



THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Front Cover: From Village Wardrobes: Traditional Dress from Western and Central Ukraine

Clockwise from upper left: Soloist from the Minnesota Ballet School performs during the Annual White Nights Fundraising Dinner; TMORA's folk performance group, Nitka, performs in the main gallery; the TMORA Museum Shop; Rachmaninoff, Borodin, and Shostakovich Piano Trios featuring Tanya Remenikova, Denis Evstuhin, Natalia Moiseeva; Pianist Aleksandra Kasman speaks to the audience during MPR's broadcast of Performance Today at TMORA; Artist Sergei Isupov hosting a private reception for the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.



2019: YEAR IN REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I arrived at The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) in July of 2019, I knew from the interview process that TMORA was not only an art museum, but also an amazing cultural center.

That knowledge was immediately reinforced, as I personally witnessed the scope of activities at TMORA during the first weeks in my new position. I observed visitors at the front desk, not only from the Twin Cities, but from all over the country and abroad. Sometimes they arrived directly from the airport, with luggage in-hand. While waiting to attend a docent tour, I met a retired art professor from Cincinnati, who was a member and visited every summer.

I was immediately engaged with TMORA's music programming, as the semi-finalists' concert of the International Junior e-Piano Competition took place during my second week on the job. I learned that the Museum's music programs vary from the popular works of classical music by Russian composers, when the Belorussian medieval music group *Stary Olsa* rocked a sold-out house in August.

That was followed in September by Sandbox Theater's production of *Bone Mother*, an adaptation of the Baba Yaga story. Every evening for a week, the Museum was transformed into an exciting theater space incorporating the main and mezzanine galleries, with a component featuring silk aerialists.

All of these programs took place surrounded by the magnificent exhibition *The Body in Soviet Art*, which was one of 11 exhibitions in the galleries in 2019. Ranging from Soviet Realism, Jewish Mysticism, Ukrainian folk costumes, Imperial decorative arts, contemporary ceramics, and sobering photographs from Chernobyl, the year of exhibitions provided thought-provoking themes and striking work.

And, I came to learn how much TMORA means to its constituency. At the end of every program, as visitors exited, many of them would pause to thank the staff. Knowing that what we do has a positive impact on people's lives is what makes it all worthwhile.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication of the Board, the staff, and the volunteers. I count myself fortunate to be part of this Museum family at an institution that makes such a broad range of exceptional cultural experiences available to the public.

Mark J. Meister
Executive Director & President

2019 KEY METRICS

On-site attendance – 29,246 (includes 5,009 attending for events)

Off-site audiences – 12,634 - Comprised of 53 programs at 26 sites

Year-end Memberships – 1,650



2019 EXHIBITIONS

From Non-Conformism to Feminisms: Russian Women Artists from the Kolodzei Art Foundation

September 15, 2018 - February 10, 2019

Inside the Beehive: Art of Garen Bedrossian

September 15, 2018 - February 19, 2019

Winter Holidays in Russia

November 19, 2018 - January 27, 2019

The Body in Soviet Art

February 23 - September 1, 2019

Surreal Promenade: Sergei Isupov

February 9 - June 9, 2019

Village Wardrobes: Traditional Dress from Western and Central Ukraine

June 22 - November 23, 2019

Treasures of Memory and Hope Precious Stories and Keepsakes from the Armenian Genocide

July 20 - 30, 2019

Soviet Posters from TMORA Collection

September 14, 2019 - February 23, 2020

Mystical Imprints: Marc Chagall, Ben-Zion, and Ben Shahn From the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at Saint John's University

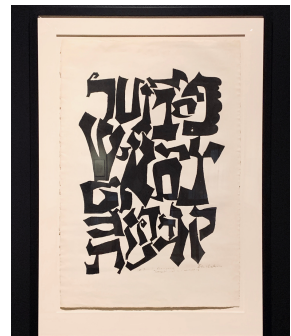
September 14, 2019 - March 22, 2020

After the Explosion: Documenting Chernobyl

September 14, 2019 - February 23, 2020

Christmas with the Tsars

November 16, 2019 - January 26, 2020



2019 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

January 19: MN Orchestra Principal Cellist Anthony Ross and TMORA Curator of Classical Music Denis Evstuhin performed an evening of Russian classical masterpieces.

January 22: *How Can we Help Bees?* The University of Minnesota Bee Squad presented an educational program in concert with the exhibition, *Inside the Beehive: Art of Garen Bedrossian*

March 21: *Inside the Vault* with Chief Curator Dr. Masha Zavialova – a unique and intimate event where attendees were able to view works from the permanent collection that have yet to be exhibited.

