



Celebrate Community achievements page 11



Inspire the next generation page 7

Learn
about the
inspiration behind
our new branding
on the back
cover.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Letter from the Executive Director



WHAT A YEAR WE'VE HAD AT THE YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM!

In 2025, we welcomed many new voices and fresh perspectives that helped shape how we share the story of the Yakima Valley. We are so grateful for each and every person who walked through our doors or shared a story that helped us continue to paint a picture of the Yakima Valley in vivid color.

For 75 years, YVM has proudly stewarded the rich history and vibrant stories of our region, capturing the diverse narratives that make our community truly unique. This past year, we advanced our mission to conserve our stories to inspire our community, learn from our past, celebrate our present, and guide our future through dynamic exhibitions, educational programs, and meaningful partnerships that connected people across generations and cultures.

None of this work would be possible without our dedicated members, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your support fuels our impact and gives us the confidence to look ahead with optimism.

As we enter our 75th anniversary year, we celebrate how far we've come and look forward to continuing our role as a place where our community can come together. With your partnership, the best is yet to come for our museum.

Thank you for being a part of this exciting journey.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Hobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Hobson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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2025

BY THE NUMBERS



WE HAD

1k+
volunteer
hours

WE HAD

167
members

WE WELCOMED

1k+
students on
field trips

WE SAW

20k
visitors

WE HAD

38
Corporate &
Community
Partners

WE CELEBRATED

75
years in
operation





To witness the joy and minds inspired by the stories told through the Yakima Valley Museum has far exceeded what I thought was possible. The museum team, all staff, and volunteers have brought renewed vibrancy to the museum. I have witnessed thousands of schoolchildren, adults, and those who have never set foot in a museum spark interest in what they see! I can only imagine what will transpire in the future of our valley because of the museum!”

—Diane Patterson, Board Member

WE ASSISTED

160
people with
research inquiries

WE WERE VIEWED

1m+
times on
Facebook

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA HAD

7k+
followers

WE FEATURED

27
new artifacts
accessioned

WE FEATURED

10
local vendors
in our
Museum store

WE HAVE

48k+
Artifacts



CONSERVE

PRESERVING THE STORIES OF THE YAKIMA VALLEY

The Yakima Valley Museum safeguards the stories that define our region, from the deep histories of Indigenous peoples to the growers, makers, and community leaders who shaped the Valley's cultural and agricultural heritage. Through stewardship of collections and exhibitions, we are truly honored to protect the objects and images that connect our past, present, and future.



COLLECTIONS

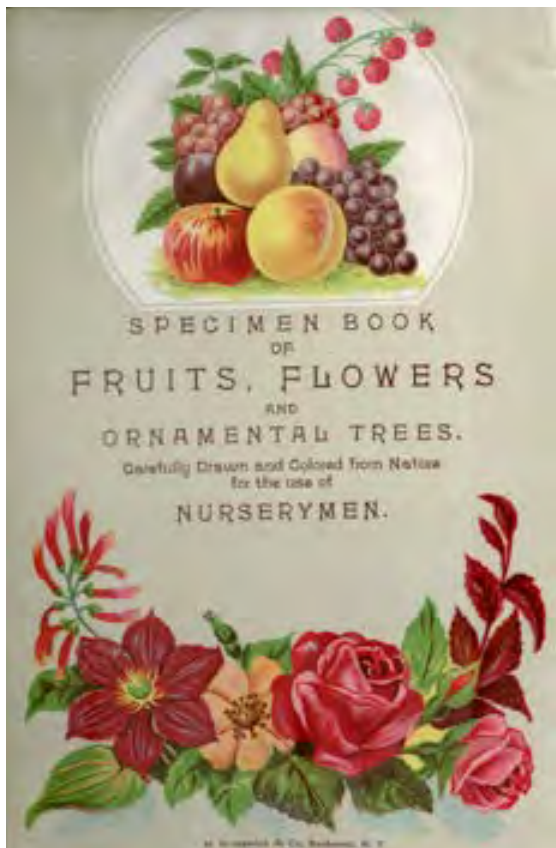
YVM is the proud custodian of more than 48,000 objects that document the people, industries, traditions, and moments that have shaped the Yakima Valley. Together, these artifacts preserve our shared heritage and support ongoing learning and discovery.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In 2025, the Museum welcomed 27 new objects into the permanent collection, including community-donated heirlooms, agricultural tools, textiles, and materials from local businesses.

