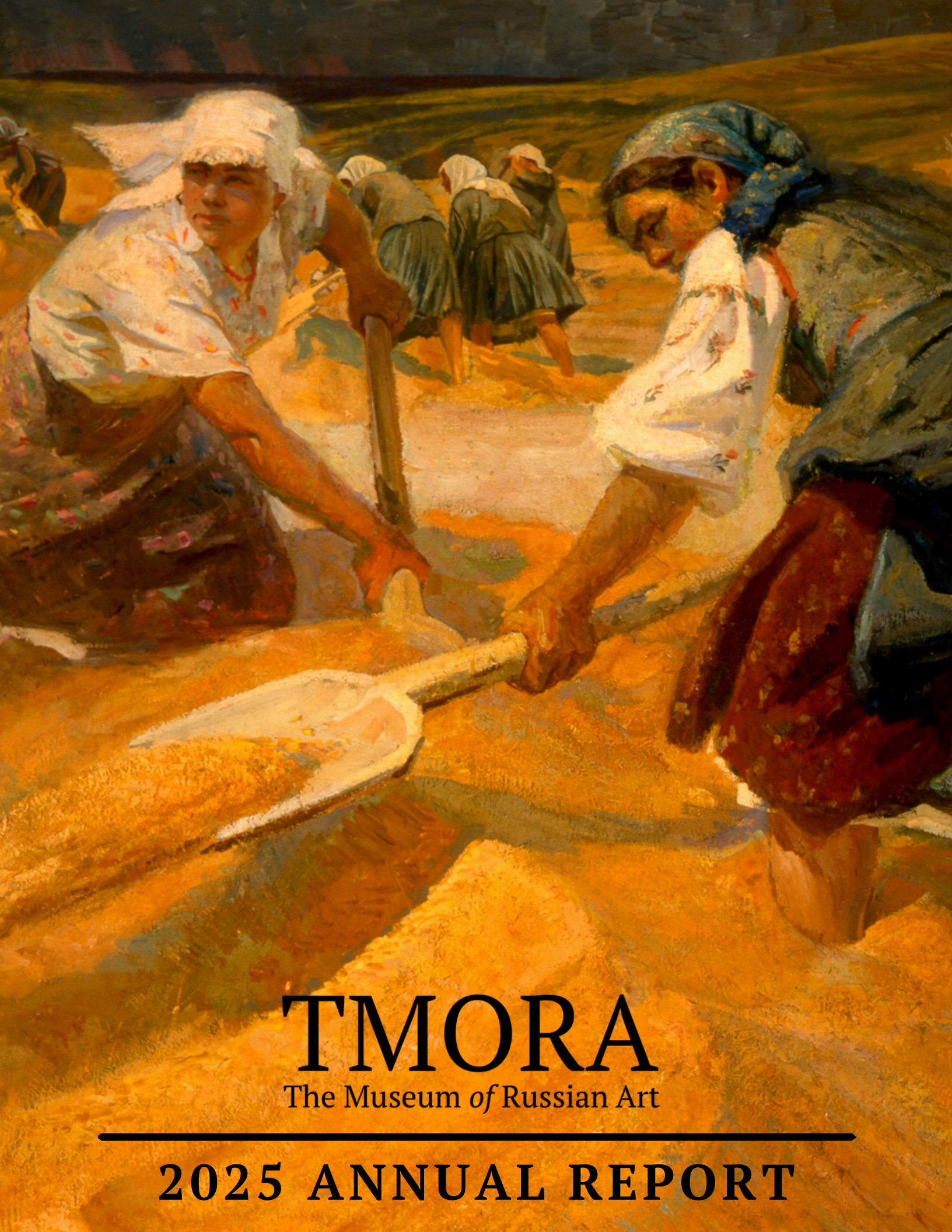




TMORA

The Museum of Russian Art

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025: YEAR IN REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is always difficult to capture a year in a brief message, and when thinking about 2025 a selection of the exceptional exhibitions and unique programs immediately comes to mind.

When 2024 ended, TMORA extended the immensely popular exhibition *A Thousand Nesting Dolls* into the first quarter of 2025. The exhibition comprised about one-third of the magnificent collection given to the Museum by Robert J. Brokop, which is the largest of its kind in the country. Over its six-month run it was viewed by over 23,000 visitors—attendance levels TMORA had not seen since 2013-2014.

In January, set against the backdrop of *Masterpieces of Sacred Art from the Oleg Kushnirskiy Collection*, two scholars were brought in for the thought-provoking lecture program *Icons in Museums: Bridging Art and Experience*. Dr. Konstanze Runge, curator at the Icon Museum in Frankfurt/Main, Germany presented: *Icons in Museums: Collecting and Exhibiting Orthodox Christian Art in Frankfurt/Germany* and Dr. Wendy Salmond, Professor of Art History at Chapman University in Irvine, California presented: *Russian Icons through American Eyes: A Forgotten History*.

