

Minnesota Landmarks 2025 - 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

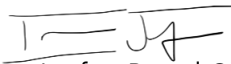
A Note from the Board Chair

I'm grateful for the opportunity this past year to serve as Board Chair for Minnesota Landmarks. This year has been one of steady momentum—financially, programmatically, and in the strength of our partnerships. We've seen continued enthusiasm for our events, including another successful *Once Upon a Time Gala*, and a growing engagement from the community we serve. It's especially encouraging to witness how Landmark Center remains a gathering place where history, culture, and connection come together in meaningful ways.

I want to extend sincere appreciation to Ramsey County for its ongoing support. Their investment reflects a shared belief in the importance of preserving this historic space and ensuring it remains accessible and vibrant for future generations.

I'm continually inspired by the dedication of our Board and Staff. Their commitment, creativity, and care for this organization make all of this work possible. Together, we are not only maintaining a historic building—we are sustaining a living, evolving community asset.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the opportunities before us. We will continue to build on our strong foundation, deepen our community connections, and ensure that Landmark Center remains a cornerstone of Saint Paul's cultural life. Thank you for your continued support for all Landmark Center offers to our community.



Imani Jaafar, Board Chair

Dear Friends of Landmark,

It's spring at Landmark Center, and everything feels fresh and new! In mid-April, Jenni's Café opened in the building after an extensive café facelift. It has brought new energy to the first floor. We're very pleased to welcome Joe and Jen Ruhland, the café owners, to the vitality of Landmark Center and the Rice Park neighborhood. Over the summer, we will be redesigning the café seating area as well - watch for a grand opening celebration this fall!

The 2026 Urban Expedition season ended this May with a beautiful, vibrant visit to Cambodia presented with the Cambodian American Partnership of Minnesota (CAPMN). Earlier Urban Expeditions this season were rearranged due to the presence of ICE in the Twin Cities, which created concerns for us and our partnering communities. Landmark Center is intended to be a safe, welcoming space for all people. Luckily, we were able to present all five expeditions and the third annual Mosaic Festival.

You'll see in the Annual Report how hard our staff, volunteers and board have worked to fulfill the mission of Landmark Center - kudos to our team for a good year! We are excited to present a full calendar of summer events including a look back to the 1976 Bicentennial in an exhibit highlighting our role as the official planning agency for the Saint Paul-Ramsey Bicentennial Celebration. This North Gallery exhibit will be on view in July and August as part of the 250th U.S. anniversary commemoration and will feature the restoration of Landmark Center. Put a visit (or two) on your calendar, we look forward to seeing you at Landmark Center!



Amy Mino, Executive Director



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Community Programs

Community Programs enjoyed **another season of growth** and greeted hundreds of new attendees. We kicked the summer off with three of our ever-popular Climb to the Top tours which welcomed over 1,000 people! The fall brought anniversary celebrations of both the Vietnamese and Hmong communities commemorating 50 years in Minnesota. Our concert series Landmark Live had a successful year with nearly sold-out attendance for all three shows. The Holiday Bazaar also enjoyed an increase in turnout with over 3,000 attendees joining us for the three-day market. Our Urban Expedition series continues to be a staple of our season, offering a valuable opportunity to **collaborate with local community** organizations and deliver authentic cultural experiences. We were thrilled to showcase four **new partnerships** this year with Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, and Dakota Homeland. We are very excited about our upcoming summer season featuring five impressive young musicians for our Music on the Cortile series and exciting updates to our tour program including afternoon options and even more chances to visit the North Tower.



"Such a huge variety of activities - something for everyone, especially hands-on activities for children. Overall, I love the celebrations of cultures so we can all learn what makes each other unique and the rich traditions from the many immigrants in our community."

