



# BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Annual Report 2024

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## Letter from the Director



Two years have passed since we unveiled our renovated spaces. Each day, in these reimagined and revitalized rooms, I see members forming stronger connections with each other and with the Athenaeum. I've watched with delight as members and visitors explore our collections and discover peaceful spots for reflection throughout the building. Our role as a place that encourages intellectual exploration and fosters meaningful relationships is stronger than ever.

Selecting a single favorite moment from an Athenaeum year filled with remarkable encounters is difficult. At the opening of *Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums*, I met the current holder of the scholarship that Harriet Hayden established at Harvard Medical School in 1893. Speaking with this modern beneficiary illuminated Hayden's foresight in creating opportunities that would extend into the 21st century. Experiences like this reinforce my belief in the Athenaeum's role in bringing our city's history and stories to life. While the entire exhibition was exceptional, meeting that student and witnessing the lasting impact of Harriet Hayden's legacy left a profound impression on me.

The year brought numerous other memorable moments. Our Member Appreciation Week in May was wildly successful, bringing many people back to the building who hadn't visited the Athenaeum in years. We also welcomed more than 2,000 people

during our September Community Day. There was so much enthusiasm that 53 visitors signed up for memberships on the spot.

Folio, which opened in late June, has exceeded our expectations. In its first six months, it has fulfilled our shared vision of a space for members to enjoy a meal while simultaneously introducing potential new members to our beloved institution.

We've made progress on our financial projections for fiscal year 2024 through steady membership growth and dedicated fundraising. Thanks to our donors' continued generosity, our Annual Fund raised 107% of last year's goal. This support, combined with welcoming 1,365 new members, is helping us navigate budget challenges. The strength of our community's commitment remains our foundation for the future.

This year, we welcomed two new Trustees. On behalf of the Trustees and the staff, I want to express gratitude to George B. Raine and Annie MacLachlan Lewis for joining the Athenaeum's Board.

At a recent member gathering, many praised the Athenaeum's staff for their friendliness and competence. Whether helping someone find their next great read, tracking down a reference, or connecting members with shared interests, the Athenaeum staff strives to go above and beyond. I'm deeply proud of our team and delighted you appreciate them, too. This warmth and dedication make every Athenaeum visit special.

This year, I hope you will join a discussion group, view an exhibition, enjoy a concert, attend a member mixer, or visit Folio for a glass of wine. We would love to see you soon!

Leah Rosovsky  
Stanford Calderwood Director



## Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums

The Boston Athenaeum's exhibition *Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums* (March–June 2024) revealed the power of personal photography in 19th-century Black activism. At its heart were two albums containing 87 portrait photographs collected by Harriet Bell Hayden (1816–1893), a self-emancipated anti-slavery activist. These small, formal portraits — known as cartes-de-visite — were the social media of their day, traded among friends and family as tokens of connection and community. Displayed alongside period artifacts and interpretive materials, Hayden's carefully preserved collection illuminated the vital work of Black abolitionists while challenging traditional narratives of the era. Digital resources, educational materials, and a companion exhibition catalog featuring scholarly essays and reproductions of the cartes-de-visites support research into Harriet and Lewis Hayden's anti-slavery activism and their broader community. The Athenaeum's ongoing stewardship of the Albums ensures their accessibility for future generations, helping illuminate this critical chapter in American history while inspiring new questions and perspectives.

### Community Partnerships

The exhibition's success drew from partnerships with leading scholars and cultural institutions, combining academic expertise in anti-slavery and Black studies with strong community connections. Key partners included the Museum of African American History, National Parks Service, League of Women for Community Service, Du Bois Forum, and Berklee College of Music Africana Studies Department.

### With Thanks

The Athenaeum extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the exhibition, especially guest curators Dr. Makeda Best and Dr. Virginia Badgett, and our curatorial and conservation teams. We are deeply thankful for the financial support from the Terra Foundation for American Art, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, James Squires and Karen Jones Squires, the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Mass Humanities / Mass Cultural Council, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and Fiduciary Trust.

## Behind the Scenes

As Boston Athenaeum curators and conservators planned for *Framing Freedom*, they faced many challenges. Specifically, they extracted fragile carte-de-visite photographs dating to the 1850s and 1860s from the tight cardstock channels of the albums in which they'd been stored, cleaned off decades of accumulated stains without damaging the photograph, and identified ways to display the precious images in the gallery space without risking damage from exhibition lighting. As part of the conservation process, the photographs were fully digitized before being safely returned to the Albums — exactly how they were found.

Senior Conservator Graham Patten and Paper Conservator Terra Huber met these challenges using a unique toolbox of instruments: Teflon-coated microspatulas as small as toothpicks, sable brushes, ultra-honed vinyl erasers, precisely mixed poultices of glue-removing methyl cellulose, and nitrile gloves to protect images from conservators' fingers. Along the way, they also took the opportunity to repair and restore the heavily damaged bindings of the Hayden's Albums, finding a close-to-perfect match for the original leather.



“Harriet Hayden carte-de-visite photo albums showcase community, solidarity at the Boston Athenaeum.”

– Boston Globe

National Parks Service Rangers led walking tours for members and visitors of the Athenaeum, with routes that showcased the Haydens' home and neighborhood, as well as other sites of abolitionist history on Beacon Hill.



“I love libraries. And I wanted a ‘third place’ that wasn’t home or work, but another place to spend time... It’s quiet, and I’m not going to get distracted by things at home or by what’s going on at my office — I can come here to a beautiful place and use it as a writing space.”

