



**THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

2024: YEAR IN REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2020, the Museum embarked on the process to achieve accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). AAM accreditation marks the pinnacle of achievement for a museum, as it indicates that the institution is operating at the highest level of professional standards in regard to preserving its collection and serving the community.

The first step in the process was the revision of the Museum's core documents, consisting of its Mission Statement, Code of Ethics, Collections Policy, Strategic Plan, and Disaster Plan, which were submitted to the AAM for review. Board and staff worked on these documents, which were awarded the AAM's "Core Document Verification" in October of 2022. Having the core documents verified then allowed the Museum to apply to be accepted into the accreditation process and that acceptance was received in February of 2023.

The heart of the accreditation application is the extensive self-study, which is submitted to the AAM's Accreditation Commission. Through the self-study, the Commission learns about all aspects of a museum's operations, and TMORA's self-study was submitted on schedule in September of 2023.

Hosting the site visit team, comprised of two directors of accredited museums, was the final step in the process. Over a two-day period in March, these individuals toured both of the Museum's facilities and met individually with staff members, as well as with a group of Board members and several Museum Guides. They then submitted their report to the Commission, for its consideration, along with the core documents and self-study. The AAM Accreditation Commission met on June 13-14, 2024 and, on July 12, the Museum received the exciting news from the AAM that accreditation had been granted!

During that accreditation round, 33 museums were reaccredited, with two, including TMORA, receiving first-time accreditation. Of the approximately 33,000 museums in the country, about 1,100 are accredited, and TMORA joins the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Walker Art Center, and the Weisman Art Museum, as the only accredited art museums in Minnesota.

Another highlight in 2024 was the establishment of the first named gallery at the Museum. In appreciation of the Brokop Trust's donation of over 3,000 matryoshka nesting dolls, along with major operating, capital, and endowment support through the years, the Fireside Gallery was renamed the Robert J. Brokop Gallery. This occurred just before the exhibition *A Thousand Nesting Dolls*, featuring the Brokop Collection, opened in the Main Gallery on October 5. The exhibition, which will run into 2025, has been enthusiastically greeted by the public, and December's attendance of over 4,000 visitors marks the first time since 2016 that attendance for a month has been at that level.

Sculpture filling the Main Gallery was another first in 2024, as the *Zoran's Surrealist Sculptures: Dry Neck of the Pig and Other Curios* exhibition entranced visitors with wood, stone, and steel creations. Some works expressed stories from the sculptor's past, while others were exercises in organic shape and form. *Peasant Women of the Russian North: Heritage of a Culture Lost*, featuring the Museum's unique folk-art collection, was the other Main Gallery attraction during the year, and visitors were surprised by the breadth of the collection.

As always, sold-out classical music performances entertained the Museum's guests, with the final performance in December recognizing 15 years of concerts at TMORA. And, finally, the Museum's second foreign travel adventure took place in August, with 45 supporters and staff sailing on a Baltic Cruise. All of those on the cruise learned of the struggles the Baltic states have had throughout history to establish and maintain their independence, and it was heartening to see the vibrant nature of these countries today.

Thanks go out to all of TMORA's supporters, the Board, volunteers, and staff in recognition of a year of significant achievement.

Mark J. Meister
Executive Director & President

2024 AT A GLANCE

28,821

On-site Visitors

(including exhibitions and events)

