

- Lightcatcher, Old City Hall; amended in 2023 and 2025
- ~\$1.7M in 2025 / general fund
- Clarifies obligations of each party (with Foundation gaining greater independence over time)
- Whatcom Museum Foundation: Operations
- City: Maintenance & tech & funding

CURRENT SUPPORT

The Lightcatcher:

- In 2025, daily maintenance and custodial operations have generated 1044 workorders
- Strict PM schedule: of that total to date, more than 497 workorders
- Special projects: 13 in 2025 including full building assessment, ADA survey, and mechanical recommissioning
- Support for strategic downtown initiatives:
 - Light Wall alley installation
 - Raingardens
 - Café

COB Funding Provides:

- Security Systems
- Windows
- HVAC
- Doors
- Fire systems
- Exterior / grounds care

CAPITAL NEEDS: SHORT TERM (2-5 YEARS)

- Complexity of the building
- Two heating boilers, one process boiler: \$500,000
- Exterior painting: \$90,000
- Lightwall analysis: \$40,000
- Security system: \$250,000
- Elevator hydraulics: \$65,000

TOTAL: \$945,000

CAPITAL NEEDS: MID-TERM (5-10 YEARS)

- Lighting system upgrades: \$950,000
 - Exterior entryway
 - Interior throughout
 - Exit signage/egress
- HVAC (unit heaters, split systems): \$450,000
- Flooring (carpet, tile, sealing): \$250,000
- Elevator controls: \$50,000
- Rainwater recovery storage tank: \$60,000
- Fire alarm: \$500,000
- Vault compact shelving: \$1.2 million

TOTAL: \$3,460,000

CAPITAL NEEDS: LONG TERM (10-15 YEARS)

- Roof replacement: \$1-1.6 million
- Restroom upgrades: \$500,000
- HVAC replacements: \$675,000
- Doors: \$400,000
- Interior painting, floor finishing: \$450,000

TOTAL: \$3,625,000

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF MAINTENANCE COSTS

The Lightcatcher

- FY 2026-2030: \$945,000
- FY 2030-2035: \$3,460,000
- FY 2035-2040: \$3,625,000

**Total anticipated costs:
\$8,030,000**

Mount Baker Theater

- FY 2025-2027: \$2M
- FY 2027-2031: \$7.1M
- FY 2031-2035: \$5.2M

**Total anticipated costs:
\$14,200,000**

SEE YOU AT THE MUSEUM



WHATCOM MUSEUM