March 28: Artist Sergei Isupov hosted a special reception for attendees of National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts for the exhibition, *Surreal Promenade: Sergei Isupov*.

April 20: *Rachmaninoff, Borodin, and Shostakovich Piano Trios* featuring Tanya Remenikova, Denis Evstuhin, Natalia Moiseeva was held in the Main Gallery to a sold-out audience.

June 6-9: The 3rd Annual Days of Russian Culture at TMORA featured performances by Minnesota Orchestra, Luther College Balalaika Ensemble, TMORA's own folk dance ensemble Nitka, and the White Nights Annual Fundraising Dinner.

August 14: *Stary Olsa* from Belarus played a rousing, sold-out concert of both folk and contemporary music with medieval instruments.

August 22: Intimate after-hours tours are very popular at TMORA. *The Tree, The Sun, and The Goddess: Symbolic Language in Ukrainian Folk Embroidery* highlighted the exhibition *Village Wardrobes: Traditional Dress from Western and Central Ukraine*

August 23: Children were treated to a special event with Moscow Ballet's New Horizons program where they learned the Trepak and enjoyed making crafts with one of the dancers from Moscow Ballet

September 19-27: A world premiere show in the Museum's main gallery, *Bone Mother* was folklore come to life as an aerial play. This creative partnership between TMORA and Sandbox Theatre sold out all seven of its performances.

October 1-2: Artist Becca Rahn taught two sessions of *Design Your Own Fabric Inspired by Ukrainian Designs* where students created fabric patterns inspired by the exhibition *Village Wardrobes: Traditional Dress from Western and Central Ukraine*.

October 3: The inaugural reception was held for TMORA's Russian Arts and Culture Society.

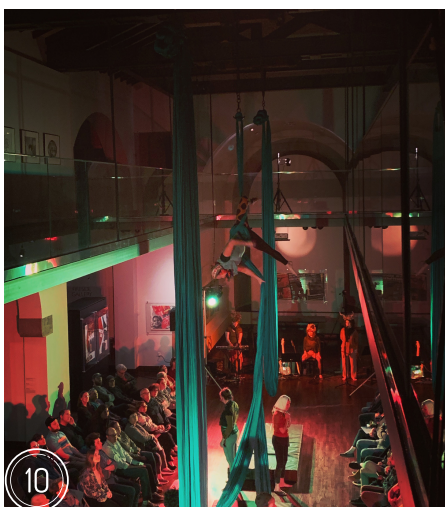
November 21: Award-winning author and historian Douglas Smith gave a presentation to celebrate the launch of his book, *The Russian Job*.

November 22: TMORA hosts its first ever *Russian Art After Dark* to over 250 guests.

December 18: Local folk ensembles partnered with TMORA for *Carols + Cocoa* – an evening of traditional holiday and winter music from Russia, Ukraine; and wintertime songs from Jewish tradition.



2019 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



1. Performance by Minnesota Ballet School at the Annual White Nights Fundraising Dinner | 2. *Stary Olsa* from Belarus | 3. Opening reception for pop-up exhibition *Treasures of Memory and Hope* - 4. Opening reception for *Soviet Posters from TMORA Collection* | 5. TMORA's folk performance group *Nitka* performs in the main gallery | 6. MN Orchestra performance in the main gallery | 7. Junior e-Piano Competition | 8. Aleksandra Kasman performs for MPR's *Performance Today*, broadcast at TMORA | 9. Wedding ceremony at TMORA | 10. *Bone Mother: Aerial Tales of Baba Yaga* performance | 11. Anthony Ross performs at TMORA | 12. Author and Historian Douglas Smith with TMORA Trustee Theofanis Stavrou | 13. Moscow Ballet's Children's program *New Horizons* at TMORA | 14. TMORA Chief Curator Dr. Masha Zavalova leads an after-hours tour of the collections

2019 TMORA MUSEUM STORE

Net Profit – \$149,798



2019 DONORS

*In 2019, TMORA created the **Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS)** to celebrate the mission of the Museum and honor those who contribute \$1,000+ annually to support its growth and success. We are deeply grateful to the following RACS members:*

\$25,000+

Russell Cowles
Gwenn and Eivind Djupedal
Anonymous
Deanna Phillips
David Washburn and Meg Anderson

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Julie and Doug Baker
Liz Petrangelo and Mike Lundebly
Pam Safar