– Davene Wright, Member

## Community and Connections

### Member Ambassadors

This year, twelve Athenaeum enthusiasts became Membership Ambassadors. These dedicated volunteers are vital in championing the Athenaeum by promoting membership through social media engagement, personal outreach, and event participation. They invite friends, colleagues, and acquaintances to Athenaeum programs while serving as welcoming guides who help new members navigate and maximize their membership benefits.

Our Ambassadors are familiar faces at Athenaeum events, ensuring each new member has a personal connection during their first program or visit. Their commitment to fostering meaningful relationships within our community significantly extends the reach of our small staff, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

### Member Appreciation Week

During our Member Appreciation Week in May, we celebrated the heart and soul of our literary community with exclusive events and unique experiences. Members enjoyed seeing notable pieces from our special collections — from the largest book to the smallest, oldest to newest. A delightful roving tea cart offered afternoon refreshments while bestselling author Larry Tye spoke to a sold-out audience about his new book, *The Jazzmen*. Our library team curated a display of archival treasures, including a glimpse into the reading habits of Louisa May Alcott and other notable patrons through their historical lending records. While Member Appreciation Week provided a focused celebration of our community, we cherish and appreciate our members every day of the year!



## Community Day

A September rain storm didn't stop 2,000 visitors from filling the Boston Athenaeum during our Community Day Open House. Visitors explored reading rooms, collections, and galleries, many stepping into these spaces for the first time. Members and staff shared the Athenaeum's history with visitors, sparking conversations that led to 53 new memberships. People discovered quiet corners, viewed rare books, and gathered to discuss art and literature in the exhibition spaces. The day proved the Athenaeum's enduring appeal and vital role as a cultural beacon in our community.



## Discussion Groups

In 2024, our vibrant Discussion Group community flourished, adding ten new groups to our offerings. Every month, hundreds of members gather to explore worlds both classic and contemporary. Shakespeare's timeless works continue to spark passionate debates, while newer additions like "Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover" dive into the artistry behind romance novels. Embracing modern reading culture, we even introduced summer "silent reading" sessions, creating a peaceful sanctuary where members and visitors could lose themselves in their chosen books, together yet alone in the best possible way.

## Volunteers

Michael Almond

Susan Barry

Clyde Boon

Diane Britton

Susan Bryant

Andrea Case

Ted Chaloner

Nikita Chuyko

Phil Dandrea

Jessica Dello Russo

Andrew Dempsey

James Falzarano

Mila Gaddy

Sophia Garmey

Karen Garrison

Bob Gelinis

Judy Glasser

Marie Glenn

Charlie Olivia Grantham

Linda Greyser

Scott Guthery

Justine Hebert

Dave Herder

Carolyn Hilles-Pilant

Fritz Holznagel

George Humphrey

Neil Jacobs

Bruce Jacobson

DeAnne Johnson

Joan Keutzer

Judith Klau

Emily Kushvaliev

Claire Laporte

Margot LeStrange

Suzanne Letso

Jay Leung

Lawrence Lieb

Maureen Marcucci

Clive Martin

Leslie Meyer-Leon

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Phoebe Morse

Tyler Moulton

Elizabeth Murray

Guhan Nandakumar

Creelea Pangaro

Margaret Pantridge

Mikaela Parker

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Bill Pope

Gerald Rosenthal

Elizabeth Sanders

Abigail Santos

Annie Silverman

Lynn Smiledge

Wayne Soini

Jane Sproul

Deb Stein

Stacy Stein

Allen Swan

Nancy Tarulli

Thu-Hang Tran

Mid Walsh

Peg Wheeler

Davene Wright

Hub Town Tours





## Expanding Access through Education

Every meaningful connection begins with an open door. In 2024, the Boston Athenaeum's Education Department opened its doors to innovative pathways for diverse communities to engage with our historic collections and spaces. Through carefully crafted programs that welcomed everyone from local high school students to international library professionals, the Athenaeum proved to be a vibrant hub of discovery, creativity, and cross-cultural exchange.

In 2024, the Education Department led programming that connected our neighboring communities with the Athenaeum's collections. The Study Center

hosted special collections viewings for groups such as Fenway High School, MBTA staff, and the Goyang Public Library staff in South Korea. At the same time, docent-led Art & Architecture Tours continued to bring new faces to the Athenaeum five times a week. The department also spearheaded two new efforts: First Floor Free Days in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, and Slow Art Day (an international celebration of art exploration), and our interactive "Make Your Own Museum" installation, in which visitors of all ages were encouraged to create their own art in our Calderwood Gallery.



## Folio Opens

In June of 2024, the Athenaeum opened our highly-anticipated bistro Folio, creating an opportunity for members to introduce their friends to the Athenaeum, gather, and share French and Mediterranean-inspired small plates with a glass of wine or signature cocktail.

Our partnership with The Catered Affair allowed us to expand the Athenaeum experience beyond the traditional library through literary-inspired libations and a carefully crafted menu featuring New England farm-sourced dishes. Folio's decor also celebrates highlights of the Athenaeum's collections, with reproductions of Athenaeum artwork and wallpaper celebrating the Athenaeum's colorful bookshelves.

This street-level bistro invites the Boston community to experience the Athenaeum in new ways, but members receive the additional sweet surprise of an exclusive discount.