The small exhibition in the Robert J. Brokop Gallery, *Russia's Native Mushrooms: Botanical Watercolors by Alexander Viazmensky* drew mycology enthusiasts during the nesting doll exhibition. It then gave way to *Chemiakin's Worlds*, the first showing of 13 examples of Mihail Chemiakin's work from the Museum's collection. Chemiakin was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1971 for refusing to work in the establishment style of Socialist Realism and settled first in Paris and then New York. The highlight of the exhibition was the recently acquired monumental (10' x 5') pastel *Heraldic Rider III*.

An innovative book release and signing took place in April. Author Elizabeth Shockman, MPR education reporter, discussed her book *Behind the Red Velvet Curtain: An American Ballerina in Russia*, the Joy Womack story, as told to Shockman. Womack joined the program live via Zoom from Paris. She was projected on the screen in the Main Gallery and answered audience questions. The program was conducted in an interview format moderated by MPR arts reporter Jacob Aloï.

An Evening with TMORA Founder Raymond Johnson – In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Geli Korshev, another interview program, took place in July. Former Board Chair Pam Safar queried Ray Johnson, TMORA's founder, about how he established his gallery featuring Soviet-era art, which ultimately led to the founding of the Museum. Geli Korshev, whose work is represented in the Museum's collection, was one of the major Soviet artists Johnson introduced to the U.S. public.

There were a number of extraordinary classical music performances during the year organized by Michelle Massey, Director of Public Programs and Marketing and Denis Evstuhin, the Museum's Curator of Classical Music Programs. Evstuhin, a concert pianist, was featured in several programs, either as a soloist or accompanied by other musicians, with one concert, in particular, being a first at TMORA. In July, he performed Tchaikovsky's *The Seasons* and Mussorsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* for two nights, accompanied by a light-show installation that responded to the music and encompassed the entire concert space.

The above only provides a sampling of the extraordinary year of activities at TMORA, made possible, as always, by the help of our supporters and the efforts of the staff, Board, and volunteers.

Mark J. Meister
Executive Director & President

2025 AT A GLANCE

On-site Visitors: **31,530**
(including exhibitions and events)

On-site Event Participants: **3,648**

Community & Outreach Participants

- Adult Outreach Programs: **649**
- Education Programs: **1,247**

Active Membership Units at Year End: **1,688**

Including 1,606 TMORA and 82 Russian Arts and Culture Society membership units



The cast of The White Plague, a staged reading of Karel Čapek's 1937 play, adapted by playwright Andrei Kureichik and translated and directed by Vladimir Rovinsky, presented in partnership with Theatre Novi Most.

2025 EXHIBITIONS

Russia's Native Mushrooms: Botanical Watercolors by Alexander Viazmensky

September 21, 2024 - March 9, 2025

A Thousand Nesting Dolls

October 5, 2024 - April 6, 2025

Masterpieces of Sacred Art from the Oleg Kushnirskiy Collection

October 26, 2024 - January 26, 2025

A Hundred Rare Ornaments from the Soviet Era

November 23, 2024 - January 12, 2025

Geometric Abstraction: Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation

February 1 - June 1, 2025

Chemiakin's Worlds

March 15 - June 22, 2025

Monumental Soviet Paintings

April 12 - October 12, 2025

Avant-Garde Architecture of the Soviet Era: Photography by William Brumfield

June 14 - October 12, 2025

Natalya Nesterova: Artist and Academician

June 28 - September 28, 2025

The World of Russian Fairy Tales

October 25, 2025 - January 25, 2026

Two Artists at the End of the Soviet Era

October 18, 2025 - March 8, 2026

Nadezhda Glazunova: Festive Art

October 4, 2025 - January 11, 2026

Rare Ornaments from Mid-Century Russia

December 1, 2025 - January 26, 2026



Dr. Maria Zavialova leads a gallery training for TMORA's museum guides, preparing them to engage visitors with the art, history, and stories behind the exhibitions.

EXHIBITIONS

In 2025, TMORA's exhibitions offered audiences a rich and varied exploration of Russian and Soviet art, history, and culture, moving across periods, artistic movements, and forms of creative expression. From monumental painting and avant-garde experimentation to sacred art, photography, botanical illustration, folk traditions, and fairy tales, the year's exhibitions illuminated both celebrated and lesser-known aspects of the artistic landscape. The continued popularity of *A Thousand Nesting Dolls* contributed to an exceptional year for visitors, with more than 23,000 people welcomed during the exhibition's six-month run—the Museum's strongest attendance in more than a decade.



