



The **ARNOLD**  
**ARBORETUM**  
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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and Arnold Professor of Organismic  
and Evolutionary Biology*  
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October 31, 2024

Dear Friends,

As another momentous year for the Arnold Arboretum closes, I write to share some highlights of our accomplishments, financial health, and future plans. The Arnold Arboretum's three-part mission—a scholarly mission, a conservation mission, and a civic mission—only succeeds through the generous support and continuing confidence of members and donors like you.

**In fiscal year 2024, the Arboretum made significant progress in our sesquicentennial vision to promote equity in our landscape and to combat global change and plant extinction, primarily through your philanthropic cooperation.** In our effort to make the Arboretum more open and inclusive, we secured a substantial donation to renovate the Poplar Gate entrance to Peters Hill and started raising funds toward the Washington Street entrance—a project that will transform these key entrances to the Arboretum, making our landscape more welcoming and accessible to Environmental Justice neighborhoods around our perimeter. To help us preserve biodiversity and protect threatened species globally, we have renewed our commitment to active seed collecting both domestically and internationally—work made possible through key partnerships in Korea, Japan, and China, as well as the United States.

Private support has also enabled the Arboretum to fund major structural repairs to the Hunnewell Building, a National Historic Landmark which houses our visitor center, library, and other critical operations. This comprehensive masonry, window, and roof restoration effort represents the first major renovations to our museum building in more than a quarter century and will help preserve this educational resource for decades to come. In the landscape, our 2023 Hunnewell Interns—funded by donor support since 2003—completed a magnificent restoration of the Bridle Path between Meadow Road and the Leventritt Garden, and our 2024 cohort began a transformational project to extend the Explorers Garden and refine collections on the eastern slope of Bussey Hill. We also were delighted to work with a donor to create a new endowed fund to support our high school horticulture training program.

Our ability to preserve our collections in the face of an extended drought this past summer was helped immeasurably by irrigation systems installed across our historical landscape and Peters Hill in recent years, a visionary plan to preserve our treasured collections funded entirely by donors who care about our trees and the health of the landscape they enrich.

Thanks to philanthropic support we were able to secure essential funding to start planning the expansion of irrigation to our historic collections along Meadow Road.

***The Arnold Arboretum only exists through the support of people like you and generations of members and donors who have invested in our mission.*** The entire enterprise is supported by philanthropy—all the Arboretum’s revenue comes from gifts, membership, and payouts from our endowments. An increase in donations since the start of the Sesquicentennial Campaign has enabled the Arboretum to plan and think more boldly about how to serve the City of Boston, Harvard University, and the world. Thoughtful philanthropy from donors like you, reflected in the attached FY2024 financial statement, has allowed us to make the critical and transformative investments described in this letter. Please note that while the Arboretum’s revenue is significantly higher than previous years, substantial capital and operational income is reserved for projects in a future year. As we continue to implement our ambitious vision, and as conserving and expanding a world-class plant collection becomes more challenging in the face of global ecological change, we are grateful to you and our entire community for stepping up to help us meet the demands of the present and of the future.

**Building on this trajectory of support in 2025 will allow us to continue to make a difference in our landscape, in our community, and in the Earth we share.** This includes embarking on the third and final phase of our emergency drought mitigation infrastructure, extending the progress of our Entrance Improvement Project to our entrances at Washington Street and Walter Street, creating new opportunities for early career researchers, and funding the fourth year of summer science instruction for middle school students in Boston Public Schools. With your help, we look forward to making the Arnold Arboretum a more beautiful, enriching, and inspiring environment for everyone.