3,665

On-site Event Participants

3,680

Community & Outreach Participants

- **Adult Outreach Programs: 2,488**
- **Education Programs: 1,192**

1,555

Active Memberships at Year End



2024 EXHIBITIONS

Say No to War: Political Cartoons by Ukrainian and Russian Artists

April 20, 2022 - end of war

The Wintertime Carnival: Traditions of Old

November 4, 2023 - January 21, 2024

The Art of Leon Hushcha: The Way

December 2, 2023 - March 3, 2024

Nature's Saints: Icons by Olga Volchkova

December 2, 2023 - March 24, 2024

Zoran's Surrealist Sculptures: Dry Neck of the Pig and Other Curios

February 3 - May 6, 2024

Portal to the Surreal: Vladimir Dikarev

March 9 - June 2, 2024

Anatoli Zverev: Under the Soviet Radar

March 30 - June 23, 2024

Andréa Stanislav: Spinner's Song

May 22 - December 16, 2024

Peasant Women of the Russian North: Heritage of a Culture Lost

June 8 - September 22, 2024

Women in Soviet Art: 1930 - 1991

June 8 - October 20, 2024

Pam Ingalls: In the Russian Tradition

June 29 - September 15, 2024

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

ACCREDITATION & INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

In 2024, The Museum of Russian Art achieved first-time accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national standard for museum excellence. Earned through a multi-year process of self-study, peer review, and on-site evaluation, accreditation affirms TMORA's commitment to professional stewardship, accountability, and public service. TMORA is one of approximately 1,100 accredited museums nationwide – and one of only four accredited art museums in Minnesota.



EXHIBITIONS

In 2024, TMORA presented a robust schedule of exhibitions spanning modern and contemporary art, folk traditions, political commentary, sacred art, and works drawn from the Museum's permanent collection. Exhibitions included *Say No to War: Political Cartoons by Ukrainian and Russian Artists*, *Zoran's Surrealist Sculptures: Dry Neck of the Pig and Other Curios*, *Peasant Women of the Russian North: Heritage of a Culture Lost*, and *Women in Soviet Art: 1930–1991*, among many others. Together, these exhibitions reflected the breadth of artistic practice, historical periods, and cultural perspectives represented at TMORA throughout the year.



A Thousand Nesting Dolls



Zoran's Surrealist Sculptures: Dry Neck of the Pig and Other Curios



Peasant Women of the Russian North: Heritage of a Culture Lost



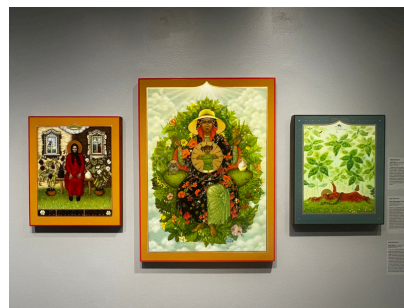
Portal to the Surreal: Vladimir Dikarev



Masterpieces of Sacred Art from the Oleg Kushnirskiy Collection



Women in Soviet Art: 1930–1991



Nature's Saints: Icons by Olga Volchkova



Russia's Native Mushrooms: Botanical Watercolors by Alexander Viazmsky

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

TMORA's public programs in 2024 animated the Museum as a space for dialogue, performance, and shared experience. Lectures, concerts spanning multiple musical genres, and special events invited audiences to engage with exhibitions through sound, story, and conversation. Programs also extended beyond the Museum's walls, including community-wide letter-writing initiatives supporting Russian political prisoners and collaborative events such as The Forager's Feast with Paris Dining Club. Together, these programs emphasized TMORA's role as an active cultural gathering place—one that connects art to lived experience and civic engagement.



*Denis Evstuhin in Concert:
Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky
09.14.24*



*Music and War: A History of
Ukrainian Defiance 03.23.24*



*Write to Political Prisoners in Russia: Two Years of
Protest 02.19.24.*



*A Forager's Feast with Paris
Dining Club 11.21.24*



*Nitka performance at TMORA
Free Night 07.18.24*



*Premiere Party: Unveiling A Thousand Nesting Dolls
10.05.24*



White Nights Gala 06.22.24



*The Russian-Ukrainian Ongoing
War - Dr. Oleksandr Komarenko
07.24.24*



Zoran's Fest on the Fourth 05.04.24

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Education at TMORA extends across classrooms, galleries, and community spaces. In 2024, students participated through school visits and field trips, while families and adults engaged in programs that fostered cultural understanding and dialogue. TMORA's folk-performance group, Nitka, and community outreach programs brought music, storytelling, and learning beyond the Museum, reinforcing TMORA's role as an active educational resource.



Students participate in a TMORA field trip, exploring artworks in the galleries.



Nitka, TMORA's folk-performance group, performs traditional music and dance.