A Thousand Nesting Dolls



Avant-Garde Architecture from the Soviet Era: Photography by William Brumfield



Natalya Nesterova: Artist and Academician



The World of Russian Fairy Tales



Monumental Soviet Paintings



Geometric Abstraction: Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

TMORA's 2025 public programs offered a vibrant spectrum of experiences connecting audiences with art, music, history, literature, and contemporary culture. Throughout the year, visitors gathered for classical concerts, lectures and conversations with artists, authors, and scholars, theatrical and literary programs, exhibition openings, immersive performances, and special dining experiences. Programs explored subjects ranging from music, architecture, and art history to folklore, literature, and life in the Soviet and post-Soviet world, while a letter-writing event for political prisoners in Russia created an opportunity for meaningful engagement with issues resonating in the region today.



An Evening with Jonathan C. Slaght: Tigers Between Empires - 11.07.25



A Evening with TMORA Founder Raymond Johnson - 7.07.25



The Russian Fairy Tale Feast, with Paris Dining Club - 12.12.25



Writing Letters of Hope to Political Prisoners in Russia - 9.25.25



The Music Illuminated: Featuring Denis Evstuhin - 7.11-12.25



Baba Yaga: Storytime After Dark - 10.30.25

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Education and community engagement at TMORA extended across generations and beyond the galleries in 2025. School visits and field trips introduced students to art and cultural history, while family programs, art and craft workshops, Russian-language activities, yoga, sound baths, and Free Nights offered accessible ways for the broader community to participate in Museum life. TMORA's folk-performance group, Nitka, continued to share music, storytelling, and cultural traditions with audiences both at the Museum and in the community, further extending TMORA's educational reach.



Students participate in a field trip activity at the TMORA Education Center.



Families participate in TMORA's monthly Stories and Crafts in the Gallery



Nitka, TMORA's folk-performance group, provides educational programs for visitors of all ages



Visitors experienced the galleries in a new way through TMORA's sound bath program.



TMORA's monthly Stories and Crafts in the Gallery



TMORA Shop extends the Museum experience beyond the galleries while providing an important source of earned revenue. Its distinctive selection of books, art, ornaments, gifts, and specialty items reflects the cultures, histories, and artistic traditions explored throughout the Museum. In 2025, the Shop generated **\$233,742 in net profit**, directly supporting TMORA's exhibitions, education initiatives, and public programs. With sales both on site and online, TMORA Shop continues to play a significant role in advancing the Museum's mission and strengthening its financial sustainability.



WWW.SHOPTMORA.ORG

2025 DONORS

TMORA's Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) celebrates the mission of the Museum and honors those who contribute \$1,000+ annually to support its growth and success. We are deeply grateful to the following RACS members:

\$25,000+

Bruce Bruemmer and Lisa Motz
Gwenn and Eivind Djupedal
Mary Dunnavan and Roger Gross
Liz Petrangelo and Mike Lundeby
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\$10,000-\$24,999

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Continued

2025 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued

\$2,500-\$4,999

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RUSSIAN
ARTS & CULTURE
SOCIETY

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Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued



RUSSIAN
ARTS & CULTURE
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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.