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

One of our favorite items that we added to the collection this year is a beautifully illustrated specimen book of fruit and flowers formerly owned by the Yakima Valley Nursery. This rare artifact of horticultural history was originally published in the 1880s by M. Brunswick & Co. in Rochester, New York, for the famed Pomona, North Carolina, nursery of John Van Lindley.



Our archives are available for viewing at the Sundquist Research Library Tuesday through Saturday. Please book an appointment by emailing archivist John Baule at john@yvmuseum.org.



New in 2025 Exhibitions

OUR STORIES, OUR LIVES: PHOTOS OF MIGRANT LABOR IN THE YAKIMA VALLEY BY IRWIN NASH

MARCH 2025-SPRING 2026

Our Stories, Our Lives presented 46 photographs from Irwin Nash, the late photographer and activist's powerful visual record of farmworker life in the Yakima Valley from 1967 to 1976. In 1967, Seattle-based photographer Irwin Nash began capturing images of farming communities in the Yakima Valley, creating an archive of over 9,400 photographs that highlight daily life, labor movements, and social awareness during a pivotal era. These photographs, largely unknown until their recent digitization by the Washington State University (WSU) Libraries' Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC), have inspired the local community to share their stories and preserve previously undocumented histories.

On March 13, the Yakima Valley Museum hosted a special opening reception that brought together 168 community members to view the exhibition. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to reconnect with the Valley's agricultural past, with many recognizing family members and familiar



scenes in Nash's photographs. Visitors shared personal memories and stories from this era, creating meaningful intergenerational dialogue about the farmworker experience and the lasting impact of these communities on the Yakima Valley.

Funding provided by WSU Libraries, the Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Endowment, Nancy Spitzer, and members of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at WSU.



WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS: LIFE AND LEGACY

In 2025, YVM reopened its refreshed exhibition honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Featuring a re-creation of his Supreme Court chambers and original personal objects, the exhibit explores Douglas’s Yakima roots, judicial legacy, and lasting impact on environmental and civil rights law. The reopening was celebrated with a special community program held in conjunction with the William O. Douglas Award Banquet.



Funding provided by the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, The Yakima Valley Community Foundation Ahtanum Fund, Marcia & Lonny Suko, Gonzaga University School of Law, and McKinney Glass.

Special thanks to W.D. Frank and Adam Sowards for their assistance with this exhibition



INSPIRE

IGNITING CURIOSITY IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Inspiring the next generation of our community is the cornerstone of the Yakima Valley Museum's mission. As one of the only institutions within a 75-mile radius offering a dedicated children's museum environment, the Yakima Valley Museum continues to serve as a trusted educational resource for families. In 2025, our children's programming grew significantly in both reach and impact.



We delivered **10 programs for children and families** throughout the year, alongside monthly family-friendly tours on Saturdays.

We launched **2 new programs** in partnership with the Lupine Society of Readers.



We welcomed over **1,200 students from 27 schools** through our expanded field trip scholarship program in partnership with our generous donors and the Ruth Luhman Fund at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Program Highlights



HISTORY THROUGH STORIES

An exciting new collaboration with the Lupine Society of Readers, this program blends dynamic storytelling with hands-on activities to help children explore important eras in history, from the time of the dinosaurs to now.



I took my classes to the Museum whenever I could. It was a valuable teaching tool for me and, for many of my students ...”

—Madeline LaFramboise-Funk



About the program, Madeline LaFramboise-Funk of the Lupine Society noted: “As a middle school teacher in the Yakima Valley, I took my classes to the Museum whenever I could. It was a valuable teaching tool for me and, for many of my students, it was the first time they’d visited any museum! Now that I’m semi-retired, I enjoy volunteering at the museum and working with visiting students and educators. It’s a great opportunity to pay forward the outstanding educational experience that my students and I received there. “



STORY TIME AT THE MUSEUM

Back by popular demand, our fan-favorite early-literacy program once again filled the Museum, welcoming young children to discover exciting stories through books and creative play.