Participants create their own nesting dolls during a hands-on program



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



Members of a senior group on a guided visit to the Museum



Field trip visitors engage with the exhibition A Thousand Nesting Dolls.



TMORA Shop advances the Museum's mission while providing a significant source of earned revenue. Through a curated selection of artful gifts, books, ornaments, and specialty items inspired by Russian history and creativity, the Shop extends the visitor experience beyond the galleries. In 2024, **TMORA Shop generated \$228,382 in net profit**, directly supporting the Museum's exhibitions, education initiatives, and public programs. Serving visitors and members both on site and online, the Shop remains a vital and sustainable contributor to TMORA's financial health.



WWW.SHOPTMORA.ORG

2024 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+

Anonymous
Gwenn and Eivind Djupedal
Liz Petrangelo and Mike Lundebj
Warren and Mary Lynn Staley



\$10,000-\$24,999

Julie and Doug Baker
Loren Bough
Kathy and Patrick Bracken
Warren Staley

\$5,000-\$9,999

Charles Allen and Lisa Schlesinger
Reggie Boyle
Ronald and Janet Christenson
Joan Duddingston
Jennifer Eukel
John and Vicky Lettmann
William and Martha McLaughlin
Chuck Ritchie
Julie and Bruce Steiner
David Washburn

\$2,500-\$4,999

Kim and James Balaschak
Norlin Boyum
Eleanor Crosby
Americo and Jan Del Calzo
Mary Crosby Dolan

Continued

2024 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued



\$2,500-\$4,999 continued

E. Duane Engstrom

Elke Geacintov

Steven and Shannon Heim

Per Hong and Meg Walters

Ludmilla and Philip Isaacson

Steve Maurer

Eric Michael and Josh Hillger

Linda Myers Shelton and Larry Shelton

Barbara Rubin-Greenberg and Barry Greenberg

Pat and Doug Spaulding

C. Ben Wright

\$1,000-\$2,499

Rolf Anderson

Shane Bartleson and Jan Nicolav

Natalia Chebikina and Nate Rathbun

Lucy Crosby Mitchell

Paula and Cy Decosse

Lois and Joseph Duffy

Catherine Fischer

Rebecca Ganzel Thompson and Michael Thompson

Bruce Goodman

Kathy Gremillion

Sandra and Michael Harrison

Amy Hertz and Brandon Meshbesh

Continued

2024 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued

\$1,000-\$2,499 continued

Meredith Howell

Susan Kennedy

Kenneth and Faye LeDoux

Frank Martucci

Lorie Long Michaels

Walter McCarthy and Clara Ueland

Deborah McKnight and James Alt

Mary Ann McNeill and David Higgins

Mark Meister and Carla Stieger

Mark Moores, Moore's Insurance Management Inc.

Sandy and Bob Morris

Firou Mostashari

Suzanne Nemeth and Celest Roth

Deanna Phillips

Steven and Paula Pickrel

Christine Podas-Larson and Kent Larson

Jack Safar and William Bean

Susan and Lawrence Sheets

Stella and Brian Sick

Julie Snow

Linnea Sodergren

Rada Varshavskaya and Jonathan Rosenberg

Jamie Wellik



2024 DONORS

Contributions

\$500-\$999

David and Mary Beth Amundson

Kathleen and Jeff Baradaran

Susan Barnes

Stacy Bennett

Bill Bergstrom

Sarah Berke and Andrew Hestness

Angela Bohmann and Jonathan Riehle

Alexander and Tanya Braginsky

John Bullough and Joe Zachman

Briana Clark

Kathleen Coskran

Robert Davenport

Mark Downey and Christine Sanguinet

Mary and Jay Gallagher

Lee and Bev Gehrke

Steve and Carla Harner

Dorothy Horns

Frederick and Abigail Houts

Jean and Craig Jentz

Klepinski Charitable Fund

Alan L'Esperance

McCulloch Family Foundation

Miluska Novota

David and Mary Parker

Shawn Severson

Bradford and Adeline Shinkle

Jackie Polloway and Corey Stephens

Catherine Taylor

Rebecca Ganzel Thompson and Michael Thompson

Robert and Carol Thompson

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.