## On View

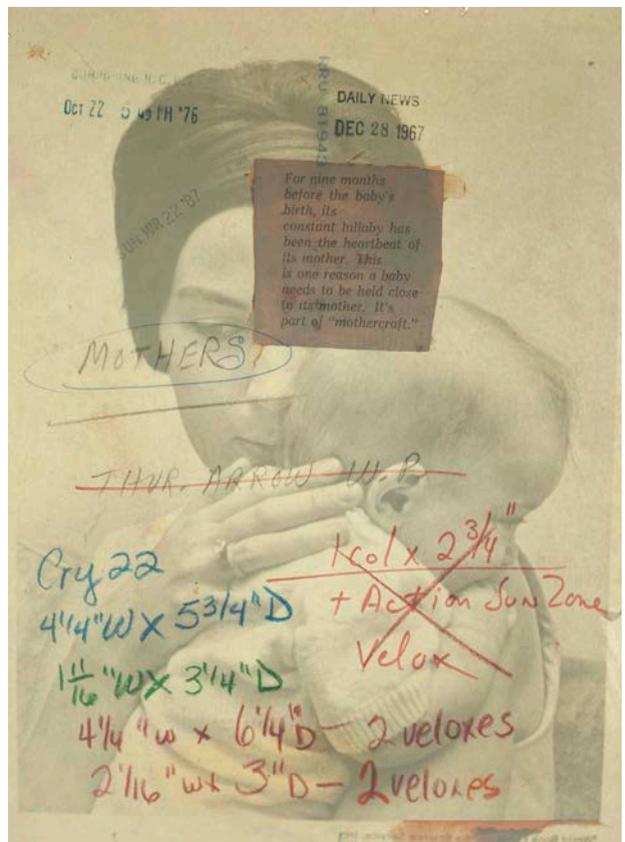
Rounding out our robust exhibition schedule in the Calderwood Gallery was an extraordinary showcase of paper artistry in *The Art of Paper: Claire Van Vliet and the Janus Press*. Van Vliet, a MacArthur Fellow, is renowned for her innovations in hand papermaking and artist's books. The exhibition featured her vibrant pulp paintings, prints, broadsides, and sculptural book structures, with handmade paper central to each piece. Marking the 70th anniversary of Van Vliet's Janus Press, the show also honored a recent anonymous gift of a complete Janus Press collection to the Boston Athenaeum. The accompanying exhibition catalog provided an in-depth look at the work of Van Vliet and her collaborators, including behind-the-scenes images of Janus Press at work.

The first-floor sitting room featured work by two contemporary Boston artists.

- *MOTHERCRAFT*, an ongoing series by artist Toni Pepe, uses press photographs found in flea markets, eBay, photo morgues, and other archives, to reconsider portrayals of motherhood.
- *Cousins*, by photographer Kristen Joy Emack, explores the innocence and intimacy of girlhood, capturing her daughter and three nieces over a decade as they grew, documenting their evolving relationships and confidence.

## Art in Every Space

To further reimagine our spaces, the curatorial team undertook a transformative project to bring the Athenaeum's rich permanent collection into view. 75 works from storage were carefully integrated throughout the building's rooms and corridors. The project emphasized celebrating Boston's remarkable legacy of women artists, showcasing artists such as Louisa Davis Minot, Mary Lewis Ayer, Alice M. Frye Leach, Aimée and Rose Lamb, and Annie Cornelia Shaw. Their works now animate our walls and offer members a more complete narrative of Boston's artistic heritage.



Boston Athenaeum  
At A Glance  
Fiscal Year 2024

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**217**

years old

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**1,365**

new memberships

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**4,354**

active memberships

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**75**

number of  
paintings hung

---

**4,801**

glasses of wine &  
cocktails served at Folio

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**378**

research  
appointments

---

**4,142**

books, prints, and photos  
added to the collection

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**54**

objects conserved

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**23,805**

books circulated  
(print, audio, ebooks)

