

October

2024

THE CLERESTORY

AAIM
Attleboro Area Industrial Museum

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Special thanks to the many volunteers and interns that have helped the Museum carry out its mission.

It is the mission of the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, Inc. (AAIM) to collect and preserve the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, tools, and machinery that relate to the industrial history of the Attleboro area; to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment; and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the industrial history of the Attleboro area, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present and inspiration for the future.

From the Director's Desk

A look back on the year.

I can hardly believe it's been over a year since I joined the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum! It's been a whirlwind of meeting community members, hosting events, building partnerships, and, yes, figuring out where all the light switches are. Each week has been an incredible challenge as I work to carry forward AAIM's nearly 50-year history.

One question I'm often asked is, "Why museums? What brought you to AAIM?" For me, museums are like time machines. How incredible is it to be inches away from an 18th-century button, a symbol of Attleboro's industrial beginnings? Or the very desk Lloyd G. Balfour oversaw his legacy company from. These artifacts aren't just awe-inspiring, they remind me of our responsibility to preserve and share Attleboro's history with future generations. Over the past year, I've learned a lot about about Attleboro's past - and its vibrant present. I've



grown incredibly proud of AAIM's work and my role in it. but we are just getting started. If we haven't met yet, I hope to change that soon! Stop by, check out our exhibits, join a volunteer group, or just say hello! Here's to many more years of sharing our story together!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Antonucci'.

Victoria Antonucci, Executive Director



42 Union Street and Beyond

Here's what AAIM has been up to

There's always something happening at AAIM, from building upgrades and collection restorations, to collaborating with the community on various events. The work is never truly finished, and we are grateful to everyone who helps make it all possible!



The museum is housed in a 125 year old building, which means there is a lot of upkeep. Thanks to the generous support of the **Balfour Foundation**, AAIM made several improvements.

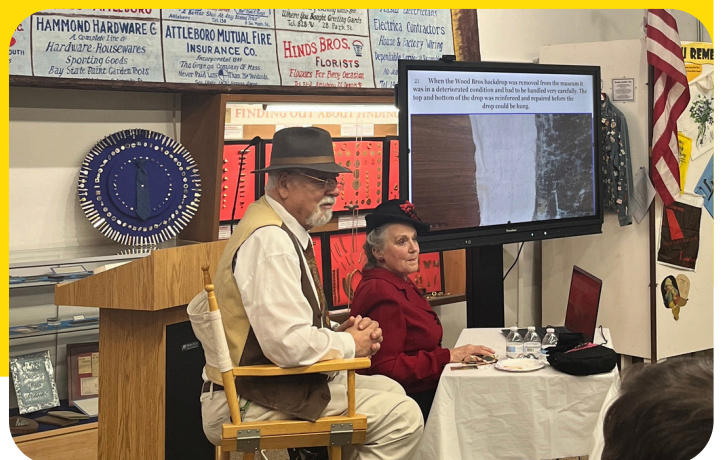
The windows in the clerestory were replaced, the entrance ramp was improved for wheelchair accessibility, a new storage space was added, and more! AAIM is ready for 2025.



Preservation work is vital to ensure the museum's collections remain safe and intact. It is a constant battle against the elements (moisture, light exposure, pests, etc.).



in 2024 AAIM was able to restore two theater curtains that feature local businesses from the 1930s and 1940s. Thanks to the **Attleboro Cultural Council** for supporting this project.





AAIM and one of its volunteers each received an award from the Attleboro Historic Commission for preservation work (May, 2024).

AAIM hosts monthly presentations focused on the history of Attleboro and industry. Richard Foster presented on Attleboro's involvement in the Civil War (May, 2024).



The Balfour Gold Dusters held their annual luncheon at AAIM celebrating their years of work at the Balfour Company (June, 2024).

AAIM proudly partners with other organizations that share similar missions. The Attleboro Historic Preservation Society often hosts events at AAIM (June, 2024).



The museum hosts educational programming at events throughout the city. AAIM organized a STEM activity at the Union Theater Block Party (September, 2024).