-Urban Expedition Attendee

2025-2026 Sundays at Landmark Season

Making it Home: From Việt Nam to Minnesota; Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, Saint Paul Civic Symphony Concert (3), Great Pumpkin Halloween Festival, Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra Concert, Santa's Workshop, Minnesota Boychoir Winter Concert, Urban Expedition (Dakota Homeland, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, Cambodia), Mosaic Festival: Dance and Music of World Cultures, Taiko Arts Midwest's Ensō Daiko, An Irish Day of Dance, Skylark Opera Theatre, BandWidth Community Band Festival

Visual Arts Experiences

North Gallery Exhibits: *Making It Home: From Việt Nam to Minnesota* by Phuoc Thi Ming Tran and the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota; *Synthetic Streams* by Erik Jon Olson; *Irish of Minnesota* by Tom Dunn; COMPAS Emerging Young Artists 2026 Juried Student Art Show; *Art with a Purpose: Living Waters* by Brian Poulton

Special Landmark Programs & Collaborative Partnerships

Music on the Cortile (4); Landmark Live (3); Ballet Tuesdays (5); History Play: *Not in our Neighborhood*; Holiday Bazaar; MSP International Film Festival (MSPIFF); Hmong Committee of 100 (HC100); Weather Talks with Dr. Mark Seeley (2), one with Cathy Wurzer; Landmark Center Volunteer Association (LCVA) (10)

Building & Specialty Tours

The Landmark Center Volunteer Association (LCVA) toured over 760 guests on 66 tours in 2025, including free public building tours, summer walking tours, and private group tours. Our ongoing partnership with Schubert Club and American Association of Woodturners enhances many group tours, providing guests with truly immersive experiences.

Landmark Center History Play

The annual Landmark Center History Play, *Not in our Neighborhood*, told the story of 1924 Saint Paul residents Nellie and William Francis, prominent African American leaders, who confronted violent opposition after moving into an all-white neighborhood. This powerful play, presented in October 2025, honored their courage and lasting fight for justice. We truly appreciate the hard work of this all-volunteer cast and their dedication to the retelling of this important story which was originally presented at Landmark in 2019.



Our Partners

The foundation of Landmark Center programming is built on partnerships.

Alongside resident organizations within the building, we partner with a multitude of groups and organizations who provide expertise for authentic, captivating programs and help engage new community members. Key partners during the 2025–2026 season included Ballet Co. Laboratory, Blue Hummingbird Woman, Cambodian American Partnership of Minnesota, Ethnic Dance Theatre, Global Minnesota, Irish Arts Minnesota, KFAI, Lex-Ham Community Band (BandWidth), Minnesota Boychoir, Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, Minnesota’s Caribbean American Cultural Center, Minnesota-Uruguay Partners of the Americas, Phuoc Thi Ming Tran and the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota, Saint Paul Civic Symphony, Schubert Club, Skylark Opera Theatre, Star of the North Concert Band, and Ukrainian American Community Center.



Weddings & Private Events

In 2025, the Minnesota Landmarks Events office successfully executed 325 events with over 25,000 attendees. Of these, in a significant increase, almost 49% came from Ramsey County while 43% came from other parts of Minnesota, and 7% from out of state. Events’ revenue was even stronger than last year, ending the year at 14% over budget! We maintain a robust rating of 4.8 out of 5 on The Knot and a 5 out of 5 rating on Zola, two of our most valuable wedding outlets. Additionally, we were once again nominated for “Best Historic Venue” for Minnesota Bride’s Best of 2025 Awards!

Building Maintenance & Restoration

We were pleased to welcome new janitorial staff to the building in 2025. There was also a recent shift in maintenance leadership, with Steven Dirckx assuming the role of Building Superintendent. The Maintenance Department had a demanding year readying the building for the busy program and events calendar and keeping up with numerous capital projects. There were essential repairs made to the mansard roof, restoration of interior marble stairs, the café build-out and opening, and several mechanical replacements and upgrades that keep Landmark Center running smoothly for all its visitors. Thank you, Ramsey County, for providing capital funding for these important improvements, and to the Property Management Department for their guidance and support!