2024 DONORS

Foundation and Grant Support

\$25,000+

Minnesota State Arts Board

Mortenson Family Foundation

Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust

\$10,000-\$24,999

Capital Research and Management Company (CRMC)



2024 STAFF

Mark J. Meister, Executive Director and President

Linda Thiel, Financial & Administrative Officer

Mark Biers, Facilities Manager

Maria Zavialova, PhD, Curator, Head of Exhibitions and Collections

Michael Waltz, Collections Management & Installation Technician

Chris Seberson, Collections Associate

Michelle Massey, Director of Public Programs & Marketing

Denis Evstuhin, Curator of Classical Music Programs

Kelly Bloedorn, Front Desk Assistant

Kelly McKay, PhD, Director of Education

Elena Epshteyn, Russian Language Program Manager

Inna Ponomarenko, Russian Language Instructor

Sasha Zavyolova, Russian Language Instructor

Chris Seberson, Russian Language Instructor

Allison Simms, Development and Membership Associate

Mary Berg, Museum Shop Director of Retail

Chris Seberson, Assistant Director of Retail

Irina Linder, Museum Shop Assistant

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck Ritchie, Chair

Steve Maurer, Vice Chair

Kathy Bracken, Secretary

Mark Downey, Treasurer

Norlin Boyum

Jan Del Calzo

Briana Clark

Gwenn Djupedal

E. Duane Engstrom

Per Hong

Anna Kaminski

John Lettmann

Firou Mostashari, PhD

Marlena Myles