STEM at AAIM

A New Generation of Industrialists

by Niko Feeney



This year, the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum has seen great success with our STEM program. **We are happy to announce that we hosted 12 unique STEM events in the past year, reaching over 500 students from our local community!** Our goal with the STEM program is to bridge the gap between first-hand experiences within the STEM fields and Attleboro's (not-so-distant) past. We are working to cultivate a relationship between the area's industrial history and the growing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields surrounding us in everyday life. Our program exposes students to STEM skills that can give them a head start, by providing them first-hand experience working with robotics, computer programming, circuitry, and 3D printing.

The staff is learning just as much as the students we have had join us, and we are always looking for ways to improve our curriculum and outreach to the community. We added two brand new exciting programs to our STEM collection: 3D Printing and Computer Programming, both of which have been met with great excitement and success.



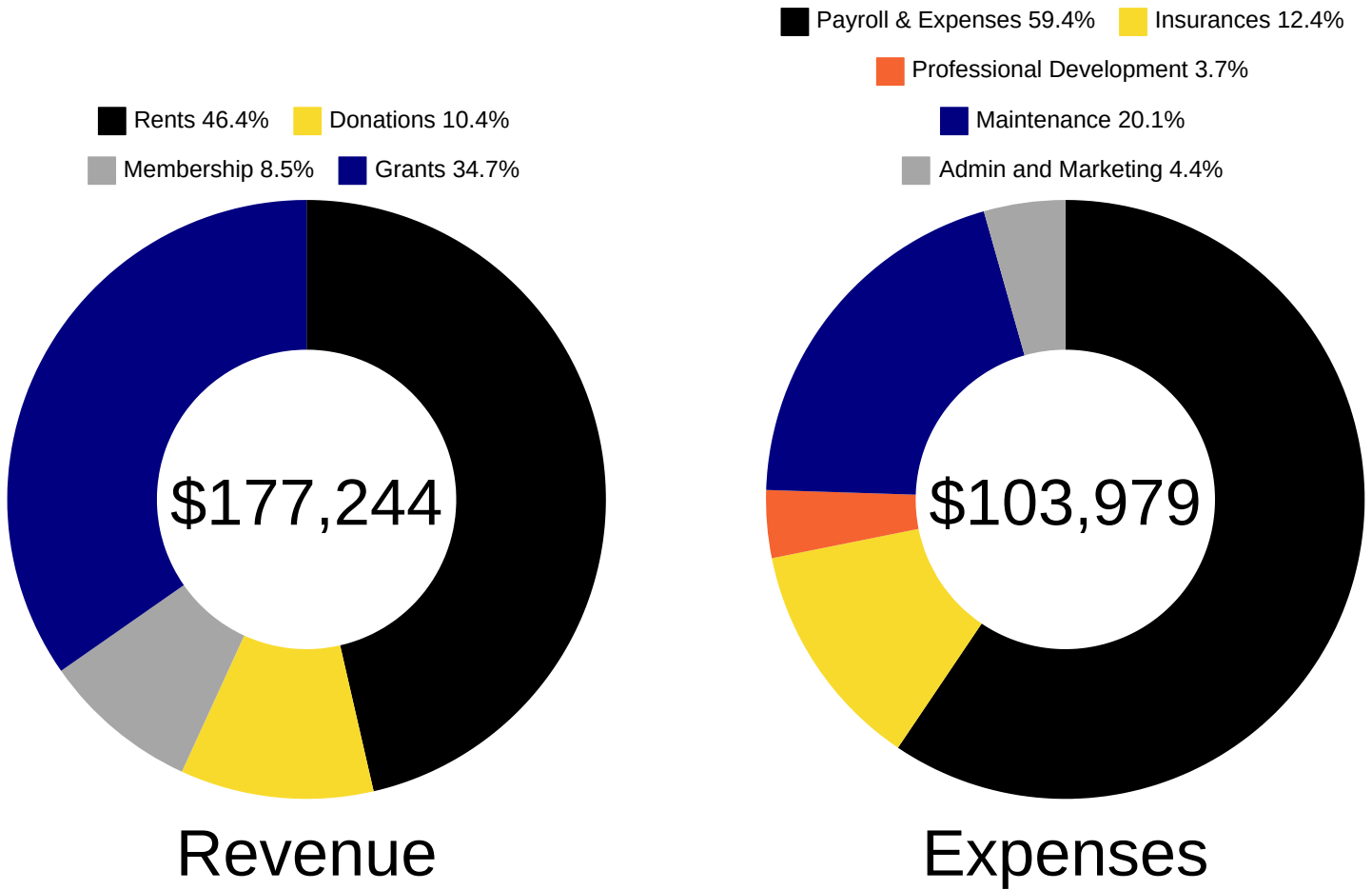
Scan here to learn more about AAIM's STEM education programs, or reach out to education@industrialmuseum.com