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**20,258**

non-members engaged  
through events,  
exhibitions, and visits

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**5,814**

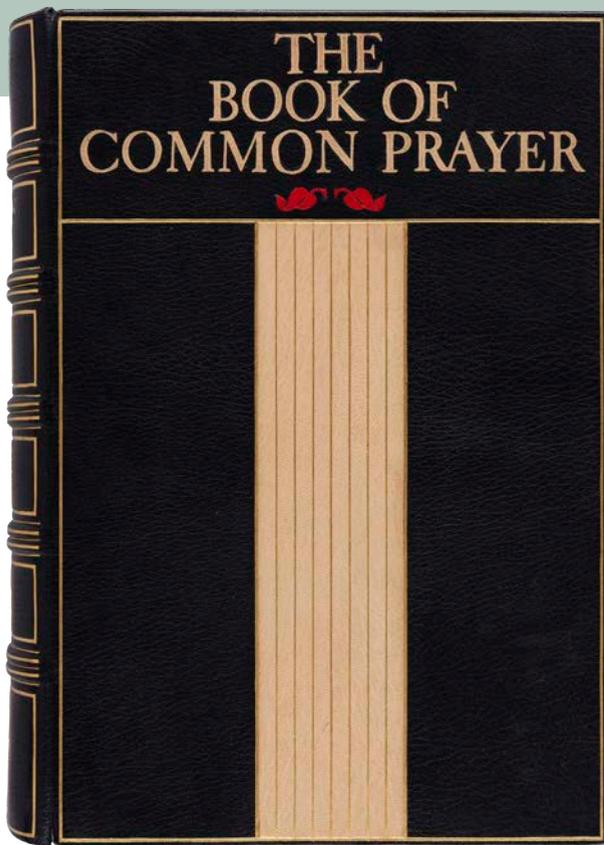
people took a tour

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**48**

groups visited  
the study center

# Major acquisitions



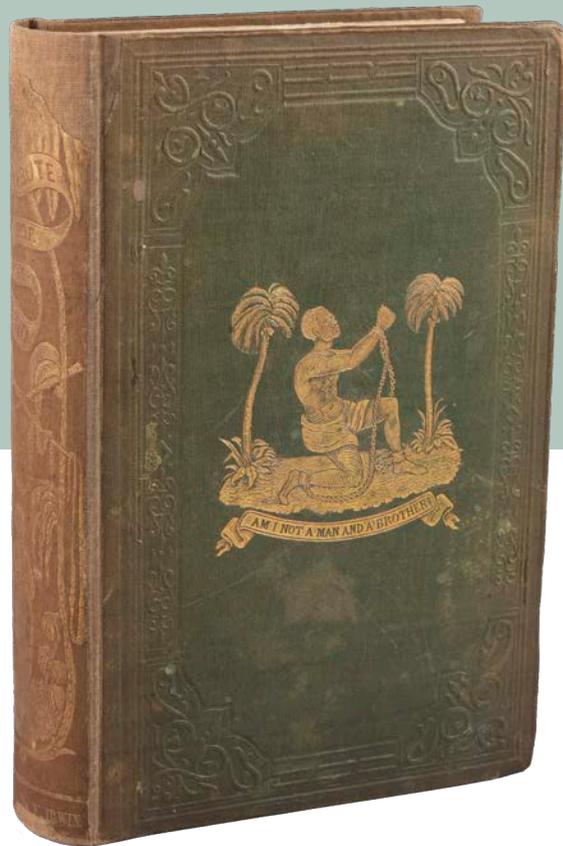
We were thrilled to add the following items to our special collections this year, among many others.

**Daniel Berkeley Updike (1860–1941), the *Merrymount Press Book of Common Prayer* (Boston 1928), vellum copy in a unique custom binding by Gray Parrot**

Arguably the greatest masterpiece of fine printing ever produced in the United States, this is the crowning achievement of one of America's greatest typographers, Daniel Berkeley Updike, a long-time neighbor and trustee of the Boston Athenaeum. Commissioned as part of a competition organized by Belle da Costa Greene of the Morgan Library, this is one of only twelve copies printed on vellum, filling an outsize gap in the Athenaeum's otherwise complete Merrymount collection.

**Wilson Armistead (1819–1868), *A Tribute for the Negro* (Manchester, England, 1848)**

Presented to the Black anti-slavery activist William Wells Brown by its author, a prominent British abolitionist, this is the only book from Brown's library known to have survived. Acquired together with fine copies of the second, revised and self-published edition of Brown's influential autobiography (Boston 1848) and his *Clotelle* (Boston 1867), a revision of the first novel published by an African American. They join other treasures already in the collection, including rare first editions of his autobiography (Boston 1847) and his play, *Escape, or, A Leap for Freedom* (Boston 1858).

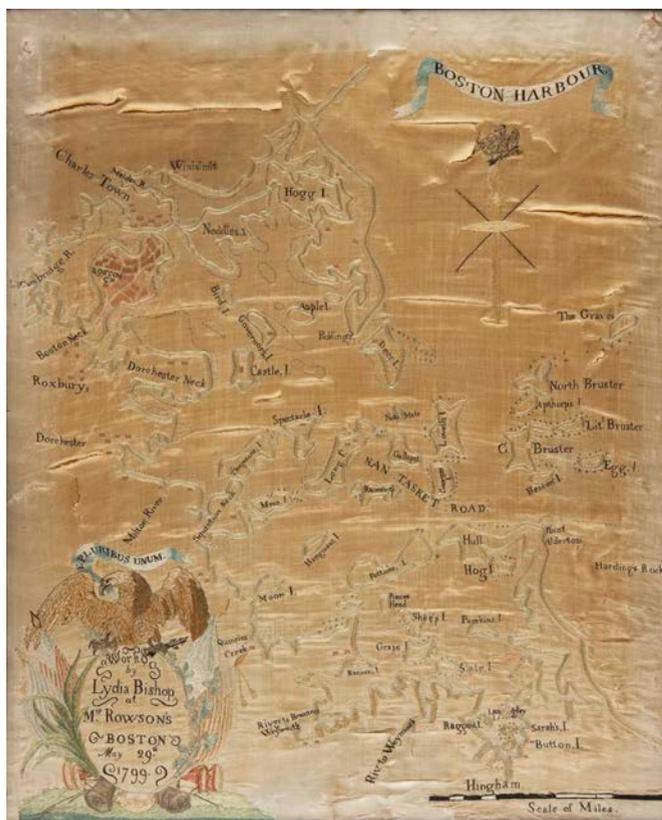


**John Wilson (1922–2015), “Study for Black Soldier” (1943), pastel on paper**

One of four works by Wilson acquired for the collection this year, this preparatory drawing for an award-winning painting will be on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston through June 2025, and then to the Metropolitan Museum of Art until February 2026, as part of the first major retrospective for this important Boston-based Black artist who was encouraged by Allan Rohan Crite. Purchase, Frances Hovey Howe Fund.

**Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), “The Holy Family with Three Hares,” woodcut, printed before 1560; woodblock carved circa 1497**

The Athenaeum is fortunate to hold three early printed books with woodcuts by, or attributed to, Albrecht Dürer. This important and exquisitely detailed early woodcut is the first separate print by the artist to enter the collection, presenting rich opportunities for future exhibition and teaching. Gift of Sue Robinson.