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Drs. Ludmila Borisnova Eklund and John Eklund
Reggie Boyle
Christine Podas-Larson and Kent Larson
R.D. Zimmerman and Lars Peterssen

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Joan Duddingston
Elke Geacinto
Lisa Griffin
Steve and Shannon Heim
Bill and Gloria Levin
Maria and Matthew Loucks
Minnesota Historical Society
Alice Mortenson
Warren and Mary Staley



2019 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society continued:

\$1,000 - \$2,499

David and Briton Amundson
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Americo and Jan Del Calzo
Gretchen Docter
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C. Ben Wright, Ph.D. and Donna Wright



The Museum of Russian Art

2019 DONORS

Foundation and Grant Support

\$25,000+

Minnesota State Arts Board
Stone Uncle Trust

\$10,000 - 24,999

The Bentson Foundation
Target Foundation

\$5,000 - 9,999

US Bank Foundation

\$2,500 - 4,999

Minnesota Historical Society

\$500 - 999

3M Foundation



Photo by Sarah Meyers Imagery

2019 DONORS

Contributions

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G. Rolf and Patricia Svendsen
Catherine Taylor



MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Information about how to support TMORA through your donor-advised fund, with gifts of stock, an IRA distribution, or legacy gift planning can be found at www.tmora.org/giving or by contacting the Museum directly at 612-821-9045.

You may also make a gift, renew your membership, and buy tickets for upcoming events.

2019 VOLUNTEERS

Throughout TMORA, from the front desk, to the Museum store and in the galleries between, you will find extraordinary volunteers doing wonderful things. We greatly appreciate the often years of dedicated service that our renowned docents and volunteers give to the Museum. Special thanks go to Lead Docent and Outreach/Education Coordinator Carol Rudie, who traveled over 2,000 miles giving presentations throughout Minnesota, helping the Museum reach new communities and more people.

Jane Aby
Catherine Ahrens
Linda Benson
Ruth Ann Benson
Sarah Berke
Lisa Bjerken
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Margo Squire
Carol Shorrock
Irina Talanova
Anastasia Taylor
Carol Veldman Rudie
Diana Yefanova



2019 STAFF

Mark J. Meister, Executive Director and President

Maria Zavialova, Ph.D., Chief Curator

Evan Weselmann, Collections Associate

Gini Tyson, Installation Specialist

Michelle Massey, Director of Public Programs

Carol Rudie, Outreach Education Coordinator

Dennis Evstuhin, Curator of Classical Music

Alex Legeros, Development Officer

Theresa Nelson, Membership Coordinator and Weekend Manager

Elena Ritz, Director of Museum Store Operations

Lisa Bjerken, Museum Store Associate

Licia Newulis, Museum Store Assistant

Mark Biers, Facilities Manager

Linda Thiel, Accountant

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Liz Petrangelo, Vice-Chair

Steven Heim, Treasurer

Reggie Boyle, Secretary

Mira Akins

Ludmila Borisnova Eklund, M.D.