Miluska Linares Novota

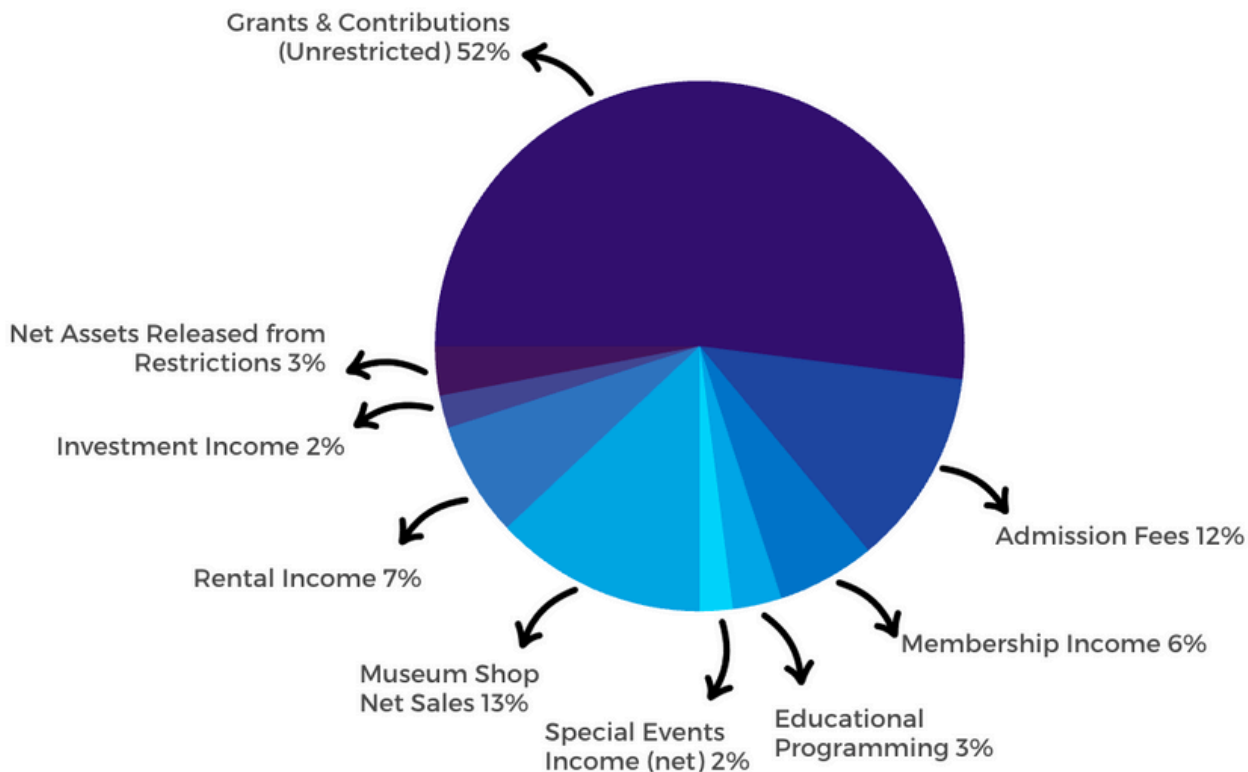
Liz Petrangelo

Linda Myers Shelton, PhD

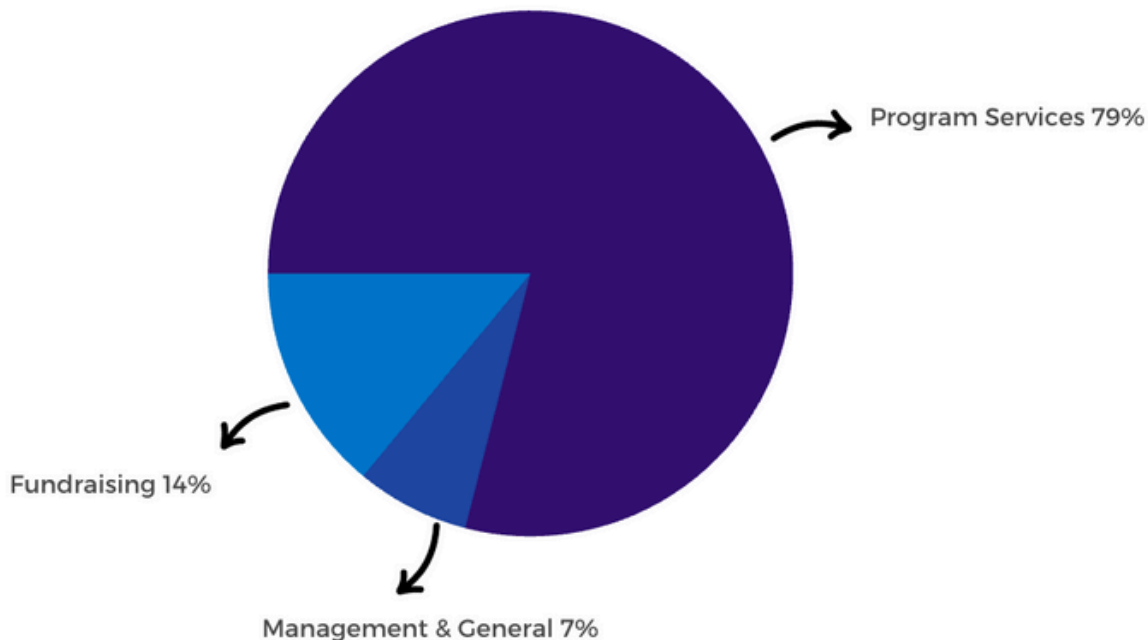
C. Ben Wright, PhD

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2024 REVENUE



2024 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.

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2024 Revenue (Unrestricted)

Grants and Contributions (unrestricted): 52%	\$930,788
Admission Fees: 12%	\$210,641
Membership Income: 6%	\$105,335
Educational Programming: 3%	\$54,121
Special Events Income (net): 2%	\$31,090
Museum Shop Net Sales: 13%	\$228,382
Rental Income: 7%	\$132,187
Miscellaneous Income: 2%	\$36,249
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: 3%	\$52,702
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,781,495

2024 Expense

Program Services: 79%	\$1,217,959
Management and General: 7%	\$115,665
Fundraising: 14%	<u>\$213,842</u>
Total Expense Before Depreciation	\$1,547,466
Depreciation	\$296,219
Total Expense	\$1,843,685
Change in Net Assets	(\$62,190)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>\$7,630,951</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$7,568,761</u>

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.

2024 FUNDERS

Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust



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.

2024 SPONSORS



Schmitt
Music

MOORES | Insurance
Management Inc.