**Lydia Bishop (1784–1805), Map Sampler of Boston Harbor (1799)**

This striking needlework sampler, a rare example of a local map stitched in silk, was produced at Mrs. Rowson’s School in Boston under the tutelage of Susanna Rowson (1762–1824), author of the bestselling book *Charlotte Temple* and a pioneer in women’s education. Lydia Bishop would go on in 1804 to marry Nehemiah Parsons, one of the first subscribers to the Boston Athenaeum, in 1807.

deposited in the Boston Athenaeum by order of the Warden and Vestry of King's Chapel in August 1726 and gathered in this case in 1785

## A Year of Exceptional Generosity

In 2024, the Athenaeum received extraordinary support totaling \$2.9 million from 757 dedicated donors. This generosity funds every aspect of our institution — from preserving our historic building and expanding innovative programming to showcasing our distinctive collections and creating enriching experiences for all visitors.

The Annual Fund, the bedrock of our financial stability, achieved 107% of its goal, enabling us to sustain and enhance our core operations. We were inspired to see 49% of donors increase their contributions, while 276 leadership donors demonstrated their commitment through gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Giving to specific areas totaled \$1.2 million and advanced several key initiatives, including support for exhibitions, special collections, expansion, public programs, and conservation efforts. We're especially grateful to the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund for supporting our Study Center and to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, who, with Mass Development, awarded us a Cultural Facilities Fund grant for expansion and renovation.

We appreciate individuals like Jennifer Pellecchia and Konstantine Prevas, and William S. Strong, who renewed their support of the cataloging and conservation departments. We were honored to receive gifts from Barbara and Amos Hostetter,

James Squires and Karen Jones Squires, and the Cabot Family Charitable Trust in recognition of the importance of the *Framing Freedom* exhibition.

More than 180 donors contributed to our National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge grant, completing a five-year effort to expand support for our Conservation Lab. The \$182,500 matching grant inspired over \$500,000 in matched gifts, enabling us to employ a full-time paper conservator with expertise in photographic conservation.

The Bromfield Society is a cherished circle of supporters who have included the Athenaeum in their estate plans. We are grateful for James M. LaBraico's generous legacy gift this year. At our annual Bromfield Society Tea, John Buchtel, Head of Special Collections and Curator of Rare Books, showcased collection pieces acquired through John Bromfield's estate gift, demonstrating the perpetual impact of legacy giving.

Throughout the year, we celebrated our donors through special gatherings: a Proprietors' social, an exclusive preview of the Hayden exhibition's conservation work, our Annual Donor Reception, and the Athenaeum After Dark celebration for 10 ½ Circle donors and above.

Thank you to every supporter whose generosity advances our mission and strengthens our legacy as a center of intellectual and cultural life.

## Giving

Because the revenue generated by membership dues accounts for less than 15% of the Athenaeum's annual operating budget, philanthropy is a critical source of support for key Boston Athenaeum operational areas, including collections and conservation, reference and reader services, education, and events, and maintenance and infrastructure. The Athenaeum relies upon the generous philanthropy of its devoted members and friends.

### The Aegis Circle

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The Aegis Circle is the Boston Athenaeum's premier donor recognition society, honoring benefactors who contribute \$50,000 or more during the fiscal year. Members as of September 30, 2024:

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Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund  
Joan Toland Bok  
Edward Shippen Burd *in memory of Donald Castille Kelley*  
John G.L. and Carroll Cabot  
Deborah Coleman Diggins and Timothy Diggins  
Michael and Laurie Ewald  
Perrin and Bruns Grayson  
Barbara and Amos Hostetter  
Aimée Vincent Jamison and Jay Jamison  
Mass Cultural Council  
John P. Ryan  
William S. and Ann Strong  
Terra Foundation for American Art  
Susan B. and Matthew A. Weatherbie

### The Hannah Adams Society

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The Hannah Adams Society is the Boston Athenaeum's distinguished donor recognition society, honoring benefactors who contribute \$25,000 or more during the fiscal year. The Society is named to honor the legacy of Hannah Adams, whose scholarship earned her access to the Library's collection and an annual stipend to fund her research. Members as of September 30, 2024:

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Melissa and Trevor Fetter  
Owen Gallagher  
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Bonny and Caleb Loring III  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Connie and Arthur Page  
Creelea and Anthony Pangaro  
George and Fernande Raine  
Martha Ruest and Martin Schlecht  
Amy Ryan and Harold Carroll  
Anthony M. Sammarco and Cesidio L. Cedrone  
James Squires and Karen Jones Squires

### The 10 ½ Circle

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The 10 ½ Circle is a distinguished group of contributors who give \$10,000 or more in a given year. The Circle is named to honor the unique and historic location of the Athenaeum's fifth and current home at 10 ½ Beacon Street. Members as of September 30, 2024:

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Deborah Hill Bornheimer  
Dr. Nancy S. Adams and Mr. John A. Burgess  
Elaine Chan and Nikhil Lalwani  
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Kyra and Jean Montagu  
Nina and Marshall Moriarty  
W. Hugh M. Morton  
David Netto  
Bill and Barbara Norman  
Bill O'Connor *in honor of*  
*Dorothy O'Connor*  
Grace and Scott Offen  
Margaret L. Pantridge *in memory*  
*of David Weaver*  
Fred and Christine Parson  
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Anne C. Peters  
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 Robert Windsor  
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 Professor Dyann Wirth, PhD  
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 Judith J. Wurtman