Gwenn Djupedal

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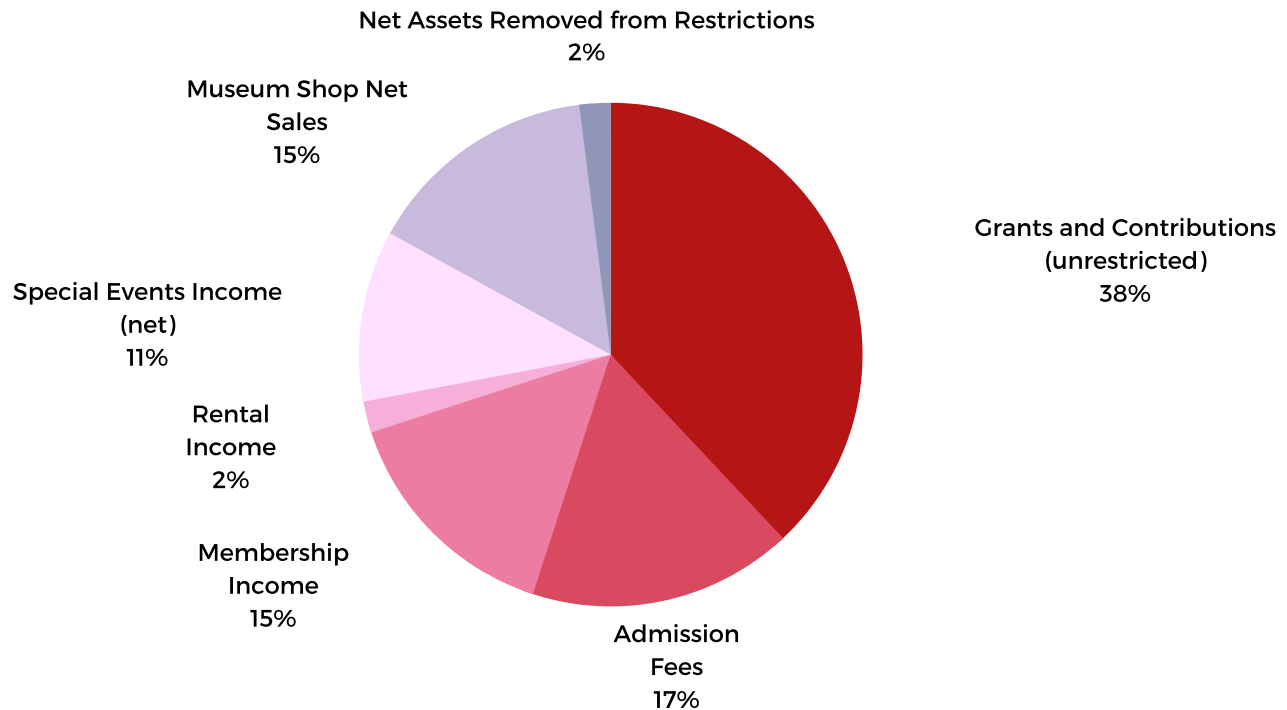
David Washburn

C. Ben Wright

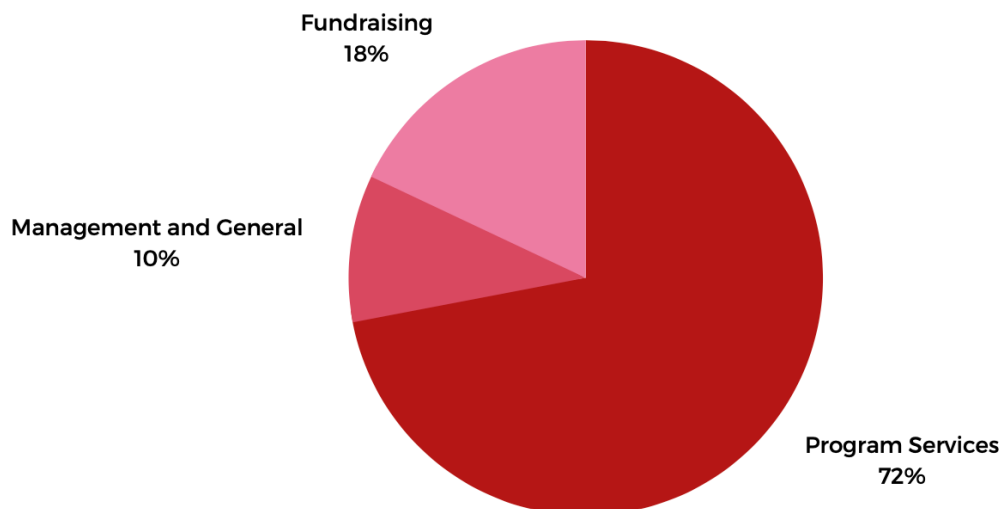
R.D. Zimmerman

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019 REVENUE



2019 EXPENSE



The Museum of Russian Art's financial statements, excerpted for this presentation, are audited by Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants. These audited financial statements may be viewed upon request at The Museum of Russian Art's Administration Office, 5500 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019 Revenue (Unrestricted)

Grants and Contributions (unrestricted): 38%	\$371,787
Admission Fees: 17%	\$160,671
Membership Income: 15%	\$146,696
Rental Income: 2%	\$22,854
Special Events Income (net): 11%	\$104,578
Museum Shop Net Sales: 15%	\$149,798
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,232
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: 2%	\$19,154
 Total Support and Revenue	 \$976,770

2019 Expense

Program Services: 72%	\$722,465
Management and General: 10%	\$97,869
Fundraising: 18%	<u>\$178,795</u>
 Total Expense Before Depreciation	 \$999,129
 Depreciation	 <u>\$185,993</u>
 Total Expense	 \$1,185,122
 Change in Net Assets	 (\$208,352)
 Net Assets - Beginning of Year	 <u>\$3,381,205</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$3,172,853</u>

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