HOMESCHOOL DAYS

Launched this year in partnership with the Lupine Society of Readers, Homeschool Days welcomed local homeschooling families into the Museum for dynamic, curriculum-aligned learning. Rotating lessons and interactive experiences were thoughtfully designed to meet diverse learning styles while connecting students to history, science, and culture in meaningful ways.

FAMILY TOURS

Monthly staff- and volunteer-led tours designed for multi-age learning that help caregivers and children explore exhibits together.

SEASONAL AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

Throughout the year, YVM transformed into a hub for festive, family-friendly celebrations. Seasonal events brought our community together for memorable events, with 2025 highlights including: *Trick or Treat at the Museum*, *Holiday Fun and Stories with Mrs. Claus*, and *Holiday Lights at the Museum*.



Being a board member of the Yakima Valley Museum has been such a fulfilling endeavor. Seeing the stories of all of those in our community: past and present, light up in people's eyes, as they take in breathtaking exhibits and intriguing programs, is the essence of "community." I am proud to be of service to the museum as a volunteer. Cheers to the Yakima Valley, forever."

—Carrie Moore, Board Member



CELEBRATE

COMMUNITY CONNECTION AT YVM

The William O. Douglas Legacy Project, a partnership between the Yakima Valley Museum and the James M. & Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, hosted its second awards ceremony on August 23, 2025, at the Yakima Convention Center. Four hundred attendees, including civic leaders, judges, tribal leaders, and community members, gathered to honor two exceptional individuals. The weekend also celebrated the reopening of the newly expanded William O. Douglas exhibit, made possible by the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation.



2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Cathleen Douglas Stone

Cathleen Douglas Stone, philanthropist, trailblazer, and widow of Justice William O. Douglas, was recognized at the awards ceremony with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement award, honored for decades of dedication to environmental stewardship, civil rights, and community service.



2025 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS LEGACY AWARD JUSTICE NEIL M. GORSUCH

Yakima Justice William O. Douglas was a steadfast advocate for civil liberties, environmental conservation, and judicial independence. Appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1939, Douglas made a great impact on the landscape of the U.S. judicial system, and his legacy continues to shape legal thought and public policy today.

Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch was honored with this year's William O. Douglas Legacy Award for his strong commitment to Native American treaty rights, both during his time on the Tenth Circuit and on the Supreme Court.

ESSAY CONTEST

The annual essay contest challenged students to explore themes of democracy, dissent, and civil liberties, values central to Justice Douglas's judicial philosophy. This year's winning essays demonstrated remarkable insight, connecting historical precedents to contemporary movements and examining how dissent shapes democratic society.



First Place Essay Winners



Audrey Livingston
Eisenhower High School
"Democracy and Dissent: Justice, Journalism, and Civil Disobedience."



Rebeca Gomez
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
"Through the Lens of Dissent: Photography as a Voice of Change."

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

William O. Douglas Legacy Sponsors



Steward of the Wild Sponsors



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Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Janie Plath

Red Into Black

STORIES THAT INSPIRE—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Red Into Black was a night to remember! This year's theme, *Stories That Inspire—Past, Present, and Future*, honored our community's rich heritage and looked forward to future generations, featuring inspiring speeches and performances. Thanks to the generosity of our attendees and sponsors, we raised vital funds for the Yakima Valley Museum.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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A MODEL FOR COLLABORATION: WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE WEST

In March, the Yakima Valley Museum served as the gathering place for one of the year's most critical community conversations. Over 140 community members joined us for a panel discussion on water management in the valley, drawn together by concerns about a potential third consecutive year of drought and a shared commitment to understanding solutions.



The discussion was moderated by Junior Cuevas of Stokes Lawrence Velikanje Moore & Shore, and centered on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, a pioneering water-sharing initiative that represents a new model for the American West. This first-of-its-kind collaboration addresses the interconnected needs of agriculture, municipal infrastructure, environmental conservation, and tribal interests, demonstrating that seemingly opposing groups can work together toward shared goals.