## Sustaining Friends (\$500–\$999)

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 Edward and Kiyomi Baird  
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 The Quirk and Capuano Families  
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 Warren J. Miskell  
 Christopher and Lucy McDermott  
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 Elizabeth Philipps  
 Lia and William Poorvu  
 Stuart Pratt  
 Robert Radloff and Ann Beha *in honor  
 of Leah, Henry, and Nitza Rosovsky*  
 Julia Reade and Robert Duncan

Jay Reeg  
 Margaret E. Richardson  
 Michael Robbins  
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 Sheafe Satterthwaite  
 Patricia Schneider  
 Andrew Senchak  
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 Bessel van der Kolk and Licia Sky  
 Barbara and Charles M. Waite  
 Scott Wayne  
 Henry Birdseye Weil  
 Deborah Jackson Weiss and  
 Scott T. Weiss, MD  
 Stephen and Linda Weld  
 Duncan White and Griselda Lyman  
*in honor of John Lowell Lyman  
 and Cynthia Forber Lyman*  
 Richard Wiggin  
 Stephen L. Willett  
 Margaret and John H. Wise, Jr.  
 Sara Withington  
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## Friends (\$100–\$499)

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 Louise Todd Ambler  
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 Gillian B. Anderson  
 Joseph and Edith Auner  
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 Nancy Axmacher  
 Richard D. Batchelder Jr.  
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 Meryl Beckingham  
 Margaret Bergstrand  
 Rev. Dr. Katharine C. Black  
 Sophie Cabot Black

Camilla C. Blackman  
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of Keith Creamer*  
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Amanda Brusca  
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Christian James Carrillo  
Rodney Chabuda  
Jerome and Cherielle Chal  
Jacqueline Chambers and  
Murat Koseoglu  
Lavinia Chase and Edith Springer  
Thomas Clafflin  
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of Keith Creamer*  
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Cornelius and Jane Coleman  
The Conklin Dolny Family  
Daniel and Judith Coquillette  
Raul Corella and Phuong Tuong Trac  
Cathy and Harvey Cotton  
John and Janet Craven  
Crum & Forster  
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Davis S. Curtis  
Elizabeth Hope Cushing  
George L. Cushing  
Stanley Cushing and Daniel Lyons  
*in memory of Kathleen Lord Wick*  
Mark S. Dalton  
John Daniel *in memory  
of Keith Creamer*  
Davis Dassori

Joseph H. Delehant  
Alice Dietrich  
Kate Dimancescu  
Kimberly and Bradford Dimeo  
*in memory of Keith Creamer*  
Sheila Donahue  
Catharine-Mary Donovan  
Charles E. Dow  
Thomas B. Draper  
Karin and Charles Dumbaugh  
Jefferson Taft Eaton  
Susan Edgman-Levitan *in honor  
of Vivienne Angela Bayley*  
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David H. Evans  
W.K. Evans *in honor of Anne Pelikan*  
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Joel Farrell  
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Tom Finneran  
John Fiske  
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Jane T.N. Fogg  
Burch and Brian Ford  
Timo Fritzingler  
Nina Tamara Frusztajer  
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Dennis Keefe  
Hugh Kelleher  
Craig and Hope Kelley  
William S. Kelley  
Mary S. Kennedy *in memory of  
Ruth W. Strange*  
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Nina Kimball and Justine Brousseau  
Reverend Hall Kirkham II  
Jonathan and Ellen Korb *in memory  
of Matthew Korb*  
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Kate and Tom Kush  
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Joanne and Paul Langione  
Ernestine M. Lawrence  
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Lee  
Drs. Sidney and Lynne Levitsky  
Alexandra Bowers and James Liu  
Carol Lorente  
Jessica Loring† *in memory of  
Stanton Dunster Loring*  
Hon. Sandra L. Lynch and Erik Lund  
Kristin and John D. Macomber  
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Sarah McManaway and  
Nicholas Theodorou

Eric McNulty  
Franklin Mead and Penelope Bragonier  
Bernard Mehlman  
Maureen Meister  
Jonathan and Jane Metcalf  
Michael Metcalf  
Maria A. Meyer  
Bruce and Katherine Minevitz  
Peter Miniati *in memory of  
Keith Creamer*  
Adam P. Mitchell  
Paul Morrison and Nancy Lee  
Phoebe D. Morse  
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Regina M. Mullen  
Elizabeth A. Murray  
Charles L. Newhall  
Anella and John Nies  
Julia Norman  
Tom Norris  
Nancy Nussmeier  
Thomas O'Donnell  
Thomas M. and Elizabeth R. O'Reilly  
Dr. Jacqueline Olds *in honor  
of Patrick O'Donnell*  
Kenneth Osgood  
Scott Page and Gail Sullivan  
Michael B. Parran  
Denise and Rodney Patmon  
John J. Petrowsky  
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Kenneth Rendell and Shirley McNerney  
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Mary Rivet  
Kristen Rivoli  
Laura Selene Rockefeller  
Patricia C. Romeo-Gilbert  
Laurence Rosania *in memory  
of Murray Savar*  
Michael and Karen Rotenberg  
Victoria Russell  
Patience F. Sandrof  
Vikram Savkar  
Helen Chin Schlichte