2025 DONORS

Foundation and Grant Support

\$25,000+

Minnesota State Arts Board

\$10,000 - 24,999

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Mortenson Family Foundation

\$500 - \$999

McCulloch Family Foundation



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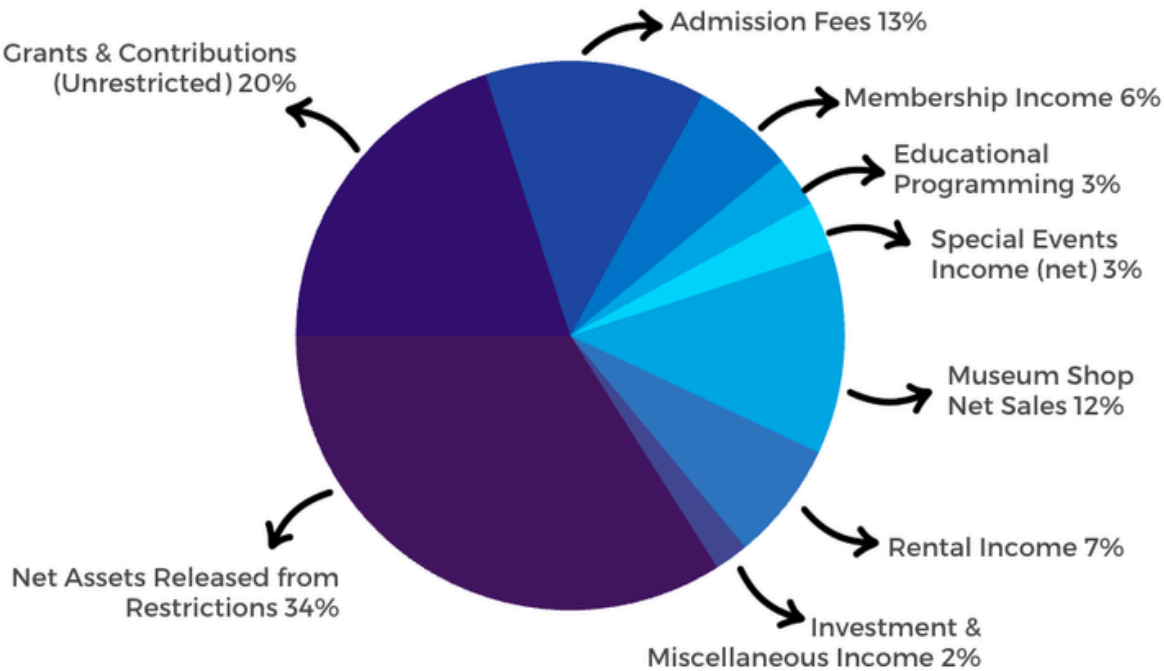
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Natasha Andreeva, Museum Shop Lead Associate
Irina Linder, Museum Shop Assistant

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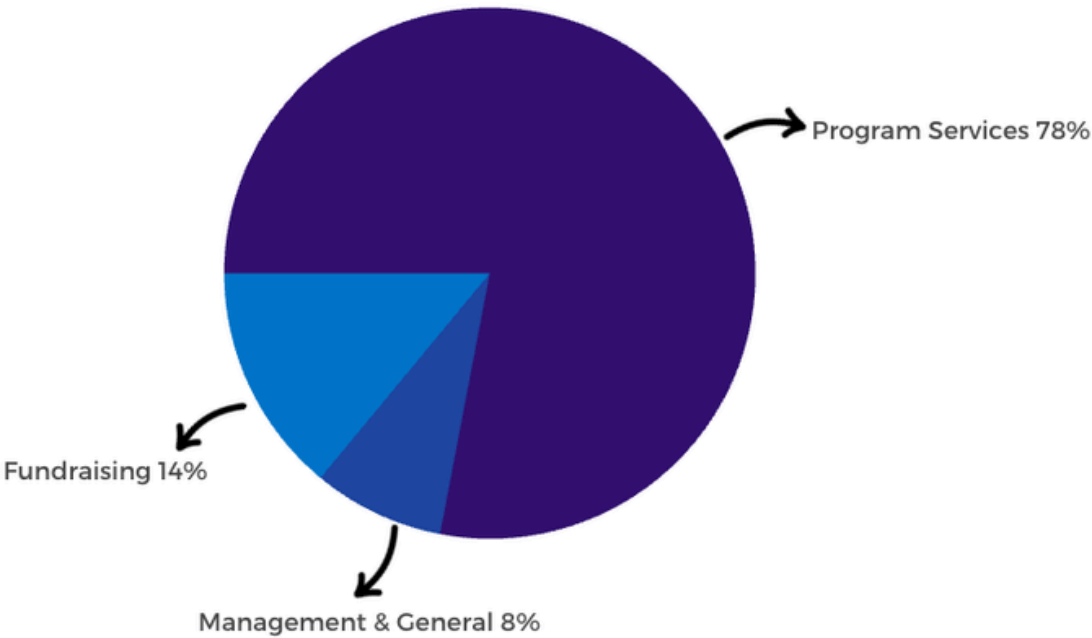
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2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2025 REVENUE



2025 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.

2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2025 Revenue (Unrestricted)

Grants and Contributions (unrestricted): 20%	\$386,333
Admission Fees: 13%	\$249,713
Membership Income: 6%	\$109,750
Educational Programming: 3%	\$60,857
Special Events Income (net): 3%	\$66,926
Museum Shop Net Sales: 12%	\$233,742
Rental Income: 7%	\$134,756
Miscellaneous Income: 2%	\$28,380
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: 34%	\$667,648
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,938,105

2025 Expense

Program Services: 78%	\$1,218,559
Management and General: 8%	\$120,982
Fundraising: 14%	<u>\$226,693</u>
Total Expense Before Depreciation	\$1,566,234
Depreciation	\$289,634
Total Expense	\$1,855,868
Change in Net Assets	\$82,237
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>\$7,568,761</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$7,650,998</u>

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2025 FUNDERS



The exhibitions and programs at The Museum of Russian Art are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support and Creative Support for Organization grants, thanks to the a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



2025 SPONSOR