AAIM would like to recognize the generous support of the Fred M. Roddy Foundation and Sensata Technologies, whose support has made it possible to continue expanding STEM program and its impact on the local community.

S T E M
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

AT
AAIM

FY24 Financial Overview



For the fiscal year from May 2022 through April 2024, the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum raised \$177,244, with the majority of our revenue coming from rental income and grants. However, we saw a significant decrease in individual contributions and membership dues. The museum's total expenditures were \$103,979, with payroll and associated costs being the largest expense, which was anticipated due to staff changes. Our second largest costs were insurance and building maintenance. Despite these challenges, the museum remains in good financial standing, allowing us to continue offering valuable programs and exhibits. Moving forward, we aim to diversify our funding sources and increase community support to ensure the long-term sustainability of our mission. We are deeply grateful to our members, donors, and partners for their ongoing contributions.

Thank You to our Supporters

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Attleboro Historic-
-Preservation Society
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Riverbank Associates
Sensata Technologies
South Attleboro Lions Club
Southeastern Mass. Visitors Bureau

If you are interested in supporting AAIM please visit industrialmuseum.com or call 508-222-3918

Collections Corner

Bringing our collections to life

This year we received several new donations, including a handbag from Whiting & Davis, original artist drafts of Super Bowl rings produced by Balfour Jewelers, a restored phone and switchboard from London's Department Store (soon to be an interactive exhibit), and portraits of influential businessmen. These additions help preserve the industrial and artistic legacy of our city.



However, we're always on the lookout for more than just objects—we need the stories behind them. If you or someone you know has worked in one of Attleboro's industries, we encourage you to stop by and share your story. It is the personal histories behind these items that brings them to life.



New cases have been added, existing displays refreshed, items restored, and we're partnering with other organizations for rotating exhibits. Finally, we are updating our collections system to improve accessibility for both staff and the public.

If you'd like to get involved or support our work, please reach out to us!

Preparing for AAIM's Future

50 years down, decades to go

As we approach July 2025, the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum is preparing to celebrate a major milestone—**our 50th anniversary!** For half a century, AAIM has been dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories, artifacts, and innovations that shaped Attleboro's rich industrial history. **But 50 years is just the beginning.** Looking ahead we are more committed than ever to growing our community, expanding our programming, and deepening our impact. We aim to further engage with schools, local businesses, and families, bringing Attleboro's industrial legacy to life for future generations. **And we need your help!**

Join us in making sure AAIM continues to be a hub of discovery and learning. **Your support is critical to ensuring the museum thrives** for the next 50 years and beyond. Together, we can preserve the legacy of Attleboro's industrial history and inspire generations to come.



*Scan here to make a donation or call
508-222-3918
to learn how you can support our work.*



GET INVOLVED

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for our biweekly eNews to learn about upcoming events, programs, highlights, and more!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@industrialmuseum)

VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for volunteers to engage with visitors, assist with collections maintenance, help out with events, and become community partners. Visit industrialmuseum.com/volunteer to stop by the museum to learn more about how you can get involved.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Become a member - your support not only builds out community but allows us to continue our work. Looking to support a specific program or exhibition? Reach out to director@industrialmuseum.com today to learn how your contribution can make an impact.

Visit

Thursday - Friday: 10 am - 4 pm / Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm

Free admission. Tours \$4/person. Donations welcome.