PANELISTS:

- Wendy Christensen, PE, Bureau of Reclamation
- Melissa Downes, Financial and Projects Section Manager, Dept of Ecology
- Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr
- Urban Eberhart, Director, Kittitas Irrigation District
- Sean Gilbert, President, Gilbert Orchards
- Amanda McKinney, Yakima County Commissioner
- Phil Rigdon, Director, Yakama Nation Natural Resources
- Davis Washines, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Panel sponsors included Stokes Lawrence, Washington Department of Ecology, Picatti Bros, and Bureau of Reclamation.

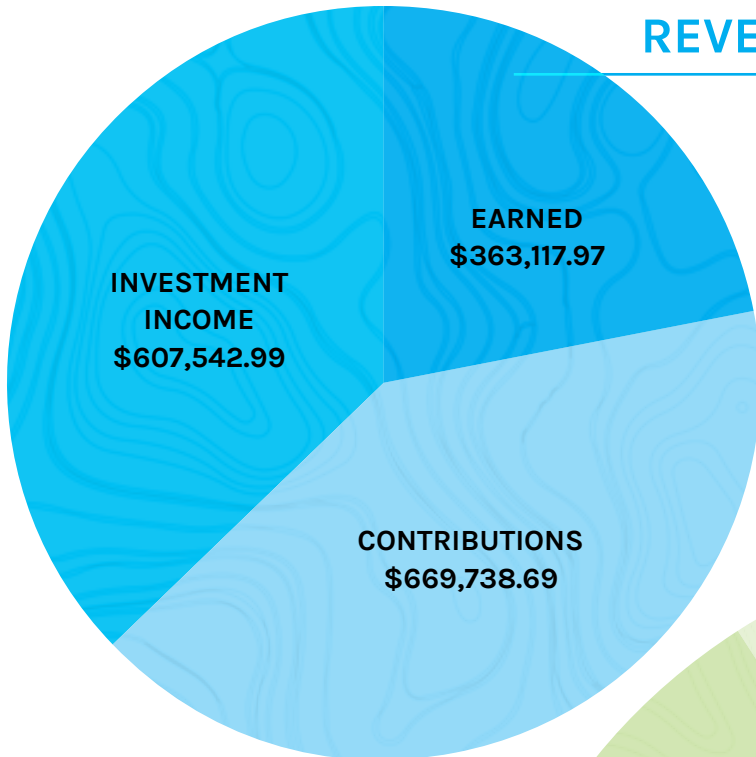


Financial Snapshot

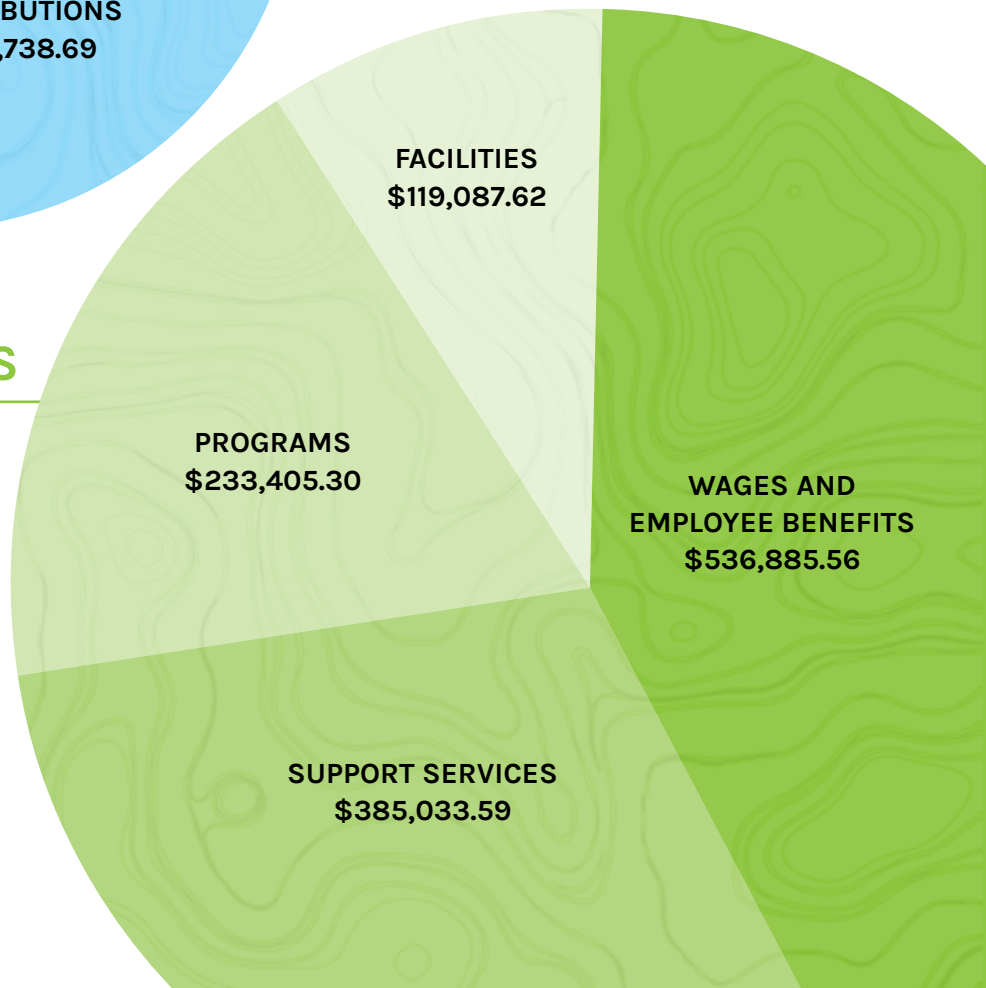


THE YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM'S FISCAL YEAR:
OCTOBER 1, 2024–SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.

REVENUE



EXPENSES





Justice William O. Douglas believed deeply in protecting freedom, civil liberties, and the lands and waters that sustain our communities. The William O. Douglas Legacy Project offers an opportunity to strengthen collaboration with the Yakama Nation and honor the importance of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. By working together, we can ensure that these principles and the voices of Native communities continue to guide decisions that affect this region for generations to come.”

—Davis “Yellowash” Washines



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Our Volunteers

This year, volunteers contributed more than **1,000 hours of service** to the Yakima Valley Museum, an extraordinary show of dedication to preserving and sharing our region’s stories. From warmly welcoming thousands of visitors to providing essential behind-the-scenes support, volunteers were integral to nearly every facet of our work.

For many, volunteering at YVM is a deeply personal connection to history. As longtime volunteer Jo N. Miles shares:

“I have been a volunteer at Yakima Valley Museum since 2007, when I retired from a professional career in public service. YVM has been an ideal part-time vocation for me because it complements my hobby as a history researcher and author.”

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We offer flexible scheduling, complimentary memberships, and more. Submit an application online today: yvmuseum.org/volunteer or call **509.248.0747**.

Our Donors

The Yakima Valley Museum thanks our generous donors, sponsors, and corporate partners, who support our mission, vision, and values every day.

The following list recognizes donors who gave between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

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In 2025, the Yakima Valley Museum unveiled a new logo inspired by Circle Squared, a vibrant neon artwork created in 2000 by Ellensburg-based artist Richard C. “Dick” Elliott. The piece, an interplay of glowing geometric forms, has long been part of the museum’s collection and now serves as a visual symbol of our mission and spirit.




Elliott, who passed away in 2008, spent his career exploring light through reflectors and neon art. He created Circle Squared to encompass unity, the spirit, and human action upon the endless circle of life. His wife, artist Jane Orleman, shared that Dick would have been honored to see his work inspire the museum’s new identity. The couple’s deep connection to YVM continues through their commitment to support the museum’s future.

Our new branding reflects both innovation and continuity, honoring the creative vision that has always been part of our story while looking ahead to the next 75 years.

LEARN MORE:
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VISIT:
2105 Tieton Drive,
Yakima WA 98902
Tuesday-Saturday, 10a-5p

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Help us fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing the history of the Yakima Valley for generations to come by making a donation today at yvmuseum.org/donate.



**YAKIMA VALLEY
MUSEUM**

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