

LEVY FUNDING PRIORITIES

The museum's modest **0.3 mil levy** would generate **\$352,300** annually (for the duration of the 5-year renewable levy) to support the Shaker Historical Museum's mission, according to the Cuyahoga County Auditor's estimation.

For decades, the museum has been operating with a large deficit and thus long-term projects have fallen to the wayside. In an effort to address these overdue needs, the levy revenue would be allocated in three primary ways:



Community Programming

While the museum already offers year-round programming, we are committed to expanding our partnerships with local schools by providing free field trips, in-classroom visits, summer programs, and resources for K-12 history teachers. Levy support will also allow us to host more community-based events, such as oral history projects and neighborhood walking tours, and to strengthen our collaborations with the Shaker Heights Public Library and the City of Shaker Heights.



Exhibits and Collections

The museum's four permanent exhibitions are over 20 years old. With adequate funding, we can redesign these exhibits to be more dynamic, inclusive, and reflective of the full story of Shaker Heights, from the history of Indigenous communities to the present day. The museum also cares for a collection of over 3,000 artifacts and archival materials spanning hundreds of years. Levy funding will support improved collections storage and care, helping us preserve irreplaceable pieces of history for future generations.



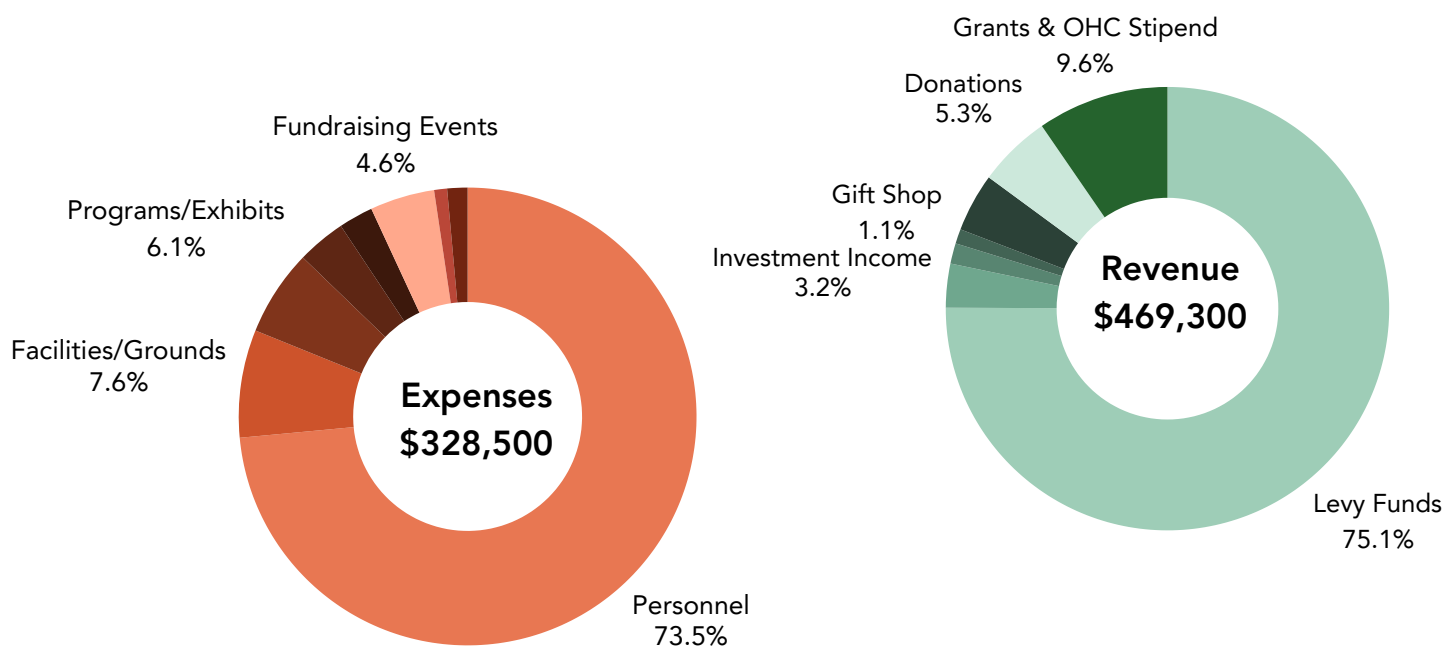
Staff to Sustain the Institution

The museum has been operating with just 2-3 staff members that have to simultaneously be fundraisers, curators, librarians, educators and more to keep this institution running and thriving. With levy support, the museum will hire our first development professional focused on ensuring the organization's operations are sustained in the longterm so that other staff can focus on community programming and preserving our local history.

MODEL BUDGET WITH LEVY SUPPORT

The museum is pursuing a levy not only to ensure our 80-year institution has **stable, sustainable funding** moving forward that eliminates our deficit and allows us to prepare for the future – but to start a new chapter as an organization and expand the services we provide and presence we have in the community.

Below is a model budget with expense and contribution breakdowns for how the museum would expect to operate with levy dollars. The **\$140,800** difference between revenue and expenses would be allocated to addressing the longterm projects mentioned before such as exhibit redesign.



Notes:

- Currently, 15-20% of the museum's investment account is withdrawn each year to cover deficits, which is not sustainable long-term. The Model Budget reflects our goal of only withdrawing 3-4% of investments.
- There was a 66% increase in FTEs from 2019 to 2024 following the pandemic's impact on board and volunteer capacity. The Model Budget reflects our goal of hiring a full-time Development Manager and raising salaries to a living wage to reduce staff turnover.