



ANNUAL REPORT



Building Understanding. Inspiring Action.

FISCAL YEAR
2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year was one of meaningful momentum for the Maltz Museum. Together with our members, donors, partners, volunteers, and community, we expanded opportunities for learning, dialogue, and connection in ways that continue to strengthen our mission.

Through three remarkable exhibitions—*El Sueño Americano: The American Dream*, *The Bias Inside Us*, and *Icons in Ink: The Jewish Comics Experience*—we welcomed new audiences and created dynamic partnerships that brought history, culture, and contemporary conversations to life. Our **Stop the Hate®** initiative continued to grow through impactful collaborations with schools across Northeast Ohio and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), empowering students and educators to build empathy, confront bias, and foster understanding.

We were also honored to present the **2026 Maltz Museum Heritage Award** to Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD, Chief Executive Officer and President of Cleveland Clinic and Morton L. Mandel CEO Chair. The award recognized his extraordinary leadership and commitment to improving lives through compassion, innovation, and service.

The future of the Maltz Museum is already taking shape. Construction is now underway on a transformational redevelopment of the final gallery in our core exhibition, *An American Story*. This new immersive gallery experience will preserve and build upon meaningful elements of the existing exhibition while introducing new stories, interactive technology, and opportunities for reflection that connect the lessons of Jewish history to the choices we make today. The gallery will also extend the impact of **Stop the Hate®**, encouraging visitors to consider their own responsibility to confront hate, stand up for others, and create positive change in their communities.

Thank you for believing in the power of the Museum to inspire understanding, strengthen community, and build a more compassionate future. We are grateful to have you with us as we look toward all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Renee Chelm".

Renee Chelm
Chair, Board of Trustees



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aaron Petersal".

Aaron Petersal
Executive Director

This year we welcomed new audiences, launched a bold strategic vision, and created experiences that strengthened understanding across our community.



EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES ACTION

At the Maltz Museum, education is about more than learning history—it's about helping people see the world, and one another, in new ways.

This year, students, teachers, and community members experienced firsthand how powerful those moments can be. After a school field trip, one teacher shared that students moved from surprise and curiosity to empathy and personal reflection, adding, **"I've never before left late from a field trip because students did not want to leave."** Another student remarked, **"I'd come to school more if we did more things like this."**

That same spirit of learning leading to action was evident at our Heritage Award Gala, where Stop the Hate® essay contest winner Manasvi Gurajala's powerful words about advocating for people experiencing homelessness inspired a guest to establish a permanent family gift supporting John Carroll University's Labre Project.

Whether in our galleries, classrooms, or community programs, these moments remind us that education has the power to change perspectives, inspire compassion, and motivate meaningful action.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR...

4,886 middle and high school students

from **164 schools** participated in our Stop the Hate® program.

2,398 students

attended workshops that inspired young writers, poets, and songwriters.

1,258 students

engaged in meaningful conversations about prejudice and inclusion.

6,221 people

visited the Museum free of charge through community access initiatives.

533 teachers

brought empathy-based learning into their classrooms.

4,473 students

experienced life-changing Museum programs.



More than **12,400 visitors** explored our special exhibitions.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP | BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH COLLABORATION

The Maltz Museum's mission comes to life through partnerships that bring people together around history, culture, and the issues shaping our world today. This year, collaborations with dozens of organizations helped transform our exhibitions into community-wide experiences that inspired dialogue, learning, and connection.

El Sueño Americano: The American Dream explored immigration, identity, and belonging through partnerships with the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Global Cleveland, Jewtina y Co., and many other community organizations. Together, we created meaningful opportunities for audiences to reflect on the diverse stories that shape the American experience.

With *The Bias Inside Us*, developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, we partnered with The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio to present community conversations, educational programs, and experiences that encouraged visitors to examine unconscious bias, foster empathy, and strengthen understanding across differences.

Our partnership with the Siegel & Shuster Society brought *Icons in Ink: The Jewish Comics Experience* to life through the "Summer of Superheroes"—a season of author talks, film screenings, family programs, workshops, and a two-day Icons Fest. Together with partners including Cleveland Public Library and Cedar Lee Theatre, we celebrated Cleveland's comic book legacy while welcoming new audiences through the universal power of storytelling.

Each of these collaborations reflects our belief that lasting impact is created when organizations, educators, artists, and community leaders work together. By building strong partnerships, we're expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and creating spaces where every visitor can learn, connect, and belong.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

- Cedar Lee Theatre
- Cleveland Public Library
- Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Global Cleveland
- Jewtina y Co.
- The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio
- Siegel & Shuster Society
- Schools, artists, educators, and dozens of community organizations throughout Northeast Ohio

Together, we're building
bridges of understanding that
extend far beyond the Museum.

MALTZ MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Trustees list current as of June 30, 2026

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Aaron Petersal, Maltz Museum
Gail Greenberg, Friends of the Maltz Museum
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, Congregation Mishkan Or
Erika Rudin-Luria, Jewish Federation of Cleveland



Learn more about how **you**
can make a difference in
our community!

Dayan Gross
dgross@mmjh.org
216-593-0570

HONORING OUR DONORS

The following pages recognize the generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations whose cumulative annual giving, including memberships, totaled \$250 or more during the fiscal year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

We are deeply grateful for every gift, regardless of size, and for the vital role our supporters play in advancing the Maltz Museum's mission. Every effort has been made to ensure this listing is accurate. If you notice an error or omission, please contact the Development Department at 216-593-0570 so we may promptly update our records.