LCVA

Instrumental to the function of Landmark Center and its programs, the Landmark Center Volunteer Association (LCVA), comprised of 34 active members in 2025, donated 3,186 hours of service to our mission. These hours have a wage equivalency benefit of \$110,840.94 (as calculated by independentsector.org). Our volunteers and their dedication truly shine in the help they provide throughout the year. They staffed the Visitor Information Center daily and helped welcome over 168,000 guests to the building. Additionally they opened the Gift Shop (operating more hours), led tours, and provided support and resources for over 25 programs, including our Summer Walking Tours, Urban Expeditions, and the Holiday Bazaar: a three-day event with multiple shifts per day! They continue to make friendship and fellowship an important component of our volunteer program, creating strong retention and a positive space for new members who wish to get more involved. **Volunteers remain one of our greatest community partners.**



2025 Annual Campaign & Cairo Gala

Thank you to our "Friends of Landmark Center," whose contributions play a vital role in making Landmark Center an accessible and welcoming space for all. No matter what brings you through our doors, our continued success remains possible thanks to the strength of our community support network.

For the 13th annual *Once Upon a Time Gala*, guests "traveled" to the sandy city of Cairo, Egypt. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, the Gala raised over \$95,000 to support Landmark Center's free and affordable community arts, education, and cultural programs.

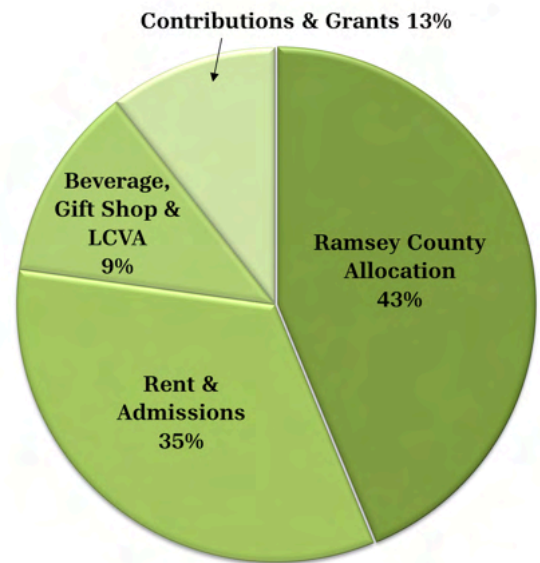
This year, we look forward to welcoming guests to join us as we step into the timeless glow of Tokyo, Japan for the **14th annual Gala to be held on Friday, November 6th, 2026.**



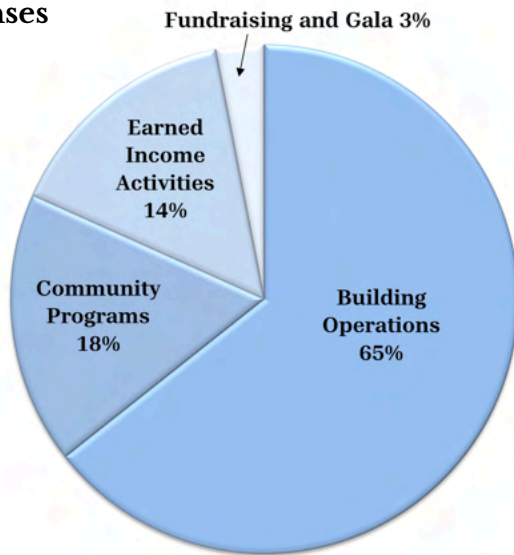
2025 Operating Financials

Revenue & Support		
Ramsey County Allocation	\$ 1,198,461	43%
Rent & Admissions	952,652	35%
Beverage, Gift Shop & LCVA	261,324	9%
Contributions & Grants	345,857	13%
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 2,758,294	100%

Revenue & Support



Expenses




Expenses

Building Operations	\$ 1,782,660	65%
Community Programs	499,818	18%
Earned Income Activities	382,033	14%
Fundraising and Gala	93,783	3%
Total Expenses	\$ 2,758,294	100%



Mission

Minnesota Landmarks preserves and manages Landmark Center as a dynamic gathering place that celebrates the cultural diversity and collective history of the community. We envision a more connected and inclusive community, with a vibrant Landmark Center as its cultural heart. Landmark Center is owned and supported by  RAMSEY COUNTY

Thank you to our generous supporters over the past year, who helped us further our mission at Landmark Center. To make a contribution to our public programs, please visit: landmarkcenter.org/support-us