Rosemary and Jeffrey Schwedes  
Teresa L. Scott and Frederick M. Joseph  
David Scudder  
Robert Bayard Severy  
Robert N. Shapiro  
Arthur and Ellen Shelton  
Lawrence and Joan Siff *in memory  
of Keith Creamer*  
Joan Sindall  
Patricia and Greenfield Sluder  
Lynn and Peter Smiledge  
Dr. J. Donald Smith  
Steven Snider  
David Solo  
Vivian and Lionel Spiro  
Robert St. John  
Sandra C. Steele and Paul S. Greenfield  
Michele Steinberg  
Kara Stepanian  
Mary Otis Stevens  
Nathaniel J.B. Stevens  
Walter Stine and Clare Esparolini  
Robert T.P. Storer III  
Harborne and Cathy Stuart  
Katharine R. Sturgis  
Leo and Kate Sullivan  
Allen G. Swan  
David Swetozoff and Alessandra Masu  
Edward Szkutak  
Betsy Tarlin and Marcos Rosenbaum  
Ann B. Teixeira *in honor of  
Terence Janericco*  
Joan Thayer  
Mark A. Thompson  
Joan Thorndike  
Lisa and Rex Thors  
Duncan G. Todd  
M.P. Tonissi  
Paul and Beth Tortolani  
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Jane Tuckerman  
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John Tyler and Eric Ritter  
James M. Utterback  
Bart Van Rees  
Andres E. Vilms  
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Martha Dineen Wales  
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John F. Walsh  
Marian M. Ware  
John D. Warner Jr.  
William and Alexandra Watkins

Linda Webb  
Jerome Weinstein  
David Wheeler and Amy Meyer  
Emily and David White  
Caroline H.B. Whitney  
Rachel L. Perry and  
Christopher P. Wilkins  
Leslie and Michael Wilson  
Katherine and William Wisser  
Richard W. Woodville  
Mary Proctor Yntema  
Nancy Zimmermann *in memory  
of Virginia M. Driscoll*  
Hiller B. Zobel  
Michael Zoob

## The Armstrong Society

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The Armstrong Society is a group of living individuals who have made cumulative gifts of \$100,000 during their lifetime. The Society bears the name of Rodney Armstrong. He was the Director and Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum from 1973 to 1997, and led a significant revival of the institution, both culturally and financially. Members as of September 30, 2024:

Anonymous (6)  
Patricia D. Altschuller  
Elizabeth and Edward Baldini  
Alfred B. Bigelow  
Isabelle and Scott M. Black  
Joan Toland Bok  
Deborah Hill Bornheimer  
Anne Bromer  
Edward Shippen Burd  
Susan H. Bush  
James C. Buttrick  
John G.L. and Carroll Cabot  
Lee Campbell  
Levin H. Campbell  
Richard W. Cheek  
Arthur Clarke and Susan Sloan  
Earl Collier, Jr. and Maren Anderson  
Charles Coolidge and  
Lindsay Leard-Coolidge  
Linzee Coolidge  
Deborah Coleman Diggins and  
Timothy Diggins  
Mary J. Cronin and Scott B. Guthery  
David L. Driscoll  
Katherine Haney Duffy  
Karin and Charles Dumbaugh  
John Mark Enriquez

Cynthia and John W. Everets  
 Michael and Laurie Ewald  
 Jody and Tom Gill  
 Hanne and Jeremy Grantham  
 Hugh Greenway  
 Deborah Hale  
 Tunie Hamlen  
 Torrence C. Harder  
 Roger and Adelaide Haynes  
 Mr. and Mrs. Desmond J. Heathwood  
 Bayard Henry  
 Timothy T. Hilton  
 Barbara and Amos Hostetter  
 Maisie Houghton  
 Susan and James F. Hunnewell Jr.  
 Ann and David Ingram  
 Aimée Vincent Jamison and  
 Jay Jamison  
 Terence Janericco  
 Darlene and Mark Jarrell  
 Elizabeth L. Johnson  
 Barbara Jordan and  
 Robert A. Pemberton  
 Sherry and Alan Leventhal  
 Bonny and Caleb Loring III  
 Adam Lutynski  
 Jeffrey and Jane Marshall  
 Ann and Jerrold Mitchell  
 Nina and Marshall Moriarty  
 Elizabeth Owens  
 Connie and Arthur Page  
 Creelea and Anthony Pangaro  
 Ann and Frank Porter  
 J. Daniel and Catherine Powell  
 Lynne E. and Mark V. Rickabaugh  
 Sandy and Jim Righter  
 Susan and Gilbert M. Roddy, Jr.  
 Daniel Rose  
 Martha Ruest and Martin Schlecht  
 John P. Ryan  
 Amy Ryan and Harold Carroll  
 Vivian and Lionel Spiro  
 William S. Strong  
 Elizabeth and Peter Thomson  
 Susan B. and Matthew A. Weatherbie  
 Jane and James Wilson

## The John Bromfield Society

The John Bromfield Society is composed of living donors who include the Boston Athenaeum in their estate plans, either through a planned gift or a stated intention to leave a legacy. The society was named to honor John Bromfield, whose initial bequest of \$25,000 in 1846 has grown to more than \$5.6 million. Bromfield Society Members as of September 30, 2024:

Anonymous  
 William H. Anderson  
 Adam Jared Apt  
 David Attella  
 H. Whitney Bailey  
 George S. Bain  
 Elizabeth and Edward Baldini  
 Ron Bento  
 Alfred B. Bigelow  
 Joan Toland Bok  
 James C. Buttrick  
 Judith L. Carmany  
 Richard W. Cheek  
 Ann Collier  
 Nancy Myers Coolidge and  
 Lawrence Coolidge  
 Daniel R. Coquillette  
 Keith Creamer†  
 John Curuby  
 Scott Dahill  
 Ora Damon Ludwig  
 David Dearinger  
 Alice M. DeLana  
 Rick Domas  
 Caitlyn and Kimberly Duncan-Mooney  
 David H. Evans  
 Mathea Falco  
 Gaffney J. Feskoe  
 Ronald Lee Fleming  
 Thomas W. Flynn  
 Hope and Mark Foley  
 William M. Fowler, Jr. and  
 Marilyn Fowler  
 Karen L. Garvin  
 Sven and Ivy Gerjets  
 Jane Goodrich  
 Prof. Stephen and Dr. Linda Greyser  
 Dr. and Mrs. Stefan Gross  
 John Gunnison-Wiseman  
 Dr. J. Ryan Gunsalus  
 Mark W. Haggerty  
 Tunie Hamlen  
 Helen Hannon

Dorothy A. Heath  
 Bayard Henry  
 Keith T. and Carolyn Hilles-Pilant  
 Ann and David Ingram  
 Terence Janericco  
 Dr. John K. Jennings  
 Elizabeth B. Johnson  
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 Michael LaVecchia  
 C. Richard Leacy  
 Margot LeStrange and Andrew Stern  
 Richard S. Lovelace, Jr.  
 Lynne Maselan  
 Carla and Paul McDonough  
 Terence P. McGuire  
 Margo Miller  
 Ann and Jerrold Mitchell  
 Nina and Marshall Moriarty  
 Bettina Norton  
 Robert Perkins  
 Sally Pierce  
 Steven Taylor Potter  
 Charles Raith  
 Robert Redfern-West  
 John S. Reidy  
 Sandy and Jim Righter  
 Sue Robinson  
 Susan and Gilbert M. Roddy, Jr.  
 John P. Ryan  
 Anthony M. Sammarco and  
 Cesidio L. Cedrone  
 Helen Chin Schlichte  
 D. Brenton Simons  
 Susan Sloan  
 Nancy A. Smith  
 Julie Hume Sprague  
 David and Pat† Squire  
 Roger Foy Stacey  
 Jane Moulton Stahl  
 Robert B. Stephenson  
 Norman Tucker  
 Filip Tufvesson  
 John Tyler  
 The Robert Cushman Woods  
 Van Nostrand Fund  
 Dinah L. Voorhies  
 Andrea J. Wagner, MD  
 Bradford C. Walker and Rodin Shaw Cole  
 Susan B. and Matthew A. Weatherbie  
 David Weaver†  
 Stephen L. Willet

## Finances

This is a summarized financial report. The complete financial statement package, as received from our auditors, is available on the annual reports page of our website.

The endowment ended the fiscal year valued at \$84,112,651 — an increase of \$11,691,257 from the prior-year value of \$72,421,394. The increase is the result of a total investment return, net of fees, of \$17,044,581, appropriations for current operations of \$5,138,547, a special appropriation of \$928,183 offset by endowment additions of \$713,406.

Membership enrollments and renewals increased from 3,690 in 2023 to 4,354 by the end of 2024, continuing a steady recovery from a 2021 pandemic low of 2,441. Membership revenue increased by \$262,906 or 19%.

Unrestricted contributions, including donations to our Annual Fund increased from \$1.26 million to \$1.75 million, an increase of 39%. Operating expenses increased by \$1,153,812 in 2024 compared to 2023. Salaries and related

expenses increased \$574,583. Several key positions were vacant for portions of fiscal year 2023 and were fully staffed in 2024. Additional factors were inflation-driven wage and benefit increases. The purchase of collections items increased \$366,118 in 2024 compared to 2023. This increase represents the use of funds restricted for the purchase of collections that are set aside in one year in order to allow for substantial acquisitions in later years. This results in some variability in the timing of the reporting of such expenses. The remaining \$213,113 increase was due to increased marketing efforts and the cost of exhibition and event programming. These costs were largely offset through fundraising or income.

Occupying the new space in 14 Beacon Street increased our Occupancy and related expenses. While there were substantial increases in membership and donations in 2024, this did not fully cover the expenses of our new space and the ongoing effects of inflation. This resulted in a special appropriation of \$928,183, over our planned appropriation of \$5,138,547.

### Schedule of operating revenue without donor restriction and operating expenses September 30, 2024, with comparative totals for 2023

Revenue	FY 2024	FY 2023	Expenses	FY 2024	FY 2023
Contributions gifts, and grants	\$1,745,359	\$1,256,784	Salary and related expense	\$5,663,860	\$5,089,227
Membership dues revenue	1,617,576	1,354,670	Occupancy	2,800,578	2,818,732
Regular endowment appropriation	5,138,547	5,138,547	Purchase of collection items	896,735	530,617
Special endowment appropriation	928,183	1,008,681	Cataloging and collections management	153,668	161,525
Event, space rental and other	583,931	353,800	Exhibitions	182,873	150,570
Appropriations from board-designated funds	100,000	90,267	Events	356,857	264,873
Net assets released from restrictions	441,347	424,558	General and administrative	928,373	815,038
			Grants	14,750	13,250
			<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,997,694</b>	<b>\$9,843,882</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,554,943</b>	<b>\$9,627,307</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			Decrease in net assets from operating activities before depreciation and amortization	(442,751)	(216,575)

Notes: This statement includes operating revenue without donor restriction and operating expenses only. All other funds are accounted for separately. Full audited financial statements are available on our website: [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org). The market value of the endowment on September 30, 2024 was \$84,112,651.