\$100,000 & Above

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
The Milton and Tamar
Maltz Family Foundation
The Semi J. and Ruth W.
Begun Foundation*
State of Ohio

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Cleveland Clinic
Milton and Tamar Maltz

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland Browns
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The Elton and Joan Katz Foundation
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Audrey and Albert Ratner
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\$10,000 to \$24,999

Chelm Family Foundation*
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Cleveland Museum of Art
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Zelman Family Foundation*
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\$5,000 to \$9,999

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\$2,500 to \$4,999

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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**Indicates a fund of the Jewish Federation of
Cleveland*

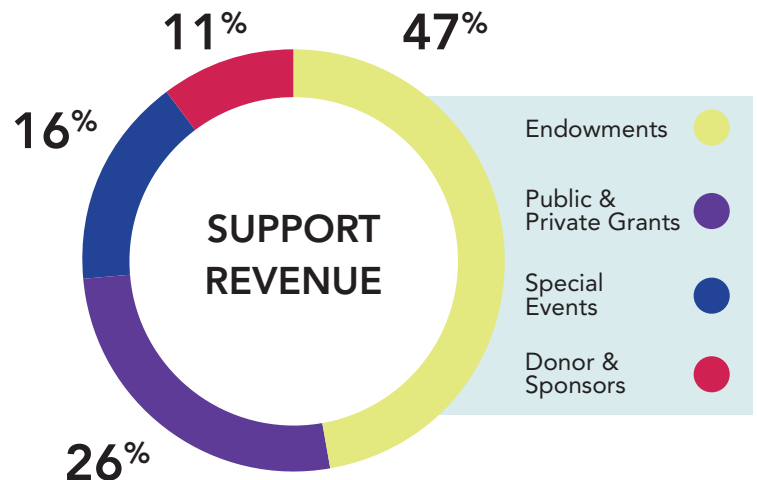
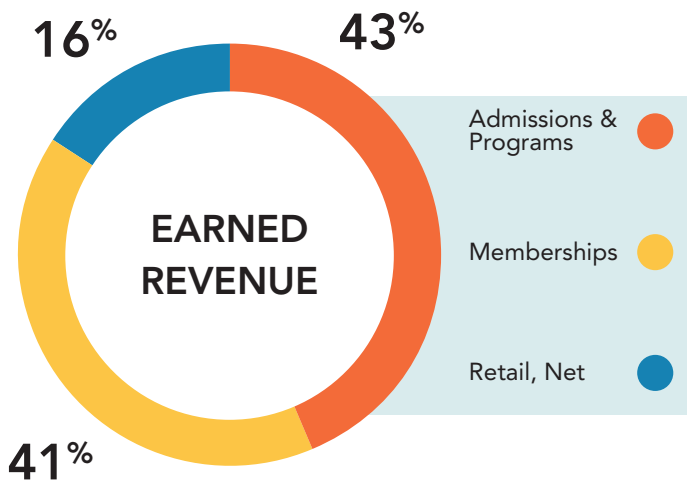
Our strongest exhibitions don't end at the gallery doors—they spark conversations, strengthen partnerships, and bring communities together.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE

for fiscal year 2026 was \$3,331,000



Capital Project Support for
Gallery Experiences: \$1,000,000

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

for fiscal year 2026 was \$3,562,000



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Your support helped us:

- Inspire thousands of visitors
- Expand educational programming
- Bring nationally recognized exhibitions to Cleveland
- Grow partnerships across Northeast Ohio
- Launch a new strategic vision for the Museum

The Maltz Museum is generously funded by:



**Financial information presented is preliminary and unaudited. Subject to change.*

Upcoming Exhibitions

Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try

October 18, 2026 -
January 27, 2027

Boris Lurie,
In Concentration Camp, 1971



Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See

February 28, 2027 -
May 30, 2027

Join us for what's next. Explore upcoming exhibitions, programs, and events at www.maltzmuseum.org.

Scan for more
information
on upcoming
exhibitions!



LOOKING AHEAD | A NEW IMMERSIVE GALLERY EXPERIENCE

One of the most exciting chapters in the Maltz Museum's history is now underway.

Construction has begun on a new immersive gallery experience of the Museum's permanent exhibition, ***The Jewish Experience in Northeast Ohio – An American Story***. With private and public support, this landmark project represents a major investment in the future of the Museum and its mission.

As the culminating experience of the permanent exhibition, the new gallery will preserve and build upon meaningful elements of the Museum's current exhibition while introducing new stories, experiences, and opportunities for engagement. The gallery will connect the lessons of Jewish history with the enduring values of courage, leadership, compassion, and civic responsibility.

Through immersive multimedia, interactive technology, and opportunities for personal reflection—including a dedicated connection to the Museum's Stop the Hate® program—visitors will encounter individuals whose actions have strengthened our communities and inspired positive change. Together, these experiences will encourage visitors to consider their own role in standing up to hate, creating positive change, and making a meaningful difference in the world today.

We are deeply grateful to the foundations, public partners, Trustees, and supporters whose vision and generosity have made this transformational project possible.