**Your belief in our mission and contributions as a supporter help us immeasurably as we endeavor to make the Arnold Arboretum more responsive to the challenges of our time and more consequential in the lives of both plants and people.** I am overwhelmingly grateful to you and to our cherished community of members and donors for believing in the Arnold Arboretum and our shared responsibility to preserve, illuminate, and celebrate Earth’s essential biodiversity. To view our full list of FY24 donors, visit [arboretum.harvard.edu/support/donors-fy2024](https://arboretum.harvard.edu/support/donors-fy2024).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

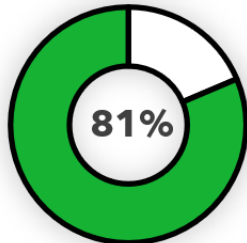
William (Ned) Friedman  
Director of the Arnold Arboretum  
Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
Harvard University

The Arnold Arboretum. Open Every Day. Free Every Day. [Thanks to our members and donors.](#)



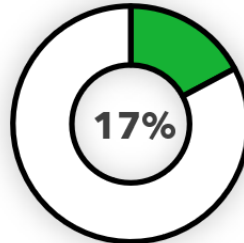
## Income Sources

Endowment Income  
from past philanthropy



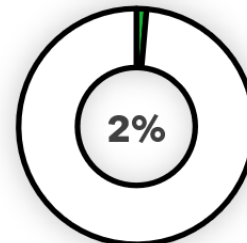
\$16,729,493

Fundraising Income  
from current philanthropy



\$3,540,360

Other

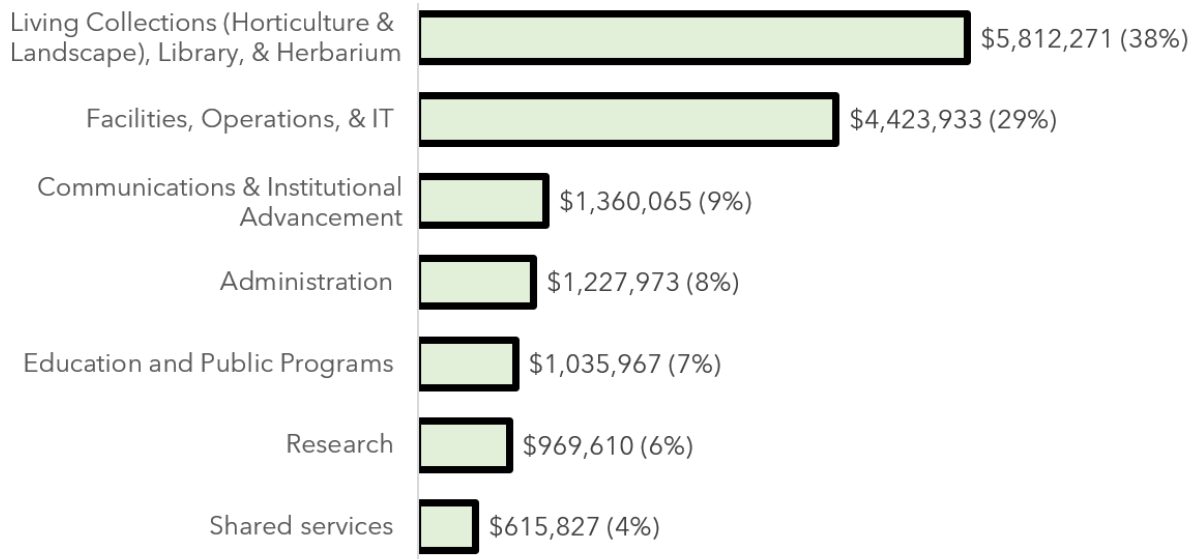


\$286,900

Total Operating Income: \$20,556,753  
Capital & Non-Operating: \$2,585,053

**Total Income** **\$23,141,805**

## Operating Expenses



Total Operating Expenses: \$15,445,647  
Capital Expenses: \$2,732,683

**Total Expenses** **\$18,178,331**

## Total Income vs. Expenses

**\$23,141,805**

Income

**\$18,178,331**

Expenses

**\$4,963,475**

Net Cash

*significantly reserved for  
future use*

*Net Cash reflects funds restricted for future use, including \$2.6M in construction gifts for future capital projects and \$1.7M in gifts earmarked for future operational projects and initiatives.*